

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



*March 2026  
Newsletter*



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## *A note from Rev. Wanda*

Dear family in Christ

I am writing with a heart of gratitude for you all. Yesterday I heard myself saying to someone what a wonderful partnership this is - the Spirit moving through us and the good work, worship and laughter we all share. Thank you for your faith and ministry!

As I type out these thoughts, we are leading up to the fourth Sunday in Lent. Half way to Easter (although it feels much closer!).

Before Christmas I got an email from Richter's seed in Goodwood Ontario, letting me know they were clearing out some seeds as they replenish stock, so of course I clicked the link, and I won't tell you how many dollars later, I now have a little brown envelope full of lavender, sage, lemongrass, basil... all things I love to cook with. Some of the seeds are quite resistant to growth it seems! I should have read the package more closely. They needed to be in the snow all winter, letting Mother Nature break down the tough shell so new life can emerge when the warm sunshine returns.

I guess you know where I'm going with this? Sometimes it feels like I have a tough shell that needs a little winter-softening. I think Lent is a good time for us to let the Holy Spirit work on our resistance and get us ready for that Easter morning hallelujah... Easter morning when we discover that not only is the tomb empty, but all this time we have been walking alongside the risen Christ, slowly, slowly, opening to his healing and love as we become the best people we can be. I hope you have found a practice to help you grow during Lent? Maybe you've been attending the Friday noon hour concerts? Maybe you made prayer beads and have found a new prayer regimen?

We have a Lenten Study on the go, and this past week the group assembled care packages of sweet treats and love for people in our lives who could use a boost. Just a little "thinking of you" package. I understand next week involves chips and dancing! For all the food and fun, the study is also inviting us to face the things in our lives that might leave a bitter taste in our mouths, and ask the honest question... why is that? We are also invited to consider the things that taste sweet like honey. Because that is life, isn't it? We can't avoid the bitter but we can look for signs of sweetness.

All these questions helping prepare us for something new that starts on Easter. The new life within us that has been hemmed in by unexamined reactions to the world around us, but slowly broken down with each scripture passage and prayer, with each question, with each bag of chips. It's a process that promises life, but it's not an easy process.

I wish you blessings and peace on your own journey, and encourage each of us to remember that at the end of all this, the sunshine coaxes life within, and we all have the potential to flourish like these tiny seeds.

One last note about seeds. As you know, each summer we partner with a local group the Grans for Africa, to set up a food sharing table on our front lawn. As we start thinking about spring and sunshine, I know I start to imagine this year's vegetable garden, and so I plan to grow an extra row of everything this summer that can be shared with others. If you would like to help keep the vegetables flowing, and help your neighbours to eat in a more healthy way, I've been told Tomatoes Cucumbers Beans Corn Carrots Potatoes and Onions are always in demand.

May the promise of spring and new life keep you hopeful in these last days of winter. May the Christ who walks a dusty path to Jerusalem give you strength. And may the Creator of all that we can see, hear and touch bless you with belonging and love as we anticipate the empty tomb together.

Rev. Wanda Stride





## Holy Week Schedule

### **Palm Sunday,**

10:30am intergenerational service leading us into Holy Week

3:00 Lyn Miles concert at The Dove

### **Maundy Thursday,**

6:00-8:00pm, a self-guided meditation on the Last Supper including hand and/or foot washing. Everyone is welcome to join us in this silent time together. Arrive anytime between 6 and 8pm, and a greeter will help you make your way to the long table at the front of the church. There you will find 12 places set, plus a seat for Jesus. Each place has communion elements, a bible and a booklet. Open the booklet and follow the meditation, readings and prayers. At one moment you will be invited to a handwashing station where volunteers will wash and dry your hands. We will also have a professional reflexologist volunteering to wash and dry feet. • Does that sound challenging? Peter thought so too! This is not meant to be comfortable, but is a beautiful act of trust and humility, participating in the life of Christ (John 13). Finally you are invited to share the bread and juice in silence, as others at the table follow the meditation at their own pace.

### **Good Friday**

10:30am somber service acknowledging the execution of Christ, the failure of humanity, the temporary strengthening of death and darkness.

### **Easter Sunday**

6:30am Sunrise service celebrating the triumph of life over death. Join us at the Gosport boat launch, beside the Harbourview restaurant.

7:15am back at the church, come share a light breakfast with us

10:30am communion, celebration of new members and baptism

# LYNN MILES

at The Dove

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church, Brighton

Sunday March 29 3:00

Tickets \$30

Lighthouse Books

Trinity-St. Andrew's office

or email [tickets@events-brighton.ca](mailto:tickets@events-brighton.ca)



Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church • 56 Prince Edward Street • 613-475-1311

## **Lent**

We are more than half way through the season of Lent now, but it's not too late to find a way to mark this special season. If you have already committed to a practice, we would love to know about it! If you were busy or distracted and Pancake Tuesday came and went without a thought, here are some ideas that you could adopt right now!

**Sunday March 22** join us for Star Words and Shepherd's Pie. OK those two don't normally go together! But early January you might have picked up a yellow star that had a word on it. There were ten words handed out, so others got the same word as you! Join us on the 22 to hear how your word has been helping, challenging or comforting your fellow members of TSAUC! Share your own experiences. And through our one hour gathering, the youth will have shepherd's pie prepared for a donation, as part of the three Sundays of PIE with the Affirm and Equity Committee. Please RSVP to the office so we know how many to prepare for.

### **Suggested Spiritual Practice for Lent (or forever!)**

#### **The Daily Examen**

This practice of reflection and prayer was created about 500 years ago, and it holds up! Ignatius of Loyola encouraged the members of his order to see God at work in every aspect of their lives. They lived their ministry in the world, serving the poor and those in need, healing, teaching, following Christ in every way. They did not tire, because they knew they did not work alone.

Can you imagine being that sure that you didn't bear full responsibility for the things unfolding around you? Being confident that if you only stepped up, did what you could, that God would use all your loving work to change the world forever?

The daily Examen is a beginning. Set aside time each evening, even if it's only a few minutes! Reflect back on your day to notice the times God was at work helping you. Notice the times you felt you were on your own. Notice how you felt. That's all it is!

You can use the daily Examen to help in your work becoming a better steward of God's good creation. Here is an example of the prayer used in ecospirituality.

[https://www.sjweb.info/documents/sjs/docs/EcologicalExamen\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.sjweb.info/documents/sjs/docs/EcologicalExamen_ENG.pdf)

You can use the daily Examen instead of playing games on your phone! Here is an app that was created by Jesuit brother Mark Thibodeaux.

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/reimagining-examen-app/>

You can use the daily Examen if you are trying to discern a path or make a decision.

Have a look at this video!

<https://youtu.be/oBQIU9LZygQ?si=sNNA78YBFiuEawNP>

If you want to do it the old fashioned way, here is one framework for the Daily Examen.

First, is there a place in your home that feels special, that could become your prayer place? It's good to have a routine as you mark the beginning of your prayer time.

Establish a regular place, and maybe bring a candle or some other way to mark that you have begun your prayer time.

1. Ask God for the grace to see the light in our lives. A simple prayer will work as you rest in silence and trust that God is with you.
2. Gratitude. Give thanks for all the gifts you have, and if it helps, make a list of a few that you need to remember.
3. Review your day. This can be as thorough or surface as you can manage. Look at the events of morning, afternoon and evening. You are looking for the light, or

4. absence of it. What stands out? Why do those things stand out? How do they make you feel? How does it feel right now, to be remember those things? If it helps, you can Write your reflections in a journal.
4. A) Are there things you wish you had done differently or not at all? Trust that God is watching these events with you, loving you despite anything you have done. Do you need to say anything to God? B) Are there things that went well? Give thanks to God for the blessing of clarity and love in your life. Whether regrets or joys, hold all the events of your day honestly, trusting that in looking openly at your own shortcomings or blessings, you are in the presence of God.
5. Look forward to the day to come. Give thanks to God for life.

### **Lenten Concert Series returns**

Join us Fridays at noon for to hear local musicians reflect on the themes of Lent. We have a diverse group of incredibly talented people volunteering their time this year!

Admission to the half hour concerts is free, but we will accept donations to help replenish our benevolent fund.

Bring a bagged lunch, and we will provide drinks, dessert and fellowship!

Friday March 20 Ray Herbert

Friday March 27 Frank Blanchet



# Noon-Hour Lent Concert Series

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church

12 noon to 12:30 pm

12:30 - 1:00 bring a bagged lunch

(we provide drinks and dessert)

*Fridays during Lent reflect with local musicians*

February 20 Dan Clost

February 27 Treble Threat

March 6 Scott Pennington

March 13 Dan Koets and Marie Lachner

March 20 Ray Herbert

March 27 Frank Blanchet



**Admission Free**

donations gladly accepted at the door  
for our benevolent fund

Call or email Trinity-St. Andrew's office

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## **The Envelope Wall: Back this March!**

Starting this month, you'll notice the return of the **Envelope Wall** in the hall. This is a simple, prayerful way to support our upcoming projects and operations.

Whether it's a small token or a larger gift, we invite you to take an envelope as you feel led and as the spirit moves you. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue our mission together. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



## **UCW Potluck.**

**Monday, March 23, 11:30am.**

Come and share faith, food and conversation,  
613 391 4051, Elizabeth Scriven, for details .



**Coming in April:**

## **Silent Auction of Talents & Treasures**

Get ready to share your gifts! Our **Silent Auction of Talents & Treasures** is officially returning this April.

This isn't just about "things"—it's about the unique skills and "treasures" within our community. Whether you have a knack for woodworking, a secret recipe for the world's best sourdough, or a weekend at a cabin to offer, we want to hear from you!

Stay tuned for more details on when we will need your skills and gifts and when you can bid on the those talents and treasures.

# 2026 CLIMATE MOTIVATORS

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



## Climate Motivator Job Description

### Summer Job opportunity for youth

#### Pay \$22 / hour

Full Time Position - May 19th - July 10th, 2026, with an option for employment until August 1, 2026

Do you know a young person who is passionate about the environment, and how our faith informs the way we treat the material world around us?

The United Church of Canada is hiring up to twenty Climate Motivators, ages 18-25, from across the country, for an eight-week, full-time contract from May 19th to July 10th, 2026.

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church in Brighton is planning to host one or two this summer.

There are five main goals for the Climate Motivator:

- Engage in climate education and advocacy
- Learn about and live out the denomination's commitments to climate justice, including through completion of a local climate project
- Leadership development
- Engage with Indigenous, ecumenical and global climate activists
- Participate in spiritual/faith practices that explore intersections between ecological justice, social justice, and deepen eco-spirituality

To find out more, please visit this link: [https://www.trinitystandrews.ca/files/ugd/709fa5\\_b3257d0fb3a646a391f595b0d353b932.pdf](https://www.trinitystandrews.ca/files/ugd/709fa5_b3257d0fb3a646a391f595b0d353b932.pdf)

Or call / email the office for a full job description and how to apply. [admin@trinitystandrews.ca](mailto:admin@trinitystandrews.ca) or 613-475-1311.

To apply:

Please submit your resume and an expression of interest to Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church by email to [admin@trinitystandrews.ca](mailto:admin@trinitystandrews.ca) by Friday March 27.

\*This position is dependent on successful receipt of a Canada Summers Jobs Grants.

# Go Deep

by [Matt Laney](#) | published on Mar 10, 2026

*[Jesus] said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." – Luke 5:4 (NRSV)*

Imagine what a professional fisherman would think if a carpenter climbed into their boat and dispensed unsolicited advice on fishing: "To find the big fish you have to go deep!"

It's an overlooked miracle that a hothead like Peter let Jesus stay in his boat that day. Had he not, he would have missed a life-changing demonstration of abundance.

Have you ever presumed to know more about abundance than God? I have. At least once a day I say to God through my thoughts and actions: "I know more about life and the way things work than you do, God! Get off my back and get out of my boat!"

Seriously. I'm that unspiritual.

Unspiritual and unworthy is what Peter confessed to be right after Jesus helped him catch more fish than he dreamed possible. You'd think Peter would have signed Jesus up as a business partner. Instead, Peter begged Jesus to stay away from the likes of him. Jesus ignored that request and deepened Peter's job into a bottomless vocation: to become a fisher of people.

Maybe what we are most afraid of is not scarcity but abundance. The scarcity of the shallows isn't deeply fulfilling but it's familiar. At least there, we can see the bottom.

## **Prayer**

You offer more blessing than I think I deserve or can handle. Ignore my reluctance and push me into an ocean of bottomless love.

# Broadview

## What if Lent began with a question?

A mother-daughter road trip sparked a sacred writing practice rooted in memory, wisdom and God's presence  
by [Sheryl Spencer](#)  
Mar. 11, 2026

In Spring 2023, my 20-something daughter, Olivia Mater, and I took a road trip from Tobermory to Thunder Bay, Ont. We were both at crossroads: I was about to turn 60, and Olivia was starting a job as a canoe technician in a provincial park.

Somewhere around the town of Marathon, we remembered an idea we'd had. Olivia would write a list of questions for me that probed my experience of wisdom and aging. As rocks, trees and rain slid past the car windows, she dove into her phone.

After about 15 minutes of intense tap-tapping, she came up with a list — one generation reaching toward another. Her questions were deep and thoughtful, challenging and inspiring. She asked me about my elders and teachers; whose presence I feel when I look at the stars; about where wisdom lives in my body.

Rather than answering directly, I brainstormed stories from my life inspired by each question and set about to writing them down. It became a practice. Because I am in ministry and time is hard to come by, I carved out two early mornings a week to write. I would light a candle and pray before I started, then look down at the list of stories and wait for the Holy Spirit to guide me toward the one I needed to tackle that day. During each session, I wrote only one story, sometimes revisiting events that hadn't crossed my mind in decades. When I was finished, I often had to take a nap to recharge. It felt like holy and sacred work. After many months, the result was a manuscript that became my final project for a doctor of ministry degree in creative writing and public theology.

For information about subscribing to Broadview magazine, contact the church office. The church group renewal will be coming soon in May. Join the group subscription and save!

## From The Worship Committee



This committee after an eventful Advent/Christmas season had a small break before preparations began for the Lent/Easter services and special events. The weekly Friday noon concert series continue leading up to the Maundy Thursday evening planned activities and the Good Friday morning service. A Lenten Bible Study is being well attended each Wednesday morning at the church. Easter morning begins with a sunrise service beginning at 6:30 am at the Gosport docks followed by a light breakfast back in the hall at 7:15 am before the Easter morning service communion service at 10:30 am. This service will include 1 baptism, 1 confirmation, and 3 new members to TSUC.

Easter cards are being prepared and printed ready to be either mailed or personally delivered in our church community. An Easter letter is also being prepared for the church community with an envelope for a special Easter donation.

Monthly services and hymn sings continue monthly at Applefest, Golden Pond, and Maplewood long term care homes as well as at Legacy Living Retirement.

The prayer shawl ministry has an active group of knitters and they have been a blessing to those receiving them in time of illness or comfort.

The Friendly Visitors have been an active group in pastoral care by making personal visits or phone calls to those in our community that are unable to attend our worship services. This committee recently had our semiannual meeting to review our mandate and visitation list. The list now includes 31 individuals! The Sunday morning services have included more participation by our worship leaders and the choir has been leading us in the singing of new songs from the new "Then Let Us Sing" United Church song book.

We have also begun planning for 3 new banners for the church! An Advent, Lent, and an Anniversary banner. Please stay tuned for future updates.

In closing some members of the committee will be participating in a ½ day morning retreat at Rev. Wanda's home on April 11th. The focus will be to do strategic planning on "What kind of a church do we want to be?"

# SUZIE VINNICK



**Friday May 29 7:00 pm**  
**at The Dove**

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church, Brighton



**Tickets \$30**

Lighthouse Books

Trinity-St. Andrew's office

email [tickets@events-brighton.ca](mailto:tickets@events-brighton.ca)



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# Affirm & Equity

## LGBTQ+ Lending Library



Dr. Andrea Wernham, owner of Presqu'ile Animal Hospital, donated funds that have been used to purchase books for a small lending library on topics related to trans, non-binary, gender diversity and other LGBTQ+ topics. The books were mainly purchased from **Lighthouse Books** where owner Kathryn Corbett kindly offered us a 10% discount.

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!

## 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, February 3 and March 3, 2026. For more information, please contact [brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com](mailto:brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com).

is someone you love

# LGBTQ+?

us too!

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.**



meet in "the Dove"

at TRINITY · ST. ANDREWS  
UNITED CHURCH  
56 PRINCE EDWARD ST.  
BRIGHTON

6:30-  
8:00  
p.m.

## LGBTQ+ FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

e-mail =

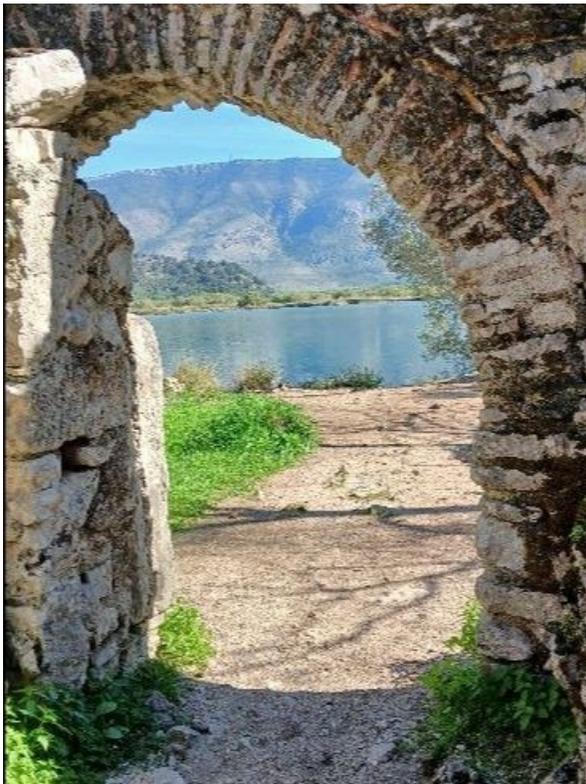
[brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com](mailto:brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com)



Presquile  
Animal Hospital

# Easter Photos

We asked you to submit photos that inspire you to feel the true meaning of Easter. Here is just a sampling of the submissions. Look for a full display during Holy Week.



1. Peeking through an ancient wall to a Mediterranean inlet. Thinking of disciples who traveled through the region sharing the Easter story. *Lori Cooper*



2. I visited Father Brown's Cross when in Juneau on an Alaskan Cruise. The trail was built in 1908 by Father Brown, a Jesuit priest and a group of volunteers. *Irene Robb*



5. A new morning seen from my window looking across the Presquile. This reminds me of our Easter morning worship by the water.

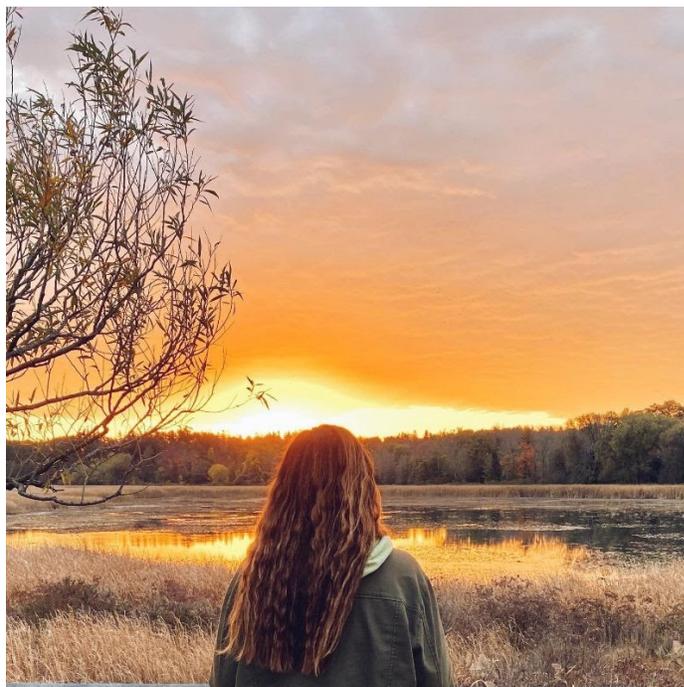
*Lori Cooper*



6. A sunrise is a powerful daily reminder of God's steadfast faithfulness. The shore is a place for quiet reflection, where one can lay down daily struggles and find peace in ones soul. *Colleen Stickle*



3. Fat Hazel was a pot bellied pig of my son and daughter in laws pets. She weighed about 250lbs and was a sweetheart. She is wearing her Easter Bonnet with aplomb. *Irene Robb*



4. First sun at the Presquile Marsh. A new day as the sun pierces the darkness! *Pamela Maloney*



**11 APR 7:30<sup>PM</sup>**  
**SATURDAY**

**TICKETS**

ONLINE 30\$ • DOOR 35\$

at [www.orianasingers.com](http://www.orianasingers.com)



# **A CHORAL COMPASS**

**NORTH AND SOUTH OF MIDDLE C**

Artistic Director: Lynn Janes

Collaborative Pianist: Robert Grandy

## **GUEST CHOIRS**

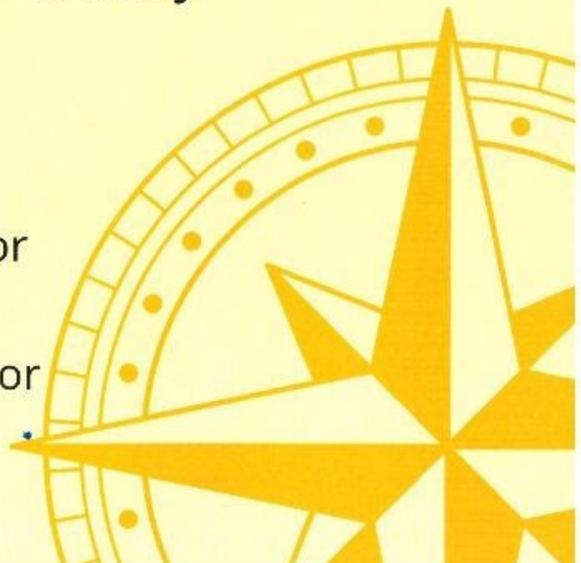
**Penthelia Singers**

- Alice Malach, Artistic Director

**Vox Fortis**

- Edward Connell, Artistic Director

St Paul's Presbyterian Church  
131 Walton Street | Port Hope





Bright ON Stage  
PRODUCTIONS



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THEATRICALS

# SHREK The MUSICAL

Based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture and the Book by William Steig

Book & Lyrics by  
David Lindsay-Abaire

Music by  
Jeanine Tesori

Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions  
Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford

**APRIL 16, 17 & 18 - 7:00pm**

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

**\$30 Adults / \$15 Children**

Tickets: [www.brightonstageproductions.ca](http://www.brightonstageproductions.ca)

Directed by  
Christine Stone

Musical Director  
Bruce Tonkin

Vocal Director  
Lynda Tonkin

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI ([mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com))