

THE GOOD NEWS

Pakenham Pastoral Charge (PPC) Newsletter Spring 2025 / Issue 2

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From the Desk of Reverend Sheryl

Reflection – Theology of Change

There's a phrase, "*the more things change the more they stay the same*", that I find comfort in. I first heard that phrase in a stage play where the main character was searching for a lifestyle that was peaceful and calm. A place for them to flourish. Yet all the other characters were eccentric, which made that impossible to happen. After about an hour and a half of antics, the main character throws up his hands and says that line. Since then, in my own search for peace and calm that phrase comes to my mind. For me, it's a reminder to lighten up and to accept that to be alive is to face constant change. It's our reaction to change that matters.

There is acceptance that change is part of living, and we can adapt as required.

There is resistance that change is bad and has negative consequences to us.

There is discernment that change can be both good and bad. It is how we respond to it that affects us.

For me, change in our lives is neither good nor bad – it just is. It is a part of life and the way we respond to changes in our life and in the world is our choice, no one else's. Jesus invited us to change, yet he knew it was our choice. Jesus shared how understanding the teachings of God was life giving and offered freedom. Jesus lived a message of acceptance of change in one's life. With God as his focus, he found clarity and strength to face where his life was going. What is more important is that Jesus sought to be in community while living in the midst of deep upheaval in his life.

Change happens to everyone, every organization, every community. How we face change matters. We can try to keep what we do the same. We can accept how change will change us. We can discern a way through change that brings us together. God desired to be in relationship with creation. We were created to be in relationship with each other. It is with gathering together we can face the change that surrounds us at all times. By being willing to accept change and to be changed we discover that, '*The more things change the more they stay the same*'.

Rev. Sheryl McLeod

2025 Congregational Goals

St. Andrew's 2025 Goals

The target date for completion of the following goals is December 31, 2025.

1. Gather information on:
 - a) interest in moving toward partnerships/space sharing with other congregations like St. Mark's Anglican and Zion United in Cedar Hill.
 - b) moving forward to make the building truly accessible and how to pay for it.
 - c) how to manage the annual deficit
2. Continue the work of decluttering the building to make space for shifting needs in the near future.
3. Develop a five-year list with cost and timeline for building maintenance.
4. Develop a mission statement that clearly states our core values.

Zion's 2025 Goals

- 1) By December 2025, we will have gathered information and held discussions with an intention to make a decision about our next steps as a congregation on the following:
 - a) Finances
 - i) Capital Expenses for the next five years.
 - ii) Annual costs to operate at the existing Zion Church Building.
 - iii) Examine the investments to figure out our sustainability
 - b) Church Integration
 - i) would we share space with St. Andrew's?
 - ii) amalgamate
 - iii) or other options
- 2) In 2025 we are organized by a steering committee model. The goal for 2025 is to be intentional about communication from the congregation to the committee members and from the committee members to the community. Particular attention will be devoted to the flow of information.
- 3) In 2025 Zion United Church will continue to support community development and identity through outreach events, exploring the use of a newsletter and promoting community events through Facebook, mail outs and other methods. The intention is to aim for 4 events in 2025.

We will seek other ways of developing community in Cedar Hill through surveys, deep listening, and other modes of information gathering.



Here are some activities to help us connect with each other while deepening our spiritual connection with God.

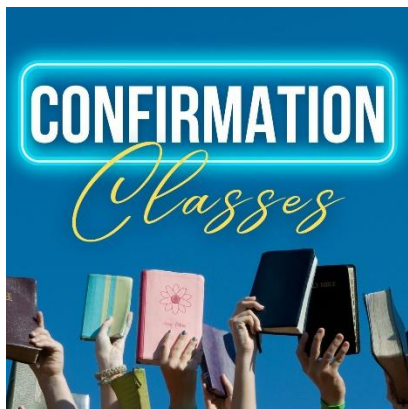
Choir

St. Andrew's choir practices weekly on Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. We perform a range of music from baroque to traditional hymns to easy listening to rock and even western genres. We are in particular need of Tenor and Bass voices. If a long commitment is more than you can manage, please consider joining us for the Lent, Easter and Pentecost season (March 6 to June 8).



Favourite "Quotes"

Some time this spring there will be a service where you will have an opportunity to share your favorite quotes. Please save any quotes you would like to share.



Rev. Sheryl is willing to hold **confirmation classes** for those who are curious about their faith and thinking of making the choice to formally become members of the church. There is no age requirement, other than the person is of reading age. Those interested in participating must attend the Holy Week services (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday) and attend Sunday services between Easter and Pentecost (June 8). Additionally, there will be a group time which will be mutually decided upon once we know who is participating. Therefore, please speak to Rev. Sheryl about participating in this class

Camp Omnia

Season 2 of Camp Omnia will be held August 19 to 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Our theme is

God's
Beloved

Stay tuned for more information.



Community, Coffee & Conversation

Exactly as it says ... this is a time to gather, to connect, to share our thoughts and to learn what is happening in our community.

**3rd Wednesday of every month
10 a.m. to noon**



Pysanky Time is on Mondays in the season of Lent (March 10, 17 & 24; April 7 & 14) from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Pysanky is the traditional Ukrainian art of decorating eggs. It is practiced in the season of Lent in preparation for Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The cost is \$20 for the series of five evening sessions. A kit containing a Kistka and a beeswax puck, can be purchased for \$17, if needed. Eggs and other materials provided.

All are welcome.

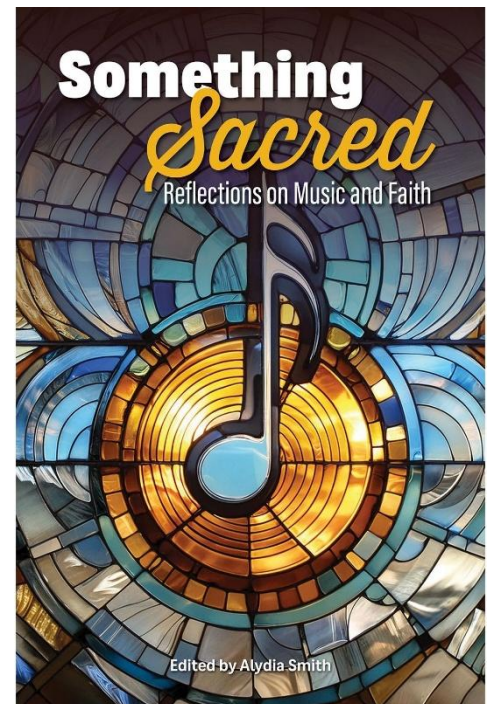
Lenten Intention Book Study

In our Epiphany service in January of this year, it was interesting to me how many people acknowledged in some way that music shaped their experience of faith. Many relayed how it also deepened their faith. There is something about music that can speak to our hearts without putting words in the way.

This Lenten book study is designed to find ways to bring us closer to understanding ourselves and our relationship with God.

It is a daily exploration that will inform our conversations when we gather twice as part of *Talking and Eating* (March 26 and April 23)

Available at the office, the book is \$15 and can be purchased on Wednesdays and Sundays or by arrangement.



Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

- Mar 02 Transfiguration Sunday, Zion & St. Andrew's Annual Mtg
Mar 09 Lent 1 DLS Begins, Guest Speaker – Cora Merchand
Mar 16 Lent 2 March Break Sunday beginning
Mar 23 Lent 3 March Break Sunday ending
Mar 30 Lent 4
- Apr 06 Lent 5 Guest Speaker – Shawn Fridgen
Apr 13 **Palm Sunday** – Communion Service
Apr 20 **Easter Sunday**
07:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
09:30am Zion Service
11:00am St. Andrew's Service
- Apr 27 Easter 2 Holy Humour Service
- May 04 Easter 3 Baptism at Zion United
May 11 Easter 4 Mother's Day, Service focus on Wisdom found in Sayings
May 18 Easter 5 Victoria Day Weekend
May 25 Easter 6 Something Sacred Service based on Lenten Study
- Jun 01 Easter 7 Zion Anniversary Service. This joint service begins at 11a.m. with guest speaker Will Affleck, followed by a luncheon.
Jun 08 Pentecost, 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, Communion will be served at both Zion and St. Andrew's.
Jun 15 Church Closed as we are invited to participate in the Regional Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada at the E.Y Centre in Ottawa. The service will be followed by a BBQ luncheon. Details to follow.
Jun 22 **Rev. Sheryl away**, leadership TBD.
Jun 29 Joint Summer Services begin at Zion at 9:30 a.m.
- Jul 06 Joint Service in Zion United at 9:30am, led by Deb Jinkinson.
Jul 13 Joint Service in Zion United at 9:30am, led by Norma Wrightly.
Jul 20 Joint Service in Zion United at 9:30am, led by Allison Adomovits.
Jul 27 Joint Service in Zion United at 9:30am, led by Deb Jinkinson.
- Aug 03 Joint Service in St. Andrew's United at 9:30am, led by Rev. Sheryl.
Aug 10 Joint Service in St. Andrew's United at 9:30am, led by Rev. Sheryl.
Aug 17 Joint Service in St. Andrew's United at 9:30am, led by Rev. Sheryl.
Aug 24 Joint Service in St. Andrew's United at 9:30am, led by Rev. Sheryl.
Aug 31 Joint Service in St. Andrew's United at 9:30am, led by Rev. Sheryl.
- Sep 07 Joint services end and worship returns to regular service times.**

Upcoming Special Worship Services



Wednesdays 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Mar 26 Lenten Book Study
Initial experience, thoughts, expectations and ways of approaching.

Apr 23 Lenten Book Study
Our experience and our learnings.

May 28 TBD
Will focus on aspects of deepening faith.

Jun 23 TBD
Will focus on some aspect of 100 years of The United Church of Canada

During these gathering times we will explore and deepen our spirituality. The evenings will begin by gathering around the table sharing a simple meal and then moving into a time of exploration and reflection.

Apr 17 Maundy Thursday Service begins at 6:00pm at St. Andrew's United's dining hall with a pot-luck supper, followed by the service beginning at 7:00pm

Apr 18 Good Friday Service will be held at Zion United Church at 11:00am followed by a fellowship time with hot cross buns, coffee and tea.

Upcoming Meetings

Mar 24 Zion United Church Steering Committee at 10:00am, place to be determined.

Sunday Guest Speakers

Cora Merchand

On **Sunday March 9 at both Zion and St. Andrew's United Churches**, sharing her experience of advocating for a person with disabilities Cora will speak to us about the ways society has changed for people with disabilities.

Shawn Fridgen

On **Sunday April 6 at both Zion and St. Andrew's United Churches**, Shawn will share his experience with the health care system as it relates to the gratitude in his life.

Will Affleck

On **Sunday June 1, at Zion's Joint Anniversary Service** (which begins at 11 a.m. Will will speak to us about men's mental health.



Office Hours

For the foreseeable future our administrator Suzie Walden will be in the office on Wednesdays. Rev. Sheryl will be in on Wednesdays as well. If you want to see Rev. Sheryl on days other than Wednesday, it would be helpful to make an appointment.

Rev. Sheryl will be away from June 16 to July 27, returning on the 28th.

PPC Contact Numbers

613-624-5400 or Sheryl's cell 613-401-2453

PPC Address

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