

**St. Andrew's Hespeler  
Presbyterian Church  
September 26, 2021  
Presbyterians Sharing  
Sunday**

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
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Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca)

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12pm



**Order of Online Worship for September 26.** We will meet online for as long as people want to stay at 10 am. The link will be posted on the website. People may also attend in the sanctuary if they wish, with screening, masking, and social distancing still required. The session also requests people who attend in person be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 if they are eligible and it is medically possible.

**Call to worship**

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord our God,

**P: the maker of heaven and earth.**

L: God our Maker is present with us at all times,

**P: loving and gracious to all.**

L: So, we come to worship God as we follow in the way of truth.

**P: We offer our prayers and praise to the One who is freedom and life.**

Prayer of Approach and Confession

L: Holy One, Source, Story and Spirit of Love, You are perfect in wisdom. You are faithful in love. You are relentless in seeking reconciliation. When we feel alone, you offer community. When we face pain, you give healing. When danger surrounds us, you give us courage. When we work against each another, you urge peace. Holy One, you are the wellspring of grace and goodness. We come to worship you in gratitude for all you offer through Christ in the power of the Spirit. Receive our praise this day, and renew us to serve you in the world you love.

**P: Holy One, Your generous mercy became flesh in Jesus Christ. Yet we confess that often we hold grudges and cling to the past. We focus on what we lack and resent what others have. We turn a blind eye to what we**

**know is evil and fail to act for what we know to be good. Forgive our jealousies and resentments, and free us from any temptation to put others down. By your generous mercy, strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus' example day by day.**

L: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ—and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new by God's generous grace.

**P: Thanks be to God, Amen!**

**Hymn #670 Amazing Grace**

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me:  
this word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be,  
as long as life endures.

### Responsive Psalm 124

L: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side —let Israel now say—

**P: if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.**

L: Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

**P: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Ongoing life of the church

**Scripture:** (other lectionary readings below)

James 5:13-20

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one

another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Offertory: Introitus and Offertorium, by Gordon Young  
Martin Bohl

Celebration of our Generosity

Message: "Covid Prayers"







Prayers of the people (using chat to share requests)

Benediction

### Pastoral Care

There is some **good news** about pastoral care. The Cambridge Hospital is now allowing clergy visits for patients! Unfortunately, there is not yet a way for visiting clergy to look up on the list to see who might be in the hospital so, if you would like to request a hospital visit for a loved one, please do call the church to let us know that they are in the hospital.

			
<p><b>Best Ever Shortbread Cookies</b></p> <p>Lovingly baked by Jean McMurtrie</p> <p><b>\$20.00 CAD</b></p> <p>value: \$20.00 CAD</p>	<p><b>Black Forest Cake</b></p> <p>Lovingly Baked by Margret Hunter</p> <p><b>\$20.00 CAD</b></p> <p>value: \$30.00 CAD</p>	<p><b>Cheesecake</b></p> <p>Lovingly Baked by Joanne Waugh</p> <p><b>\$20.00 CAD</b></p> <p>value: \$30.00 CAD</p>	<p><b>Cheesecake</b></p> <p>Lovingly Baked by Joanne Waugh</p> <p><b>\$20.00 CAD</b></p> <p>value: \$30.00 CAD</p>

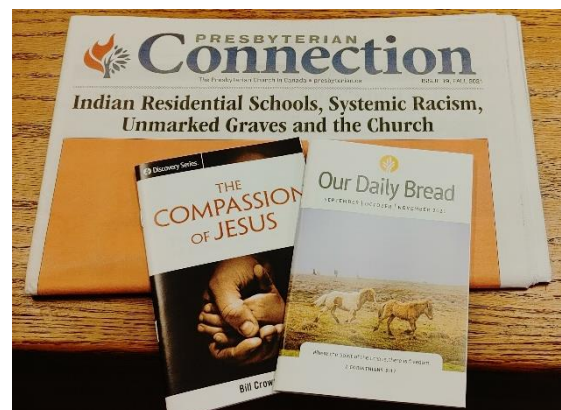
Our 166<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dream Auction will go live tomorrow, Monday, September 27 at 7:00 pm. The link to the auction will be posted on the home page of our website, [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://www.standrewshespeler.ca). Check in early, check in often throughout the week as items will be added as they come in. If you would still like to donate something for the auction please let Joni ([jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)) or Donald ([DPADD5323@rogers.com](mailto:DPADD5323@rogers.com)) know. Be sure to tune in for the final wrap up on Saturday, October 2. The auction will close at 9:00 pm and if it is anything like last year there will be some frenzied, good natured out bidding on several items. Please share this with your families and friends and let's have some fun while raising funds for our General Fund.

We are building our volunteer team for **Food Bank** days. We offer food bank every Thursday from noon – 2:00 pm. Your commitment would be from 11:30 am – 2:10 (or any time within that time frame). Duties would include: set up, packing hampers, serving community members, clean up. You could volunteer once per month or more! If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please speak with Joni ([jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca)) Thank you!

Next Sunday will be **World Communion Sunday**. If you are joining us on Zoom, please make a point of preparing communion elements (bread and wine/juice) for each person joining us so that we can all join together in one mystical celebration with followers of Christ all over the world.

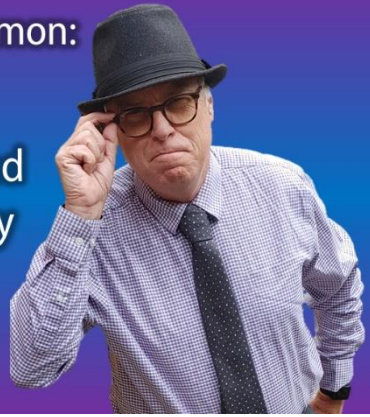
There are some **goodies** in the mailbox at the church (the one marked "bulletins") that is free for anyone to pick up. You will find:

- The September/October edition of Today
- The September/October/November edition of Our Daily Bread
- The fall edition of Presbyterian Connection
- Printed copies of this bulletin each week.
- Printed copies of Scott's most recent sermon each week.



Next Week's Sermon:

The LORD and  
the Attorney  
General



Other Lectionary Readings

**Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 20-22**

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup> On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup> For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' <sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' <sup>6</sup> Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

<sup>9</sup> Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews gained

relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

**Mark 9:38-50**

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> 'For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'



## Mission Moment – September 26, 2021

### Sharing Hope Through Presbyterians Sharing

When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we participate in God's mission together, expressing our faith through our actions and decisions. Together, we build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice, and share Christ's love around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when theological students in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana, and Beirut graduate, ready to shine Christ's light. On Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, we celebrate the mission and ministry we share together, as we proclaim God's love, hope, faith, and grace in the world God loves. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



## Sunday, September 26 On Presbyterians

**Sharing Sunday**, we give thanks for the faithful generosity of congregations across Canada as we share in mission and ministry together through Presbyterians Sharing.

**Monday, September 27** We pray for stewardship committees planning fall stewardship campaigns.

**Tuesday, September 28** We pray for the people, ministries, and mission of the Presbytery of Brandon in Manitoba.

**Wednesday, September 29** We give thanks and pray for those who are beginning a term as presbytery moderator. May they lead with hope and serve with kindness.

**Thursday, September 30** We pray for the wisdom to see clearly the reality of racism and bigotry in the institutions of our country so that we may work to challenge and uproot these institutionalized concepts in ourselves, our churches and our society.

**Friday, October 1** We pray for Indigenous children who are being removed and separated from their families and communities.

**Saturday, October 2** We pray for Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and for all Survivors of Residential Schools.