



NEWS FROM THE PEWS...

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

Thursday January 7, 2021



Click on the FB Live Image above to connect and join Sunday's Worship Service. You will see the "FB Live" option in the Facebook menu.

We stream our worship services on both **Facebook Live and YouTube!**



Click on the U Tube logo above to be connected to the service.

Refocus - Regaining Clarity

A new year is a time to start again. It is a time to think about our lives and refocus on what is important for us to be spiritually and emotionally healthy. In this series we will focus on five practices that will help us gain clarity in our walk with God. Over five weeks we will focus on a different aspect of faith and how we can be a caring community for each other.

This Sunday we focus on our first practice, Passionate Worship. Each week we offer a worship service as we always have done in the church since the congregation was formed. Have we really ever thought about why we worship? What difference does it make if we worship or not? In the service we will look at the importance of the worship of God and the Christian life.

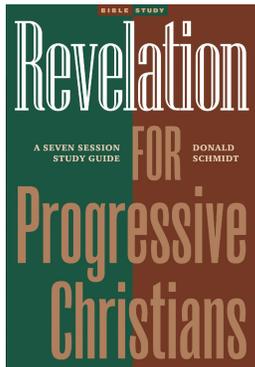
In the scriptures, we look towards Christ through the conversation Jesus has with the Samaritan woman at the well. We are to worship in Spirit and truth. If you want to know more about how to do this, please join us on Sunday at 10 am.

Theme: Refocus- Regaining Clarity Part 1: Passionate Worship

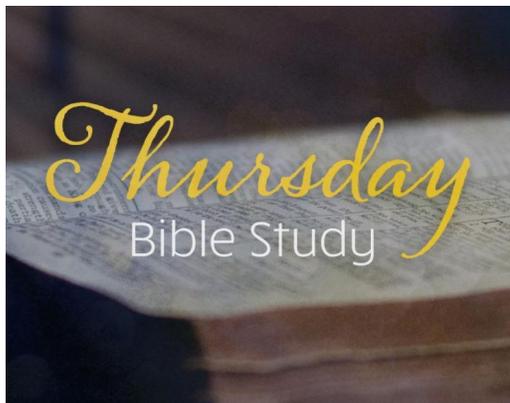
The Scripture Readings this week are: Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 150, John 4:19-24

Meditation: For the Glory of God!

St. Andrew's United Men's Book Study



Revelation... for Progressive Christians is a seven-session study guide by Donald Schmidt that invites readers to explore Revelation as a fun, hope-filled book that contains a lot of fanciful imagery and symbolic reference. The book offers words of assurance and hope to the church and its people today. Any men of the congregation are encouraged to join in! Please contact [Ross](#) for information and registration.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Our weekly bible study has started again on **Thursdays at 10:00 AM** on Zoom. Come and join us for some lively discussion on the bible. Anyone is welcome to join. No experience is necessary. **Zoom Passcode: 8774482**

[Click to Join our Bible Study on Zoom](#)



With Rev. Jean Leckie...

2020 will be a year that stands out in our memories and in our histories. It remains to be seen whether it will mark the beginning of a new social contract or whether it will be remarkable only for its medical advances and missed opportunities. To ensure that our suffering has not been in vain, we will need to examine the cultural values that have shaped our society and our world for the past 40 years and engage in some

radical rethinking of our relationship to each other and to the earth which sustains us.

The Gospel of **Mark** is the story of how Jesus challenged the cultural values of his time and offered the world a different point of view. The Christian church has spent the last 1500 years shaping the gospel to fit our view of the world. We have valued owning the earth over caring for it, we have valued competition over cooperation, hierarchy over inclusion, the individual over the community. It is time we re-shape our view of the world to fit the gospel, the good news that God has give us through Jesus.

The times in which Jesus lived and spoke and acted were very different from our times. We need to rely on scholars who have spent their time and abilities studying those differences seeking to understand the Gospel of Jesus and make it relevant for our time. This series will rely on the work of Ched Myers in Binding the Strong Man. He looks at the political, social and economic narratives that make up Mark's gospel and not just the religious or spiritual ones which are also essential to the story. All aspects are part of the whole and no one perspective can be ignored without diminishing the power of the gospel message. In reading Mark, with such scholarly assistance, we will see that Jesus challenged the social, political and economic forces of his time as well as the religious ones. Indeed in his time the lines between those forces were not so clearly drawn. The gospel can help us look

critically at our time, challenge our assumptions and values and habits so that we can make the world in our time a bit closer to the world of peace and justice and joy that God intends for us.

There are voices crying to us from our wildernesses inviting us into those wildernesses to make the good news heard and seen and felt. Are you ready to listen, to think, to pray and to act so that 2021 is indeed the beginning of good news? Check out Rev. Lecki's blog [here](#).

An Update about Agnes Taylor

I'm writing on behalf of my mother, Agnes Taylor. As you have no doubt heard, I managed to get a long term care bed for her in Vancouver in November and made the decision to move her here.

It was a tough year for her since she moved out of Mountainview Residence early in 2020 into Extendicare. The pandemic made it more challenging, of course. I was about to move her in March when all the craziness started, but my brother and I decided against it because of risks. But then she had a few illnesses that put things into perspective.

She was hospitalized with a blood infection in September and it was a close call. She declined rapidly after that in terms of mobility (she's now wheelchair bound and can't stand unassisted) and cognitive abilities. So when a bed came up, along with the opportunity to visit her twice a week, we opted for it.

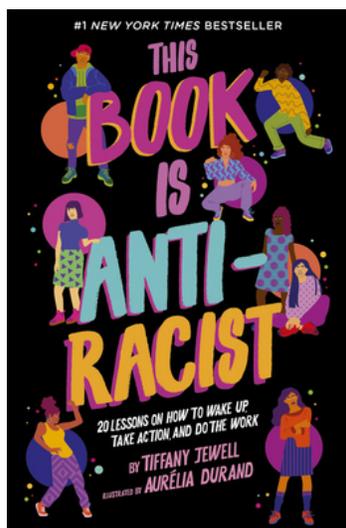
I'm writing to say a big 'thanks' for all the support you've given her over the years. She still talks about the cards you sent her on occasions like 'Robbie Burns day'. I know she appreciated it.

She will definitely miss the church community, which was a big reason we didn't make the move earlier. But I hope it will be possible to keep in touch in little ways. Please pass her greetings along to others at St Andrew's. I've written to Grant too.

Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy 2021!

Alison

St. Andrew's United Book Club



Join us online for our first book club meeting! Our first book selection will be *This Book Is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell.

Who are you? What is racism? Where does it come from? Why does it exist? What can you do to disrupt it? After examining the concepts of social identity, race, ethnicity, and racism we will learn and discuss some of the ways people of different races have been oppressed, from indigenous Americans and Australians being sent to boarding school to be “civilized” to a generation of Caribbean immigrants once welcomed to the UK being threatened with deportation by strict immigration laws.

There is hope in stories of strength, love, joy, and revolution that are part of our history, too, with such figures as the former slave Toussaint Louverture, who led a rebellion against white planters that eventually led to Haiti's independence, and Yuri Kochiyama, who, after spending time in an internment camp for Japanese Americans during WWII, dedicated her life to supporting political prisoners and advocating reparations for those wrongfully interned.

It is our hope that will become empowered to actively defy racism to create a community (large and small) that truly honors everyone.

Please contact the **office** to place your order and to let us know you're interested! Once we have a list of participants, we will contact the group and decide upon a date and time to meet online!

Grant's World...

This week has been an interesting week in the news. On Tuesday we heard the story of an election run off for the Senate in the state of Georgia. A local Baptist Pastor by the name of Raphael Warnock has won the vote. Warnock is a 51 year old Black evangelical pastor that is the senior pastor at the Ebenezer Baptist church where Martin Luther King Jr. preached during the civil rights movement in the 1960's. And on that same street of the church is also the childhood home of Martin Luther King Jr. Warnock is the first Black man to be elected to the Senate in Georgia. This is a huge milestone in the progress for equality of all of God's people.



A number of years ago, I had the privilege to meet Rev. Raphael Warnock at his church while he preached at the Festival of Homiletics. He was an impassioned preacher who raised awareness for those who stand on the margins of society. He preached with conviction that all are people are created equal regardless of race and status in the world. I am honored to now have been able to shake the hand of a Senator.

I tell this news story because it contrasts the events that took place at the US Capital building yesterday. No one ever anticipated that such insurrection and act of civil disobedience would take place in our lifetime. To openly attack, to occupy, the US law making chamber after a democratic election result was announced has not been done since the war of 1814. History was made in an extremely negative way yesterday and it saddens me that so many protestors are blind to the injustice and ignorance to the democratic process that has been in place for hundreds of years. For those who stand in support of President Trump in his egging on of charging the Capital building, I say shame on you.

This morning I heard that Trump has now been banned from Facebook and Instagram indefinitely because of his inappropriate posts encouraging violence and civil disobedience. Good on you Mark Zuckerberg for making a stand on the poor leadership and behavior of the sitting US President.

In the aftermath of this horrific day, I cry out in sadness for the four people who lost their lives because of their attendance at such an event.

This is a time for all of us to bow our heads in prayer and pray for peace across the United states and around the world. Although we may not be directly affected politically by what took place but all of us are affected by in some ways.

Jesus taught us to love in peace. Jesus taught us about loving our neighbor as our selves. As we go about our week let us all think about who we are. How are we treating each other? How are we standing up for what matters to us most? Are we willing to be an example of Christ's love in the world as we stand up for compassion and justice in the world?

I pray that this event will encourage us all to seek pathways of peace and love for others as we walk into this new year. We live in hope that the love of Christ will reign in our world today.

Blessings,
See you on Sunday!



Each week workshop services are streamed with **Facebook Live** and our **Church UTube channel**. This doesn't happen with a lot of work from many of our volunteers. Special thanks to Mark Wyatt and Nick Hatton for organizing our weekly live streaming and ensuring everyone can watch services online from home. We would also like to thank Brian Scott for bringing us our wonderful choir videos each week!

Contributions to the Church

We thank all those that continue to support our Church with your givings.
There are many ways to support St. Andrew's...

Mail or drop off cheques (preferred) or cash in envelopes to St. Andrew's United Church,
located at 89 Mountainview Road S., Georgetown.

Alternatively, you can donate by clicking [here](#). This will take you where you can donate directly to the Church via CanadaHelps. (Note that these donations will be tax-receipted by CanadaHelps).

Or on your on-line banking site go to "Interac Transfers" and send your Interac donation to standrewsgeorgetown89@gmail.com. This email account is used exclusively for this purpose. Note that these donations will be included in your year-end tax receipt and are not anonymous.

You are also welcome to call the Treasurer or any member of the Finance Team to have your donation picked up or dropped off in a way that preserves social distancing.

*THANK YOU TO EVERYONE ON PAR AND TO EVERYONE WHO HAS GIVEN
DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH!*



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



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