

NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

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

Thursday December 21, 2023

St. Andrew's United Church News from the Pews

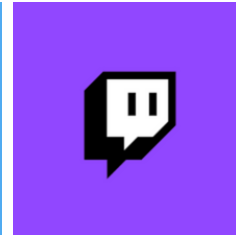


St. Andrew's United Church
89 Mountainview Rd. S. Georgetown ON L7G 4T9
www.standrewsuc.ca (905) 877-4482



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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, December 24th

St. Andrew's Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2023

10:00am - Christmas Play: Angel Alert!

7:00pm - Candlelight Service and Communion



10:00am Service:

Thank you to Stephanie and Bryan Scott for all of their hard work on the Christmas play! The Children have been practicing hard, come on out for a fantastic show! We will also be lighting the fourth advent candle: Love. Thank you to Scott Martin, LLWL for leading us in worship.

7:00pm Service:

Thank you to Ross Leckie for leading us in worship. Please join us for our fifth week of advent as we light the Christ candle, share in holy communion and end the service in candlelight singing Silent Night.

Meditation: Will the Angels Appear in Bethlehem this Night? Gospel

Reading: Luke 2: 1-20 The birth of Jesus, an event for all.



Scripture Summary

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's

town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

Humour Corner

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? It's Christmas, Eve!

Membership Announcements

Thank you to all who have signed up for coffee time each week and those who regularly pitch in to help with set up and clean up. To those of you who regularly provide us with goodies when you're not able to set up and serve it is so greatly appreciated.

A special shout out to Ross Yahiro who sets up the tables weekly and thanks to the regulars who take them down.

There are new sign up sheets on the easel by the sanctuary. Please check them out.

A huge thank you to Liz Leckie and her volunteers who once again have provided seniors with a gift to make their Christmas to brighter. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Sunday am Dec 24 at 10 am the children will be putting on their play "Angel Alert" not to be missed. Many thanks to Stephanie and Bryan Scott for making this happen once again.

Please join us for hot apple cider and juice during fellowship time.

Christmas Eve our candlelight/communion service will be at 7 pm. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

St. Andrew's Announcements

Upcoming Congregation Meetings

Saturday, January 6th, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

In the Sanctuary. Town Hall meeting group discussions for feedback and possible options for the future direction of St. Andrew's.

Sunday, January 14th, 11:00am-12:30pm

After church service, in the sanctuary. Follow-Up meeting to Town Hall: To provide a consolidation of the learnings from the Town Hall meeting, and full disclosure of the options available.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023

It's hard to believe that it is this time of year again!

To all Ministries, Committees and Groups:

Please submit reports for the 2023 Annual Report to the office by Sunday, January 7th, 2024.

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!



**St. Andrew's Out of the Cold Team
(operating at Knox Presbyterian Church)
Looking for: 2 Morning Shift People.**

These folks come in at 6 am to relieve the two people who have done the overnight shift. Duties are waking guests so they are ready to go for 8 am, preparing a breakfast for guests (kitchen is pre-stocked) and minor clean-up. Currently our team is doing every other Wednesday night-Thursday morning throughout the colder months. For further information, speak to Ross Leckie or Joanne Wardle.

Christmas Card Exchange at St. Andrew's



The mail slots for a Christmas Card Exchange are back! Save on postage and bring your Christmas cards for Church friends to church! Also, don't forget to check the slots once in a while for cards addressed to you!

The Children, Youth and Friend's of St. Andrew's Present:

The Children
have been
hard at work
on our
Christmas
Play! Please
join us for a
fantastic
show!



The night that
Heaven came
down

Created by
Celeste
Clydesdale

Arranged by
David T.
Clydesdale

10:00am on Sunday, December 24th

Weekly Bible Study

Thank you to Heimen and Jackie for leading our bible study and to everyone who participated!

Bible Study will resume
Thursday, January 4th at 10:00am

Book of Matthew: Beginning of the Kingdom

Invite your friends.

Add to your spiritual journey.





Looking for Volunteers for Coffee Time and Scripture Reading



New sign up sheets are posted! Please consider signing up on the sign up schedule outside of the sanctuary or contact the office.
Thank you to all of our volunteers!



Our Daily Bread Booklets

The January/February/March issue
is now available!

Please find them on the table across from the office.
A donation of \$1 would be greatly appreciated.



Drivers Wanted!

We have a longtime church member looking for a ride to church from the Mountainview Terraces, occasional Sundays.
Please contact the office for more details!

Community Announcements



The
Mike Pelletier
Trio

Alexandra
Lennox

Juliette
Jones

Derrick Paul
Miller

A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS

A Festive Evening of Live Jazz and Beautiful
Singing Featuring **A Charlie Brown Christmas** and
Your Favourite **Holiday Music!**

December 23rd, 7:30PM



Scan this QR
code for
tickets



St. John's
United Church
of Georgetown and Glen Williams

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds

Tickets also available at
The Sanctuary
Concert Hall



United Church Mission & Service Fund

Christmas is Everywhere

Serving in a country that doesn't celebrate the holiday, overseas
personnel Kelsi James discovers the Christmas spirit lives in friends.

Credit: The United Church of Canada

It is less than a week until Christmas, and I am learning to live with its absence

here. China does not celebrate Christmas, and my students' only knowledge comes from American holiday movies (today, a student asked me, "Teacher, do you know the creepy old man who gives presents?").

There are no Christmas lights, or Christmas carollers, or Christmas cookies. There are no Santa Clauses holding court at shopping malls.

Of course, Christmas is so much more than these things. But, it suddenly becomes apparent to me that part of the magic of Christmas is found in the beautiful way it is sewn into our Canadian culture, and into each one of us who chooses to celebrate it.

And so, here in China, both Lea, my epic roommate/friend from Germany, and I take our two little sparks of Christmas spirit, and start to build our own, independent China-centred holiday season.

At first, Christmas spirit is:

- Us making each other little Advent calendars (we sneakily buy secret snacks and little gifts, and wrap them in tissue paper, and shyly offer each other something new everyday).
- Lea teaching me about Nikolaus Tag, and me creeping into our living room in the middle of the night to fill her shoes with sweets.
- Putting a countdown on our wall, and blasting Christmas tunes, and exchanging Christmas traditions and stories and prayers.

But, as we come together to share and prepare and enjoy all these little actions and activities together, something else happens. The Universe puts its arms around us, and as Lea and I spend our days leaning on each other, and sharing, and laughing, and eating sweets, and wrapping gifts, our hearts reach for each other.

In this month of Advent, we unexpectedly get some time off, and, impromptu, plan a trip to Xian and Huashan – leaving the next day. We problem-solve, and hammer out the details late into the night, throwing clothes and towels and snacks into backpacks, all while laughing and telling stories, and singing along to Christmas songs. Upon arrival, we jam pack our days, take pictures of each other, and share many memorable and joyful meals (homemade noodles! Fried potatoes with spun sugar! Thick chive and salt bread!). We giggle to each other in our hostel bunkbeds, and sing along to Mamma Mia! in a little small town inn with sketchy heating. We climb a mountain that is so breathtakingly beautiful that we have to hold on to each other, because the utter joy and speechless amazement is simply too much for one human to bear on their own.

The Universe gently massages our shoulders, and brushes back our hair, and as Lea and I grip each other on top of the world, looking down through the clouds, I think:

Hope. Peace. Love. Joy.

Here, on this mountain, with this human, and the whole world around us:

Christmas spirit, in abundance.

We take the train back to Lanzhou, and in the cab, I look out the window.

There are no Christmas lights, no Christmas decorations or carollers or bells or bakeries with windows displays of Christmas cookies. I can see that Christmas doesn't live here.

But I turn and look at the exquisite and loving human sitting beside me, with whom I am learning and growing and travelling the world,

And all I can see is Christmas, everywhere.

Hope. Peace. Love. Joy.

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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