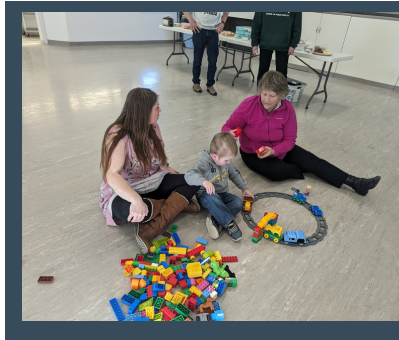




ST. ANDREW'S



CD Team Celebrating The New Year!

The Christian Development Team finally got together to celebrate the new year! Previous attempts had failed due to the weather.

IN THIS EDITION

Worship Themes For Lent
PAGE 2

"Lent"- Reverend Barbara
PAGE 3

Call For News Stories-Reverend Dave
PAGE 4

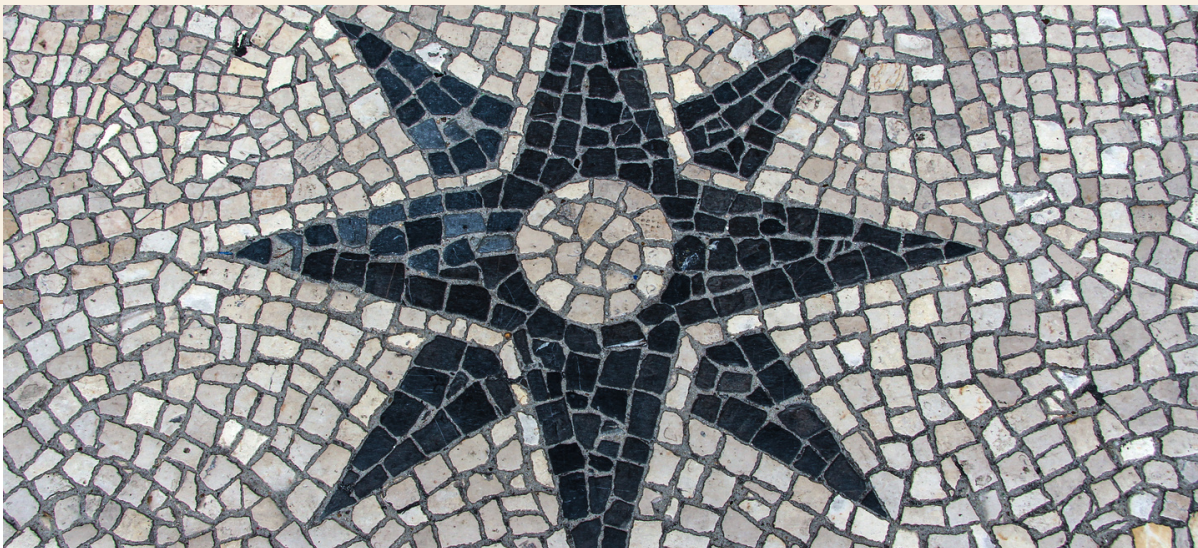
Congregational Life
PAGE 5

Mission & Service
PAGE 6

Legacy Fund/Composting Workshop
PAGE 7

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
PAGE 8

ST. ANDREW'S LENT NEWSLETTER



Worship Themes For Lent: The Secrets Of Happiness!



LENT 1: WONDER

The practice of taking a second look.

PSALM 19



LENT 2: GRATITUDE

Our practice was this prayer: Thanks, God - I love you too!

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9

THESSALONIANS 5:16-18



LENT 3: REFLECTION

The practice of discernment. How do we listen carefully to both each other, and to God?

PSALM 1



LENT 4: SERVICE

Happiness is about giving in a way that makes life worthwhile. What's your calling in life right now?

ISAIAH 58:6-14



LENT 5: PIE DAY WORSHIP

PIE in the public square. What is the public side of our affirming ministry?

EPHESIANS 2:11-22



PALM SUNDAY

We're actually happiest when we're NOT seeking our own happiness!

MARK 8:

MARK 11:1-11



GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the cross in the news of the world.



EASTER SUNDAY

Resurrection is new life, not our old life back again.

JOHN 20:1-18

ST. ANDREW'S LENT NEWSLETTER



“LENT”

REVEREND BARBARA

We are in the season of Lent. (Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls 40 days prior to Easter. Sundays are not included in the count of these days, as each Sunday is a “little Easter”, meant to celebrate resurrection)

I wonder where does your mind go when you hear the word ‘Lent’.

Do you think of giving up good things, restricting fun and living a less vibrant life?

Do you think observing Lent is a Roman Catholic tradition we in the United Church want to pay less attention to?

Full disclosure, I am a passionate Lent person, and no, I don’t have Roman Catholic roots, but in thanksgiving for shared Christian practices do celebrate the liturgical calendar with all its seasons.

Traditionally, Lent invites us to honour the spiritual practices of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. But in a 2024 interpretation of those time-honoured observances, how about making time and space for the Holy in a way that answers to this particular Lent: sharing a favourite grace or meal blessing with your niece, giving time to another one in your circle of life, adding gratitude to each day and...

Just imagine how this Lent can be transformed by each of us picking up even one spiritual practice. I asked earlier where does your mind go when you hear the word ‘Lent’, now I am wondering where will your heart go this season of Lent?

*“May you see God’s light on the path ahead,
When the road you walk is dark,
May you always hear, even in the hour of sorrow,
The gentle singing of the lark,
When times are hard may hardness
Never turn your heart to stone,
May you always remember when the shadows fall -
You do not walk alone.
-Celtic Blessing-*

ST. ANDREW'S LENT NEWSLETTER



CALL FOR SIGNIFICANT NEWS STORIES FROM THE PAST YEAR

REVEREND DAVE



As we approach Good Friday and Easter, I'd like to know where in this world you see Good Friday and Easter actually "lived out?"

- What news stories from the past year make you think that Christ is still being crucified in this world?
- What news stories give you hope of resurrection?

We'll be trying to incorporate these into our Holy Week worship experiences. So please help me out! Send your ideas to me at dave.st.andrewslacombe@gmail.com.



Tax receipts have been mailed out. If you didn't receive one, please contact Shannon at shannonepp@shaw.ca or contact the office at office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca

ST. ANDREW'S LENT NEWSLETTER



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

TILLY MEYER

St. Andrew's Congregational Life's new members, Ko and Geke (Chair) Bruninig, Tilly Meyer (secretary) and Dave Hnatiuk (Board Rep).

The group have held their first meeting and are excited to bring Congregational Life activities up to date and on the go.

This year we will be working on a new 2025 Church Directory, it will be ready before the end of this year, photo dates May 9, 10 & 11 2024. For info contact Tilly. More news on that in the near future.

Anyone that knows of members of our Congregation that are celebrating special milestones: Birthdays 90, 95, 100, Anniversaries 50, 60, and 70 years, we would also appreciate names of grade twelve students graduating this year, please let Tilly or Geke know.



EASTER EGG HUNT

(All Ages)

Monday April 1, 2024 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Easter Egg Hunt, games, snacks, coffee and fellowship.

We hope many people from our church family join us for this eggciting event, but be on the look out for some April Fools fun!

ST. ANDREW'S LENT NEWSLETTER



GOD'S MISSION OUR GIFTS

MISSION & SERVICE

As February draws to a close, I am pleased to share the 2023 contributions for Mission and Service. We would like to thank all the Communities of Faith who forwarded their contributions on time allowing our finance team to provide us with these numbers earlier than in previous years. We would also like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the ongoing and generous support you have given to Mission and Service.

There is good news to report. The Mission and Service contributions by Congregations, UCW and Special Donations all exceeded budget and the totals for these three areas, sitting at \$17,090,056, were slightly over the 2022 actuals of \$17,062,694. In addition, out of the 19 regions, only one was under the 2022 contributions and that was by a small amount.

The amounts raised for Mission and Service from Direct Gifts, Foundation Gifts and Legacies were below budget, as well as below the 2022 actual amounts. The total for these three areas in 2023 was \$3,741,507, which was below the 2022 actuals of \$4,069,520.

For this initial report, the total for Mission and Service from these areas was \$20,831,564. This compares favourably to the total budget of \$20,225,000, and is close to the 2022 actual amount raised of \$21,132,213.

A final figure, that will include additional Mission and Service elements, will be provided in June in the Accountability Report. At that point the financial audit will be complete and final amounts will be allocated to the Strategic Plan elements.

I would like to thank all of you for your efforts in 2023. It was the first year that could reasonably be called 'post-pandemic' and many things have changed. Your commitment to Mission and Service funding means that the programs can continue and the families and children that need our support can continue receiving it.

In Christ,

Sarah Charters
Executive Officer of Philanthropy, United Church of Canada

ST. ANDREW'S LENT NEWSLETTER



LEGACY FUND UPDATE

DOUG MAAS

Disbursements have been made to The Broom Tree Foundation Ltd., Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter and the Mission and Service Fund - Palestine Fund as approved at the annual general meeting in late January.

The congregational portion of \$1,150.00 has been carried over to next year as there was no motion to dedicate the funds.

Already in 2024, we have received \$2,700.00 in new donations to The Legacy Fund that have been deposited.

As well, ideas to use the carry over \$1,150.00 and eligible new funds this year have been received. Ideas include: to assist worship with resources for the 100th anniversary of the United Church in 2025, perhaps purchase a tree to be planted for future Light Up The Night evenings and costs for a new church directory in 2025.

If you want more information on The Legacy Fund or want to know how you can make a donation to it, please contact Doug Maas at 403-318-5733.

St. Andrew's Green Team Is Hosting A
COMPOSTING WORKSHOP
5226 51st AVE, Lacombe AB

SUNDAY
24
MARCH
2024

1-3 PM

FREE!

DOOR PRIZES!

- Improve Soil Health
- Save Money
- Reduce Waste
- Reduce Methane Emissions From Landfills

Presented By:
Jennifer Neufeld

For Further Info. Contact: 403-782-7063

St. Andrew's Green Team will be hosting a Composting Workshop on Sunday, March 24 at the church. The workshop is free of charge and there will be door prizes!

ST. ANDREW'S LENT NEWSLETTER



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

