

**Calling all readers!** We will be recording our Bible readings on Tuesday, October 1, at 10:00 and Wednesday, October 2 at 10:00 am, in the sanctuary. Please let Joni know which time might work for you. If neither time works we can make arrangements for another time. If you are unable to come in, but have a way to record the reading at home and send it to Joni that would also work. Contact Joni to let her know when you will be coming in or if you have any questions, [jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca](mailto:jsmith@standrewshespeler.ca). The readings are available from Joni after the worship service.

Please mark your calendars with **Sunday, October 27**. We will be celebrating our **169th Anniversary!** Plan to stay after the service for a time of fun and food. We will be sharing a potluck lunch together, so if you are able please bring something (finger foods) to share with others. Please remember: no peanuts or shellfish. During our time together we will also participate in a Sharing Circle.

**Next week** we will celebrate **World Communion Sunday**. If you haven't done so already please bring a flag in to put on display so we can share our heritage, connectedness and unity. The New Hope Friends group will also be helping us celebrate by

reintroducing Birthday Cake Sunday. We will enjoy some delicious homemade Christmas cake to celebrate birthdays from September to December.



**Dream Auction**

As part of our 169th anniversary celebrations, St. Andrews's Hespeler is hosting a live and silent auction on Saturday October 19th beginning at 7:00 p.m. Dessert and refreshments will be provided and, back by popular demand, Gary Stewart has graciously agreed to be our auctioneer again this year!

Please save the date and invite your family and friends! Lastly, please think about a talent or service that could be part of our live auction - the baking of a pie, the knitting of a sweater, a few hours of fall yard cleanup, preserves you've made from this year's harvest. Be creative!! A signup sheet is at the back of the sanctuary for you to donate your talent or service.

Thanks everyone for your support! Let's pack St. Andrew's Hall and have a great time again this year!

If you have any questions, please contact Joni Smith or Donald Paddock.



**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, September 29 (Presbyterians Sharing Sunday)** We pray for the mission and ministry supported through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and give thanks for congregations and individuals who support the work of the PCC through their generous gifts.

**Monday, September 30 (Orange Shirt Day)** We honour Survivors of residential schools, children who died and members of their families. Having rejected the Doctrine of Discovery, we commit to walk in ways that will end anti-Indigenous racism.

**Tuesday, October 1** We pray for theological students who graduate this winter and are beginning the process of seeking a call.

**Wednesday, October 2** In this harvest season we give thanks for the abundance of produce on the Crieff Hills farm—honey, maple syrup, eggs, vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers.

**Thursday, October 3** We pray for the Church Doctrine Committee as they develop a pastoral response to persons who have chosen Medical Assistance in Dying.

**Friday, October 4 (Sisters in Spirit Vigils)** We pray for Indigenous girls and women who have faced terrible levels of violence and for the families and friends of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls seeking justice.

**Saturday, October 5** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

**Mission Moment: September 29**

Today is Presbyterians Sharing Sunday—a day to celebrate the mission and ministry we do together in Canada and around the world. Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, we build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love. Together, we provide hospitality for people who are homeless and help those involved in the sex trade reclaim their lives. We help congregations discover new and unique ways of renewing their ministry and provide many resources for congregations to use in worship and study. We help translate the Bible into Indigenous languages in Taiwan and bring hope and love to prisoners in Malawi. And so much more! When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things.



**This Week at St. Andrew's Hespeler**

- Tuesday: Hope Clothing 9:30 - 11:00 am
- Tuesday: Women's Empowerment group 9:30 am
- Wednesday: Hope Clothing 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- Wednesday: Women in the Bible 10 am
- Thursday: St. Andrew's Pantry noon - 1:30 pm
- Thursday: Hope Clothing noon - 2:00 pm
- Saturday: Hope Clothing 10:00 am - noon

**St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
September 22, 2024**



St. Andrew's Hespeler Presbyterian Church  
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Website: [www.standrewshespeler.ca](http://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: An Old Irish Melody by C.V. Stanford

Call to Worship

L: We are called together

**P: To worship God as the people of God.**

L: God calls us by name and knows what rests in our minds and our hearts, and calls us:

**P: To worship God as the people of God.**

L: We come yearning to be transformed and redirected to paths of justice and in ways of love so that in truth we can turn to God:

**P: To worship God as the people of God.**

L: God invites us to worship as beloved and loving people and together:

**P: To worship God as the people of God.**

Hymn #754 From the slave pens of the Delta

Prayer of approach:

L: Holy and loving God, blessed are you in all the universe: your goodness is seen in creation, your holiness is incomprehensible, your truth and wisdom are radiant, your justice rolls down like waters, your love is wider than all the universe and your mercy greater than the heights of heaven. And so, with our lips we sing

your praises and we join with your good creation in joyful praise of you as Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen!

Laying down our Burdens

Psalm 124

L: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say— if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,

**P: 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 hunters;**

L: the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**P: Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

Esther 9:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Now in the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar, on the thirteenth day, when the king's command and edict were about to be executed, on the very day when the enemies of the Jews hoped to gain power over them but that had been changed to a day when the Jews would gain power over their foes, <sup>2</sup> the Jews gathered in their cities throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus to kill those who had sought their ruin, and no one could withstand them, because the fear of them had fallen upon all peoples. <sup>3</sup> All the officials of the provinces, the satraps and the governors, and the royal officials were supporting the Jews because the fear of Mordecai had fallen upon them. <sup>4</sup> For Mordecai was powerful in the king's palace, and his fame spread throughout all the provinces, because the man Mordecai was growing more and more powerful. <sup>5</sup> So the Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword, slaughtering and destroying them, and did as they pleased to those who hated them. <sup>6</sup> In the citadel of Susa the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred people. <sup>7</sup> They killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha, <sup>8</sup> Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha, <sup>9</sup> Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha, <sup>10</sup> the ten sons of Haman son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, but they did not touch the plunder.

<sup>11</sup> That very day the number of those killed in the citadel of Susa was reported to the king. <sup>12</sup> The king said to Queen Esther, "In the citadel of Susa the Jews have killed and destroyed five hundred people and the ten sons of Haman. What have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? Now what is your petition? It shall be granted you. And what further is your request? It shall be fulfilled." <sup>13</sup> Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let the Jews who are in Susa be allowed tomorrow also to do according to this day's edict, and let the ten sons of Haman be hung on the pole." <sup>14</sup> So the king commanded this to be done; a decree was issued in Susa, and the ten sons of Haman were hung. <sup>15</sup> The Jews who were in Susa gathered also on the fourteenth day of the month of Adar, and they killed three hundred persons in Susa, but they did not touch the plunder.

<sup>16</sup> Now the other Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives and gained relief from their enemies and killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them, but they laid no hands on the plunder. <sup>17</sup> This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

Hymn: This Little Light of Mine

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2. Hide it under a bushel - NO! I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3. Don't let anyone blow it! I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

4. Let it shine til Jesus comes. I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

5. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3x)  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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Family Time

Life and Work of the Church

Celebration of our Generosity

Offertory: Offering by J. Krieger

Sermon: Little Pitchers, Big Ears

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

*(... forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...)*

Hymn: #749 Be still, my soul

Benediction

Choral Response

Go now in peace...never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

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Postlude: Praise to God by R.W. Martin

**We are grateful to those who were involved in worship this morning:**

Organist: Martin Bohl

Tech Team: Laura Einwechter & Dylan Smith

Sunday School: Donald Paddock

Old Testament Lectionary Reading for today:

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

<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 half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, 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 an 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 pole 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 hung Haman on the pole 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.

The Women in the Bible Study will be held on Wednesday morning at 10. We will look at the stories of Sarai/Sarai in Egypt and Gerar.



Fundscrip orders for this month are due today. Laura Einwechter would be pleased to receive your order and will have your cards by next week.

FündScrip

Next Week's Sermon:

