

**St. Andrew's Hespeler
Presbyterian Church
July 4th, 2021
6th Sunday after Pentecost**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church
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Prayer Requests: prayerchain@standrewshespeler.ca

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm



Order of Online Worship for July 4. We will meet online for as long as people want to stay on at 10 am. The link will be posted on the website. This will be a communion service, so please prepare communion elements (bread and wine (or substitutes)) for each person who will join us. The sanctuary is presently closed for in-person worship.

Call to worship

L: Great is the Lord;

P: and greatly to be praised.

L: Praise God in the cities and towns,

P: and in all the quiet places.

L: Praise God on the mountains and hilltops;

P: and in every valley, on every plain and in the deeps.

L: We gather to raise our voices in praise with all God's creation;

P: let us praise God's holy name together, here and everywhere.

Prayer of Approach and Confession

L: Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised in all places and at all times. You have made all things and called them good. You created humans in your image. You gave us breath and life, a calling and a purpose. Filled with love for all creation, you lift up leaders and send out disciples to take part in your reconciling work in the world. Your love is endless, your mercy without measure, your faithfulness without limit. And so we praise you with all our strength, mind, heart and soul, in the name of Jesus, your Son, led by your Spirit who guides us day by day.

P: God of overflowing grace, we are a people blessed with abundance, and yet we take so much for granted. We do not recognize that

your gift of life is precious, and so we waste time on things that do not matter. Preoccupied with our own needs and desires, we close our eyes to the needs of those around us; we close our hearts to those who are not like us. We turn away from opportunities to learn and grow. In your mercy, forgive us, O God. Change our hearts and renew our calling to be bearers of your peace, and witnesses to the work of your kingdom.

L: While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, In Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

P: We will, thanks be to God!

Responsive Psalm 48

L: Great is the LORD

P: and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.

L: His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,

P: Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. Within its citadels God has shown himself a sure defence.

L: Then the kings assembled,

P: they came on together.

L: As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;

P: they were in panic, they took to flight; trembling took hold of them there, pains as of a woman in labour,

L: as when an east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

P: As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes for ever.

L: We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple.

P: Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

L: Your right hand is filled with victory.

P: Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgements.

L: Walk about Zion, go all around it, count its towers,

P: consider well its ramparts; go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God,

L: our God for ever and ever.

P: He will be our guide for ever.

Ongoing life of the church

Scripture: (other lectionary readings below)

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

¹ Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, 'Look, we are your bone and flesh. ² For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.' ³ So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. ⁴ David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty

years. ⁵ At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years.

⁹ David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inwards. ¹⁰ And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

Offertory: "No Night There"

Bill Hunter

Celebration of our Generosity

Celebration of Communion

- Invitation
- Presentation of the Elements
- Prayer of Thanksgiving
- Words of Institution
- Epiclesis
- Eating and Drinking Together

Message: "The Idea of a Nation"



Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

A Response to #215Children

To date this challenge has raised over \$1300.00 for various Indigenous ministries. This Sunday School challenge is also going out to all churches in our Presbytery. Our Sunday School has decided to do something concrete to remember and mark the discovery of 215 buried bodies of schoolchildren on the grounds of the **Kamloops Residential School**. In order to support the ongoing work of Healing and Reconciliation for Indigenous communities in Canada, they will be making a donation to Winnipeg Inner City Mission (WICM) in the amount of \$215.00 from their pop can money.

They would like to challenge the people of St. Andrew's and others to consider making similar donations (of the same amount or whatever the Spirit moves you to give) between now and Canada Day to show our commitment to work towards a better nation for all.

The challenge is also being passed on to other Sunday Schools and churches in our Presbytery to consider making similar responses.



Some indigenous-focussed organizations to consider supporting:

- One of the nine Indigenous ministries in the **Presbyterian Church in Canada** (including **WICM**)
- The **Woodland Cultural Centre** which educates people concerning the closest Residential School to us and its enduring impact
- **White Owl Native Ancestry Association** which provides counselling and assistance to local indigenous people.

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 Summer 2021 Newsletter
- The May/June edition of Today
- The June/July edition of Our Daily Bread
- The spring edition of Presbyterian Connection
- Printed copies of this bulletin each week.
- Printed copies of Scott's most recent sermon each week.

Other Lectionary Readings

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

² I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven— whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³ And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴ was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵ On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶ But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷ even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸ Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹ but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Mark 6:1-13

¹ He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. ² On the

sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, ‘Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offence at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.’ ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, ‘Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.’ ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Summer 2021 Newsletter is now out! It has been posted on the Web Page. Print copies are also available at the church – see the mailbox or the church office to pick one up. Any help taking copies to people who can't stop by or are not connected online would be greatly appreciated!

Summer Services

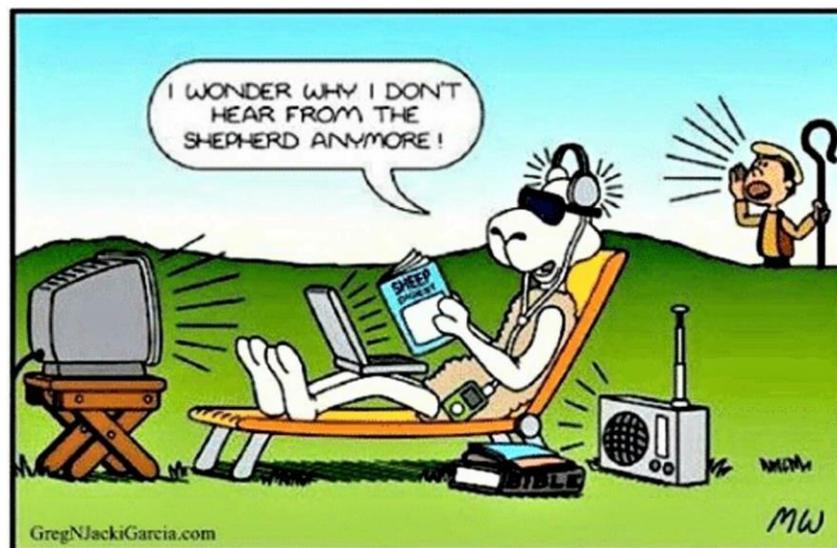
Throughout the pandemic, the session of St Andrew's Hespeler has sought to do our very best to follow public health guidelines from the region and the province. We have also sought to be very cautious and careful when it comes to protecting the people of our congregation. The province is presently allowing worship services to take place in person at up to 15% capacity of the sanctuary. If conditions continue to improve, we expect that that may soon be increased to 30%.

Nevertheless, we have not wanted to rush into welcoming people into the sanctuary, especially as case numbers remain stubbornly high in the Waterloo region. Last summer, we did experiment with having some people present in the sanctuary as we zoomed live with the rest of the congregation on. We are now in a technological position to be able to do that much better, but we do need to get some volunteers in place in order to make that work. So, if you are interested in coming or making it possible for some people to come in July, please contact us at the church and we will see what we can do.

Rev. Scott will take some vacation time for the last four weeks of August. We've been very fortunate to find two great preachers for those Sundays: recent seminary grad, Paula Rumbolt, and Clerk of Session, Steve Marsh. Given the complexities of putting together hybrid services during those weeks, we do anticipate that these services will be online only.

Joni Smith will once again be off in July as she has an 11-month position with the church.

The WMS is unable to send any pneumonia vests to India presently because of the pandemic which has been so severe there. We will let you know when we are able to ship again. Please continue to pray for India and remember former missionary, Pauline Brown, who continues to live there and serve the people. She, at 96, is still waiting for her first shot.



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- JOHN 10:27 NIV

Mission Moment - July 4, 2021

Protecting Frontline Health-Care Workers in Malawi

COVID-19 cases were increasing rapidly in Malawi in January 2021. Mphatso Nguluwe, Director at the Synod of Livingstonia Health Department, asked the PCC for help. There was an acute shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health-care workers at the David Gordon Memorial Hospital, which serves a population of 80,000 people. With funds from Presbyterians Sharing, the hospital purchased waterproof hazmat suits, heavy-duty gloves, gowns, face shields and essential drugs. Nurse Sella shared: "The availability of PPE enabled me to work wholeheartedly. After seeing so many of my fellow staff being infected with COVID-19 while on duty, it gave me chills to do my work. Now that we have the PPE, I am ready to work and save lives."

Prayer Partnership

Sunday, July 4 We give thanks and pray for the Synod of Livingstonia Health Department as it provides hospitals and frontline health-care workers in Malawi with essential supplies to save lives.

Monday, July 5 We pray for those who have medical issues related to COVID-19. May their caregivers provide healing.

Tuesday, July 6 We pray for people in India whose lives have been dramatically affected by a devastating second wave of COVID-19, and we give thanks for our partners who are responding to their immediate needs for hospital beds, essential medicines, and oxygen.

Wednesday, July 7 We pray for people living in long-term care and retirement homes who have been without visitors due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Thursday, July 8 We pray for chaplains in hospitals and long-term care homes as they offer comfort and support to the staff and residents.

Friday, July 9 After many months of living under pandemic restrictions, we pray that God will replenish us, in body, mind and soul.

Saturday, July 10 We give thanks and pray for Palestinian and Israeli organizations working towards a just and lasting peace in the troubled region.