

#### TRINITY-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



# November | December 2025 Newsletter



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

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

#### A note from Rev. Wanda

Are you tired of the questions yet?

Do you have your lights up?

Have you put up the tree yet?

All set for Christmas? Presents bought? Meals planned? Outfits arranged? Ticket bought to somewhere really hot or anywhere but home so you can escape all the pressure?

I guess it was inevitable. If you combine a holiday about gift-giving with a consumeristic society, the holiday will turn into a spending frenzy.

But this year, I'm trying hard to resist. I don't want to end up drained and grumpy on Christmas morning.

This year, will you join me in remembering what those Christmas gifts really are?

- 1) God's gift to the world: Jesus, new life, all the promise of new beginnings, hope when the world feels hopeless. One night set aside for angels to light up the sky, stars pointing the way, the crisp air around us shimmering in anticipation of all the goodness that is to come.
- 2) The gift of attention: Magi attending to the stars, attending to prophecies of better days. Mary attending to a new born, Joseph attending to Mary. Shepherds attending to sheep, Angels attending to the shepherds.

This year, we are offering a gift to all of you and the wider community: attention to Jesus, to the holy that resides within your very soul.

Join us on Saturday afternoons at 3:00 if you can (December 6, 13 and 20) but you can also practice this every day on your own.

Pay attention. It's that simple. Look for signs that love is growing in the world. Look for signs of peace. Look for signs of joy. Pay attention, and in those moments of discovery, you will feel hope.

That's my plan, anyway! Will you join me? It's always easier when you have company. Either way, I hope this season of Advent brings you lots of peace and joy. Our Sunday services will be full of surprises as we are planning lots of different ways to experience God's presence when we gather.

Take some time to read this newsletter, and absorb all the ways our church is serving Christ through our community and beyond. Maybe you are being called to a new way of following Jesus!

With the hope of all the blessings of Christ

Rev. Wanda Stride

PS This Advent season we are encouraging everyone to invite and BRING a friend to church. We have lots of exciting adventures planned for Sundays and beyond, and we want to spread the word!

Having said that, have you ever wondered what you would say if you invited a neighbour, and they said "I don't know why I would go to church. Why do you go to church?" If you need to work on that elevator speech - a 15 second statement of what church means to you - join us two Saturday afternoons in January, the 17 and 24 at 2:00 pm, and we can do deep discernment about why church, especially this church, means so much to you. We have also engaged a video producer who will document our work, and create a short video for our website and social media, with all the love and faith that you discover in these sessions. Think about it, and let me know if you want to be part of this!

### **Upcoming Services**

**November 30** Advent One (hope), Communion Sunday, guest speaker Rev. Tori Mullin, growth animator for the East Central Ontario Regional Council (with afternoon event to follow)

**December 7** Advent Two (peace), White Gift Sunday, collecting gifts for teenagers and hygiene products for seniors.

**December 14** Advent Three (joy). A creative artist depicts Mary's story in response to a reflection.

**December 21** Advent Four (love). Deepen your love for Jesus through prayer stations.

December 24 7:00 pm a fun-filled, faithful adaptation of the Nativity story

9:00 pm contemplative, Christmas communion worship

**December 28** 10:30 am Unscripted hymn sing, by request

January 4 Rev. Wanda away, Rev. Jackie Harper leading worship

January 11 Rev. Wanda away, Rev. Jackie Harper leading worship

#### Potluck and Job Fair



We are looking forward to seeing everyone on Thurs. Nov. 27, 5:30pm.

Come and enjoy a potluck dinner with your church community and learn about how our committees work and what volunteer opportunities are available.



#### **International Day For The**

#### **Elimination Of Violence Against Women**

From November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to December 10th, Human Rights Day, the United Nations' <u>UNITE Campaign: 16</u> <u>Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence</u> is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls everywhere. UNITE calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, media, and the UN system to join forces to address the global pandemic of violence against women and girls. The United Nations has chosen the colour orange for this global campaign as a symbol of a brighter future for women around the world as we raise awareness and mobilize resources to bring an end to this fundamental human rights violation.

The local chapter of the Grandmothersadvocacy Network, GRAN Northumberland, will be supporting this global campaign through lawn signs and encouraging people to wear orange lapel ribbons. Lapel ribbons are available in the church hall. No donation necessary.



#### December 6th



# National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

This day marks the anniversary of the 14 lives lost in Quebec at the Ecole Polytechnique in 1989. The 14 young students died because they were women. December 6th is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those we have lost to it. When we listen to the stories of survivors, we hear God calling us to work to affirm human dignity, rights and needs of all.

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church

56 Prince Edward Street, Brighton, Ontario 613-475-1311

www.trinitystandrews.ca





### **Guest Speaker, Advent 1**

Sunday, Advent 1, Nov 30, Tori Mullin, a staffer from our regional council, in charge of growing congregations, will be speaking during worship. Tori will challenge us to be bold in sharing the good news of our faith, to deepen our spirituality, and to dare to "seek justice and resist evil" in the world today. Then later that afternoon, at 2pm in our community hall, Tori Mullin will lead a group of local communities of faith in exercises to consider new ways of being church.

If you wish to be part of that, pleas RSVP with Pamela in the church office before November 28.







# Brighton your Christmas

Thursday, December 4th

@ 7pm

**Trinity St Andrew's Church Brighton** 

FREE WILL OFFERINGS



# Ten Thousand Villages



# Fair Trade Sale in Brighton



Fri. Dec. 5 6:00-8:00pm Sat. Dec. 6 10:00am-2:00pm Sun. Dec 7 after church and 4:00-5:00pm



in the Hall at Trinity-St.Andrew's United Church in Brighton

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church
56 Prince Edward Street, Brighton, Ontario
613-475-1311
admin@trinitystandrews.ca



# Fair Trade Pre-Christmas Sale

Please join us in the church hall for an opportunity to support Fair Trade and buy quality, ethical items for yourself and your Christmas list. Fair Trade helps improve the income, the health care, and the education of artisans and their communities around the world. Among the huge selection of items you'll find Christmas ornaments from Vietnam, olive oil from Palestine, musical instruments from Bali, scarves from India, cinnamon from Sri Lanka, and so very much more.

If you wish to volunteer, contact Helmut at <a href="helmutjanet@gmail.com">helmutjanet@gmail.com</a> Our sale hours are:

Friday, December  $5^{th}$ , 6 p.m. -8 p.m. Saturday, December  $6^{th}$ , 10 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Sunday, December  $7^{th}$ , 11:30 a.m. -12:30 a.m. and 4:00-5:00

Carol Sing during 10,000 Villages Sale, Dec 5, 5-8pm. Come and help us spread joy through music and fellowship.



# Vocalese Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 2:30 pm

Trinity-St. Andrews Church

56 Prince Edward Street, Brighton

#### Tickets Available:

- → At the door
- > From Choir Members
- → At Lighthouse books 56 Main Street, Brighton (Cash Only)

Adults - \$20

**Students (13-19) - \$10** 

**Under 13 - Free** 

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church presents



Friday December 12 7:00 pm



Charles Dickens' Classic tale read by Local Celebrities In a room that is as old as the story itself! 56 Prince Edward Street

### Free Admission

With donations accepted to help those in need in Brighton

Contact 613-475-1311 or admin@trinitystandrews.ca for more info

Contact admin@trinitystandrews.ca for more into





# **JPCORMIER**



A GREAT AFTERNOON OF MUSIC!

# THE DOVE

TRINITY-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH, 56 Prince Edward St Brighton

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28 4:00 PM

(doors open 3:30)

TICKETS \$35

available at Lighthouse books, at the church 613-475-1311 or scan the QR code

www.jpcormier.com



Lately I'm thinking about heaven and hell. From what I hear in the news, I'm not the only one. Years ago I set aside the idea of reward and punishment in the afterlife, believing we make our own heaven and hell in this mortal life. Now beset by great cognitive and spiritual dissonance, and not a little righteous indignation, I want bad things to happen to bad people. And if they escape earthly accountability, I want them to swim in the eternal lake of fire.

But the more I believe this, the more I'm creating my own spiritual hell on earth. And the more I burn with wrathful rage, the closer I'm treading to that sulfuric shoreline myself.

Delaying justice until after death shirks our present responsibility to alleviate the suffering of the oppressed and silences the call for the oppressor to repent. And despite the allure of divine vengeance, something tells me God desires earthly redemption more than eternal damnation. We might have hopes and beliefs about what will happen in the hereafter. Until then, we're called to make God's love and justice real in the here and now.

#### **Prayer**

Eternal One: Turn us away from desiring hell for others. Turn us towards making life on earth as it is in heaven for all. Amen.



### Time apart during Advent

Are you like me, and find the madness and expense of Christmas become so over-whelming, that you forget the deep truth of this season; that God loves us so much, God entered into our lives, breathed our air, touched our skin and walked with us on dusty roadways. Do you forget amid all the commercialism, that Jesus was born into poverty, during a time of oppression?

If you are longing to set aside some time and for just an hour each week, breathe slowly, rest in God's presence, and remember the gift that is ours, please come to church on Saturday afternoons. December 6, 13 and 20, from 3:00 - 4:00, let's take a break from the chaos of Xmas, to rest in the beauty of Christmas. We will offer guided meditations, labyrinth walks, music and spiritual writing for adults, while your little ones (ages 4 and up) enjoy a program of their own with our team of children's story-tellers and crafters. For more information please reach out to the office.

#### **September 23, 2025 -**

#### **Congregational Meeting Summary:**

#### **Decisions and Project Updates**

Visioning Exercise: Mission and Vision Approved

The congregation voted to approve both the revised Mission Statement and the revised Vision Statement as presented by the Visioning team (Lori Cooper).

- **Revised Mission Statement:** Rooted in the transformative love of Christ, Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church is a bold and inclusive community where people are empowered to explore faith, deepen their spiritual lives, find hope and take meaningful action. We support programs that uplift lives, strengthen community bonds, and embody God's love in visible, lasting ways.
- **Revised Vision Statement:** Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church will strive to be a welcoming spiritual centre for all, known for inclusivity, justice, and adaptability to community needs. Through worship, partnership, and service, we strive to share good news and benefit others.

#### Organ Replacement and Repair Direction

After a discussion about the rising maintenance costs and limited lifespan of current repair/replacement options (presented by Ellen Goodeve), the congregation ultimately directed Church Council to **continue exploring realistic alternatives to** *repair* or *replace* the organ and bring concrete proposals back at a future meeting.

#### **Accessibility Projects: Doors and Sanctuary Ramp**

The congregation received a positive update on two major accessibility projects (presented by Jeanette Cournoyer and John Futhey), which are largely funded through the Enabling Accessibility Fund (75% grant funding).

#### **Accessible Doors:**

- Action Taken: The congregation approved up to \$10,000 from the Contingency Fund (which currently holds approximately \$43,000) to cover the 25% cost share for the accessible doors.
- **Timeline:** The accessible doors were expected to be completed within a few days following the meeting.

#### **Sanctuary Ramp:**

- **Progress:** The Council has approved moving forward with the ramp project. Project manager John Futhey is working with an architect (\$7K for drawings plus \$2.5K for engineer's stamp) to meet commercial building codes.
- **Next Steps:** The next phase involves securing the necessary drawings, stamps, and municipal approval. Construction is anticipated to begin in the **earliest of May 2026**. The ramp will necessitate removing 1-2 rows of pews on the north side of the chancel.

#### **Next Steps for Council**

Church Council will proceed with the accepted directives, focusing on:

- 1. Implementing the new Mission and Vision Statements.
- 2. Gathering further concrete proposals for the organ (repair or replacement).
- 3. Finalizing the accessible door installation and advancing the sanctuary ramp project toward construction.



#### **Update re Pipe Organ Options**

At the September Congregational Meeting the following motion was approved. Moved by Sharon McMullen and seconded by Sonja Rundle that the congregation of TSAUC directs church council to continue exploring realistic alternatives to repair or replace the organ and bring back concrete proposals at a future congregational meeting. CARRIED As a result, a task group was struck comprised of Sandee Candeloro, Judy Murtha, Ellen Goodeve, Colleen Stickle, Lori Cooper and Wanda Stride

The committee met twice with Phoenix Organs to gain a second opinion to compare to the one previously received from Schmidt's.

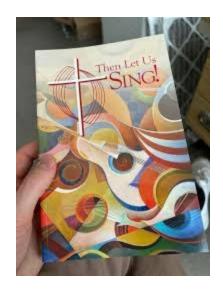
They assessed the organ, went behind the pipes and console and other mechanics and then played it (beautifully!) Commented that the sound of our small English Origan is rare. They explained that the console was main issue. The console switches do not work dependably and some buttons for multiple stops do not work. The pipes are working, and the front pipes still speak as well.

Overall, the assessment was not as dire as the previous and the organ while not playing to its potential could continue as is for an undetermined time.

While the life left in the Organ with no upgrades is hard to estimate we have been told by two companies now that the console and the mechanical workings are the main issue. The pipes for the most part still speak.

Phoenix constructs organ consoles by hand and has proposed the option of a hybrid console. This option would let an organ retain its full pipe structure, while incorporating modern electronics instead of mechanical systems, along with additional digital instrument features. The quotes received were in the \$60,000 range.

Council currently recommends keeping the Organ Fund open and continuing to accept donations. Council will revisit this issue and report to the congregation at the next AGM.



# Ordering new hymn books

You may have noticed some unfamiliar hymns and service music in our worship since September. This past summer the United Church of Canada introduced its first new hymn resource since *More Voices* was published in 2009. Our world has changed a lot since then, and the new songs in this resource reflect the theology and diversity of United Church folks.

We would like to place a bulk order of hymn books for those who would like to have their own copy. There is a slight discount in price, and we would save on shipping fees. They are currently reprinting books, so we cannot guarantee they would arrive before Christmas.



#### THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR JAMAICAN

Thanks to a community groundswell of concern, Friends with Migrant Workers, which is part of TSA Outreach, was able to really help the local workers from Jamaica. When we heard about the destruction caused by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica, we decided to collect money in order to give each of the men some cash. Simultaneously, local people were voicing a desire to assist on Brighton Community Facebook. As a result of the obvious desire to help, we opened our fundraising to our congregation and the community by having donation boxes available at the Farmers Market and at the TSA Hall door. There was some urgency, as the workers were about to start to return home. The resulting donations came to an amazing \$10,000 in a few days.

Every one of the 19 Jamaican workers at the two local orchards have been sent home with \$500 cash, plus packets of water purification tablets. Devon, who lost the roof from his home as well as his tool shed and tools, was provided with two heavy duty tarps for a temporary roof.

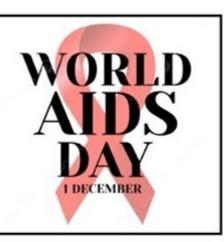
In addition, roughly \$1000.00, the balance in the Migrant Worker Fund, is being sent to a charity providing Hurricane Relief in Jamaica.

The Jamaica workers were so appreciative of all the support and love they received. Terry commented that anything we give is like a million dollars to their hearts. It shows how much we care.

Thank you all for your generosity.

### Affirm & Equity

On World AIDS Day, we raise awareness and educate ourselves about HIV/AIDS. Understanding the facts can help combat stigma and promote support for those affected by the virus.



In 2024, 40.8 million people globally are living with HIV, highlighting the need for ongoing education and awareness.

#### Girls and women make up

53% of the 40.8 million people living with AIDS. centre of the response.



Tuberculosis is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV. In 2022, an estimated 170,000 people died from AIDS-related TB



#### **World AIDS Day**

**World AIDS Day** falls on December 1<sup>st</sup> every year. On World AIDS Day, we raise awareness and educate ourselves about HIV/AIDS. Understanding the facts can help combat stigma and promote support for those affected by the virus.

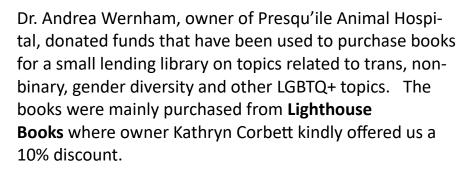
In 2024, 40.8 million people globally were living with HIV, highlighting the need for ongoing education and awareness.

Girls and women make up 53% of the 40.8 million people living with AIDS. Ending AIDS will require putting the diverse roles of girls and women at the centre of the response.

Did you know that tuberculosis is the leading cause of death among people living with HIV? In 2022, an estimated 170,000 people died from AIDS-related TB.

**TSA will mark World AIDS Day on Sunday, November 30th** with red ribbons and a short tribute to all those impacted by AIDS. Ribbons will be available at the entrances to the church. Please take one and wear it to show your support for the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS.

#### **LGBTQ+ Lending Library**



Available titles include "Raising Trans Kids", "Thriving Through Transition", "The Book of Non-Binary Joy" and "The Trans Self-Care Workbook" (a workbook for youth), among several others.

If you would like to borrow any of these books don't be shy, just speak with Jeanette to take a look at all the titles that we have on available!





#### How to Ally for the Holidays

Holidays are quickly approaching and they can be tough for our LGBTQ+ friends and loved ones. People are gearing up for holiday cooking, shopping, and, of course, visits with family. And while the "visits with family" can create anxiety for many people, for our LGBTQ+ friends and family, the anxiety jump is often significant.

Whether people are not yet 'out' to their family, are 'out' but not accepted by family or friends, or they are concerned about how family may react to meeting a

partner or spouse, holiday get-togethers can be stressful situations.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has published a helpful article about how allies can be part of creating a supportive and inclusive space for their LGBTQ+ friends and family at this time of year.

Some suggestions include asking an LGBTQ+ friend what their holiday plans are, listening in a non-judgmental way to any concerns they have about holiday get-togethers and extending an invitation to join you in your holiday celebrations if they have no option to be with their family.

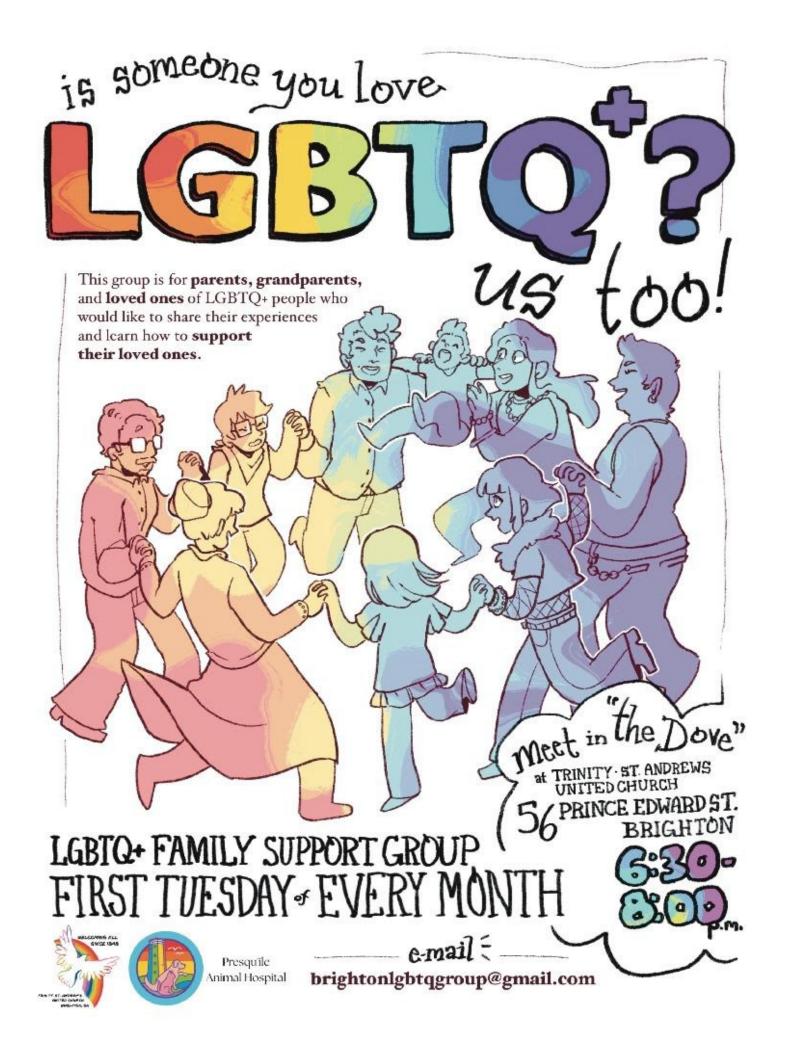
Check it out online at <a href="https://pflag.org/resource/how-to-ally-for-the-holidays/?">https://pflag.org/resource/how-to-ally-for-the-holidays/?</a> eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e181584d-2218-4adc-bfd0-bf7b684713ab.

#### **LGBTQ+ Family Support Group**

Our 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 is the only in-person support group of its kind in Northumberland County and attendance has continued to grow over the past year.

We welcome members from anywhere in Northumberland County and beyond who would like to share experiences and learn how to support their LGBTQ+ loved ones. If you know someone who could use this kind of support, please share this information with them. It could change their lives for the better!

The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Quiet Room at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church. The next meetings are Tuesday, December 2, 2025 and January 6, 2026. For more information, please contact <a href="mailto:brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com">brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com</a>.



#### **Communications Committee**

We have a new look. Templates for posters and social media have been created. Our new website is complete and will be rolling out soon.

A reminder to please update us with any events or activities that are happening and how you want them promoted at <u>communications@trinitystandrews.ca</u>.

Training is available for anyone who wants to use the new templates to make their own posters. We are also happy to work with you to make them.

All social media posts are carefully scheduled to have a consistent presence without overcrowding the feed, so please check with us before posting to our social media pages to ensure all events are represented without conflicts.

Please consider visiting our social media pages and sharing the content to your own page or leaving a comment to increase our visibility in the community.

# **Finance Report**

YTD October 2025	YTD October 2024	
TOTAL INCOME	\$180,803	\$194,784
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$217,456	\$207892
VARIANCE	(\$36,653)	(\$13,108)
General Fund BALANCE	\$20,255.	
CONTINGENCY FUND BALANCE	\$35,145.	

