**St.Andrews**

 **United Church**



**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558 e-mail:** **standrewsucgra@rogers.com**

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

**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/**

 **Merna Edison/Thomas Bee**

**June 11, 2023 Anniversary Sunday**

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# **WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

Good morning and welcome. Today we gather, celebrating our life together as a community of faith. With gratitude to those who have gone before.

We gather, looking ahead to our life together

    With anticipation as we step into the future.

We gather to worship and serve the living God

     the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey,

you are welcome here at St. Andrews United Church on our special Anniversary Sunday!

Today we celebrate 109 years of witness and worship in name of community!

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

**Candle Lighting**

We light this candle as a sign of God's Spirit at work in the world.

**May its light brighten our spirits, and may the light of God shining through us brighten the world.**

**Call To Worship**

We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,

    **Looking forward to see our path.**

We honour those who have gone before us,

    **Learning from their successes and failures.**

We celebrate who we are today,

  **And welcome the possibilities and opportunities before us.**

We gather to worship God,

      **the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.**

**Gathering Hymn** - **The Church is One Foundation VU331**

**Prayer of Confession**

Lord, we thank you for Your faithfulness in guiding and providing for this church through the years, during times of celebration and challenge. We ask for Your forgiveness for the ways in which we have not been faithful—in the past or in the present, as individuals and as a congregation—to Your Word and Your ways. Forgive us for our sins and shortcomings. Forgive us for not loving You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and for not loving our neighbours—and each other—as we ought. Forgive us for missed opportunities to follow You with a greater commitment of trust and faithfulness to the priorities and purposes that You intend for us. Give us a renewed desire for worshiping and serving You, our Great and Faithful God. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**:

Remember these words and have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is God’s faithfulness.

**Young at Heart - Looking Back**

**Hymn** - **Faith of Our Fathers - 580 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading - Luke 9: 51-62**

**Meditation -** *Looking Forward*

**Hymn - We Are Pilgrims - 595 VU**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

We are the church together, each of us an important part,
sharing in the responsibility to reach out to those in need,
to keep the building in good condition, and to pay the running costs.
As we consider what to give this morning, on our church’s anniversary,
we reflect on what this church,this congregation,
has meant to us over the years, to our families,
generations gone before us and generations growing up in our midst.
You each are the blessing, who brings life, love and possibility to this church. Our gifts this morning, reflect our love and commitment.

**Offering Hymn - Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow - 541 VU**

 Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

 praise God, all creatures high and low;

 give thanks to God in love made known:

 Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

**Offering Prayer**

God of joy,
thank you for all that we have.
Receive these gifts, given with joy
and thanksgiving.
May they support the work of the faithful
to bring justice and joy to all people.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

On this anniversary day we thank you, Lord,

for this community of faith.

We praise you for all the joy we have known in this fellowship, and we pray for all those who together

make up this community of your people,

so that our church may be a real home

for all who share its life.

We pray for those who bear responsibility for leadership:

that they may be guided by your wisdom and sustained by your strength.

We pray for our young people: for the Growing Youth Program, the children and teens of this community

We pray that they may grow in faith and renew the vision of the church.

We pray for those who work to enhance our worship: through singing and music,

through the reading of the scriptures,

through the arrangement of flowers,

through worship leadership, mailbox ministry and our livestream techs.

may they be channels of your grace and find joy in your service.

We pray for those who meet for the prayer shawl ministry, and for meditation, that through their devotion the whole fellowship may be enriched.

We pray for the groups that meet for friendship and recreation:

for Euchre, UCW, for our Outreach Groups like the Youth Choir and Alzheimer’s Outreach groups that in them people may find true fellowship and discover Christ in their neighbour.

We pray for all who maintain the fabric of our church: for

the building committee and the custodian, the paid and the volunteer and for all who hold office in the church,

may they be ever aware that they are workers in your kingdom.

We pray for all who use our premises,

that they may find us welcoming and hospitable.

Lord, we give you thanks for their work and witness

and we pray your blessing upon them.

Lord God, you have called us to share the joy and fullness of life that you give in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Grant that our church may be a blessing to all in this neighbourhood, so that more and more people may come to love and trust you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**The New Creed - (please stand if you are able)**

**Closing Hymn - Rejoice in the Lord Always - 249 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go into the world

Strengthened by the past,

Inspired by the opportunities before us, and

surrounded by the love of this amazing family of God!

Go out with joy to be God’s people today.

**Announcements**

**Upcoming**

**June 14 Euchre at 1:30pm**

**Strawberry Social on June 23rd at St. Andrews from 5-6:30pm. Menu consists of Hashbrown casserole, Ham, Coleslaw, and Strawberry Shortcake. Tickets are $20, no tickets at the door. Please call 519-615-2325 to reserve your ticket.**

