

Lent 3

Sunday, March 8, 2026



Lent is defined as the period of 40 days that Christians observe from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It is often marked with giving up something one really likes. It is a time of reflection, rest, penitence, and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert of 40 days. Let us as ponder these things in our hearts.

Our Vision

To live as Christ would have us live, in love, with compassion and seeking justice, by sharing God's grace, learning from scripture, growing through the Spirit and being transformed by faith.

There are many ways to get involved at St. Andrew's. Everyone is welcome so please reach out and step into places that inspire you the most. More details on our website.

FIND YOUR PLACE

WASHROOMS: A wheelchair-accessible and gender-neutral bathroom is located in the hallway North of the lower auditorium. It can be accessed by the elevator near the office or any of the stairways and is available to all 24 / 7. The Childcare and Nursery have full and exclusive use of the washrooms in the lower hallway Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The use of the lower Narthex washrooms is for church use 24 / 7 plus the lower hallway washrooms may be used by all on evenings and weekends when the childcare and nursery are closed.

Our new Council was elected at the AGM on March 1. We are pleased to introduce the following slate:

2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Fred Cross—Interim Chair
Rob Siddall—Past Chair
Bill Craddock—Treasurer
Vacant—Ministry & Personnel
Glenn Neufeld—Member-at-Large

Heather Ragot—Member-at-Large
Loralie Friesen—Member-at-Large
Dave Collins—Member-at-Large
Deanne Bennett—Member-at-Large
Rev. Karen Lumley—Minister

We are grateful to all those who have agreed to serve on the Council this year. Thank you!

Make sure to subscribe to our weekly eblast to know what is happening in the Church community!

<https://standrewsriverheights.com/news-4/newsletter/>



OUR LAND - We remember, as we celebrate God's presence in Worship that St. Andrew's River Heights United Church gathers in Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis Nation. As Treaty people, we seek to live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all our relations.

Lent 3

GATHERING MUSIC: *Pastorale* - Germaine Tailleferre
Charmaine Bacon, flute

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *Prayers to Share, Year A David Sparks.*

We gather as a people for whom faith matters.

O God, deepen our faith.

We gather as a people rejoicing in memory.

O God, hallow our tradition.

We gather as people committed to this church.

O God, give us joy in serving you.

We gather as a people who proclaim the Good News.

In word and deed, your justice and compassion shine out, O God

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL:

ICouncil Response: **I will, God be my helper**

Congregation Response: **We will, God be our helper**

HYMN: **VU634** *To Abraham and Sarah*

A LITANY OF WOMEN: Judy Bourcier, Martha Graham & Roberta Popoff

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: CANDLE OF LOVE

VU108 *Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights vs. 1*

♪ **Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way, where, meeting Christ our, guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day.** ♪

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **MV115** *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE: *The Minister's Annual Manual, 2013-2014, pg. 279.*

There are times when we are unsure of the voices we hear, and we ignore them. In doing so, sometimes we ignore the voice of God.

Forgive us, gracious God.

We offer God all those times and pray for the guidance of the Divine in discerning where to go, and

which way to turn.

Forgive us, gracious God.

Let us look not merely at the world around us but dare to lift our hearts as high and wide as we can- and in so doing, may we know the vast and forgiving love of God. Amen.

ANTHEM: *God So Loved the World* (John 3:16, text; Stephanie Martin, music)

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
So that everyone who believes in Him
May not perish, but may have eternal life.

No one has ever seen God.

The only Son, closest to the Father's heart,
Has revealed Him.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Read by Derek Morphy
Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Gospel reading: John 3:1-17

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

SONG OF RESPONSE: *Love is Love is Love*
(Abbie Betinis, text and music)

♪ **Love, love, love, all we need is love.** ♪

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

We will express that love as followers of the Christ.

♪ **Send your peace on our world, God, you, the creator of peace.**

Our hearts fill with peace, God.

You are the source of healing peace. ♪

THE PRAYER OF JESUS **VU916** *A Paraphrase*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!**

Your heavenly will be done

by all created beings!

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil,
free us.
For you reign in the glory of the
power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Outreach Speaker Series on Sunday, March 22nd, 9am-9:45am in the lounge. Join us to hear Jackie Bouvier speak of the work that they do at Jocelyn House Hospice. There will be muffins and coffee/tea. Bring a friend! You are welcome to bring in cards that Jocelyn House can use to write a “welcome card” to a new resident, wishing them well in their final new home.

Board Games Night: Saturday, March 22nd
Everyone in their 20s-40s is welcome for Board Game Night, 7:00 on March 22 in the Lounge! See you there! See Katy for more info.

Memorial Flowers: What is the Memorial Flowers Fund? Every

year during Lent, St. Andrew’s raises money for the St. Andrew’s Flower Fund in memory of loved ones. Donations can be made in amounts of your choosing and you can name as many people as you wish. All loved ones named will be listed in an ‘In Memoriam’ section in our order of service on Easter Sunday. This fund is used to purchase flowers/plants to decorate the church during special times of the year. If you would like your ‘In Memoriam’ to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please forward the form and your donation to the church office **no later than Monday, March 30th, 2026**. Any donation to the Memorial Flowers Fund will be included in your yearly income tax receipt. Forms can be found on our website or in the narthex.

YOUR GIFTS MATTER.

Get the benefits of a Tax Receipt for your Donation! Let us know who you are and sign up for PAR. Pre-authorized remittances throughout the year make it easy to donate to the United Church.

Donations are always accepted either through your weekly giving envelopes, the weekly worship offering, through E-transfer by contacting Bill Craddock, our Treasurer at 204-488-1130 just leave a message on the phone and Bill will return it, or can be dropped off at any time through the church office.

Check out our website for more information and forms. The church is very grateful for any and all donations. Thank you so much.

Coming Up...

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- Sunday Recital Series @ 12pm**
Rental—Winnipeg Sonora Voices (sanctuary) @ 1pm
Rental—Erica Schultz (sanctuary) @ 5pm
Rental—Mikhail Pokhanovski (sanctuary) @ 7pm

MONDAY, MARCH 9

- Scouts (auditorium) @ 6pm
Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

- ABC (lounge) @ 1pm**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

- Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am
Rental—River City Sound (auditorium) @ 5:15pm
Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

- Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm
Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm



RECYCLE PLEASE

St. Andrew’s Recycles

- **Markers, Pens, Highlighters,**
- **Mechanical Pencils**
- **Batteries**
- **Printer cartridges,**
- **Cell phones**
- **Eye Glasses**
- **Deodorant containers**
- **Toothpaste tubes and caps,**
- **Toothbrushes,**



The United Church Creed says, “We are called to live with respect in creation.”
We invite you to join us in this new initiative.

****Bins are available in the narthex****

The 2035 Document is online @ <https://united-church.ca/toward2035> and some copies are at the back of the church for you to pick up if you prefer a paper copy.

There are small posters for you to pick up at the back of the church to remind you what is recyclable to bring to the church.



RECYCLE PLEASE

