

TRINITY-ST.ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

June 2021 News



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A note from Rev. Wanda



Dear siblings in Christ,

I greet you in the name of Christ, the divine presence who walked among us, loved and healed and taught us new ways of understanding God. This same Jesus was executed, an innocent—a powerful innocent—who goes ahead of us now to a realm where love and justice prevail. Jesus asks us to walk beside him on this road, not look away, but to acknowledge the sorrow and violence of this world, and to work for change.

Many of us did not learn about the Indian Residential School System in school. Slowly, especially since then Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized to the survivors of the residential schools, we have become more aware. Since learning this past week of the remains of 215 children found in an unmarked grave on the grounds of the residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia, I have begun to realize that not all of us knew about these schools.

By now some of you will know I am dedicating my morning prayers, Tuesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m. and a new time of Sunday at 9:00 a.m., to hold vigil. Together, let's learn, remember and honour the children who attended the 15 United Church run schools across our country. About seven per cent of all surviving Indigenous residential school students attended United Church schools. Our legacy is one of oppression and pain. This is very hard to hear, but in the words of Very Reverend Bill Phipps, in his 1998 apology, "many within our church will still not understand why each of us must bear the scar, the blame for this horrendous period in Canadian history. But the truth is, we are the bearers of many blessings for our ancestors, and therefore, we must also bear their burdens." [Apologies \(1986, 1998\), Response \(1988\), Crest Update \(2012\)](#)

In a parallel path, the work of our church must continue. We continue to serve where we can, offer hope where Christ leads, and welcome and invite all into the fold of Christ's church.

This week please join me in welcoming our summer student, Kaitlyn Ostrander. As you

may know, Kaitlyn just graduated from Emmanuel College with her Masters in Divinity, and is in the process of finding full time ministry for her education site. The job at Trinity St. Andrew's exists for up to nine weeks, but we recognize that Kaitlyn may leave us sooner than that as she continues on this blessed journey toward ordained ministry in the United Church of Canada. While she is with us, Kaitlyn will help us develop better communications including social media, she will help with worship on Sunday mornings, and is working to help create welcoming space and programming for young families and young adults. Welcome Kaitlyn!

I am also looking for more submissions to the video that will welcome people to our YouTube channel. I am willing to come to you! Please reach out... the question we want you to answer in 15-20 seconds, is "why do you choose Trinity St Andrew's?"

And finally, please read the rest of the news here... maybe you can offer your vision for building and property in our church? Maybe you would like to be part of outreach meals? Helping with the Clothing Depot as the world around us slowly opens up? Do you have technical skills and want to help with our worship live-streaming? Please consider how God is calling you to be part of our vibrant community.

In the meantime, be blessed, be a blessing, and remember with humility that we all belong to the God who has created and is creating, calling us forward into the unknown, calling us to trust that we never walk alone.

Rev. Wanda

Join us for these special services:

Sunday June 6, Pride Sunday (by the affirm committee), with special covenanting service with our summer student, Kaitlyn Ostrander

Sunday June 13, Bible Study hosts a service on the Lord's Prayer, with guest speaker Kaitlyn Ostrander. We will also covenant with new council members during this service, and have a special celebration for the students who are graduating from Grade 8 and Grade 12.



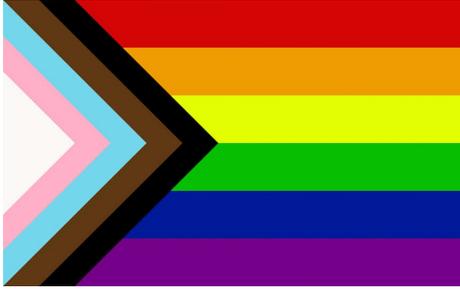
Hello!

My name is Kaitlyn Ostrander and I will be the Summer Student at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church for the next few months. I am very excited to be serving the very congregation that I grew up in! My focus this summer will be to connect with youth and families, aid in the social media communication, and be present during worship services.

I want to thank Trinity-St. Andrew's for their continued support throughout my education and call to ministry. I recently graduated from Emmanuel with a Masters of Divinity and continue my search for a Student Ministry Experience. I would not be where I am today without the support of this community.

Although I have connections with many of you, I look forward to continuing to grow with Trinity-St. Andrew's during my time here. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me! I look forward to meeting those I have yet to meet and continuing to grow connections with those I have known for many years. I am excited to be starting this summer with you all! Many blessings as we continue to journey together, following the love of God.

Blessings,
Kaitlyn Ostrander
(613) 743-5334



The United Church celebrates its official Pride Sunday on the first Sunday in June. We encourage you to mark this day and celebrate the lives and ministry of LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people in all their diversity. Please join us at TSA, Sunday morning at 10:30am by Zoom and FaceBook (<https://www.facebook.com/TSAUC>)

It is that time of year again to renew your Broadview Subscription. The cost of \$25 has not changed, however there will be 8 issues instead of 10. Our group subscription expiry thus has been changed to the July/Aug 21 issue. Please contact Pamela (admin@trinitystandrews.ca) asap regarding renewing your subscription.

Broadview



Yoga with Sandee

In these 60 minute classes, students will be developing flexibility and strength as we flow through a series of yin (slower holding poses) and energizing vinyasa (flowing movement). Classes are more intermediate but modifications are always offered for beginners. Saturday morning classes will be 2x a month (or every other week). A minimum number of 5 registrants is needed. A block of classes would be 4 classes. Classes to start June 5 if possible with 9am class time. Please contact the church office if you are interested at admin@trintystandrews.ca . Price per class is \$10 paid in advance per session and proceeds go to the Migrant Workers Fund.

Taize

Taize will resume on the second Tuesday of the month in September, 7pm.





2020 Annual General Meeting

Thanks to all the folks that attended our 2020 Zoom AGM. The meeting went well, but not without a Zoom hitch.

The Annual Reports were all approved with minor adjustments.

New business consisted of a lengthy discussion about the condition of the manse and its future, as well as the Council's recommendation that the manse be demolished. A motion was passed that Council proceed to obtain the necessary permissions and permits and costing and report back to the congregation in due course. (The manse and all our buildings are the property of the United Church of Canada.)

Another discussion focussed on the need to do some serious thinking and visioning about the TSA property in general, including the Sanctuary, Hall and Service Centre, and how it can all be used to support our mission in the community. A motion to create a visioning team to that end was passed. Along with representatives from various committees, two other volunteers are needed: a youth member, and another member at large. Please consider standing for one of these positions.

Thanks were expressed to all volunteers and staff for making TSA such a vibrant place.

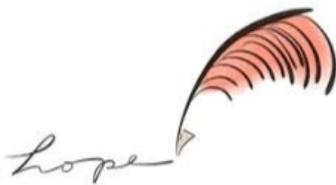
Janet Enns - Chair of Church Council

Brian Ostrander - Congregational Chair



Congregational Check-In

Chat with your 'pew neighbour' on the first and third Wednesday of the month, 7pm, by Zoom.
Please contact the church office if you need the link.



Urgent Action

CUBA ARTIST NAMED PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE On 2 May, Cuban state security officials took artist Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara from his home to a hospital, while he was hunger-striking in protest over the confiscation of artwork from his home around 22 April. Luis Manuel is a key figure in the San Isidro Movement, a diverse group of independent artists, journalists and activists that defend freedom of expression in Cuba. He is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely because of peacefully expressing his ideas, and should be released immediately and unconditionally. Please write to the President and urge him to:

- Immediately and unconditionally release Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara

Write to: Miguel Díaz Canel President of the Republic of Cuba Hidalgo, Esquina 6. Plaza de la Revolución La Habana, CP 10400 Cuba Email: despacho@presidencia.gob.cu Twitter: [@DiazCanelB](https://twitter.com/DiazCanelB) Facebook: [/PresidenciaCuba](https://www.facebook.com/PresidenciaCuba) Salutation: Dear Mr. President And copy: Her Excellency Josefina de la Caridad Vidal Ferreira Ambassador for Cuba 388 Main Street Ottawa, Ontario K1S 1E3 Phone: 613 563 0141 Fax: 613 563 0068 - Email: cuba@embacubacanada.net

More information

Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara has become a leading voice of the San Isidro Movement (SIM), a diverse group of independent artists, journalists, academics and activists that defend freedom of expression in Cuba, originally created to protest Decree 349, a dystopic law that stands to censor artists in the country. Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara was taken by state security officials on 2 May 2021 from his home, the headquarters of the San Isidro Movement, where he was carrying out a hunger strike reportedly in protest over his artwork being confiscated from his home. According to information from the NGO Cubalex and state media, he was taken to a hospital in Havana, the Centro de Urgencias del Hospital Universitario "General Calixto García." As far as Amnesty International can ascertain, Luis Manuel has been held at the hospital, under supervision or

control of state security officials and with very restricted visits from immediate family. He does not seem to have access to his telephone or the outside world. Pending his release, Luis Manuel Otero should be provided with medical care of his choice, be granted regular visits from family and friends, not be tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and granted access to lawyers of his choosing. According to Cubalex, and Amnesty International documentation, state security officials have repeatedly had Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara under surveillance for months and he faced arrest by police if he tried to leave his house, in practice amounting to house arrest. Luis Manuel's latest detention has occurred within a context of reports of harassment and intimidation against other members of the SIM and shows Cuba's ongoing repression of human rights, including the right to freedom of expression in the country. Luis Manuel has been named a prisoner of conscience of Amnesty International twice already, in both cases for being detained solely for peacefully exercising his freedom of expression. He and members of the San Isidro Movement, as well as allies and journalists have also been under constant and frightening surveillance, which Amnesty International's Digital Verification Team and researchers documented in December 2020.



Content warning: This message contains details about abuses suffered at Canada's residential schools.

On May 27th, the remains of 215 Indigenous children, some as young as three years old, were found on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.

Although this horrific news has shaken the country, it should not come as shock. For decades, residential school survivors have courageously shared their stories of atrocities they experienced—including stories of children who disappeared suddenly, children whose deaths they witnessed, children who, in some cases, they themselves were forced to bury.

We mourn these children and others who never made it home—**children who never should have been taken from their families.** We are in solidarity with residential school survivors, their families, and all First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who are grieving and in mourning.

Residential schools were part of a colonial policy to eradicate Indigenous cultures, lan-

guages, and communities. While the last school closed in 1996, intergenerational trauma, ongoing harms and discriminatory practices against Indigenous peoples continue.

Canada is responsible for these colonial policies and discriminatory practices, and Canada must take responsibility for ending human rights abuses against Indigenous peoples now.

[Please call on Prime Minister Trudeau to act now to ensure justice and accountability—not only for the 215 children whose bodies were buried at the Kamloops Indian Residential School—but for all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada.](#)

The devastating abuses resulting from Canada's colonialist policies—including the terrible deprivations and abuses inflicted on so many of the children who were cruelly torn from their families and communities, as well as the loss of language, community cohesion and cultural knowledge and skills—continue today.

- Métis, Inuit, and First Nations children continue to be **disproportionately represented in the child welfare system**;
- First Nations children living on reserve **receive less money for healthcare and education** than other children in Canada;
- Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people experience **staggeringly high rates of violence**;
- Inuit, Métis, and First Nations people **too often experience racism** when interacting with public services like the police and the healthcare system;
- And governments frequently approve industrial projects on Indigenous territories **without free, prior, and informed consent** or recognition of Indigenous laws and scientific knowledge.

The reports of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, plus numerous reviews by the UN and other international human rights bodies, have exposed abuses against Indigenous peoples in Canada and made thousands of recommendations to Canada to ensure justice and accountability for Indigenous peoples.

Despite ample documentation of abuses and clear recommendations for change, the Canadian government continues to resist real justice and accountability.

[It should not take such a tragic discovery to spur action. Please act now to call on Canada to implement these calls to action without delay.](#)

Thank you for speaking out today for this long overdue action. Every Canadian today has a duty to ensure justice and accountability for the harms experienced by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

In solidarity,

Ketty Nivyabandi
Secretary General
Amnesty International Canada

P.S. Thank you for taking action in support of the rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada. **After you send a message to Prime Minister Trudeau, [please read this blog](#) for further ideas on how you can continue to take action** to ensure justice and accountability not only for the 215 Indigenous children whose bodies are buried on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, but for all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada.

The Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society is available for survivors and those affected at 1-800-721-0066 or on the 24 hour crisis line at 1-866-925-4419. British Columbia has a First Nations and Indigenous Crisis Line offered through the KUU-US Crisis Line Society at 1-800-588-9717.

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