



**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH**  
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St. Andrew's is a member church of Affirm United

## Announcements for January 11, 2026



**We look forward to seeing you this Sunday at 11:30am!**



### *January Birthdays*

Darian Komaszczuk – January 8  
Evelyn Souster – January 13  
Cathy Waller – January 28

### *Our Prayer List*

Please hold these people and families in your heart and prayers.

Ted ♦ Maggie ♦ Ben ♦ David ♦ Barb ♦ Patrick  
♦ Matthew & Karlee ♦ John W.

Blessings, Pastoral Care Team

*Please contact Beate Pothmann to be included or removed from the list*

## *Minister's Message*

*Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this....After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions....Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour.*

*- Luke 2:41-43, 46, 51-52*

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins.

- Excerpt from "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman.

Siblings in Christ,

How far is it from Christmas to Easter? Depending on how you understand the question, the answer is about twenty chapters, or about 3 months, or about 30 years. I had never thought very much about that last number, until a friend lent me Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood

Pal. I had previously ignored it, assuming it was silly and sacrilegious, but as I read it I found it both amusing and thought provoking. What did Jesus get up to between his childhood and the beginning of his ministry somewhere in his thirties? Lamb and other sources imagine him studying with Buddhists and having other adventures. As a Galilean peasant the most likely answers are “growing up,” and, “nothing of note.”

“Nothing of note” is not the same as “nothing important.” As much as we might prefer otherwise, to get from childhood to adulthood, we must pass through adolescence. To get from Christmas to Easter Sunday, we must pass through the darkness of winter and the darkness of Good Friday. To write the paper, we must read piles of books (sigh). Even the most fanciful accounts acknowledge by their very existence that it took time for the Jesus of Christmas to become the Jesus of Easter. Jesus’ slow growth into the one who could embody God’s love to the unloved took time. To raise Jesus – this was the work of Christmas.

If it takes thirty years for Jesus to become the man he needs to be (and for all that, still imperfect, as we glimpse in a few passages), why do we imagine we are any different? Don’t be surprised when your church is not yet a shining city on a hill. Do not give up when our world is not yet the kingdom of God. Most importantly, do not beat yourself up when you fall short of your ideals. The colour of the Church seasons of Epiphany and Ordinary Time are green for exactly this reason: they are seasons of quiet growth and maturation after the excitement of Christmas and Pentecost, respectively.

All of us are works in progress. Even the Son of God. Even you.

Yours in Christ,

Tim

## *Weekly Worship Elements*

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29 [VU 756]  
Matthew 3:13-17

### **HYMNS**

MV 12 – “Come Touch Our Hearts”  
VU 79 – “Arise, Your Light is Come” v 4  
VU 380 – “She Comes Sailing on the Wind”  
A New Creed  
VU 960 [Ecumenical Version] - The Lord’s Prayer  
“These Gifts We Bring”  
MV 161 – “I Have Called You By Your Name”  
VU 679 – “Let There be Light” v 1,5,6

## *Ongoing Events at St. Andrew's*



**LECTIO DIVINA (BIBLE STUDY)** **Wednesdays** at 11am in the chapel.



**CHOIR PRACTICE** **Sundays** after service. Check with Deborah for full schedule



**MEET & EAT DATES & LOCALS**  
Jan 13 - 14th Ave Pub

## *Cluster & Shared Announcements*



**ROMEO** Retired Old Men Eating Out:  
Next ROMEO Breakfast is **January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
at JoJo's Restaurant. Wives and partners are invited.



## MURDER MYSTERY GAME January 24th.

Sugar Shack Cafe will run from 11:30-1:00pm for Lunch at Gladwin Heights. More info coming soon!

### *Please Note!*

**ANNUAL REPORTS** It's that time of year to start thinking of what to write in your reports! Please have your reports submitted by **January 12th**

**ZOOM** St. Andrew's has discontinued indefinitely. Please join Reverend Tim online at Gladwin at **9:30am** via [Facebook](#)

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** January 18 to 25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There will be a service at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Abbotsford, at 11:00AM followed by lunch.



### Church Reception Hours

#### St. Andrew's Office

Monday 8:30am-4:30pm  
Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

#### Gladwin's Office

Tuesday 8:30am-4:30pm  
Thursday 9am-12pm

**Reverend Tim**  
10am-5pm