



TRINITY-ST.ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



*March 2025
Newsletter*



56 Prince Edward St.
P.O. Box 1052
Brighton, ON K0K 1H0

Phone: 613-475-1311
E-mail: admin@trinitystandrews.ca
www.trinitystandrews.ca

A note from Rev. Wanda

Dear friends in Christ

I am writing this on Ash Wednesday. The church is bustling with visitors, bible study gathering, coffee perking, and in the distance, the train is whistling. In short it's just another day, but it's also not.

Ash Wednesday is a day we come together humbly and remember something we all share in common: we were born, we live, and then we die.

We can't escape the reality of our mortality. We try though, don't we? I try! I'm nursing a bad knee right now because I keep forgetting that my body is not 20 years old any more. So many of us feel young inside and wonder at the number on our birthday cards!

If we can strip our lives down to such a basic truth, and live with that truth daily, "From dust we came, and to dust we will return"... does that change anything for you?

This year the theme through Lent is "deepest desire". What is your deepest motivation? For many of us, we don't like to talk about the things we want, because we feel we should be thinking about others. And while that's true, it's also really important to recognize the desires God has placed on our human, mortal, fragile hearts, and ask ourselves ... why?

How is God asking me to to serve the world through this yearning or desire that I have? How does it meet a need in the world?

Lent is a time to peel off the layers society encourages us to wear, and to accept that deep down, we all share a common destiny, but the journey toward that destiny is different for each of us. Our desires are God's calling card, if you will! They are the way we connect most deeply with the one who made us, and the one who loves us. By living out from your deepest, authentic desires, you are honouring God, and freeing yourself from the constraints of this world.

So what is your deepest desire? God has given us all this beautiful life for a purpose, and the desires within reveal God's work on our hearts.

Sure, give up chocolate if you have to. Give up beer or wine and disrupt your life as a daily reminder that we are in Lent... but let that disruption lead you to a deep truth that can change your journey in a powerful, life-giving way.

Blessings as you engage this season with curiosity and honesty. And don't forget that I am a phone call, text or email away if you are surprised by what you discover!

Rev. Wanda



How to Have 20/25 Vision

by [Molly Baskette](#) | published on Mar 4, 2025

O Lord, why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. ... Then the Lord answered me and said: There is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. – Habakkuk 1:3, 2:3 (NRSV)

My Grampa Phinney was a health nut. Long before hippies existed (which he, an engineer with his crisp white button-down and pocket protectors, never became), he trumpeted the benefits of mega-doses of vitamin C and apple cider vinegar.

He was also certain he knew how to prevent the vision loss that comes with aging. His daily practice: to hold a pencil vertically about 2 feet in front of his face, and toggle between focusing on the pencil and focusing on the farthest thing his eye could see. He himself never wore glasses, even well into old age.

Grampa's advice works metaphorically for these tempestuous times. Lots of us are on a news diet ... but to look away from what is happening far from us is to abdicate responsibility for far-flung people who are suffering, and deserve compassion and advocacy. But then again, if we *only* look far away, we get overwhelmed and shut down. The human psyche has not evolved to take in so many threats far beyond our immediate neighborhood.

Toggling between near and far, á la Grampa, is the exercise that may keep our vision (and sanity) intact. Look far, look near. Look far, look near.

Prayer

God, you still have a vision that extends beyond the current global landscape of destruction and violence, strife and contention. You make us see wrongdoing so we may do our part to right it. You also help us look close to home in equal measure: at the joy and peace right in hand, right in our 'hood.

The journey to Easter: a powerfully transformative way to connect with God's purpose for your life.

Trinity-St. Andrew's
United Church
56 Prince Edward Street,
Brighton Ontario



Lent 2025: March 5 to Easter Sunday April 20

Your calling:
*The place where
your deepest
yearnings meet
a need
in the world*

Bible Study

Every Wednesdays 10am

Everything you need to know about the United Church of Canada... sort of.

using the book *"Building God's beloved Community."* Wednesdays 6:00 pm in the Quiet Room, starting March 12.

Confirmation Classes

Sundays after church, lunch included (open to anyone over 12 years) starting March 9

Friday Concerts

11:30 - 12 noon, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 and 11.

Admission is pay-what-you-can. Bring your own lunch, and join us after for coffee and squares.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday vigil, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Good Friday worship 10:30 am
Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am (Gosport)
Communion Service 10:30 am

Special Events

Saturday March 1, Spiritual Practices Retreat

Saturday March 22 7:00 pm, renowned Canadian, Christian singer-songwriter Steve Bell in Concert

**For more information, speak with Rev. Wanda
or call the office 613-475-1311.**

Christian Education, New Members' Study

Space still available: reach out to Rev. Wanda Stride

Join us as we explore the what it means to be in the United Church of Canada, using the resource "Building God's Beloved Community: Discipleship in the United Church of Canada."

You don't have to be new to our church to benefit from this exploration into the faith, justice,

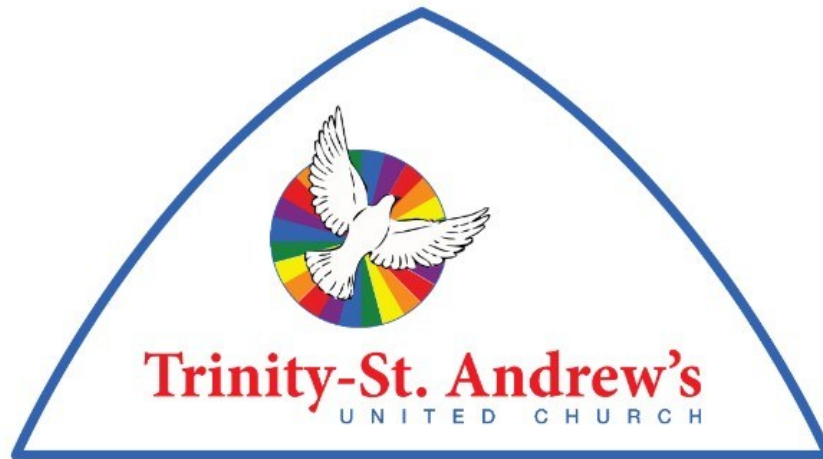
history and future of our church. The study will run Wednesdays on zoom, 6:00 - 7:30, at the church, starting March 12, 26, April 2 and 9. Please note the March 19 session is cancelled.

Participants are encouraged to celebrate their faith with us on Easter Sunday (we can discuss what that means!)

For more information about the book or classes or to sign up, please contact Pamela in the office at 613-475-1311 or admin@trinitystandrews.ca

New Members' Study for youth / Confirmation classes

Do you wonder why we go to church? Do you wonder how to be a Christian in today's world? It can be confusing, when so many people simply don't have a faith practice. What does it mean to love and serve neighbours? Join us Sundays before church Starting March 16 at 9:00, learn about our faith and church together. If you want to mark your time of "wondering" in a special way, we are organizing a baptism/faith affirmation ceremony in the Trent River this spring. Yup, we're serious. Don't miss out!



Hello friends

The role of secretary for TSA Council has been vacant for several months now. We are looking for someone to record discussion topics and motions at our monthly meeting (9-10 per year). The secretary is not responsible for setting or distributing the agenda and Pamela assists with the formatting of the minutes for distribution.

The secretary role is not an onerous time commitment and in addition to recording the motions of the meeting the secretary participates as a voting member of Council.

If you think this is a way you might support the life and work of our congregation, or would like further information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank-you

Lori Cooper, Chair of Council

cooperl0396@gmail.com

613 743 9525

News from the Affirm & Equity Committee



PIE DAY 2025

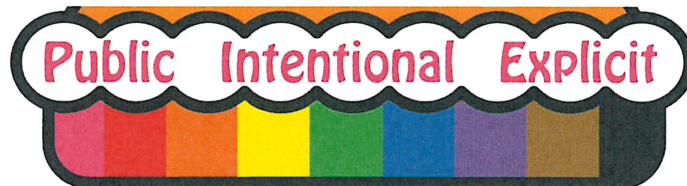
Sing Out Proud on PIE DAY 2025! **PIE Day**, also known as National Affirming Day, is an annual celebration in the United Church of Canada. **PIE** stands for Public, Intentional and Explicit. Each year on March 14 (or as close to it as possible), we celebrate the diversity of LGBTQ+ people in public, intentional and explicit ways through music, liturgy, action and community.

This year's theme is "Sing Out Proud!" and we intend to do so on **Sunday, March 16th** during a special PIE Day worship service. Join us as we share music, liturgy and activities that showcase our pride and support for LGBTQ+ people.

And, of course, there will be pie! Join us after the service for fellowship featuring refreshments and a variety of pies, some of which will be made by our own "Holy Wonderers".



NATIONAL AFFIRMING/PIE DAY 2025



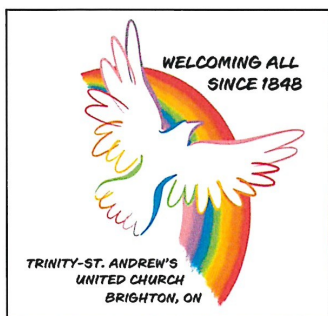
PIE DAY - Sunday, March 16, 2025



A service dedicated to celebrating
the diversity of LGBTQ+ people!



Be sure to join us for fellowship time
after the service for refreshments
and, of course, pie!



Affirm and Equity Terminology for March: Three big gender rights victories in Thailand, India and France.

In recent news about global human rights, Thailand has extended free hormone therapy to nearly two thirds of the country's transgender population. A government spokesperson noted the country's growing acceptance of the trans and non-binary community and the approval of ~ £3M in its budget to go towards health services, including hormone therapy, for its trans citizens. The budget will aim to support 200,000 transgender people out of an estimated 314,000 trans people living in the country.

In other news, India's Supreme Court has declared access to clean, gender-sensitive public toilets a fundamental right and Europe's top court has protected women's bodily autonomy in marriage by ruling against forced marital relations in France.



It is important to reflect on these positive changes as they provide hope that many countries are continuing to support human rights for all citizens.

To read more, visit the following links:

Thailand - free hormone therapy: <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/01/28/thailand-health-ministry-trans-hrt/?ref=fixthenews.com>

India - gender-sensitive public toilets: <https://theleaflet.in/judicial-accountability/sanitised-toilets-in-courts-a-fundamental-right-and-not-just-a-convenience?ref=fixthenews.com>

France – women's bodily autonomy: <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20250126-marriage-no-longer-sexual-servitude-european-court-human-condemns-france-marital-duty-echr?ref=fixthenews.com>

is someone you love

LGBTQ⁺?

This group is for **parents, grandparents,** and **loved ones** of LGBTQ+ people who would like to share their experiences and learn how to **support their loved ones.**

us too!



LGBTQ+ FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
FIRST TUESDAY of EVERY MONTH 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Meet in "the dove"
at TRINITY ST ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH
56 PRINCE EDWARD ST. BRIGHTON

email - brightonlgbtqfamilysprrtgrp@gmail.com

The LGBTQ+ Family Support Group group's goal is to provide a safe, open and non-judgmental space for parents, grandparents and loved ones of LGBTQ+ family members to share experiences and support each other.

This group is loosely associated with the Cobourg/Northumberland PFLAG group (Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (and Trans)) but operates as a stand-alone support group in Brighton.

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Quiet Room at the church. The next meetings are Tuesday, April 1 and May 6, 2025 For more information, contact brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com.

PRIDE Walk and Worship – Sunday, June 15, 2025

This year, Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church is collaborating with local Brighton Pride leaders to organize a number of Pride activities in June. To align with these other activities and to (hopefully) benefit from nicer weather, TSA has decided to hold our PRIDE Walk and Worship Service mid-month on June 15th.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! More details will be shared in the coming months.

175th Anniversary Shirts for Sale



If you haven't already ordered a long-sleeve Trinity-St. Andrew's anniversary shirt, what are you waiting for? The long-sleeve shirts are perfect for this time of year!

Shirts are available in a variety of colours and sizes for adults and youth at a cost of \$20 for short-sleeve or \$30 for long-sleeve shirts.

To place your order, please speak with Jeanette Cournoyer after church, email jeanettecournoyer@gmail.com or call 647-341-6095. Please note that turnaround time from date of order is usually 2 weeks.



The Brighton Council has established a Homelessness Taskforce and would like representatives from local faith-based communities to be active on the taskforce. The Terms of Reference for the Taskforce can be found here: <https://brighton.civicweb.net/document/165040/>
If anyone is interested in serving/representing Trinity-St. Andrew's UC, please speak with Rev. Wanda at minister@trinitystandrews.ca.

Thank you

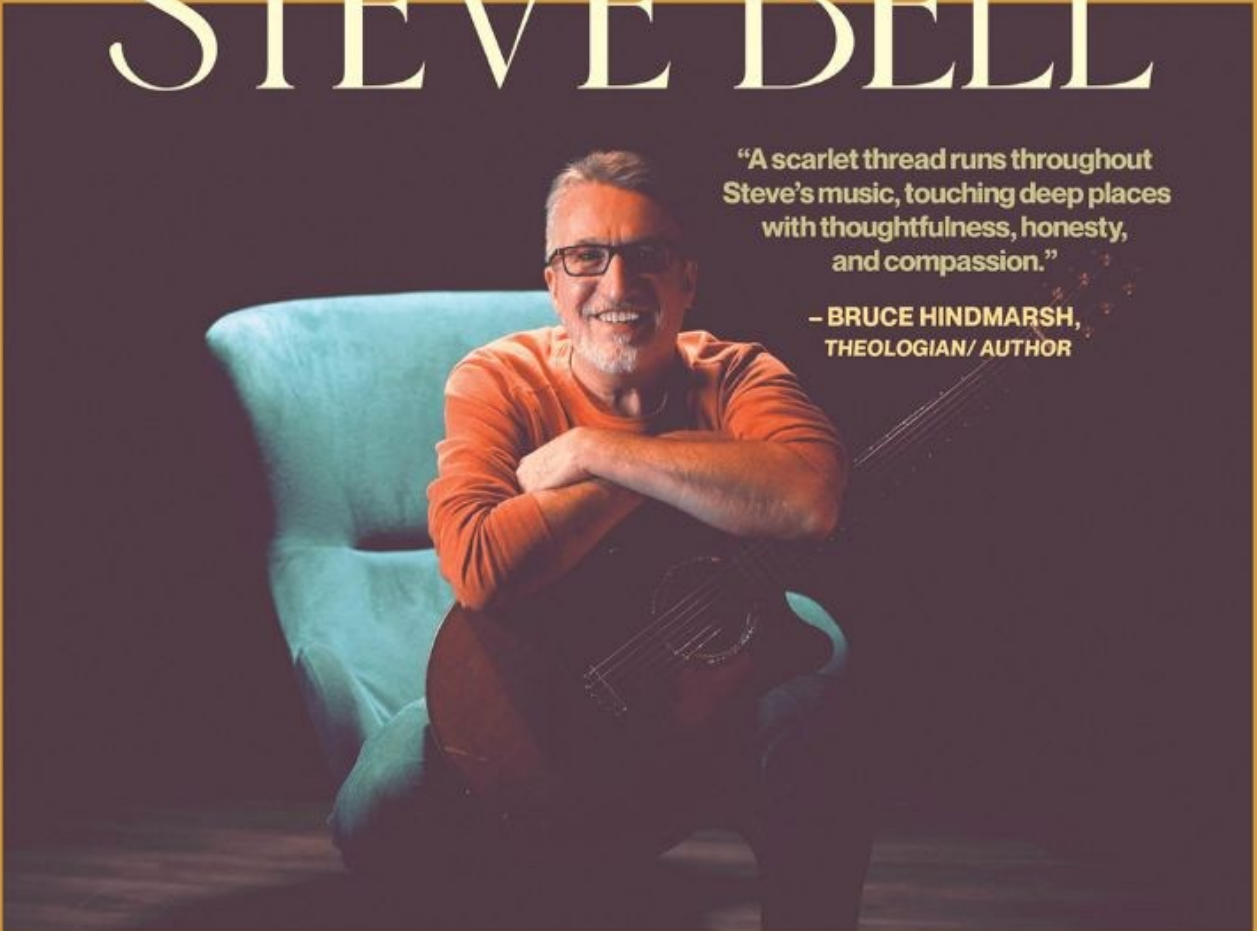


Please reach out to Irene Robb or the office (admin@trinitystandrews.ca) if you are interested in coming together once a month (or so!) to practice an ancient way of listening for God's voice in scripture. You can learn more about Lectio Divina or sacred readings here: <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/253799/1-What-is-Lectio-Divina.pdf>

But don't be intimidated by all those instructions! It can be a joyful, profoundly important way to pray and let God speak to us.

IN CONCERT

STEVE BELL



"A scarlet thread runs throughout Steve's music, touching deep places with thoughtfulness, honesty, and compassion."

— BRUCE HINDMARSH,
THEOLOGIAN/ AUTHOR

TRINITY ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

56 PRINCE EDWARD ST | BRIGHTON

DATE

**SATURDAY, MARCH 22
7:00 PM**

NEW CD
AND BOOK



TICKETS

**STEEVBELL.COM/EVENTS
1-800-854-3499**

**TRINITY ST. ANDREW'S
613-475-1311**

TICKETS \$25

THE DOVE



Roast Beef Dinner

Please join us for a
roast beef dinner with all the fixings
including roast beef, mashed potatoes, fresh vegetables, dinner rolls, salads,
and yes - DESSERTS!

\$25 per person

\$12 for Children under 12 years

Free for those over 100 years

Tickets available at the church office & Lighthouse Books

When?

The fourth Friday of the month!

Friday January 24th

Friday February 28th

Friday March 28th

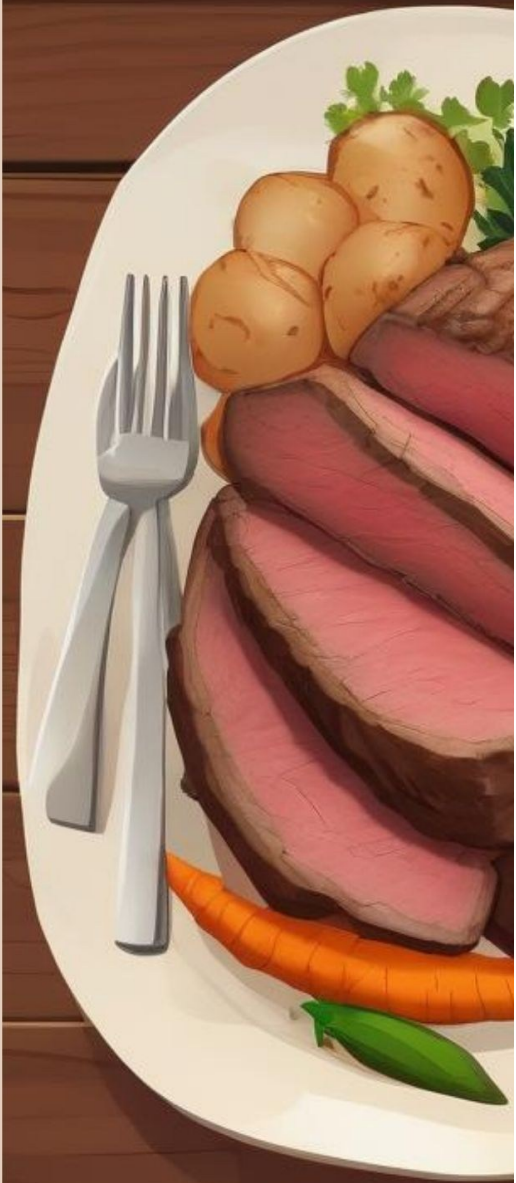
Friday April 25th

Friday May 23rd

Friday June 27th

Serving from 5:00pm to 6:30pm

56 Prince Edward Street - Brighton ON



THE DOVE



Sunday Morning Breakfast

Please join us for a
Sunday morning breakfast
including scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, home fries and more
You can even stay for the worship service - if you'd like!

\$15 per person at the door

\$5 for Children under 12 years

Free for those over 100 years

When?

Sunday February 2nd

Sunday March 9th

Sunday April 6th

Sunday May 4th

Sunday June 1st

Serving from 9:00am to 10:00am

56 Prince Edward Street - Brighton ON

Broadview

Dear United Church friends,

There are big changes ahead for Broadview, and we wanted to share them directly with you - our faithful partners. **You may already know that Broadview is the only media organization in Canada dedicated to covering spirituality, justice and ethical living.**

We do journalism for a reason. We passionately care about building a more cohesive, inclusive and compassionate society. Our Christian lens informs the stories we choose to cover and how we cover them. At our best, we champion hope over cynicism, depth over superficiality, solutions over despair. We welcome critical thinking.

As the oldest continuously running publication in North America, Broadview carries a rich legacy of transformative journalism that has touched countless lives. It is through support from people like you that this important work continues to thrive. We have recently embarked on a strategic planning process; the result is **a bold vision we think you'd like to hear about.**

In short, our award-winning magazine will continue to inform and inspire, and we're embracing **emerging technologies to bring our stories to life in new and transformative ways.** Our goal is to extend our reach to **new audiences** and **catalyze the kind of meaningful dialogue that drives real, positive change.**

To do that, we will transcend platforms, borders and ecumenical lines, forging partnerships that amplify our impact. Our media organization will play an even bigger role in helping create the just and compassionate world to which Jesus calls us.

We strongly believe Broadview is needed now more than ever. Damaging voices that couch hate in Christian rhetoric are growing increasingly loud, organized and well-funded. They are dominating social media, often passing themselves off as news and polarizing our country. Fair or not, they inform the public perception of Christians.

We must grow our voice. We have the platform. We have the experience. Together, we can make an even greater impact.

If you already subscribe and/or donate, you have our deepest gratitude. Thank you so much! If not, please consider helping in any way you can.

Every subscription. Every donation. Every prayer matters.

Together, we can shape the future with the same courage and conviction that has defined our past.

With deep gratitude,

Jocelyn Bell, Editor/Publisher

Rev. Trisha Elliott, Executive Director

learn more about our plan for growth: broadview.org/our-future-plan/

Join the 450 Challenge

blood.ca/450



The demand for blood is rising, and Canadian Blood Services needs **450 new donors every day** this winter. Right now, **1 in 2 Canadians** is eligible to donate, yet only **1 in 76 actually does**. If you've never donated before, **this is your chance to make a life-saving impact**.

Brighton needs donors! Book your appointment at the upcoming **Community Blood Drive at Fellowship Christian Reformed Church**.



Friday, March 21st: 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



21 open appointment times are available How you can help:



Donate as a group with friends, family, or colleagues.



Book an individual appointment and give the gift of life.



Recruit one new donor - every extra donation matters!



Share the attached poster at your workplace or community space.

Not sure if you're eligible? Many more people can now donate thanks to recent updates! Take the quick **eligibility quiz** at blood.ca to find out.

Every donation makes a difference. Join the 450 Challenge today - because someone, somewhere, is counting on you.

Thank you for being part of this life-saving mission!

**The church office is open:
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10am – 12:30pm**

Pamela works from home on Mondays and Tuesdays.



This is a friendly reminder that Trinity-St. Andrew's is a scent free environment. Please be mindful that many people suffer from scent-triggered reactions.