

GIVINGTUESDAY™

Dear members and friends of St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church

On Tuesday December 2nd, St. Andrew's is launching its annual *GivingTuesday* campaign. *GivingTuesday* is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the U.S. Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, *#GivingTuesday* kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Our *GivingTuesday* campaign this year has a two-fold purpose. First, we'd like to minimize as much of the budgeted deficit we forecast for 2025 as a means by which to establish a strong financial footing going into 2026. In support of this, we have the commitment of matching funds to double the impact of your gift. Currently, the first \$7,500 donated to this campaign will be matched! All moneys raised from this campaign will be designated to the General Fund. The second purpose of this campaign is to increase our collective awareness of where our financial gifts to St. Andrew's are used.

We will highlight these uses of funds on the first three Sundays of December. On the fourth (and last) Sunday in December, we will celebrate both the results from our *GivingTuesday* campaign and the entire year 2025!

Please prayerfully consider your response to our 2025 *GivingTuesday* campaign.

Instructions for making 2025 *GivingTuesday* Campaign Gifts:

- *GivingTuesday* Campaign gifts can be made online at www.standrewshespeler.ca by using the "Donate Online" button. Once on the donation site, choose the **Giving Tuesday Campaign** as recipient of your gift.
- *GivingTuesday* Campaign gifts can also be either sent via mail to the church office or placed on the Sunday morning offering plate. **Please do not send cash via external mail.**
 - If making a *GivingTuesday* Campaign gift using your Offering Envelope, please clearly mark the amount to be designated to this campaign on the envelope so that it can be distinguished from your regular givings.
 - If not using your Offering Envelope, please ensure the outside of the envelope you do use clearly indicates
 - (a) ***your name***,
 - (b) ***your address*** and
 - (c) that the amount inside is to be **designated to the *GivingTuesday* Campaign**
- All one time *GivingTuesday* Campaign gifts of \$20 or more will be receipted for tax purposes if a proper name and address is supplied.



Advent Outreach Collection

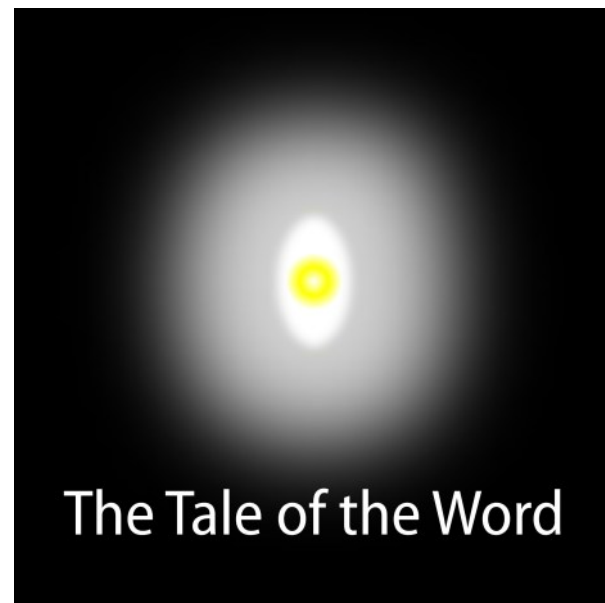
During the season of Advent we will once again be collecting toiletries to stock St. Andrew's Pantry. Needed items include: shampoo, soaps, deodorants, shaving supplies, toothpaste and toothbrushes, cleaning supplies, Kleenex and toilet paper. Let's try to fill the space under the Christmas tree (at the front of the church) from next Sunday, November 30 until Christmas! Thank you for your support!

Let's Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus!

We believe we are called by God to serve the people in our community. Currently we do so in a variety of ways. Hope Clothing provides good, clean clothes that are either new or gently used to anyone in our community free of charge. We provide food once a month with our St. Andrew's Pantry. We partner with the Cambridge Food Bank to host an off-site location two times per month. The House of Friendship partners with us to enable connections with our community and the Hespeler Outreach Worker. And this past Thursday we hosted our first Cambridge Neighbourhood Table, a free meal for members of our community. We are currently building relationships and connections with Preston organizations to explore serving the Preston community as well. By contributing to the Giving Tuesday Campaign you help bring all of these services to the Hespeler and Preston communities.

Sunday School is going on vacation for December 28 and January 4. We will resume on January 11th. On December 28 we will be celebrating our Giving Tuesday Campaign results and we would love it if the children and families wanted to come and help us make a big noise! This is the Sunday that wearing pj's to church is acceptable! There will be quiet activities in the Family Space for children.

Next Week's Sermon:



St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church December 28, 2025 First Sunday after Christmas



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

Clerk of Session: st.a.hespeler.cos@gmail.com

Website: www.standrewshespeler.ca

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9am-12pm

Order of Worship. We will meet in person at 10 am. Or join us on Zoom or Facebook Live. The Zoom link will be posted on the website.

Prelude: He Shall Feed His Flock by G.F. Handel

Welcome

Call to worship

L: Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

P: Praise God, sun and moon!

L: God's name alone is exalted;

P: God is above the earth and heaven.

Carol #146 Angels from the realms of glory

Prayer of approach:

L: God of glory, angels called to shepherds with songs of your good news. Mary pondered the mystery of your goodness in the tumult of new birth. Your splendour shines from a manger where the Light of the world was born. In the fragility of flesh you are revealed to us face to face. And so we gather in worship and praise of you who are Creator, Redeemer, and Guide; perfect and eternal, now and forever. **Amen.**

Laying Down Our Burdens

Responsive Reading: Psalm 148
L: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
P: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!
P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
L: Praise the LORD from the earth,
P: you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
P: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!
P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.
L: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.
P: Praise the LORD!

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23
¹³ Now after [the Magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”
¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:
¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”
¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Carol: A Huron (Wendat) Carol (Tune #144)
1. We gather at midwinter dark to share this hallowed night.
Within our longhouse, warm and dry, the fire glows with light.
Our Elders sing a teaching song; it fills the night that seems so long:
This is our sacred home, ’neath heaven’s dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.
2. Sky Woman came down from above, but found no place to stand,
till Toad put mud on Turtle’s back, and that became the land.
Sky Woman died in giving birth; her holy body fed the earth.
This is our sacred home, ’neath heaven’s dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.
3. A valiant Little Turtle rode a cloud up to the sky;
she used the lightning to make fire, and made our Sun to shine.
He journeys ’neath the world we see, returns to make the shadows flee.
This is our sacred home, ’neath heaven’s dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.
4. The Black Robes came from lands afar, and told us of a day
Judea had been colonized, and Rome must be obeyed.
A mother bore a child of light; rejoicing filled the starlit night:
This is our sacred home, ’neath heaven’s dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.
5. Rejoice! Have courage one and all! The stars shine overhead,
the same stars that shone down upon a baby’s humble bed.
The infant grew to be a man; his words, like stars, light many lands.
This is our sacred home, ’neath heaven’s dome,
shining stars proclaim the dawn.

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Family Time
Life and Work of the Church
Celebration of our Generosity
Offertory: Offering on "Stille Nacht" by Gilbert Martin
Sermon: The Newly Discovered ‘Tweets’ of Herod the Great
Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer
(... forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...)
Carol #148 It came upon the midnight clear
Benediction
Choral Response to benediction (Tune: Infant Holy #143)
Stars were gleaming, shepherds dreaming; Oh, the night was dark and chill.
Angels’ story, manger glory; Shepherds heard it on the hill.
Ah, that singing! Hear it ringing, Earthward winging, praises bringing!
Christ, the babe was born for you. Christ, the babe was born for you.
Postlude: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing by Robert Hughes

This Week at St. Andrew’s Hespeler
Today: Longest Night 7:30 pm
Tuesday: Hope Clothing 9:00—11:30 am
Wednesday: Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

The Church office will be closed between Christmas and New Years Day.
Messages will still be checked.

Some important upcoming events
Dec 28: *Giving Tuesday* wrap up celebration
Jan 18: First Anniversary Celebration
Feb 22: Annual General Meeting

We are grateful to those who were involved in worship this morning:
Organist: Martin Bohl
Greeters: Kathy Bott & Lynn Platt
Worship Assistant: Joanne Waugh
Beadle: Jean Godin
Sunday School: Donald Paddock
Tech Team: Laura Einwechter, Jacob Marsh & Dylan Smith

Mission Moment: December 28

The Government of Pakistan is intensifying its efforts to expel undocumented Afghans, as well as those with temporary permission to stay in the country. Between 700 and 800 families have been deported daily. These deportations pose devastating risks, particularly for women and girls who face increased threats of violence, persecution and loss of access to basic rights upon return to Afghanistan. Such actions violate international protection principles and undermine decades of humanitarian efforts to protect vulnerable populations. Your voice and solidarity are crucial at this moment. Visit [WeRespond.ca/advocate-for-Afghan-refugees](https://www.werespond.ca/advocate-for-Afghan-refugees) to learn more and take action.

