Pakenham Pastoral Charge (PPC)

Newsletter

Spring 2026 / Issue 4

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Change Keeps Us Living

Change is an action that can worsen or improve situations. It can keep situations fresh and nurturing. It can keep us 'on our toes'. It can keep us ready for what comes. And talking about it can be monotonous. Which in my mind is ironic. What I have learned is that avoiding change, resisting change, trying to keep things as they were… is like Sisyphus pushing the boulder uphill, only to see it roll back down again. Avoiding change seems to make the boulder bigger and heavier. It becomes a block in our life. This is something akin to our ongoing conversations around the need and prudence of making the building more accessible by installing an elevator. If we can adapt to change then we can live a life more attuned to the rhythms of living.

This is true of our faith. What keeps faith living is the willingness to engage the tenants of our faith (as best we can) by reflecting on the teachings of Jesus and adjusting our understanding to better reflect to others and ourselves what we believe. For issues of doctrine, it happens over conversations spanning decades. Just think of the debate in our denomination around the ordination of women. For beloved icons it occurs over generations and centuries. Just think of the cross and the discussions of whether Jesus should be on the cross, or the cross be empty.

Over the past few years, we have been working on making The Lord's Prayer more inclusive. For some it seemed to have come out of the blue. For others it has been a life-long question. And it arose, in this Pastoral Charge, when a child in Sunday School asked the question (a question I had as a child, and my children had when they were children), "Why do we say OUR FATHER, when we know God is both mother and father of us all?" It was at that moment that the need to change how we begin The Lord's Prayer needed to change. She went on to say that it made her feel separated from God because making God a 'he' meant that 'she' was not included. It also reminded me of conversations I have had with people who found they could not say this so powerful prayer because of their personal experiences with their father. It was like a block that kept them from God's love.

We then changed the opening of The Lord's Prayer with …Our Mother and… This acknowledged more aspects of parenthood. Over time comments have been made on how awkward and out of cadence beginning the prayer with this phrase is. Suggestions have been made on how we could change the opening phrase of this prayer to reflect our understanding of God. Phrases such as: Our Parent, Love's Source, or Creating One. If you have a suggestion, please share it. We'll try them all and over time a phrase that fits better for more people will emerge. If it is of God, then it will endure. If it is not of God, then it won't.

Rev. Sheryl McLeod

Events Already in Motion this Spring

These are activities to help us connect with each other while deepening our spiritual beliefs …

Choir Practice at St. Andrew's

Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

St. Andrew's choir practices weekly We perform a range of music from baroque to traditional to easy listening to rock and even western genres. We need Tenor and Bass voices. If a year long commitment is more than you can manage, we are looking to augment the choir for the Lent, Easter, and Pentecost season February 22 to May 24. Everyone over 16 years of age is welcome.

Gentle Balance Exercise Program for Seniors

Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. until April 1

Raquel Nevins, a qualified instructor, is leading classes that are designed to improve lifestyle, physical health, social health, and mental health.

Classes are in partnership with ConnectWell and Bridging Generations. Feel free to call 613-800-1236 for more information.

Updates will be provided before the next session begins.

Silver Circuits Tech Club

Every second Tuesday from 10 a.m. – noon

Come and share your technical issues and we will help you resolve them. You have questions – Shawn and club members have the answers!

The club meets, and is sponsored by, St. Andrew's United Church in Pakenham.

It is **Free** to join but please register with Shawn Fridgen by phone at: 613-623-8354 or email at: shawnfridgen@gmail.com

SILVER CIRCUITS Tech Club

Don't Miss the Fun!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Tuesday, February 17. 4:30p.m. – 7p.m.

Come feast with us before the beginning of Lent at St. Andrew's United Church

Pancakes, toppings, sausage, bacon, baked beans, and lots of maple syrup.

Accepting free will offerings.

OMNIA campers are invited to reconnect with crafts, activities, and more

Omnia 1	**Omnia 2**	**Omnia 3**
Beginning of Lent	Pentecost	Advent
February 22, 2026	May 24, 2026	November 29, 2026

OMNIA

Presents

Camp Omnia 2026

Season 3 of Camp Omnia will be held:

August 18 to 20, 2026
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stay tuned to the website as our plans continue to evolve.

Staying Connected

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.
January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17.
10:30 a.m. to noon

Pysanky Time

Returning for a fourth season. Pysanky is a traditional Ukrainian activity that was originally practiced in the season of Lent in preparation for Easter – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The cost is $20 for the whole series of evenings. All that is required is a kit with a Kiska and a beeswax puck, which can be purchased for $17, if needed.

February 23, March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, and March 30 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Lenten Intention Book Study

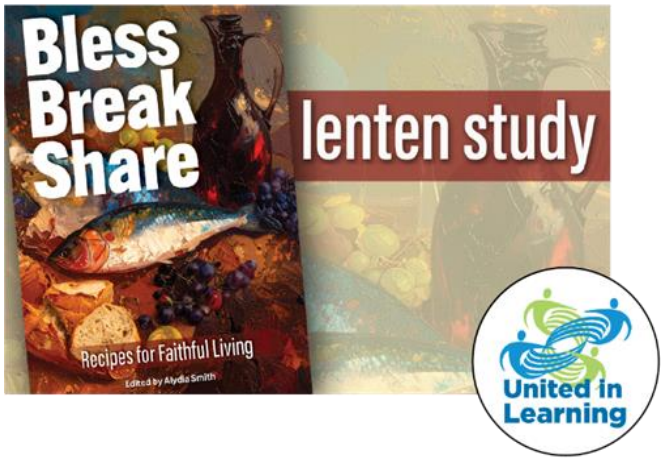
During the season of Lent this book study, in conjunction with the Moderator, will explore how food can nourish body AND soul.

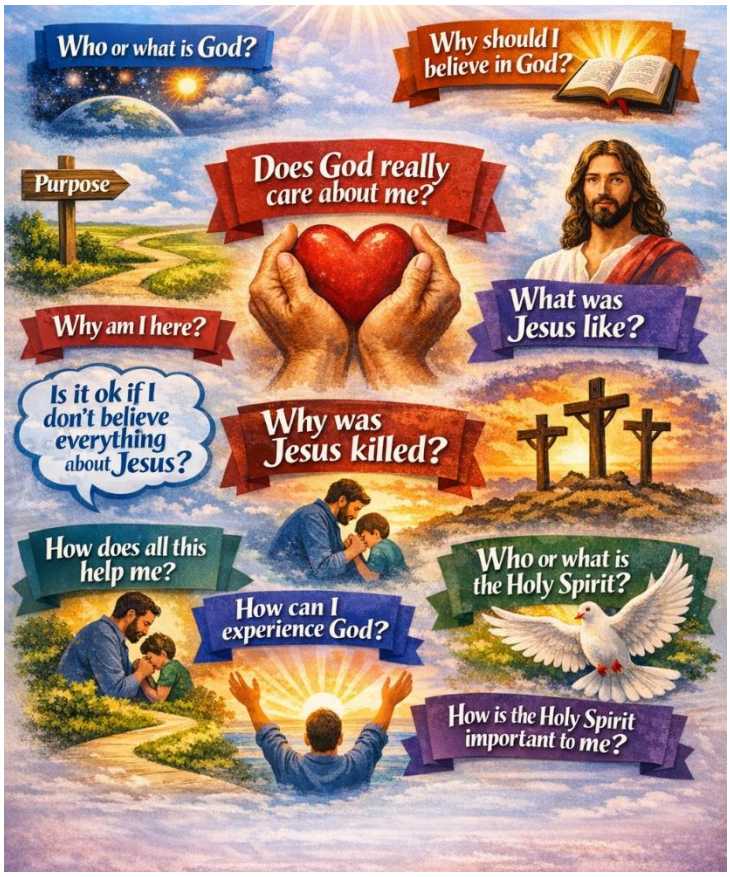
It is at the table when the cares of the world fall away, and space is made for each other. It is where barriers fall and stories are shared.

Online presentations are available and open to all for a self-directed study. Cost of the online book is $39.99

We will meet in-person, March 11th and April 1st, to share recipes and discuss of the ideas presented.

Cost of the book is $15 it can be picked up at the office or on Sunday at St. Andrew's.





A new gathering, designed to bring people together to ask questions of faith given the unsettling time we seem to be living in.

Are you interested in exploring some of these timeless questions with others in a safe space?

Bring your curiosity and an open heart and mind and join us for this opportunity at St. Andrew's.

All are Welcome!
Monday Evenings 7p.m. – 9p.m.
April 13 through May 11

Please register at
st.andrews.pakenham@outlook.com

Upcoming Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated all meetings are held in Stewart Hall.

St. Andrew's Executive Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 / 10 a.m.

Zion Steering Committee Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2026 / 10 a.m.
At Zion United Church in Cedar Hill

Pastoral Charge Meeting
Tuesday April 21, 2026 / 7:30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting
Sunday March 8, 2026 / to follow service

Lost and Found Items

We have several items which have made their way to the lost and found – gloves, water bottles, scarves… If you are missing something or know someone who has, please check the box found at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Worship Calendar

Date	Description	Notes
Jan 18	Epiphany 2	
Jan 25	Epiphany 3	Frost Fest Ecumenical Service
Feb 01	Epiphany 4	
Feb 08	Epiphany 5	
Feb 15	Transfiguration	Pulpit supply: John Legrow
Feb 22	Lent 1	First of Three Omnia Sundays
Mar 01	Lent 2	
Mar 08	Lent 3	Annual Meeting, Potluck at St. Andrews
Mar 15	Lent 4	
Mar 22	Lent 5	
Mar 29	Palm Sunday	Communion Service
Apr 02	Maundy Thursday	St. Andrews Dining Hall at 6 p.m.
Apr 03	Good Friday	Zion Cedar Hill at 10 a.m.
Apr 05	EASTER	Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m. at the 5 Span Bridge, followed by a continental breakfast in the dining hall of St. Andrew's United Church
Apr 12	Easter 2	Pulpit supply: Deborah Jinkinson
Apr19	Easter 3	Holy Humour Sunday
Apr 26	Easter 4	
May 03	Easter 5	Blessing of the Growing Season
May 10	Easter 6	Mother's Day
May 17	Easter 7	Camping Sunday
May 24	PENTECOST	Second of Three Omnia Sundays
May 31	Pentecost 2	Trinity Sunday
Jun 07	Pentecost 3	Zion Anniversary, Joint at Zion Cedar Hill
Jun 14	Pentecost 4	Communion Service
Jun 21	Pentecost 5	Zion End of Sunday School
Jun 28	Pentecost 6	First Summer Joint at Zion Cedar Hill 9:30a.m.
Jul 05	Pentecost 7	Joint at Zion Cedar Hill 9:30a.m.
Jul 12	Pentecost 8	Joint at Zion Cedar Hill 9:30a.m. Pulpit Supply
Jul 19	Pentecost 9	Joint at Zion Cedar Hill 9:30a.m. Pulpit Supply
Jul 26	Pentecost 10	Joint at Zion Cedar Hill 9:30a.m. Pulpit Supply
Aug 02	Pentecost 11	Joint at St. Andrews 9:30a.m. Pulpit Supply
Aug 09	Pentecost 12	No Service. Pakenham Union Cemetery Service
Aug 16	Pentecost 13	Joint at St. Andrews 9:30a.m.
Aug 23	Pentecost 14	Joint at St. Andrews 9:30a.m.
Aug 30	Pentecost 15	Last Summer Joint at St. Andrews 9:30a.m.

PPC Office Hours and Contact Information

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Rev. Sheryl's intention is to be available Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. If you need to see her, please leave a message to ask for an appointment or send her an email at **pakenham.pastoral.charge.minister@outlook.com**

Office Administrator

Christin Stewart

PPC Contact Numbers

Office: 613-624-5400
Rev. Sheryl: 613-401-2453

PPC Address

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St. Andrew's United Address

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St. Andrew's Facebook Page

St. Andrews United Church Pakenham

Zion's Facebook Page

Zion United Church Cedar Hill, Ontario

St. Andrew's Website

https://www.standrewsunitedpakenham.org/

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