

## Transitions! Summer 2026

This summer we mark the end of Rev. Geoffrey Simmons' contract with St. Andrew's. His final day will be July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Geoffrey has been at St. Andrew's for 6 and a half years – longer than some of our ministers! He took a break to be at Grace Presbyterian before Laurie arrived and we have been blessed with his pastoral presence, and his skill in education and resourcing the community. Join us after church this Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, for cake as we mark this transition. We are honoring Geoffrey this Sunday, as next Sunday (July 5) is a busy and full one with Communion and Baptism as our focus.

Geoffrey is taking the summer off as usual, and we are thankful that Rev. Geoffrey and Joan will continue to call St. Andrew's their church home. There will be opportunities in the future for Geoffrey to provide leadership at St. Andrew's ~ yet to be determined. Geoffrey has plans to sail for the month of November. While his role with St. Andrew's is changing, the love and place he has in our hearts remains the same.

We have heard clearly from the session and the congregation the desire to prioritize youth. We are currently refining the role, qualifications and financial plan to contract a Youth Support Worker. We hope to obtain a grant to help get us started. This ministry is too important not to invest in! How will we sustain the growing need to provide program and pastoral support for youth leaders and youth? Stay tuned!

For the next 6 months, Fiona Swanson will be providing 40 hours/month of extra pastoral support. She will also provide coverage when Laurie is away. Fiona is known to our community, and she brings many years of pastoral experience to St. Andrew's. Please welcome her to this new role beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Remember:

- Rev. Laurie McKay is available for pastoral support, especially at times of crisis: visiting hospitals and hospice, and when you need support. Laurie will be away for 2 weeks at the end of August.
- Care Connectors are assigned to every member of the congregation. If you don't know who your Care Connector is or haven't yet been assigned a Care Connector, please call the office (403-255-0001). If you would like to be part of the pastoral ministry of St. Andrew's, either by visiting, phoning, or emailing a district of friends, please let us know! Training and guidance will be provided.

While change is constant, the love of the Lord remains. The Spirit is moving through the church, calling us to love large! We are all called to be instruments of God's grace and peace. We pray grace on all those who will be in transition this month.

~ *Rev. Laurie & St. Andrew's Session*