



ST. ANDREW'S  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 21, 2024

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord. – Luke 2:11*

Dear Members, Adherents & Friends of St. Andrew's:

In a *Peanuts* cartoon strip, Charlie Brown is reading the Christmas story: "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled." Charlie pauses and turns to Maurice to explain, "Caesar Augustus was the Emperor of Rome and the most powerful person on earth! One night in the little town of Bethlehem, a child was born, but no one paid any attention. After all, he was born in a common stable. Who would have thought that this child one day would be revered by millions while Caesar Augustus would be almost forgotten?" Peppermint Patti interrupts and says, "No one paid any attention when I was born either, but now everyone loves me, and I'm gonna get so many presents for Christmas, it'll make your head spin!" Charlie turns to leave, Bible closed, and Patti says, "Hey! Aren't you gonna finish the story?" Charlie Brown replies, "I think you have already finished it...."

*"I'm gonna get so many presents for Christmas, it'll make your head spin!"* Of course these "so many presents" need to be paid for. Toward this end, one writer has observed, "Anyone who thinks Christmas doesn't last all year doesn't have a Master or VISA Card." In the comic strip *For Better or For Worse*, Elizabeth sings a song which her mother is sure was taught to her by her father: "Later on, we'll perspire / As we stare at the fire / An' face so afraid the bills left unpaid / Walking in a winter wonderland."

Christmas is the season for presents and gifts. They come to us in all shapes, sizes and colours, and they come to us hidden under the cover of Christmas wrapping paper, all tied nicely together with a bow. We give them, and we receive them. And sometimes the gifts need to be returned, as they are not the right size or model, and we hope that they can be exchanged in order for us to enjoy and use. The wrapped gifts have a sense of mystery attached to them. We simply don't know what the gift is, and so we pick it up, if it can be picked up, and shake it, turn it around and around and even attempt to see through the wrapping paper as we try to solve the mystery.

At Christmas, God gives us His gift, a baby born in the city of David, Bethlehem. Mary, his mother, wrapped him in swaddling clothes as she held him and then laid him in a manger. This gift, too, has a sense of wonder and awe to it. What is this gift to us? We can't shake or turn it around or see through the wrapping. Nor do we need to! All we need to do is accept this gift like we do with the gifts we receive at Christmas from loved ones and friends. We open ourselves to receive the gift of God's Son to us, a Saviour which is Christ the Lord. What a gift!

*(See next page)*

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This year, the Special Christmas Offering has been designated by Session to update technology for the Church. Some of the updates are for the Sanctuary; others are for lighting upgrades with cameras around the building as we seek to provide extra security. These special offering envelopes are available at the Church during the Advent/Christmas season.

In closing, I pray that God bless our congregation of St. Andrew's, you, your family and friends, as we prepare together in Advent to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. May God bless you and yours for the New Year in 2025.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Fulfilling New Year,



The Reverent Wayne J. Baswick  
Interim Moderator, Stated Supply

### Advent & Christmas 2024 at St. Andrew's

*All are welcome to join us for these seasonal worship services and events.*

|                           |                    |   |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 1</b>     | 10:30 am           | <b><i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent - Hope</i></b><br>We will celebrate Communion by Distribution.  |
| <b>Tuesday, Dec. 3</b>    | 12:30 pm           | <b><i>Women's Missionary Society (WMS) Holiday Potluck Lunch</i></b><br>Please bring a dish that serves 5 to 6 people.                                |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 8</b>     | 10:30 am           | <b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Peace</i></b>   |
| <b>Wed., Dec. 11</b>      | 7:30 pm            | <b><i>Blue Christmas</i></b><br>A service in the Parlour for those missing lost loved ones or feeling blue this season.                               |
| <b>Friday, Dec. 13</b>    | 7:00 pm            | <b><i>Christmas Karaoke</i></b><br>Join us for a festive evening of carolling, karaoke-style!   |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 15</b>    | 10:30 am           | <b><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent - Joy</i></b><br>The Church School will present a Pageant during the See & Hear portion of the worship service. |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 22</b>    | 10:30 am           | <b><i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Love</i></b>  |
| <b>Tuesday, Dec. 24</b>   | 4:00 pm<br>7:30 pm | <b><i>Christmas Eve</i></b><br>Christmas Eve Family Service<br>Traditional Lessons, Carols & Candlelight Service                                      |
| <b>Wednesday, Dec. 25</b> |                    | <b><i>Christmas Day</i></b><br>Church Offices & Food Bank closed  |
| <b>Thursday, Dec. 26</b>  |                    | <b><i>Boxing Day</i></b><br>Church Offices closed   |
| <b>Sunday, Dec. 29</b>    | 10:30 am           | <b><i>Worship Service</i></b>   |