

NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

News and Inspiration from St. Andrew's United Church, Georgetown, ON

Thursday January 18, 2024

St. Andrew's United Church News from the Pews

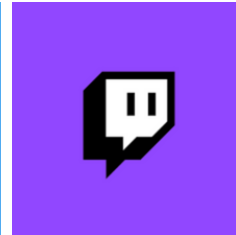


St. Andrew's United Church
89 Mountainview Rd. S. Georgetown ON L7G 4T9
www.standrewsuc.ca (905) 877-4482



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We stream our worship services Sundays at 10 am
on Facebook Live, YouTube, Twitter, Twitch & 100.3 FM
Click on the icons below to connect!



St. Andrew's United Church

Worship This Week - Sunday, January 21st

Combined Church Service



**Sunday, January 21
10:00am at St. John's United
11 Guelph Street**

Hillcrest • St. Andrew's • St. John's

**There will be no service at St. Andrew's.
We hope you can join us at St. John's,
as we worship as one.**

Combined Church Service at St. John's United on Sun. Jan. 21, 2024 @ 10:00AM

The people of St. Andrew's United and Hillcrest will be visiting St. John's for a combined service to celebrate the The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on **Sun. Jan. 21, 2024 @ 10:00AM**. The service will be led by Sue Cowan from St. John's, with support from Kate Young, the new Interim Minister from St. Andrew's. It is hoped that members from the 3 congregations will stay afterwards in the Celebration Hall to enjoy refreshments and further grow our friendship.



Thank you to Jean and the Sunday School for decorating our bulletin board!
Messages from God, are you listening?

Scripture Summary

When we open our eyes to see how God's love is revealed by and through our fellow Christians, we are drawn closer to them and so are drawn into deeper

union with them. This parable of Jesus challenges us to live God's way of goodness, and to widen our vision. It invites us to learn God's way from both the folk who share our confessional or religious worldview, and often from ones whose understandings, expressions, worldview are different from ourselves. And the Good Samaritan is often the one who we do not expect!

Humour Corner

Submitted by: Greg Howard



Membership Announcements

In Memory of Bill Heinmiller

We send our condolences to Brian, Nancy, Mark, Becky and the family with the passing of Brian's brother. We keep their family in our prayers.

Now that Rev. Kate Young has joined us she is available to provide pastoral care.

Please let the office know at 905-877-4482 if you would like to schedule a pastoral visit.

In an emergency Rev. Kate Young can be reached at 416-577-3305

Rev. Kate Young

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings
(905) 877-4482 (office)
(416) 577-3305 (personal for pastoral emergency)
minister@standrewsuc.ca

St. Andrew's Announcements

St. Andrew's
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, February 11th, 2024
11:00am-2:00pm
More details to follow.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023

To all Ministries, Committees and Groups:
**Deadline extended. Please submit reports for the
2023 Annual Report to the office
as soon as possible.**

Email them to: office@standrewsuc.ca.

If you do not have a Chairperson for your committee, please assign a member or members to create the report. If you have questions, please contact the office. Thank you!



Weekly Bible Study

10am every Thursday

Book of Matthew: The Powers of the King

Invite your friends.

Add to your spiritual journey.



Please click here to view January's calendar of local community meals and food resources



Walking as one on the Coldest Night of the Year - Sat. Feb. 24, 2024

Hillcrest, Norval, St. Andrew's and St. John's will be walking together as one on the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) under the team banner **Angels United**. Our team captain is Joanne Wardle (St. Andrew's). Please go to the **Angels United CNOY webpage** to join up as a walker or to sponsor a familiar name. All funds raised through the CNOY Halton Hills Walk stay in the community and will be directed to the Georgetown Bread and Links2Care.

Community Announcements



Easter Basket Brigade Spring 2024



2024 is a year where we together as a Christian Community can and will make a difference in Halton Hills...but it only happens with action and it has begun at the top – with God. Jesus has chosen you as “His Voice” and calls each and every one of us to walk in his ways, and together we are taking a beautiful step in our journey in his name.

2024 is a year where we together as a Christian Community can and will make a difference in Halton Hills...but it only happens with action and it has begun at the top – with God. Jesus has chosen you as “**His Hands/Heart**” and calls each and every one of us to walk in his ways, and together we are taking a beautiful step in our journey in his name.

Collection of Cards/Donations: Now until Saturday March 9th, 2024

Request:

“If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:17-18)

In conjunction with the Georgetown BreadBasket, Community Unity has identified approx 225 Families in need of Groceries in the Halton Hills area and will be convening Saturday **March 16th 9:30 AM at Georgetown Christian Reformed Church**. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the easel outside of the sanctuary. We are suggesting our Families in all of our congregations to share Easter with another family by ideally purchasing **(2) \$50.00 Grocery Gift Cards** and also writing an **Easter Card** to the family and share God’s love between us... Any size of donation is greatly appreciated and please forward all Cards, Donations and Easter Cards to your Church Representative, Ross Leckie.

OR

Donations to Community Unity

Individual Donations will also be gratefully accepted and donations may also be made at <http://www.communityunityhaltonhills.com/> and clicking on “Donate” - Canada Helps - a tax receipt will be instantly generated. It would be ideal to receive the donations prior to March 9th as it takes a week for the funds to be released to Community Unity.

God in his mercy has provided us with his bounty, and likewise we can open our hearts and share this bounty with our Community.

<http://www.communityunityhaltonhills.com/>

Communication Action Points (God needs you to...)

- Spread God’s Message about what we as a Christian Community are doing from the Pulpit – Announce the upcoming event, getting the congregation to embrace a family as this is a wonderful way to share God’s love with our neighbours.
- Post the information that we will be forwarding on your website/Bulletin Board etc

If you have any other suggestions, please let us know as this is your “Community Unity” in action!

We will be reaching out with reminders over the next weeks and of course will arrange collection of the cards and Easter Cards to be distributed.

This is going to be a great demonstration of the love of God and our love of our neighbour. Thank you so much for your help!

On behalf of your Community Unity Team!

Timothy Chisholm

Timothy Chisholm tjc@chisintl.com

Executive Director Easter Basket Brigade

Community Unity – Halton Hills

Please click here to watch the CUHH Easter Basket Brigade Video



OUT OF THE COLD

Out of the Cold Open Meals

Free to anyone who needs them.

Tuesday and Thursday nights 8:30-10:00pm

Takeout available.

Knox Presbyterian Church

116 Main St. S. Georgetown ON

*The Halton Hills Interfaith Council
cordially invites you to:*

World Religion Day 2024

*An afternoon of interfaith
dialogue and fellowship on
the topic of
"Being a Good Neighbour"*



Date: Sunday Jan 21, 2024 A Free Community Event

Place: John Elliot Theatre

Georgetown Library

9 Church St, Georgetown

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Info: hhrwd2024@gmail.com

Open to All

Please register in advance at:

haltonhills.ca/theatre



*Program: Interfaith
Presentations,
Community Booths and
Information Displays,
Refreshments*

*Supported by the Town of
Halton Hills Community
Partnership Grant Program*



**As Seen on Gaither Homecoming

KEVIN PAULS

IN CONCERT

February 10 @ 7pm

Bethel Church
365 Queen St, ACTON

\$20 advance \$25 door

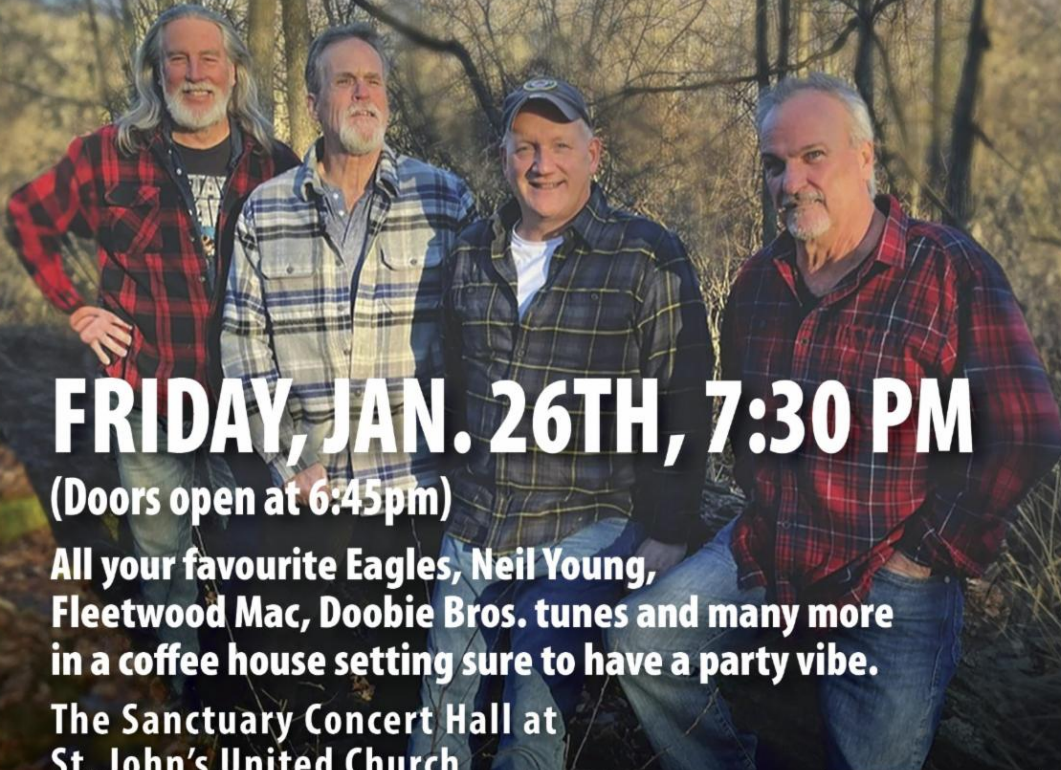
Featuring:
Joel Parisien
Luke McMaster

Tickets: kevinpauls.com OR at Church Office

THE
SANCTUARY
CONCERT HALL

Presents

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY



FRIDAY, JAN. 26TH, 7:30 PM

(Doors open at 6:45pm)

All your favourite Eagles, Neil Young, Fleetwood Mac, Doobie Bros. tunes and many more in a coffee house setting sure to have a party vibe.

The Sanctuary Concert Hall at
St. John's United Church
11 Guelph Street, Georgetown, ON L7G 3Z1

Tickets available at [Showpass.com](https://www.showpass.com)

This event is a co-fundraiser for St. John's
and for the Townsend/Smith Foundation



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 14-21, 2024

Based on resources provided by the World Council
of Churches

Dear Friends,

This year's service/resources were provided by a team from Burkina Faso and were quite easily adapted to our context, theology and language!

The people of St John's look forward to welcoming your faith community on January 21st and to worshipping together as we honour the global movement for

the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and continue discerning and living into God's dream for the Halton Hills area United Churches!

In Hope & Light,
Rev. Sue Cowan

DAY 5 – Thursday January 18, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:34 “He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them”. Help us see the wounds and find hope.

REFLECTION: The Good Samaritan did what he could out of his own resources: he poured wine and oil and bandaged the man's wounds and put him on his own animal. The Samaritan went further still by promising to pay for his care. When we see the world through the Samaritan's eyes, every situation can be an opportunity to help folk in need. This is where love is made known! The example of the Good Samaritan motivates us to ask ourselves how to respond to our neighbour. He gives wine and oil, restoring the man and giving him hope. What can we give, so we can be part of God's redemptive work and healing of a broken world? Brokenness shows itself in our world in insecurity, fear, distrust, division... Shamefully, the divisions also exist between Christians, Christian denominations, Christian communities of faith of the same denomination, people within a Christian community of faith. Though we celebrate sacraments and other hope-filled rituals of healing, reconciliation and the promise of new life in Christ (communion, baptism, anointing, blessings, asperging, imposition of ashes, etc.) often using oil, water, and wine... we persist in divisions that wound the Body of Christ (ie. divisive language, negativity, gossip, turf wars between faith communities, poaching of members...). The healing of our ecumenical divisions promotes the healing of Christ's Church and the nations!

PRAYER: Gracious God, You who are the source of all love and goodness, help us see the needs of our neighbours... hear the crying... feel the pain of the suffering... and offer your healing presence in honouring, sensitive, and love-filled ways. Work in us... so our hearts can love ALL your peoples... ALL who bear your image. Help us overcome obstacles of division as bearers of your peace. Help us see you in the other, as seekers of a common good. Thank you for renewing your creation... and leading us to a present and future full of hope; the hope you have promised and fulfilled, yesterday, today and forever. AMEN.

DAY 6 – Friday January 19, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:34 “Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him” God, turn our churches into “inns” to welcome your beloved in need.

REFLECTION: The man who fell into the hands of robbers was cared for by a Samaritan. The Samaritan saw beyond prejudice and bias. He saw someone in need and brought him to an inn. “The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend”. (Luke 10:35) In any human society, hospitality and solidarity are essential. They require the welcoming of strangers, foreigners, migrants, refugees, house-less people... However, when faced with insecurity, suspicion, and violence, we tend to mistrust our neighbours. Hospitality is an important witness to the Gospel, particularly in contexts of religious and cultural pluralism. Welcoming “the other” and being welcomed in turn, is at the heart of ecumenical dialogue. Christians are challenged to turn our churches into inns where our neighbours can

find Jesus. Such hospitality is a sign of the love that our faith communities have for one another and for all. When we, as followers of Jesus, move beyond our confessional traditions and choose to practice ecumenical hospitality, we move from being strangers to being neighbours, to becoming a family; united in Christ!

PRAYER: Holy One who IS Love, in Jesus, you showed us the meaning and fullest expression of hospitality, by caring for our fragile humanity. Help us become a community that welcomes all who feel abandoned and lost; building a safe space where your welcome is lived, embraced and embodied. May we draw closer to one another... to you... as we offer your unconditional love, hospitality, and presence. This I pray in Hope; in the unity of your Holy Spirit. AMEN.

DAY 7 – Saturday January 20, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:36 Jesus said, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour?" God, show me how to respond to my neighbour.

REFLECTION: At the end of the parable, Jesus asks the lawyer: who was the neighbour to the man victimized? The lawyer replies, "the one who showed him mercy". He does not say "the Samaritan" and we might imagine that the hostility between Samaritans and Jews made that answer hard to admit. We often discover neighbours in the most unexpected people, even ones whose very name or origins we find difficult to utter. In today's world, where polarized politics often set folk of different religious identities, ethnicities, ideologies, worldviews, social statuses, abilities... against one another, Jesus challenges us through this parable to see the importance of our calling as "his followers" to cross borders and boundaries of separation and division. As with the lawyer, we are challenged to reflect upon how we live our lives, not merely in terms of whether we do good or not, rather whether we act with integrity, as believers, bearers and instruments of God's way or if we are like the priest and the Levite, who neglect to act mercifully, justly, equitably, lovingly, as modeled to us by Jesus; God Incarnate.

PRAYER: Holy One, you came to us... came amongst us... in Jesus, to show the Way of your Compassion. May your Spirit work in me... through me... so I might follow his example; reaching out to others, offering your loving care, boldly sharing all I am... all I have, to serve your creation... and to bear witness to your Ways of Love and Mercy. May it be so. AMEN

*** On January 21st we will worship together at St John's UC, 11 Guelph Street, Georgetown at 10:00 am! Through worship, song, prayers and reflection, we will explore this week's scripture passage from Luke together!

DAY 8 – Sunday January 21, 2024 – Joint Service at St John's UC (with St Andrew's & Hillcrest) 10 AM!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:37 Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise" God, may our fellowship... our unity... our witness... be a sign of your kin'dom.

REFLECTION: Through these words – "Go and do likewise" – Jesus sends each of us... all of us... and all of our churches to live out his commandment to love. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are sent out to be bearers of Christ's light... and his Gospel as we reach out to humanity's brokenness with compassion and mercy. Like the Good Samaritan, towards the injured man, we can choose to reject ones who are different or cultivate a culture of proximity and goodwill; compassion in action. How does Jesus' invitation to "Go and do likewise" speak to your life? The life of your faith community? What does this call imply for your relationships with members of other United Churches? Other

Christian denominations? People of other faiths and expressions? How can you... can our faith community... our denomination in Halton Hills... bear witness together to God's love? As ambassadors for Jesus's Way we are called to be reconciled to God and to one another for fellowship to take root... grow... mature and bear fruit --- a bountiful harvest --- in our community and in areas affected by inter-communal conflict such as the Sahel region in Africa, the West Bank... or closer to home areas where the communities stand with farmers against developers, Indigenous communities stand for creation in opposition to corporations who want to over-mine, over-fish, over-cut forests... and so many other places where conflicts are escalating. As we reach out in love, and mutual trust and confidence increase, we WILL become more willing to reveal our wounds, that Holy love may visit and heal us... and all creation... through each other's love and care. Striving together for Christian unity builds, rebuilds, restores, revitalizes, reimagines relationships, so violence, hatred, taught biases, fear, and despair can give way to solidarity, peace, hope, and new life! By God's Spirit may it be so!

PRAYER: Cosmic God, who is present in each atom... within our grasp and far beyond our imagining, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, the giver of life, who opens us to each other... so bonds of communication might be strengthened, new learnings might increase our curiosity and understanding, mutual affection and respect might grow, conflicts might be resolved, communion might be shared, appreciation, gratitude, and love might blossom, and in the desire to proclaim the Gospel message, faithfully... and with integrity, our small worlds... of home, church, workplaces, schools... might come together in unity and spirit to truly love you and our neighbours as ourselves. In Hope and Trust, we pray. AMEN.



United Church Mission & Service Fund

Preserving Culture through Language Revitalization

Nine Elders represent about half of fluent Haida speakers today.

Credit: The United Church of Canada



Take a moment to think about your favourite story.

Now imagine that story being at risk of disappearing because the language it's written in is endangered. This is something that nine Elders from Haida Gwaii, British Columbia, are passionately trying to change.

Once there were over 15,000 fluent speakers of Haida, but today, because of assimilation tactics like residential schools, almost all Haida people speak English at home. The nine Elders—with an average age of more than 80—represent about half of the fluent Haida speakers who remain.

With partner support, the work of these Elders in a research-based revitalization project keeps the Haida language alive and growing.

The Elders teach students the words, phrases, songs and stories of their ancestors. The response has been empowering, with language learners near and far dedicating themselves to study. Lessons are given through the Longhouse of Skidegate village, but the program reaches much further, with more than 120 online lessons available. The opportunity to connect across the globe has allowed Haida language, stories, and culture to be shared broadly. The program also gives young people from the Haida Nation the opportunity to connect with the Elders to nurture their cultural pride and understanding. “I appreciate the work the Elders are doing with our language and culture,” said one young student. “They work very hard every day so that my generation can remember.”

The Haida language is not the only Indigenous language that has been endangered. Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) support programs and partnerships for Indigenous cultural revitalization around the world.

WAYS TO GIVE

We thank all those that continue to support our Church with your giving!



CASH & CHEQUE



CANADA HELPS



SCAN ME for more details



**ETRANSFERS TO
standrewsgeorgetown89@gmail.com**



If you have announcements to share or milestones to celebrate in next week's News from the Pews, please send them to the office by Wednesday.

Our Charitable Registration Number is: 892633462RR0001

Sent with love 

Halton as we know it today is rich in history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the Anishinabe to the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis - these lands surrounding the Great Lakes are steeped in Indigenous history. We acknowledge and thank the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation for sharing their traditional territory with us.



We would love to share our News from the Pews! Please feel free to share with a friend...



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www.standrewsuc.ca

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