

The background of the newsletter cover is a photograph of a church building with a brick facade and a white steeple, partially obscured by several large, leafless trees. In the foreground, there is a garden bed with yellow daffodils and a concrete walkway. The text is overlaid on this scene.

***THE ST. ANDREW'S  
NEWSLETTER***

*Spring 2026*

**Informing, Interpreting, Inspiring...  
God's People**

## From the Desk of Rev. Bernie Skelding

Hello friends,

Recently, I was reading an Easter devotional that caused me to reflect on an atypical Easter passage of Scripture, namely 1 Corinthians 3:16 ...

*“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?”*



And it occurred to me that one of the results of Easter, is that the Church is God's sacred space in the world today.

Let me explain.

Back when the Old Testament stories were still being lived out, God designated sacred spaces for His people to meet with Him.

First, God planted a garden in Eden—a beautiful space in paradise for His prized creations.

Then, following the Exodus, a ‘tabernacle’ was crafted as a portable space for the Israelites to meet with God as they wandered in the wilderness after being rescued from Egyptian slavery.

Eventually, King David had a vision for the tabernacle to be made into a permanent space. King David's son, Solomon, brought this vision to fruition by building the temple in Jerusalem for the people of Israel.

In all instances, these were specially chosen places of worship, as well as tangible signs of God's presence. Of course, God's people (then and now) know that the Creator of everything that exists can't be confined to a garden, a tent, or a building, but it was in those sacred spaces where heaven and earth could overlap. In Celtic spirituality, such places are called ‘thin places’.

I find it interesting that ‘Garden’ imagery is all over the decorative details of both the tabernacle and the temple: palm trees and pomegranates, water lilies and almond blossoms, lions and oxen, vibrant colors and precious metals. Such designs are meant to point back to the beginning when ‘thin places’ like tabernacles and temples weren't needed.

But when things went wrong in the Garden, sin created a separation problem between humanity and a holy God. However our holy God still loved sinful people, so God established these thin places for heaven and earth to meet, and appointed some to act as priestly representatives—mediators for things like worship, sacrifices, and atonement. And though it worked for a while, it was only a temporary solution.

When Jesus showed up, He not only fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and temple purposes, but He also bridged the separation gap. No longer was there a need for a temple made of wood or

stone, but of flesh and blood. No longer was there a need for endless sacrifices, because Jesus, the ultimate High Priest, had provided the ultimate sacrifice—Himself.

Finally, because of Jesus, God's Spirit could dwell with and inside His people, who collectively became the new and improved 'temple', a flesh and blood 'thin place' for heaven and earth to meet. That's why Paul asked the Corinthians: "*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*" 1 Corinthians 3:16

We serve a God who meets people where they are: in the garden, in the wilderness, in the temple, in themselves. So if you're a follower of Christ, remember: You are the place where His Spirit now dwells. You are the vessel in which He lives and moves and works and empowers. So when we gather as God's people on Sunday mornings (and throughout the week), we create a 'thin place' for the world – a sacred space where heaven and earth meet. Such is the wondrous and gracious result of Jesus resurrection.

To God be the glory!

Rev. Bernie

## Men's Breakfast Club & Mother's Day Breakfast

The St. Andrew's Men's Breakfast enjoys meeting monthly and has decided once again this year to continue a well-loved St. Andrew's tradition, the Mother's Day Breakfast for the whole congregation on Sunday, May 10th, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Please come and enjoy a wonderful breakfast and time of fellowship and worship!

## Festival of Praise



**Festival**  
*of*  
**Praise**

**Sunday, May 24th, 2026**

## Our Daily Bread

Hello, St. Andrews. You may know about **“Take-Ten”**—spend 10 minutes a day reading **“Our Daily Bread”** devotions. Our Worship and Nurture Committee donates \$300 annually to Our Daily Bread Ministries, supporting production and postage for about 70 regular and 10 large print booklets.

There is a display called **“The Discovery Series”** located in the Kirk Hall. Some of the titles include: **“Giving Up on Perfect – Embracing our value through Jesus”** and **“Life after Loss – Grieving with hope”**. Be sure to check it out and maybe give to your friends, family and those that are not able to attend church.

If you would like to support this cause, you can use the blue envelopes or note your donation on your weekly offering envelopes. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

My hope is that each and everyone is taking ten and enjoying their copy of Our Daily Bread.

Sandra McAslan (Worship & Nurture Committee)

## **A ‘Grand’ Vacation Bible Camp**

St. Andrew’s summer Vacation Bible Camp will run from August 24-28. Please share this with the children, parents and grandparents in your life. This year we are inviting grandparents (or a special adult in a child’s life) to come and enjoy VBC along with their grandchildren. Which is why we are calling it a ‘Grand’ VBC. If you have grandchildren from ages 6-11 years old, why not invite them to join you at St. A’s Grand VBC and enjoy some wonderful intergenerational time, with a program put together just for you and your little loved ones! And don’t worry, we won’t make any grandparents run around and play silly (aka fun) games ... unless of course they want too!!

## **Strawberry Festival**

Plans are currently in progress for the 41st Strawberry Festival, which will be held on June 20th. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Kathy Hunter or reach out to Rosemary in the Church office. This year, the silent auction will make a return, although it will be on a smaller scale compared to last year's event. New Vintage is once again requesting donations of jewelry and purses to support the festival. If you would like to contribute an item, please get in touch with Rosemary at the church office.

## **St. Andrew’s Calendar 2026 – Major Events**

Friends, below you will find a wide range of significant events that help shape our annual life together here at St. Andrew’s. Please note, this calendar of events does NOT include our regular (and also important) other ministries and meetings (e.g. Bible studies, Sunday-school, Prime Time, Second Chance Movies, Men’s Breakfast, Prayer Times, Choir practices, Book Club, committee meetings etc.)

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Sun Jan 4	Memorial Service
Feb 15	Winter Newsletter
Sun Feb 22	Lent Begins - Communion
Sun Mar 22	Annual Congregational Meeting with Lunch
Sun Mar 29	Palm Sunday – Communion
Thurs April 2	Maundy Thursday Service

Fri April 3	Good Friday Service
Sun April 5	Easter Festival Service
April 19	Spring Newsletter
Sun May 10	Mothers' Day Breakfast
Sun May 24	Pentecost – Communion
Sun May 24	Festival of Praise
Sun May 31	Mission Sunday (Langham Lunch and Speaker)
Sat June 20	Strawberry Festival
June 28/July 5	Summer Newsletter
Sun July 5	Communion
Wed July 29	Gathering for Gateau and Grace
Wed Aug 12	Gathering for Gateau and Grace
Mon Aug 24-28	Vacation Bible Camp
Wed Aug 26	Gathering for Gateau and Grace
Sept 6	Fall Newsletter
Sun Sept 20	Anniversary Sunday and BBQ
Sun Oct 4	Worldwide Communion
Sun Oct 11	Thanksgiving Service
Sun Oct 25	Mission/Presbyterians Sharing Speaker
Sat Nov 7	Fall Congregational Dinner
Sun Nov 8	Remembrance Service
Nov 22	Advent Newsletter
Sun Nov 29	Advent Communion
To Be Confirmed	Christmas Tea
Sun Dec 13	Festival of Carols
Thurs Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service

# Presbyterians Sharing



## One Mission Many People

The Presbyterian Church in Canada brings together people from across Canada to live out God's mission in the world by sharing their gifts in mission and ministry.

**61,160** professing members

**34,855** adherents

**11,124** children and youth

**5,228** elders

**1,214** ministers

**725** congregations

**43** presbyteries

**8** synods

**1** General Assembly



Edmonton Urban Native Ministry in Alberta is one of the ministries that form the National Indigenous Ministries Council. The council brings together ministries living out the reconciliatory action of Jesus in word and deed as they work to restore relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.



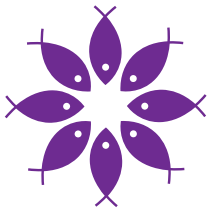
*"Messy Church has helped three congregations in Saskatchewan draw young families and enthusiastic attendees. Messy Church, in two of the congregations, now has more attendees than the traditional Sunday morning worship. It has given them a new outlook on ministry and how it's OK to change things up and not do things the way*

*they've always been done. It has given them renewed hope that they can still do meaningful (even if messy) ministry."*

– The Rev. Devon Pattermore, Regional Staff, Saskatchewan

*"As worshipping communities joyfully celebrating the sacraments, we are supported, strengthened and equipped to share the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. In all times and seasons, we give glory to the God of all creation, to Jesus Christ, the Son, and to the Holy Spirit by whose presence all are blessed."*

– Mission statement of Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda. Regional grants support the salary of the Rev. Jonathan Tait, the synod's minister for congregational health.



# Presbyterians Sharing

*funds the mission and ministry of*



## The Presbyterian Church in Canada

### Together we

Accompany presbyteries as they **launch new and renew established** faith communities

**Equip congregational leaders** in evangelism, stewardship, outreach, renewal, and theological reflection, so they can better serve the church in Canada and around the world

Provide spaces and fund projects for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to **work together on truth, reconciliation, healing and reparation**

Support ministries with Indigenous people, **meeting the physical and spiritual needs** of generations harmed by the residential school system

Mentor and coach congregations **discovering new strategic directions and exploring how to re-develop buildings** to better serve mission and ministry

**Accompany international partners** through grants and mission staff as they share the good news of Christ

**Address causes and consequences** of poverty, racism, oppression, conflict and violence

Implement practices and advocate governments and communities **to protect and restore God's creation** amid the current climate crisis

**Share experiences** through the *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper, the presbyterian.ca website, social media and e-newsletters

**Host and support websites** for 309 congregations, camps, presbyteries and other ministries



*"I have seen God do some amazing things throughout the year in our ministry to young people."*

– Sunjay Henry, Ministry Animator for the Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry Presbyteries, supported by regional grants

### Offer long-term investment opportunities

for congregations and ministries

Bring people together to **prayerfully seek God's direction** through General Assembly and its committees and working groups

**Provide educational pathways** to ordained ministry for presbytery-certified ministry candidates

**Fund regional** staff, camps and equipping events

**Support the faith journey of young people** through national conferences, learning opportunities and international experiences

Develop resources to **help all levels of the church to foster safe, welcoming and inclusive faith** communities

**Create and update policies and guidelines** for the church and provide ongoing assistance in their application and use



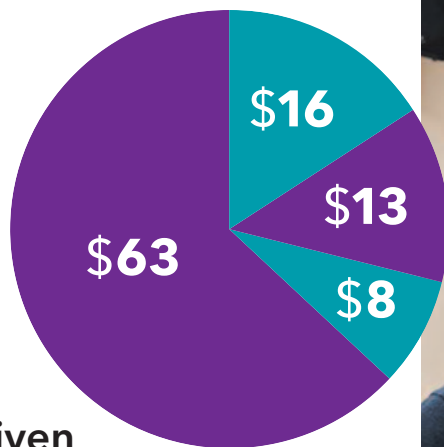
*"We launched an online course in February 2026 designed to build intercultural awareness and equip participants with tools to deepen understanding and transform engagement across cultures."*

– Pablo Kim, PCC Intercultural Liaison



The Clerk's Consultation shares experiences and best practices between presbyteries and synods.

## Your gifts make a difference



### Out of \$100 given to Presbyterians Sharing

**\$63** equips **ministries in Canada** by providing grants for congregations, camps, theological colleges and other ministries; producing educational resources; hosting webinars and events; stewarding congregational investments; and supporting governance and justice work

**\$16** accompanies **mission partners** in Canada and across the globe

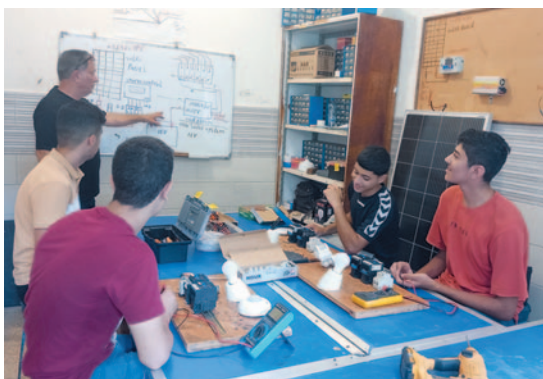
**\$13** supports ministries with **Indigenous people**

**\$8** ensures good stewardship of the gifts with strong **financial and administrative support**

**Legacy and designated funds, distributed by staff funded by Presbyterians Sharing, facilitate even more ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.**



Experiences like "I Love Taiwan" allow young people to develop leadership skills and live out their faith.



"We are very grateful for your funding of the Electronics/Computer Program for Palestinian Refugees for several years. This vocational training initiative teaches skills in electronics and computer maintenance and repair to refugees, helping them gain employment and improve their livelihoods within the camp communities."

– Sylvia Haddad, Director, Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon (JCC)

"The mission trip to Nepal allowed us to meet people whose lives are touched by Presbyterians Sharing—a reminder that faith and generosity can truly change lives. Every contribution helps teach, empower and spread knowledge, ensuring that hope continues to grow in communities across Nepal and beyond."

– Linda Murray, Elmvale Presbyterian Church, Elmvale, Ont.



"Thank you for your support of the Roy Street project seeking to redevelop the property at St. Andrew's Kitchener. I believe things are moving in a highly positive direction for their vision to support adults with disabilities."

– The Rev. Jeff Crawford, Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery

# Share your gifts through Presbyterians Sharing

## PRAY & WORSHIP

- pray for PCC ministries
- attend General Assembly worship in person or online
- use the worship resources from [presbyterian.ca/worship](http://presbyterian.ca/worship)

## LEARN

- attend events, webinars, book studies and theological courses
- read the *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper, PCCconnect monthly e-newsletter and mission blogs
- discover what it means to become a welcoming, inter-cultural community
- explore what it means to transform your ministry and redevelop your building to better serve it

## ACT

- share your experiences at an event or in the newspaper
- volunteer to serve on a committee or working group or at an event
- write to community leaders and governments on social issues (see templates at [presbyterian.ca/social-action](http://presbyterian.ca/social-action))
- give to **Presbyterians Sharing** through your congregation, online, by mailing a cheque or by making a planned gift



*"Sharing the gospel message of the good news of Jesus Christ is a matter of life and death in the community of the Cree Nations of Mistawasis, Saskatchewan. We need the support of Presbyterians Sharing more than ever."*

– The Rev. Stewart and Terry Folster, Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Mistawasis First Nation, Sask.



*"We are so grateful to God, to the entire Presbyterian Church in Canada for your support of the prison ministry. It is successful because of your financial support, prayers and*

*commitment. Despite challenges, the ministry has brought total transformation to hopeless inmates."*

– The Rev. Hastings Phale, Country Director, Malawi Friends of Prisons

*"These annual retreats have really helped us think differently about missiology and missional work while also developing deep connections with colleagues and friends within the presbytery. Thank you for helping fund this time together."*

– The Rev. Jennifer Geddes, Presbytery of Vancouver Island



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[presbyterian.ca/sharing](http://presbyterian.ca/sharing)

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