

NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

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

Thursday January 11, 2024

St. Andrew's United Church News from the Pews

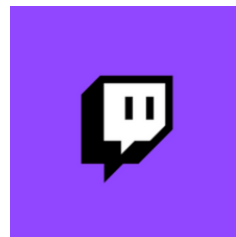


St. Andrew's United Church
89 Mountainview Rd. S. Georgetown ON L7G 4T9
www.standrewsuc.ca (905) 877-4482



One License: #738674-A
CCLI License #2633008

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 14th

Thank you to Rev. Kate Young for leading us in worship this week! We would appreciate if you wear your nametags on Sunday, to help Rev. Kate learn our names. We hope you can join us for our Sunday service!

Theme: What happens when God Calls us?

Scripture Readings: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10, John 1:43-51

Sermon: Are you there. it's me calling...again.



Scripture Summary

Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Humour Corner

Tell-All-Sign

At church recently, I stopped to study an announcement promoting the youth choir's sandwich sale. Being an English teacher, I couldn't resist the temptation to correct the last line, which read "Donations Excepted." I crossed out the misused word and penciled in "Donations Accepted."

After the service, I glanced at the announcement again, this time noting yet another penciled-in correction. It now read "Donations Expected."

Membership Announcements



It was wonderful to see the sanctuary filled with people last Sunday to welcome Rev. Kate Young and to celebrate our 2 baptisms, Nathan and Reed!

***Sunday, January 14th the Visioning Committee will be providing an information session directly following the service.

Therefore we invite you to grab a quick coffee, tea or juice from the Friendship room and take it back into the sanctuary.

REMINDER:

Sunday, January 21st we will be at St. John's United Church for a joint service led by Sue Cowan and Kate Young with the choirs joining together.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

NOTE: There will be NO service at St. Andrew's on January 21st.

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

Upcoming Congregation Meeting:

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.

Childcare will be available by Christina.

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!



Circle of Friends

2nd, 4th, 5th Friday of the Month

Join us for our next meeting
Friday, Jan. 12th at 9:30 am in the
Fellowship room



Saturday, January 13th

ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH

MEN'S
Breakfast

CLUB

at 9 AM at the legion.

All are invited to join us!

Weekly Bible Study

10am every Thursday

Book of Matthew: The Law of the King

Invite your friends.

Add to your spiritual journey.



ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH
www.standrewsuc.ca (905) 877-4482

ST. ANDREW'S

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Friday, January 19th

Doors Open @ 5:30 PM

The third Friday of every month.
Anyone wanting takeout
please contact the office.

**Supported by Community
Donors and Free Will Offerings**

Please click [here](#) to view January's calendar of local community meals and

Combined Church Service



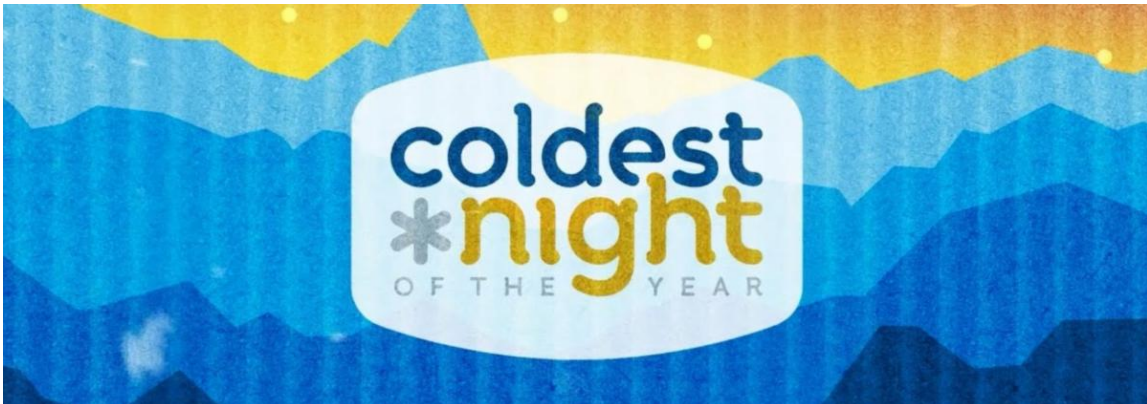
**Sunday, January 21
10:00am at St. John's United
11 Guelph Street**

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.



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.

[Please click here to register for our CNOY Team](#)

Community Announcements

*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: hfwrd2024@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*



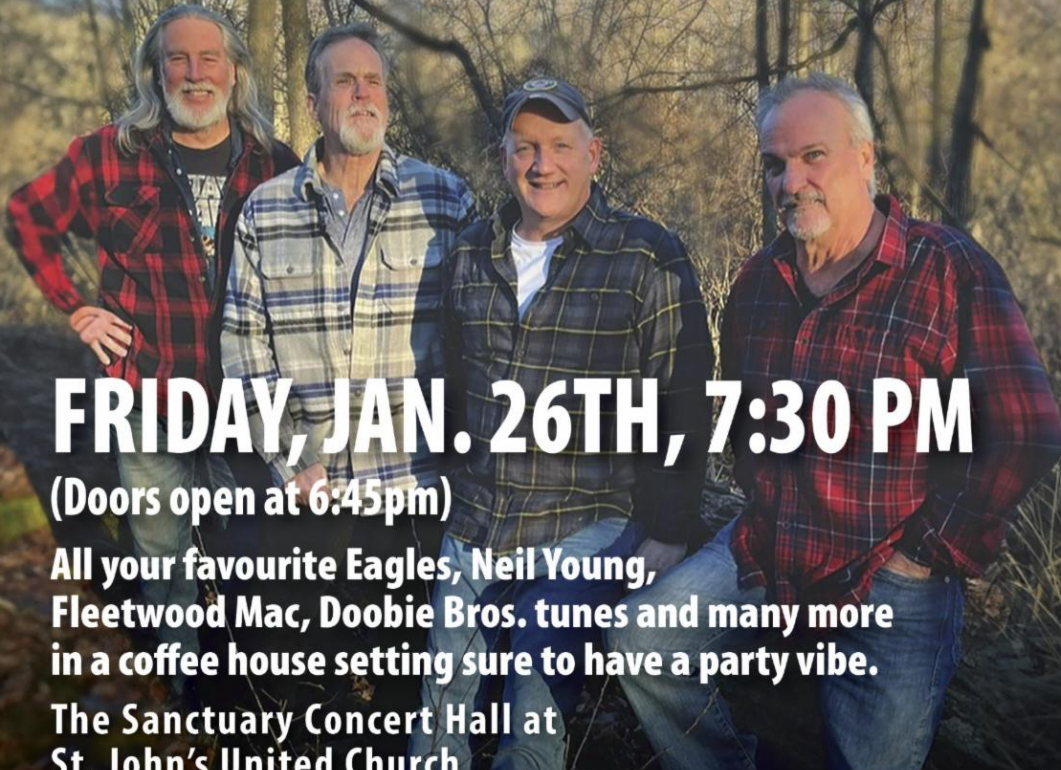
Rental Unit needed for GFORCE3 Afghan Family

GFORCE3 is widening its search for a rental unit for its second Afghan Family. We are now looking for a 3-bedroom rental unit within walking distance of amenities, especially a grocery store within Georgetown, Acton or Milton. GFORCE3 will be responsible for all costs associated with the unit until the family has lived here for 1-year. Please let others know of this need. Contact Greg MacDonald (416.219.9113), Don Robinson (905.703.0043), or Susan Tupling (416.200.8675) with any possibilities.

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



Get Tickets

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 14-21, 2024 Based on resources provided by the World Council of Churches

Dear Friends,
HAPPY NEW YEARS! Our next joint worship (Hillcrest, St Andrew's & St John's) will be on Sunday January 21st at 10:00 am to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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

I have included an adapted 7 day brief reading/devotional/prayer for folk to use (as they wish) as a lead-in to our joint worship.

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 1 – Sunday January 14, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:25 A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher", he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Help us to have a life turned towards you.

REFLECTION: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" This crucial question asked of Jesus by a lawyer challenges every believer in God. It affects the meaning of our life on earth and for eternity. Elsewhere in the Bible, Jesus gives us the ultimate definition of eternal life "... that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3). Knowing God means discovering and doing God's will in our lives. Every person wants a life of fullness and truth, and God desires this for us too! Irenaeus, a Greek bishop, (130-202 Common Era- CE) said, "The glory of God is a human being fully alive". The existential realities of life, with divisions, selfishness and suffering, often distance us from the quest for God. Jesus lived the mystery of intimation communion with Abba God, who desires to fill all beloved children of God with the fullness of eternal life. And Jesus said, "I am the Way" – One who points us to God's way, which IS love. Thus our quest for eternal life brings us closer to Jesus, and in so doing brings us nearer to each other, strengthening our closeness on the path toward Christian unity. May we be open to friendship and collaboration with fellow Christians of all denominations and understandings, praying for the day when we can all stand together and eat as equals at the Table of our Lord.

PRAYER: God of life, You have created humanity to have life... and life in all its fullness. May I recognize in my brothers and sisters their desire for eternal life. And as we follow Jesus, each in our own unique way, may we be blessed with determination to lead others to you... to share your love with all we meet... to see Jesus in the other... to live into the fullness of life with you, in you, for you. Un the name of Jesus, we pray. AMEN.

DAY 2 – Monday January 15, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:27 The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your minds; and your neighbour as yourself" Help me to love you, my neighbour and myself with all that I am.

REFLECTION: The lawyer's answer may seem simple, drawn from the well-known commandments of God. However, to love God in this way and our neighbour as ourselves can often be difficult. Jesus' commandment to love God, neighbour and self (a re-stating of Deuteronomy 6:4, known as the Shema) requires deep commitment and means abandoning ourselves entirely; offering our hearts and minds to serve God's will and way. We can ask for the grace to follow Jesus' example, "not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42), and seek to follow his example to love all, including his enemies, however, we do not get to choose our neighbours. Loving our neighbours means being

attentive to their needs, accepting their imperfections, and encouraging their hopes and aspirations. And the same attitude is needed on the path of Christian unity, with regard to one another's different traditions. The call to love your neighbour "as yourself" reminds us of the need to accept ourselves as we are, conscious of God's compassionate gaze upon us, always ready to forgive. Consider that we are ALL God's beloved creation. Respect yourself. Seek peace with yourself. Similarly, we can each ask for the grace to love and accept ALL in our own church community, with its failings, challenges, concern for the future... entrusting all things to God, who restores us through the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER: Creating God, give me the grace to know you more deeply, in order to love you will all my being. Grant me a pure heart, to love my neighbours as myself. May the gift of your Great Spirit, allow me to see Your presence in my sisters and brothers, that we may love each other with the same unconditional love with which you love all. In the Name and Way of Jesus, I pray, AMEN.

DAY 3 – Tuesday January 16, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:29 "Who is my neighbour" Help us open our hearts to all we do not see.

REFLECTION: The teacher of the law wanted to justify himself, hoping that the neighbour he is called to love is one of his own faith and people. This is a natural human instinct. When we invite people to our homes, they are quite often people who share our social status, our outlook on life and our values. There is a human instinct to prefer places of familiarity. This is also true of our ecclesial communities. However, Jesus takes the lawyer, and his wider audience, deeper into their own tradition by reminding them of the obligation to welcome and to love ALL, regardless of religion, culture or social status. The Gospel teaches that loving folk who are like ourselves is not extraordinary. Jesus steers us towards a radical vision of what it means to be human. The parable illustrates in a very visible way what Jesus expects from us – to open wide our hearts and walk in his way, loving others as he loves us. In fact, Jesus answers the lawyer with another question: it is not "who is my neighbour", rather "who proved to be a neighbour to the one in need?" Our times of insecurity and fear confront us with a reality where distrust and uncertainty come to the forefront of relationships. This is the challenge of the parable today: to whom am I a neighbour?

PRAYER: God of Love, Who writes love in my heart, instil in me the courage to look beyond myself and to see my neighbour in folk who are different from me, that I may truly follow Jesus, my brother and friend, who is my Way, forever and ever. AMEN.

DAY 4 – Wednesday January 17, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:31 "When he saw him, he passed by on the other side" Help me never turn away from folk in need.

REFLECTION: The priest and Levite who walk by on the other side may have had good religious reasons for not helping: they may have been ready to perform certain religious rituals and might have risked ritual defilement if the man had been dead. Yet on many occasions, Jesus is critical of religious leadership for placing the rules of religion ahead of the obligation to always do good. The beginning of the text for the Week of Prayer tells us how the teacher of the law wanted to justify himself. The priest and the Levite in the parable would have felt justified in what they had done. As Christians, how far are we prepared to go beyond convention? Sometimes our denominational, culturally conditioned short-sightedness can prevent us from seeing what is being

revealed by the life and witness of sisters and brothers of other Christian traditions. 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!

PRAYER: Jesus, as I journey with you... and we journey with you towards unity, may my eyes... our eyes not look away... rather be opened wide to the world in our midst. As I travel... we travel through life, may I stop... we stop and reach out to bind up the wounded and in doing so, experience your presence in the other, and be transformed by a new, perhaps even surprising, Samaritan sighting and our encounter with the holy other. AMEN.

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

Making a Home for Refugees:

ChrisAnn Alvarez’s Work

“There’s this huge misconception that refugees choose to be refugees.”

Credit: The United Church of Canada



Imagine being forced to leave your home.

Set adrift, hoping to find a place to land, somewhere safe so you can rebuild your life.

“There’s this huge misconception that refugees choose to be refugees,” says ChrisAnn Alvarez, Refugee Support at The United Church of Canada. “It’s not a choice. It’s something they’re forced into.”

It’s a reality that is faced by millions of refugees, and it’s a reality that is becoming more and more prominent. More people are displaced today than ever before: 117.2 million, says the UN Refugee Agency.*

That’s the equivalent of three Canadas.

There are many causes: human conflict, climate change, human rights violations, and more.

We can help.

Your gifts provide food, water, sanitation, and social support to people forced to flee their homes. Mission and Service creates educational and confidence-building programs in refugee camps.

Mission and Service also helps refugees find new homes. “Congregations form sponsorship groups together to sponsor the refugee,” Alvarez explains.

“What Mission and Service allows is for them to sponsor through their own congregation.”

She tells one story of a sponsor who renovated their basement after it flooded and immediately planned to sponsor a refugee in the new space.

“Who thinks like that?!” Alvarez exclaims with wonder and awe. “It’s just so beautiful!”

The refugee stayed with his sponsors for years, and they became an adopted family to one another. “The sponsor told me, ‘We have no kids, so this was an unexpected blessing,’” Alvarez recalls, tearing up. “That’s one example of someone opening their home in their home, in their heart, and allowing themselves to be transformed.”

When we help protect one refugee from persecution, death, or years in a refugee camp, we save the world for that one person—and just maybe for ourselves, too.

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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