

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

January 31, 2021

4th Sunday after Epiphany

St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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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 January 31

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 on the website. The sanctuary is closed for in-person worship until the province revises its orders.

Call to worship

L: God's praise endures forever,

P: and eternity meets us in fleeting moments.

L: God's praise endures forever,

P: and glory bursts into ordinary activities.

L: God's praise endures forever,

P: and faith is steadfast even in the midst of change and challenge.

L: Let us worship the Eternal God who calls us to this time and place.

Prayers of approach and confession

L: Loving God, you are the wisdom behind all mystery, the glory hidden in all that makes us wonder, the strength in all that nourishes. When our eyes are open and our spirits alert, we experience your glory around us. Scattered throughout the earth, smouldering deep inside us, radiating in acts of love, sparks of your glory reside. Deep is our joy each time we encounter you. So we gather in worship to express our reverence and praise. Together we celebrate the good we have experienced, knowing it all comes from your hand, Gracious God.

P: And yet, we are strangely resistant to your grace. There are so many times we turn from you, O God. We forget that food for body and soul comes from your goodness. We

focus on what troubles us and ignore the help and healing you offer. We seek wisdom and meaning in the wrong places. We confess we can be cruel, harming the earth, other living beings, and one another. Forgive us. Open our eyes to your wonder and wisdom. Give us the courage to live lives that overflow with your love for the sake of Christ who loves us. Amen.

L: Hear the good news: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone away. A new life has begun.

P: Thanks be to God that we can make a new start, forgiven and set free.

Responsive Reading Psalm 111

L: Praise the LORD!

P: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

L: Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

P: Full of honour and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures for ever. He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;

L: the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

P: He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

L: The works of his hands are faithful and just;

P: all his precepts are trustworthy.

L: They are established for ever and ever,

P: to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

L: He sent redemption to his people;

P: he has commanded his covenant for ever. Holy and awesome is his name.

L: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

P: all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures for ever.

Ongoing life of the church

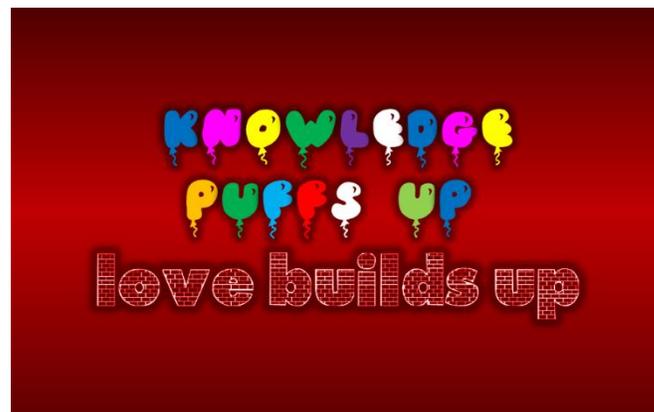
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (see below)

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 is free for anyone to pick up.

You will find:

- The new Jan/Feb edition of Today is now here!
- The Dec-January edition of Our Daily Bread
- The winter issue of Presbyterian Connection!
- Printed copies of this bulletin each week.
- Printed copies of Scott’s most recent sermon each week.

2021 Offering Envelopes are available. Please arrange to get yours.

Sunday School News!

Our weekly recordings will be posted every Sunday. Please check the website, Facebook & Twitter to find the weekly lesson, read-aloud or video for each group.

For families of young children, are you looking for some good videos, etc. that your children can watch? You could try these two YouTube channels: Waumba Land and Wondermore Kids.

HELP! Do you have any quart sized sealer jars that I could have? If you do please let me know. Once the stay-at-home directive is lifted we can arrange for a pick up or drop off. I need them for the beginning of Lent (the First Sunday in Lent is February 21, 2021). Thank you! ~Joni

(jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)

Who wants to have some fun? We will be hosting a **Scavenger Hunt** (suitable for everyone) on Saturday, February 13, 2021. Because we need to stay distanced this will be a PHOTO Scavenger Hunt. Photo proof will need to be submitted on February 13, so hopefully you have a way to take photos and send them in. There will be prizes, too! For complete directions or any information and to sign up, please contact Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca). On Sunday, February 14th, 10:50 (ish) am, we will stay on or join the worship zoom (and in person if allowed at that time), watch a fun slideshow and announce the winners.

We are in the process of planning for Lent and Easter and we all know that is going to be different again this year. Plans will involve staying connected in different ways; a Zoom dinner and conversation, interactive participation in worship (look for information on Lenten packages or suggestions coming soon)

Don't forget that we are still able to order gift cards from **Fundscrip**. This is a really easy way to support St. Andrew's. For information please contact Laura @ fundscrip@standrewshespeler.ca.

We will be participating in another online book study for Lent. We have not yet decided on which book to study. More information will be coming next week. If you have any interest in joining us, please speak with Joni (jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca).

Because of the new Stay-At-Home protocols, Paula will be in the office on Monday mornings only. She will work from home on the other days. If you need to reach her, please send an email, or call the church and leave a message, and she will get back to you.

The ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for Sunday, March 21st. Please mark your calendars! You can begin submitting your reports to Paula at office@standrewshespeler.ca at any time.

Very special next week:

During the Auction last fall, our minister put a sermon topic up for auction. The winning bidder would be able to choose the sermon topic or title of his/her choice. That item was won by Andy Cann, who has requested a sermon on "Storms" (How to survive them. How to come out of them stronger.) This sermon will be preached on February 7.



Mission Moment – January 31, 2021

Knowledge Nourishes Babies and Families

When Cristina Flete gave birth to her first baby, she wasn't aware of how crucial exclusive breastfeeding and developmental activities could be to her child's long-term health. When her second child was born, Cristina attended a workshop facilitated by Presbyterian World Service & Development's (PWS&D) local partner in Nicaragua. With other mothers, Cristina learned the importance of breastmilk for a child's developing brain and how to create materials to stimulate her child's mind. Additionally, culinary classes empower parents with tools to help with their families' overall health. With PWS&D support, families are combating malnutrition and chronic illness, giving their babies the best chance for a future of good health.



Prayer Partnership

Sunday, January 31 We celebrate in prayer that vulnerable families in Nicaragua are being empowered through PWS&D-supported programs to help with their babies' growth, and the overall health of their families.

Monday, February 1 We pray that God nurtures and grows our practice of hospitality so that we might offer our time to those in need of friendship and compassion more easily and often.

Tuesday, February 2 We give thanks and pray for all frontline workers who support and serve under difficult circumstances.

Wednesday, February 3 We pray for the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon, and for Dr. George Sabra, President of NEST, as the school continues its recovery efforts after the explosion in Beirut's port in August.

Thursday, February 4 We pray for church secretaries and custodians and all those who support the worship and mission of the church in ways that are too often overlooked.

Friday, February 5 We pray for all those affected by COVID-19, including international partners of Presbyterian World Service & Development who continue to respond.

Saturday, February 6 We give thanks for the people in our lives who have mentored and nurtured us in Christian faith and discipline.

Today's Lectionary Readings

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶ This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' ¹⁷ Then the LORD replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹ Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰ But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.'

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹ Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³ but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' ⁵ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷ It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹² But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Mark 1:21-28

²¹ They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴ and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they

obey him.'²⁸ At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.