THE GOOD NEWS

Pakenham Pastoral Charge (PPC)

Zion United Church, Cedar Hill & St. Andrew's United Church, Pakenham

Newsletter

Fall 2026 / Issue 5.4

Inside this Edition

From the Desk of Rev. Sheryl.....Page 01

Events Already in Motion.....Page 02

Coming Soon: Don't Miss the Fun! .....Page 04

OMNIA Family Events.....Page 06

Community News .....Page 08

How You Can Help.....Page 10

Upcoming Meetings .....Page 13

Worship Calendar.....Page 14

PPC Office Hours and Contact Information .....Page 15

From the Desk of Rev. Sheryl

"Everyone Plays a Part"

By the time you read this reflection, Camp Omnia will have happened three weeks ago. And I am still reflecting on what happened during that camp. The impact of this theme has changed my perception, and it enhanced how God's kin-dom is revealed in the world we live in today.

The theme was, "Everyone Plays a Part". And as we began to think on what that means and how to reflect this theme to the campers and the community…well only a show would do. From that kernel of an idea led to a whirlwind camp that was months in the making and culminated in a show titled, "The Story of Joseph – More than a Coat". You can find it one our YouTube channel.

As the theme indicates, the co-ordinators of the camp ensured that everything that was done had a reason and worked toward presenting the show. There was a role and place for absolutely everyone – from the campers to team leaders to community volunteers to camp leaders to the audience made up of family members and community members. Whether the role was to sing, or read, or mime, or manipulate the paper bag puppets and shadow puppets; or to create the refreshments with placemats and fruit hedgehogs; or to be the audience cheering on the participants – ABSOULTELY everyone had a part to play; even those who quietly cleaned up after the camp! What we all learned is that everyone is important, even when we think we are not.

For all of us at the camp, it led us to look deeper and wonder through the story of Joseph, what would have happened 'IF'? What if the brothers had not been jealous of Joseph and sold him into slavery? What if the cup bearer had not told the Pharaoh about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams? What if the Pharaoh had just put his persistent dreams down to a bad night's sleep and didn't delve further? What if, is a question that helps us to understand that we have a place in this world that needs our participation in order to reflect God's kin-dom here and now in this troubling time that many of us do not have control over.

Understanding that we all have a part to play is foundational to the kind of communities of faith we have, and to the kind of community we live in. God invites us to play a part. And in the contribution, we find our place in God's kingdom. We find our family. We find our foundation. We find our strength for the living of these days.

Rev. Sheryl McLeod

Events Already in Motion

Choir Practice at St. Andrew's

Led by our accomplished music director, Peter Brown, we practice weekly in the Sanctuary on Thursdays from 7-9p.m.

If a yearlong commitment is more than you can manage, consider just the Thanksgiving, Advent or Christmas seasons.

Gentle Balance Exercise Program for Seniors

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.
September 8 – November 26

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 CareBridge. Feel free to call 613-800-1236 for more information.

Updates will be provided before the next session begins.

OMNIA CAFE

Join us every Sunday at St. Andrew's United Church after worship for a time of fellowship, conversation, community, and discernment.

There will be plenty of coffee, tea, and snacks to enjoy

Silver Circuits Tech Club

October 14th & 28th, November 25th from 10 a.m. – noon

Come and share your technical issues and together 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.

To register, at no cost, please contact Shawn Fridgen by phone at: 613-623-8354 or email at: shawnfridgen@gmail.com

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.

September 16th, October 21st, November 18th, and December 16th. 10:30 a.m. to noon

The Local Social is a welcoming community initiative designed to bring neighbours together through local entertainment, conversation, and shared experiences. Join us for an open social gathering where you can enjoy local talent, meet new people, reconnect with familiar faces, and celebrate the spirit of our community.

The Local Social is a place to gather, belong, and enjoy what makes our community special. **September 24th, October 22nd, November 26th, and December 17th from 1p.m. - 3p.m.**

Don't Miss the Fun!

St. Andrew's United Church 186th Anniversary Celebrations

Anniversary Supper
October 24th from 4-7p.m.
Seating One at 4:30p.m.
Seating Two at 5:45p.m.

Anniversary Service
Sunday October 25th
Guest speaker Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek
Followed by Fellowship

Zion Cedar Hill United Church Halloween Fun Nite

October 31st from 5:30-8p.m.

Join us at Zion Cedar Hill for a night of costumes, treats, and Halloween fun

.

Come enjoy a relaxed morning of good food, great conversation and fellowship with friends

The last Monday of every month
10a.m. at Cenntenial Restaurant

Everyone is Welcome!

Carols and Cookies

Join us at **Zion Cedar Hill on December 12th from 3–5 p.m.** for a festive afternoon of **carol singing, fellowship, warm cider, and a cookie exchange!**

Enjoy some Christmas music, warm up with a cup of cider, and share in the joy of the season with friends and neighbours. And, of course, don't forget your favourite cookies (in packages of 6) to share in our cookie exchange!

Sponsored by St. Andrew's OMNIA Family Events

St. Andrew's United Church
Pumpkin Carving Party

Sunday October 25th
from 2 - 4p.m.

Join Us at St. Andrew's for our annual Pumpkin Carving Party. Enjoy carving, snacks and scary music at this fun-filled family event sponsored by OMNIA

Saturday November 28th

Free Skate
6 – 8 p.m.
Stewart Community Centre

Resfreshments and Games
6 – 9 p.m.
St. Andrew's United Church

Saturday, December 5 at 1 - 3 p.m.
Following the parade join us at St. Andrew's for a Christmas movie, *"The Polar Express"* and popcorn

November 29 2026
Advent

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

Season 3 of Camp Omnia will be held

August 17th to 19th, 2027
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Stay tuned for more information.

AEDs at Zion and St. Andrew's

We're pleased to share that both Zion and St. Andrew's now have AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) on site.

At **Zion**, the AED is located **outside the church**. At **St. Andrew's, there are two AEDs**—one outside and another downstairs in the Dining Hall.

This was made possible, in part, through grants from the **O.F.A. & United Church Regional Council Extension** and **generous donations from the Pakenham Civitan**, which helped provide the outdoor AED cabinets. We are also grateful to **Laurie Boon**, who donated in memory of her parents, **Mary-Ellen and Gerry Boon**.

We are very thankful to everyone who helped make these important safety resources possible.

Youth Spotlight

We're excited to celebrate one of our youth, **Emilie Desmarias-Mastro**, who has illustrated a book.
Congratulations to Emilie on this wonderful achievement!

A Word from Emilie

I'm very excited to share a special project I recently had the opportunity to be part of. I illustrated a children's book called *Journeying With Jesus*, a story created to help children learn about Jesus and experience His love in a way that is meaningful and accessible to them.

Loreley Czech, who wrote the book, was such a joy to work with and illustrating her story was a blessing. She told me about how she had put off writing it for years, when one day she distinctly felt God encouraging her to start and ended up writing the whole thing that very day!

I received the opportunity to read *Journeying With Jesus* at Camp OMNIA this year, which sparked many interesting conversations between the kids. They also had a fun time with the "stop, kneel and pray" portions of the book, acting out the movements.

It makes a great read for kids ages 4 to 8, and children slightly older will also enjoy taking the simpler topics and discussing them deeper.

Also, for sale are illustrated bookmarks to go with your book!
Send me an email at emilie.mastro.desmarais@gmail.com to arrange to purchase your copy!

How You Can Help

Calling All Bakers!

Is your oven looking for a reason to get to work? We'd love your help filling our freezer with **cookies, squares, and mini muffins** for upcoming Pastoral Charge events!

Having a freezer stocked with tasty treats means we're always ready to offer a warm welcome at socials, meetings, community events, and special gatherings.

Please package your baking in freezer-friendly bags, label it with a date and “for hospitality” and bring it to the church office or any Sunday service.

Together, we can keep the coffee on, the treats flowing, and the spirit of hospitality alive—one cookie at a time!

Help Us Declutter!

We’re looking for a few willing helpers who can spare some time to help with **decluttering and organizing the church**. There are areas that could use a little attention, and many hands make light work!

Whether you can give an hour or a few hours, your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have some time to spare and would like to lend a hand, please let us know.

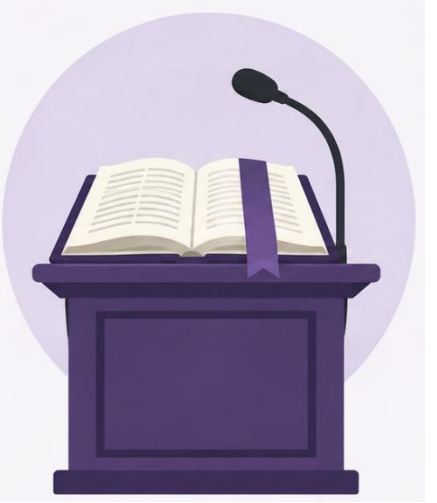
Every bit of help makes a difference!

Scripture Readers

Would you be willing to take a turn as a Scripture reader during worship? You don't need to commit to every week—occasional readers are very welcome!

There are especially opportunities during Advent and Lent but any help throughout the year is appreciated.

If you would like to participate, please let us know. We would love to have you share your voice in worship!



Singers Wanted

Do you enjoy singing? We are always happy to welcome people who would like to share their voices in worship.

You don't have to commit to singing every week—even joining us occasionally would be a wonderful contribution.

We especially appreciate extra voices during Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Advent, & Christmas. If you're interested in singing with us, please let us know!

From time-to-time scriptures lend themselves to being illustrated through shadow puppetry. It takes a few short practices to work with the puppets before the Sunday Service. There are no lines to memorize and yet the work is memorable and allows us to understand the story in vivid and interesting ways.
If this appeals to you, please let Rev. Sheryl know and she will work with you to be part of this interesting ministry.

PAR (pre-authorized remittance), is a way to financially support the Community of Faith (Zion and St. Andrew's United Churches) with a monthly contribution.

Did you know you can support our church from the comfort of home?

Donations can be made easily by e-Transfer. Simply send your donation to st.andrews.pakenham@outlook.com or zioncedarhill@outlook.com

Include your name and any details needed to direct your gift.

Every donation, big or small, helps support the ministry and work of our Pastoral Charge. Thank you for helping us keep our churches and community programs going!

Upcoming Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated all meetings are held in Stewart Hall.

St. Andrew's Executive Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 23, 2026/7:30p.m.

St. Andrew's Worship and Life Committee
Wednesday, September 30 from 1:00 to 3:00pm

Ottawa Valley Minister Discernment Group
Wednesday, September 30 from 7:30 to 9:00pm
This meeting is for those interested in figuring out the position of our minister in the future.

Zion Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 24, 2026/10 a.m.
At Cora Merchand's Home

Pastoral Charge Meeting
Tuesday December 01, 2026/7:30 p.m.

Lost and Found Items

We have several items which have made their way to the lost and found – several pairs of children's mittens, women's gloves, a Spider-man water bottle, a red water bottle and a pink water bottle, many pairs of glasses, scarves, a black toque, an umbrella and two black baseball hats…

If you are missing something or know someone who has, please check the box found at the entrance to the sanctuary.

All items will be donated at the end of October.

Fridge Notes

Date	Description	Notes
Sept 20	Creation 2	
Sept 27	Creation 3	Guest Speaker Gabriel Alalade
Oct 04	Creation 4	Worldwide Communion Service
Oct 11	Creation 5	Thanksgiving Service
Oct 18	Pentecost 21	World Food Sunday – Blessing of the Harvest
Oct 25	Pentecost 22	Joint @ St. Andrew's (Anniversary Service)
Nov 01	Pentecost 23	Rev. Sheryl Away on Study Leave
Nov 08	Pentecost 24	Remembrance/Peace Sunday
Nov 15	Pentecost 25	
Nov 22	Reign of Christ	Ecumenical Service at St. Mark's Anglican
Nov 29	Advent 1	Communion Service – OMNIA SUNDAY
Dec 06	Advent 2	
Dec 13	Advent 3	White Gift Service
Dec 20	Advent 4	
Dec 24	Christmas Eve	4:30pm Family Service 7:30pm Candlelight Service
Dec 27	Christmas 1	Joint @ Zion United
Jan 03	Christmas 2	
Jan 10	Epiphany 1	
Jan 17	Epiphany 2	

Fall Guest Speakers

September 27th – Gabriel Alalade
Gabriel Alalade is an Associate Pastor with Northmount Baptist Church in Calgary, Alberta. Originally from Nigeria, Gabriel came to Canada in 2003 when he began his studies at Queens School of Theology. Since then he went on to earn two further degrees before he moved to Calgary in 2013. He is married with two sons. Gabriel will speak to us on faith and it's impact on the immigrant experience.

October 25th – Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek
Rev. Mary Royal-Duczek is a minister with The United Church of Canada. She currently affiliated with Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council as the Community of Faith and Network Support Minister. Currently she is guiding Communities of Faith in the Ottawa Valley Area of the Region through a process of discovering ministry in the current context. She is St. Andrew's Anniversary Guest Speaker.

PPC Office Hours and Contact Information

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
If you need to see Rev. Sheryl, please leave a message to ask for an appointment or send her an email at
pakenham.pastoral.charge.minister@outlook.com

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