

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
73 Queen Street East,
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519-658-2652

Rev. Scott McAndless: smcandless@standrewshespeler.ca

Email: office@standrewshespeler.ca

Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Online Worship for September 27

We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. The link will be sent out by email and posted (with a password) on the website. In addition, those who wish to may come and join us in the sanctuary. If you are coming, please let us know. You will be screened and registered when you arrive and you must wear a mask.

Call to worship (Microphones on)

L: Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus.

P: He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

L: God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name,

P: So, at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

L: In our worship, we bring glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

P: We humble ourselves in praise, and offer ourselves in service in Jesus' holy name.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Steadfast God, As the seasons change, we see that you are still at work in the world, transforming hearts and situations. We praise you for all you do to repair injustice, bringing peace to places of hostility, working for goodness to prevail among neighbours and nations. You have shown us the true face of power in Jesus Christ, reaching out with healing and hope to touch desperate lives. Let us see the face of Jesus in this time of worship, and fill us with renewed energy and insight this autumn, so that we can join in your work to bring justice and joy into the world you love in Jesus' name. Amen.

P: Lord of love, today we confess our sin of indifference. Too often we turn away so we don't have to see pain, suffering or injustice, even when the evidence is right before our eyes. We don't like to feel uncomfortable. We don't want to feel responsible. In your great mercy, forgive us, Lord. Teach us a new way to live. Give us courage to love others as you love us, and to respond to the cries of others with the humility we have witnessed in Jesus. Amen.

L: The prophet Micah declared that God requires of us these three things: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. To all who reject indifference and humbly seek reconciliation with God and neighbour, God offers forgiveness and peace. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you.

Responsive Psalm 25:1-9 (Microphones on)

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

P: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

L: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

P: let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

L: Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

P: teach me your paths.

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

P: for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

L: Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

L: Good and upright is the LORD;

P: therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

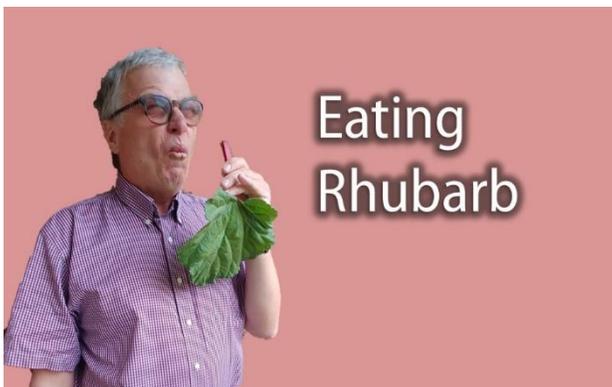
Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 (see below)

Celebration of our Generosity

Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Sermon: Rev. Scott McAndless will preach a live sermon over Zoom. The sermon title is:



Benediction





There are some goodies in the mailbox at the church (the one marked bulletins) that anyone is free to pick up. You will find:

The Sept/Oct edition of Today

The Sept-November edition of Our Daily Bread

The fall issue of Presbyterian Connection

And printed copies of Scott's most recent sermon each week.

Session News

The session of St. Andrew's Hespeler met last week and we would like to update you on a few important decisions:

- **The session has decided to call a congregational meeting on October 4, 2020 after worship.** The meeting will be held virtually and those who are in the sanctuary that morning may also participate. This meeting has been called because the Annual Meeting could not be held this year and we have not met at all during 2020. We will do a few essential things (like adopt the 2019 reports), but also just take some time to check in with each other. Please plan to participate if you can. 2019 reports are printed and available at the church (the office is open Monday to Friday mornings) and Elders and Deacons are asked to pick up copies for others if they can. If anyone would like a PDF copy of the report to be sent to them, please let us know. A PDF version is available online. If you would like to access the report from our website (www.standrewshespeler.ca) you will need to ask Scott or Joni for the password.

Worship

For the foreseeable future, we will continue to worship as we have been, with many present online and some present in the sanctuary. If you would like to attend in person, please let us know so that we can plan to make your visit safe. **We have made some changes to the equipment we will use for our zoom worship. This should solve our sound issues.** Thank you to Jason McClellan for helping us out and lending us his equipment.

Next Sunday will be a celebration of world communion. Due to pandemic restrictions, you are requested to supply your own elements (bread and wine/juice) both if you are worshipping with us from home or in the sanctuary.

**Mission Moment – Sunday, September 27 -
Presbyterians Sharing: Together we are
making a difference!**

(Presbyterians Sharing Sunday)

New church development. Partnership. International mission staff. Theological colleges. Healing and reconciliation. Leadership development. Congregational support. And so much more! Today, on Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, we celebrate the generosity of congregations across Canada who support our church's mission and ministry. As we encourage and equip one another and teach about love, faith, and hope, we are proclaiming the good news of the gospel, in Canada and around the world.

Presbyterians Sharing proclaims the good news of the Gospel.



Prayer Partnership

Monday, September 28 We pray for those in mission fields overseas and for those supporting them here in Canada.

Tuesday, September 29 We pray for the Rev. Susan Mattinson who serves the Presbytery of Superior as the clerk and in many other roles.

Wednesday, September 30 (Orange Shirt Day) We pray for children, especially in Indigenous communities across the country.

Thursday, October 1 We give thanks for music leaders, choir members, technicians and others who give of their time and their talent to lead worship.

Friday, October 2 We pray for ministers, elders and professional church workers who have been serving Christ faithfully and creatively in this time of change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Saturday, October 3 We pray that the committees and agencies of our church are blessed with wisdom as they work to unite the church in Christ.

Please Note: All church activities have been suspended until further notice. If you have questions or concerns, or if we can support you in any way, please contact us by calling the church (messages are checked regularly) or email us at office@standreshespeler.ca. We care about you! You are not alone!

Announcements

Sunday School News!

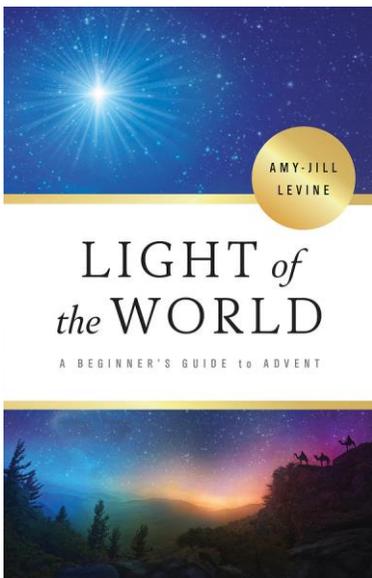
On Sunday mornings 3 links will be posted on our website

1. for our younger Sunday School children, **Little Explorers**, I will be posting a “read aloud”. This is for anyone who would like to listen to a story.
2. for **The Divine Detectives**, I will record and post every Sunday our story, bible reading and prayer.
3. for **The Holy Sherlocks**, a lesson will be posted every week as well. This lesson includes an audio link to the short story, prayers, bible readings and an activity to do at home with your family.

If you are bringing your children to church with you, please let me know, so that I can prepare some quiet, engaging activities that coordinate with our service for any of our Sunday School children. Just send me an email, Joni, jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca or call the church and leave a message for me.

WMS Presbyterial

The WMS Presbyterial will NOT be packing vests on September 30th due to rising numbers of Covid.



Advent is approaching (I know, it isn't even officially fall yet!) and it's time to think about joining an Advent reading club. We are going to read “Light of the World, a Beginner's Guide to Advent” by Amy-Jill Levine. There are several options to participate in this reading. You can read solo. I will be sending out study notes weekly to those who wish to have them. We can start our own online book study (for just St. Andrew's readers) and we can join Presbyterians Read on Facebook. Copies of the book are available on kindle. I will be ordering hard copies soon. Please let me know if you intend to join so I can order your copy for you. (The cost will be \$20 per book, but if you need help with this expense, please also let me know). Please let me know as soon as you can so that we can get our books on time. You can call the church and leave a message or email me, Joni, at jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca.

Dates & events to keep in mind:

- **Anniversary “Dream Auction” will be launched on November 8 and will culminate on Saturday, November 14.** This year the Dream Auction will only be by “silent” auction and will be held virtually. We are going to be using a “real time” platform that will allow some friendly ‘out-bidding’ of items. Even though we are not able to gather in person this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another and have some fun. Donations of prizes would be gratefully accepted. Please speak with Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca) or Donald Paddock if you have any items to donate.



Welcome to St. Andrew's Handcrafters' Market

Saturday, November 21, 2020; 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Handcrafters' Market Information



The list of vendors will be updated

Artisans' Photos



About St. Andrew's



St. Andrew's is situated in the heart of the

The Christian Education Committee's **Annual Handcrafters' Market will be held VIRTUALLY on November 21st, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.** On November 21st you will be able to access a link, from our website, to the Handcrafters' Market website. From there you can visit a wonderful array of local artisans' shops: Debbie Ellis Watercolours, Crafty Creatures by Ainsley Inglis, The Little Orange Fox, Baths Gone Wild, Lori Wolf-Heffner – author, Quarter Notes & Creations, Elaine Ferdinandi Original Watercolours and many more!

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the

death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out

your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him,

but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.