

Worshipping together - joint services with St. Andrew's

This year at St. David's, one of the areas we will be focusing on is our relationship with our sister Presbyterian Congregation, St. Andrew's (also commonly known as the Kirk). There is currently no minister serving full-time at the Kirk, and their search committee continues to pursue new applicants. In these days, there are not many people choosing to enter into the ministry and the applications have been slow. Many churches across Canada face the same struggle, and though hundreds of churches are searching for a minister (and hundreds more are vacant without the funds to sustain one), our seminaries are not finding equal numbers of applicants rising to the task.

Their historic building downtown requires maintenance, which although there is no risk of catastrophe, is still beyond the long-term capacities of the current congregation, and so an amazing effort is underway to form an historic foundation that will take over the building. The Kirk has done amazing work at discovering grants and other ways to stretch every dollar, and the expertise they have gained through their hard work is something we could also benefit from here at St. David's.

After last year's visit to our churches from John Barrett, who works with Presbyterian congregations all across Canada, it was recommended that we take the simple step of gathering together more often, without agendas or set topics of discussion. In these days when churches and other similar social organizations are struggling to find sustainable relevance to a changing culture, the path forward lies in nurturing our friendships. Both of our churches recognize that the future will require new things from us, and reaching out with friendship and willingness to our closest brothers and sisters is an important part of being the welcoming and open church we want to be.

My hope is that as we get to know each other better, we will discover ways to mutually support each other. In an age when divisions seem to be deepening, we want to take a different path by building bridges instead of walls, and focusing on time together is a good first step to take with some of our closest brothers and sisters in faith. The prospect of adding more to our already busy church schedule is something we approach with caution. We do not want to burn out our volunteers, and I myself owe a great deal to the voices of wisdom who remind me of this fact. It is good to be a busy church, but it means we continue to need new helpers to grow our activities! Please consider if you would be willing to step up to help out with making food, doing set-up, serving, or clean-up for meals in our church hall. The more helpers we have the greater our dreams can be, the work is easily learned, and the friendship formed in working together is worth it! We will provide all the instruction and mentorship you need. This year, may we make new friends and find our family growing. In the family of Christ, we are so much less alone than we think. We are part of a Family that is bigger than St. David's, a Family that lives all around our city and even around the world. What Good News that is for us!

Rev. David Sturtevant

Bridges to Hope - Special Meeting of the Members on February 2, 2026:

Bridges to Hope will hold a special meeting of the members to approve proposed changes to the bylaws on Monday, February 2, 2026. The brief meeting will take place at 5:30 pm via Zoom, and is open to members of the corporation, volunteers, clients, ministers of the member churches, and any and all interested parties. Only directors and identified voting delegates of member

churches are entitled to vote on any motions. The proposed changes will be circulated in advance to those who have expressed interest in attending. If you plan to attend please contact, Heather Steele Morrissey, board member for St. David's c/o stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com thank you.

Bridges to Hope ~ Annual Statistics for 2025

*Bridges to Hope is committed to providing **dignified** and **accessible** assistance to those experiencing food insecurity. Our vision is a community where all of our neighbours have access to **nutritious** and **culturally-appropriate** food.*

17,910 - Total Food Bank visits.

5,541 – Unique individuals served

31.1% - of visits were children

7.1% - of visits were seniors

900 - K-12 Students received fully-packed backpacks

665 - Households received Holiday Hampers

MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, January 25

Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, MB, led by the Rev. Margaret Mullin and the dedicated clerk and Session, continues to grow in numbers despite the many losses experienced by those attending and connected to this special congregation. Meeting each Sunday afternoon in the hall at St. John's Presbyterian Church, this congregation boasts a very large number of children, and the room is filled with music, caring and joy each week. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, as are all eight of the NIMC (National Indigenous Ministry Council) ministries, the connections this ministry has made with its membership provide, as the name suggests, a place of hope and true belonging for its membership.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, January 25 We pray for the congregation at Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, for its session and for its minister, the Rev. Margaret Mullin.

Monday, January 26 (World Leprosy Day) We thank God that people living with leprosy in Nepal and India are being guided toward health, healing and hope through the support of PWS&D and its partners.

Tuesday, January 27 We pray for ministers who are on long-term disability, that they may experience the care of our loving God and the support of caring people in their lives.

Wednesday, January 28 God of peace, protect all who suffer persecution and hate because of their faith. Unite us across traditions to stand for dignity and love.

Thursday, January 29 We pray for wisdom and strength for members of the National Indigenous Ministries Council as they work to advise committees and courts of the church about the critical work of truth, healing and reconciliation.

Friday, January 30 Gracious God, we pray for members of the Atlantic Mission Society who may face loneliness and isolation in these winter months.

Saturday, January 31 We pray for God's peace for people living with dementia as they struggle with fear and confusion, and for all those who love them and care for them.