



TRINITY-ST.ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

*December 2024
Newsletter*



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A note from Rev. Wanda

Yesterday morning I awoke to snow, so I guess it's true: it's December!

Greetings everyone, in the name of our Creator who brings us the changing seasons, the comfort of friends and family, warm shelter and food on our table....

May the One whose birth we celebrate this month be with you all!

I need to thank you all again for the support over this past month as we accompanied my mother-in-law in her final days. I was grateful for the space to be with her and the rest of the family as we grieve. I'm still feeling sluggish, but I'm so happy to be back among you all, especially in this season of hope and anticipation.

This time of year, can be filled with many emotions, and it's sometimes hard to recognize them all, let alone accept them all. We all know that even though I opened this letter listing the beauty and accompaniment of Creator God in our lives, not everyone is blessed to be surrounded by love, let alone shelter and food. It's important to give thanks for all the blessings we have, and to spend time wondering how we can share from our own bounty. It's also important to recognize the injustice of our lives, if you find yourself alone and hungry.

Trinity-St. Andrew's is blessed to include people who have a profound calling to care for each other, strangers and neighbours alike. Your example of generous giving, of time, talent and treasures, is inspiring. But you also have a generosity of heart that is humble and makes space for people who are called to live their lives in ways that may feel different to you. The events of this past week have made me realize what a gift that is.

Let's give thanks to the Christ-child who draws us into the mystery of life, year after year, moment after moment. The witness of God-with-us reminds us that we see only dimly right now. We cannot understand fully what God desires for our world, but we understand that the foundation of all God's work, is love.

Love gives space to remember the ones we have lost. Love gives us energy to care for the ones we have. Love gives comfort to rest when we are tired, and love inspires us to reach for something new, to learn and to grow, trusting that we are never alone.

This Christmas, let's give thanks for the Love that guides us, surprises us, and enfolds us in the purpose of the universe. Let's give thanks as we wait for love to be born again in this world.

Yours in Christ, in love, in gratitude

Rev. Wanda Stride



Moderator's Advent Message 2024

Season's Greetings. I am the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada.

As we enter into Advent and approach Christmas, my thoughts turn to children, to the Christ child. He was born, perhaps not in luxury, but with loving parents and God's grace. This love is what we hope for all those in our care—that they would be supported and lifted up to become who they are meant to be.

That's why, in this Advent season, we are reaching out to you. We are sharing stories of how United Church members are supporting children and youth, wholeheartedly and with love. You are a part of this wonderful, loving community, and your support, both through prayer and your gifts, make this possible. I would encourage you to give a gift through [Mission and Service](#) this Advent season. Your support will mean so much to youth who are looking for love, acceptance, and understanding.

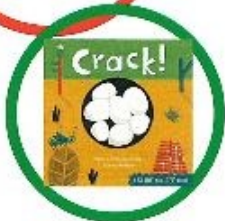
Thank you for your actions, your heartfelt prayers, and your willingness to help. May God bless you and those around you this Advent season.

The first week of December is our annual 10,000 Villages sale supporting Fair Trade products. TSA receives a small percentage of the sales which we always donate to a charitable cause. This year, the proceeds will be split between Doctors Without Borders and Life 4 Kids (Nairobi, Kenya).

On Friday evening and Saturday morning, the “**Grannies Holly-Jolly Bake Sale**” will also be taking place in the church hall. Proceeds will go to the Stephen Lewis foundation: “Grandmothers to Grandmothers” campaign.



TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES, COBOURG



Buy a Gift that Supports the World



Trinity St. Andrew's United Church Hall

Friday, December 6th

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 7th

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 8th

During Coffee hour

and after Vocalese 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*A fantastic selection of Fair-Trade items
from around the globe awaits you*

Christmas Wishes from your M&P Committee

We are blessed the whole year through with our Minister, Reverend Wanda Stride and our personnel Pamela Maloney, Sandra Candeloro and Barry Ott. This team works hard and so well together to keep TSAUC on a good track. We thank you for all your efforts.

We are grateful for each of them. Especially, we want to wish Barry Ott all the best as he leaves the position of custodian here at the church. Our thoughts and prayers will always be with him as he sets out on his new path as we can look forward to working with a new custodian in 2025.

We wish each employee and their families the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the upcoming season knowing they are appreciated always.

And know that this blessing is extended to everyone as well.

*Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years,
from you M&P Committee*

*Pam Pettigrew, Barry Street, Paul Cook, Ryan Reckenberg and Neva Moelker,
chair*

Brighton Christmas Hampers 2024

All applicants must apply in person to the
Evangel Penetecostal Church
30 Butler St.

Please call the church office to make an appointment to register
613-475-2444

*(Information required: I.D. for everyone in household, proof of income, expenses
such as rent/mortgage, hydro and gas receipts)*



Worship Schedule

Advent Sundays

Each Sunday will have a different colour theme, and the congregation is encouraged to dress in that colour. Let's share some fun as we anticipate Christmas Day!

- December 1, Communion Sunday, dress in GREEN for the Jesse Tree
- December 8, White Gift Sunday, dress in WHITE to show you are pure and blameless in Christ
- December 15, Joy Sunday, dress in BLUE to remember the waters of salvation (The Holy Wonderers are serving Sunday Sundaes after church)
- December 22, Love Sunday, dress in RED for Mary's love

Christmas Eve services

7:00 Rev. Wanda is busy writing a service that will feel more like a play. Would you like to be part of it? We are looking for people of all ages, and only a few characters will actually have speaking parts.

Join us for a Christmas Eve family service, carefully planned by our worship committee. Don't be surprised if we are interrupted by a few holy time travellers! Shepherds, still quaking from the experience in the fields, suddenly find themselves stopped by the VIA train in Brighton Ontario, flee to Trinity St Andrew's United Church, comforted by the rainbows on the front steps. It can't be that bad a place if they are decorated with rainbows! But they aren't alone. The angel announcing Christ's birth didn't get a chance to sing his song. Not to be deprived of his life's purpose, he follows the shepherds across millennia, singing his "Gloria's" at every opportunity.

9:00 Communion and Candlelight service, for those of us who crave something a little more traditional and meditative on Christmas Eve.



News from the Affirm & Equity Committee



Vandalism of the church steps and Sanctuary doors

On Sunday November 24th at 9:15 p.m., individuals spray painted the front doors and rainbow steps of Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church. This is the second time the steps have been covered with grey paint in just over a year.

"It makes me sad to think there is so much fear out there," said Jeanette Cournoyer, Chair of the Trinity-St. Andrew's Affirm and Equity Committee. "It makes me realize that our work is not done, and we need to continue to offer a safe space to all people in the Brighton community."

This past week our church has been a hub of love and support for the LGBTQ+ community, including this inclusive hymn sing (pictured in photo) from the East Central Ontario Regional Council meeting this past Saturday where ministers and worship leaders joined in solidarity. We also held a candlelight vigil on Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov 20th and held a support group for family and friends of LGBTQ+ people earlier this month.

"I am so grateful for the ministry of this church," said Rev. Wanda Stride. "The rainbow steps represent God's beloved diversity, and a promise of safe-harbour for all people. I too am deeply saddened that people feel they need to deface and try to instill fear in people who are already feeling vulnerable." Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church volunteers worked tirelessly Tuesday to clean up the paint.

A candlelight vigil was held on Sunday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the people who committed this act of vandalism and to sing songs of peace and love.



Affirm and Equity Terminology for December

December 3rd is International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This month we focus on equity for people with disabilities. Celebrated around the world, this day mobilizes support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, promotes awareness-raising about disability issues and draws attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessi-

ble society for all.

One example of change that is happening to help society embrace the energy and capabilities of disabled people is the **Accessible Icon Project**. Started in 2016, the Accessible Icon Project designed a new wheelchair icon that shows action and forward movement. One disabled person noted about the new icon “the chair is part of the person, the person isn’t part of the chair!” For more information and free downloadable versions of this new icon, visit accessibleicon.org.

Recently, the East Central Ontario Regional Council hosted a book study related to people living with disabilities. The book that we discussed is titled **My Body is Not a Prayer Request** by Amy Kenny. It is an eye-opening and informative read about the challenges and discrimination that disabled people face every day, written by a woman who has lived with a disability since a young age. We highly recommend this book if you want to better understand the lived experience of disabled people, especially as it relates to the oppression they face from organizations such as churches.

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
5/6 PRINCE EDWARD ST. BRIGHTON
6:30-8:00 P.M.

email - brightonlgbtqfamilysprrtgrp@gmail.com

LGBTQ+ Family Support Group

The LGBTQ+ Family Support 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.

Attendees at recent meetings have asked questions about topics such as the use of pronouns, gender re-assignment surgery, puberty blockers and more. We may not have all the answers, but we are good at listening and supporting!

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, January 7 and February 4, 2025 For more information, contact brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com.



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 and might even make a great Christmas gift! Featuring eye-catching artwork by our very own Sandra Candeloro, the shirts have a beautiful dove flying over a colourful rainbow with the words "Welcoming All Since 1848". 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.



Vocalese Christmas Concert

and carol sing-along

Sunday December 8th, 2024

2:30pm

Trinity-St. Andrews United Church

56 Prince Edward Street, Brighton

Tickets available from:

Choir members,

at the door,

and Lighthouse Books

located at 65 Main Street, Brighton

Adults - \$20

Students (13-19) - \$10

Under 13 - Free

CANADIAN
MILITARY
Wives Choirs
TRENTON

Chorales des Épouses
MILITAIRES
CANADIENNES



Present

OUR CHRISTMAS ANGEL

A Tribute Concert For Keith Smith
Delicious Dessert Auction to Benefit CMWC Trenton at
Intermission

Sunday December 15th

2:00-4:00 Doors open at 1:30

56 Prince Edward Street, Brighton

Tickets Adults \$20 Children under 12 \$10

For Tickets Call (613)475-1311 or Email us at admin@trinitystandrews.ca



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Global Witness

by Kenneth L. Samuel | published on Dec 1, 2024

“And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.” – Mark 13:27 (NLT)

Ever notice how much of what is now considered standard in our society is the result of international movements which became global?

The American victory over the British in North America served as a great catalyst for the French Revolution in Europe.

The use of nonviolence as an effective weapon of peace in the Indian struggle against British Imperialism inspired the hopes and informed the strategies of Dr. King and all those who still fight against American oppression nonviolently.

And the Christ who brings joy to the world began his earthly sojourn specifically in the ancient Middle Eastern region of Palestine where Jews anticipated the promised messiah.

Great movements of the human spirit have always been bigger than any tribe or nation or region or religion. The grace of God is too amazing to leave anyone outside of its loop, and the love of God reaches every echelon of every being. The people brought together in Mark’s vision of God’s redemption are those who refuse to lift any religious or sociopolitical doctrine higher than the belief in basic human sanctity.

This is the promise of our common destiny. This is the basis of our global witness. This is the blessed Advent to which we all must now urgently attend.

Prayer

Come Lord Jesus, in winds that move us into genuine communion. Come Lord Jesus, in floods that compel us to seek and share common ground. Come Lord Jesus, in trimmers that teach us how to turn toward each other in mutual reverence. Maranatha. Amen.



***A Christmas gift that keeps
on giving, from
Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church.***

At times it's hard to come up with a gift for a loved one. At times we wish to show someone how special our church community is to us. At times we want a gift that is NOT just supporting a multi-national but serving where there is a need.

This Christmas watch for a giving tree that will mysteriously grow in our sanctuary. On its branches will be cards with a suggested donation for a

particular ministry within our congregation. Once you make the donation, we will provide you with a card that can include the donation slip, that you can give to your loved one.

Our commitment to Emmanuel Baptist Church in El Salvador is one example of a gift, but there are ministries from hospitality, to holy wondering supplies, from gardening supplies to backdrop curtains to support our music concerts, an electronic sign... there is so much life in our church.

For more information please see Helmut Enns, or email the office.

How will this work?

- Cards are available on the giving tree
- Select the card for the gift you wish to give.
- Make a donation of that amount to Trinity-St. Andrews. Include the donation slip in the card with your donation to the church.
- Send or give the card to your friend or loved one, with or without the amount donated specified.



***Thank you for giving your loved one a meaningful gift,
and for supporting your church community.***



The tradition of ***White Gift Sunday*** has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio. The story is told that in 1904 the minister's wife as a way to reflect on love and care for the neighbour instead of focusing on receiving gifts, initiated a white gift Sunday. The focus rather than on receiving gifts shifted to bringing gifts to be shared with others.

All the gifts would come wrapped in white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive or a more modest gift.

On December 8th we will continue the White Gift tradition by supporting the Legion's Angel Tree. Like last year we will focus on youth. You are asked to bring a gift, if you are able. We are not asking you to wrap it in white paper but we will have a white box at the front for you to drop off your gift. Also during the Holy Wondering time Trinity-St. Andrew's youth will collect gifts from those who do not wish to personally drop their gift in the box.

Some suggestions for gifts include gift cards for Subway, Tim Hortons, McDonald's, the Drug Store - for personal hygiene products, or warm mittens/gloves, hats and scarves.

Thanks for supporting White Gift Sunday.

First Impressions

Do we all recall our first meetings with people in our lives?

I'd like to share my first meeting with Barry Ott. I will colour it with a bit of background information.

I had been in search mode during the pandemic. And by chance (or as I call "divine intervention") I had a conversation with Rev. Wanda Stride whom I met at the event in Belleville for the LGBTQ+ community where Trenton United Church had a booth set up.

She invited me to attend the church service the Sunday before TSAUC was officially opening back up to the public. It was a rainy day but I bundled up the grands, Abi was not walking yet, and proceeded across the street.

We had to enter through the hall doors at this time. So I wheeled the stroller in and showed my vax papers then was asked by the greeter not to bring the stroller in as it had mud on the wheels and the carpet was clean. I know their concern was not intended to sound mean and I know they were doing what they thought was right.

At this point I had two choices, turn around and leave or pick up Abi (which was difficult on a rainy day when my arms don't work so well) and continue into the sanctuary with Hudson in tow. As you all know, I stayed. I truly believed that God had His hand in bringing me to this point so in we went.

We sat at the back and enjoyed the service. Afterward we had a brief chat with Wanda. Hudson told her that he was going to come back. I did relay my experience when we came in..... and this is where Barry comes in.

Barry was sitting in the choir loft while Wanda and I were chatting. He reassured me that we were welcome, muddy wheels and all. He told us that he was the custodian and if we left a mess he would clean it up. I was so touched by this act of genuine welcoming. It has stuck with me and has manifested itself with everyone I have come to know here at TSAUC.

We will miss Barry's kind compassion, especially Abi who has become quite attached to him over the time. All the best thoughts and prayers go with him as he navigates a new way. Hopefully he will visit often and keep in touch.

I have encountered that when we say welcoming, we show it. It is not just a word on a spelling test but a life lived out.

Thank you Barry and Wanda and everyone for being the welcoming and caring people that God intended us all to be. Living out Jesus' words is visible through you all.

Neva Moelker

Ian Simpson & Stephanie Bird

Present

Sleigh Bells Ring...

**Friday, December 20th
7 pm**

Trinity St. Andrew's United
Church, Brighton

Tickets \$30

(cash only)

Available at
Lighthouse Books
613-475-1269



~Featuring Special Guests~

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE

with Trinity St Andrew's United Church



7:00 pm Family service...

lots of carolling, with lessons from
acrobatic angels,
lost shepherds
and the VIA high speed passenger train

9:00 pm Candlelight Communion

a more contemplative, traditional service

All are welcome... especially YOU!

There is no cost for these events

for more information please call 613-475-1311
or email admin@trinitystandrews.ca



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

Rocking in the
NEW YEAR

The REASONS



**50's, 60's, 70's, 80's
Classic Rock**

4 January, 2025

**2:00 -5:00pm, doors open at 1:30pm
music / refreshments / dancing / \$25**

The Dove

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

613-475-1311

events-brighton.ca

for tickets: church office/ Lighthouse Books / at the door



TRINITY-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
56 PRINCE EDWARD STREET, BRIGHTON

Harm Reduction & Naloxone Workshop

JANUARY 26, 2025, 12:00 PM

12:00 - 12:20 PM
Pizza lunch

12:20 - 2:00 PM
Learn about:
Drug use, stigma & harm
reduction strategies.
Hear insights from
someone who lived with
an opiate addiction.



Presented by Nichola Davies,
Harm Reduction Specialist from
the Peterborough AIDS Resource
Network (PARN).

**This is a free presentation, open
to all in an accessible venue.**

For more information contact:
admin@trinitystandrews.ca
or call 613-475-1311

Please note the new office hours.

This is a trial and will be reassessed in the new year.

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.

We're open during the holidays

Blood donors are especially needed between 4:45 -6:30 p.m. and there are still over 28 appointments needing to be filled.

Donate blood
Fellowship Christian
Reformed Church

204 Main Street Brighton

12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
donors needed... book today!



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Appointments required.
Book now at **blood.ca**