***St. Andrews United Church and***

***New Vision***

***Community Church***



60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519-631-4558

E-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com

Web site: [*www.standrewsunitedchurch.com*](http://www.standrewsunitedchurch.com)

Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s

Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Merna Edison

***July 27th, 2025***

**Welcome & Announcements -**

Welcome, everyone. Whether you’ve come from a busy week or a restful one, this is a time to breathe deeply, to be still, and to remember that God meets us in the beauty of summer, in the quiet, and in community. Let’s take a breath and settle in.

**Lighting the Christ Candle -**

We light a candle and remember this truth about Christ’s love: like a flame, Christ’s love doesn’t go out when we give it to others, it only grows and burns brighter.

**Let us be people who share freely the light and love of Christ. Amen.**

**Acknowledging Our Kinship -**

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land to live, there were people here. We acknowledge that many Nations of Indigenous people have lived on the land. We give thanks to this land, the territory of the Chonnoton, Haudenosonee, Ashinabwe and Lenee-Lenape. Today, this is the land of the Munsee-Delaware Nation, Oneida of the Thames and Chippewa of the Thames First Nationsand we commit to the stewardship of this land.

**Call to Worship -**

\*\*Leader:\*\* Come, all who are weary.

**\*\*People:\*\* We come to find rest in God.**

\*\*Leader:\*\* Come, all who thirst.

**\*\*People:\*\* We come to drink deeply of God’s presence.**

\*\*Leader:\*\* Come, all who long for peace.

**\*\*People:\*\* We come to be renewed.**

**Gathering Hymn - Come and Find the Quiet Centre - 374 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Leader:** Loving God, sometimes we get too busy.
We forget to stop and rest. We forget to listen for your voice.

**All:**
**We’re sorry for the times we tried to do everything on our own.
We’re sorry for the times we didn’t notice your gifts—
like sunshine, laughter, friends, and quiet moments.**

**Leader:**
You made us to enjoy life, to trust you, and to care for each other.

**All:**
**Help us let go of our worries. Help us to breathe deeply.
Help us to rest in your love. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

**Leader:**
God loves you—just as you are. When you’re tired, God gives rest.
When you’re sad or sorry, God gives grace. God’s love is always with us—no matter what.

So hear this good news: You are forgiven. You are free. You are deeply loved.

**All:**
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**All God’s Children - Oh those lazy, hazy days of Summer**

**Hymn - This is the Day - 412 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Psalm 46: 8-10, Matthew 11: 38-40**

**Meditation - Rest and Renewal**

**Hymn - Be Still, My Soul - 652 VU**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering -**

Like Jesus’ disciples, sometimes when we are asked to share, we look at what we have and fear it won’t be enough. Like passing loaves and fishes, when we trust in God, we find that generosity is not transactional—God’s abundance doesn’t fit into a ledger. Instead, when we share our financial gifts, we open ourselves up to transformation and to being part of a world transformed. Thank you for the gifts you give today, on PAR, or in another way.

**Offering Hymn - Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands - 537 VU**

**Dedication -**

Holy God, we offer ourselves with our gifts, knowing that you have a purpose for us and for them. Expand our limited vision to see new possibilities and trust that you will take our generosity to transform lives. May all we offer reach beyond our ideas and be of service to your kin-dom of love. Amen.

**A Moment for Concerns and Celebrations**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

God of sunshine and stillness,

We give you thanks for this summer day—

for warm breezes, green trees,

laughter shared, and moments of quiet.

Thank you for time to rest, to play, and to be together.

Thank you for your presence in all seasons of our lives.

God of compassion,

We bring to you our worries and our hopes.

We pray for people who are tired—

tired from work, from worry, or from pain.

We pray for those who are sick,

for those who are lonely,

and for anyone who feels left out or forgotten.

Be close to them, O God.

Let your love bring healing, comfort, and peace.

God of all creation,

Help us to care for your world—

for the earth, the animals, and one another.

Help us to live gently,

to love boldly,

and to walk in your way of peace.

In the name of Jesus, who shows us how to rest and how to love, we pray. Amen.

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn - In the Quiet Curve of Evening - 278 VU**

**Blessing and Commissioning -** As you go into this new week, may you walk lightly, breathe deeply, and notice God’s grace all around you. May you find moments of true rest and joy.

**Choral Amen**

***Announcements***



**Please remember August services are held at New Vision Community church starting at 9:45am.**

**Tevia would like everyone to know that snacks are not needed at this time for Day camp. However, juice is still needed. It can be one litre juice or frozen concentrate of any flavour . Thanks to everyone for their generosity.**

**Fresh Start Support Services as we prepare to host our Vacation Bible School from Monday, August 11th through Friday, August 15th at our program space located at 797 Talbot Street in St. Thomas.**

**VBS will run each day from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and we are in need of some more volunteers to serve as storytellers, craft helpers and snack time helpers.**

**If anyone from your congregation is interested in sharing their time and gifts with us during this meaningful week, we’d love to connect.**

**Those interested in volunteering with us can fill out our volunteer application on our website at**[**www.fsms.ca/volunteer**](https://fsms.us12.list-manage.com/track/click?u=85eed1e4702e0822d658ecf50&id=3071437590&e=7fdd613490)**.**

**Opera Meets Mexico- a Concert of Arias and Traditional Mexican Songs**

* **This Sunday July 27th at New Vision Community Church at 3pm.**
* **As well, on July 29th at Bayham United Church 9279 Duke Street, Stratfordville ON at 7pm.**

**Free will offering for both Concerts.**