



As I write these thoughts, we are well into November and approaching the new year in our Anglican liturgical calendar with the beginning of Advent. It is a season of anticipation and eagerness and frenzy and busyness. Our cultural Christmas preparations seem to overshadow the contemplative and the sacred space that advent is. We are, in advent, preparing for Jesus' birth AND Christ's second return. Surprisingly we are invited to slow down, ponder, look for God as we wait. I am so happy that our parish is holding an Advent quiet day. Amid the hustle and bustle we can take a day to reflect and pray and meditate on the Word made Flesh. I have been busy gathering various devotions, advent readings and even some adult colouring pages on the advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Please feel free to come and stay one hour or the whole day from 9:30 beginning with a morning prayer service, to its end with a Holy Eucharist. We are inviting folks from the other Anglican parishes around the city so come and bring friends.

Since I began serving as your incumbent, I have felt the love and the welcome of each of you. Thank you for your grace as we get to know each other. I am loving being at Gathering Table and I know I am in the right parish. In addition to all the tasks of preparing for Sunday and all the meetings to do with keeping a church running, I have been out visiting nursing homes, St. Joseph's hospital and parishioners at their homes as arranged. I just heard the good news that clergy will now be

allowed into the regional to visit as well. In addition, I have met folks at the office to prepare for baptisms and other reasons.

I do want to remind the parish that my contracted commitment is 80% of full-time ministry. This means I am not able to be out and about as much as a full-time priest would, as I have 8 less hours a week to work in all the responsibilities. I am mindful how easy it is to neglect work life balance in ministry.

We have had so many great celebrations and memorable services this fall. I see this continuing into advent. Thank you again for the support and love poured out the weekend of the ordination and 150 anniversary I feel it was a great way of bonding together. Since those dates, we have celebrated All Saints Day with the lighting of candles in memory of those who have died in the past 2 years, Remembrance



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Continued from page 1

Day Sunday, The Reign of Christ Sunday with three baptisms welcoming children, Mackenzie Alice Edmunds, and Elliott Sirkka Pyne, and adult, Kim Julia MacDougall, into the family of faith. We are now moving ahead to Advent Sunday and our time of preparation for the Christmas season.

It is great to see the ministries of the church get re-started after the pandemic restrictions. Thanks to Ellen who leads this ministry. We are hoping to see more families return and rejoin the Sunday School program. I love giving a children's talk on Sunday morning that connects with the children in a meaningful way. I am hoping to do a confirmation class and life in the Eucharist class (first communion) when there is enough interest. If you know of any youth, we have an upcoming CLAY conference in 2023. Other opportunities next summer for children includes the very important work of Camp Gitchigomee.

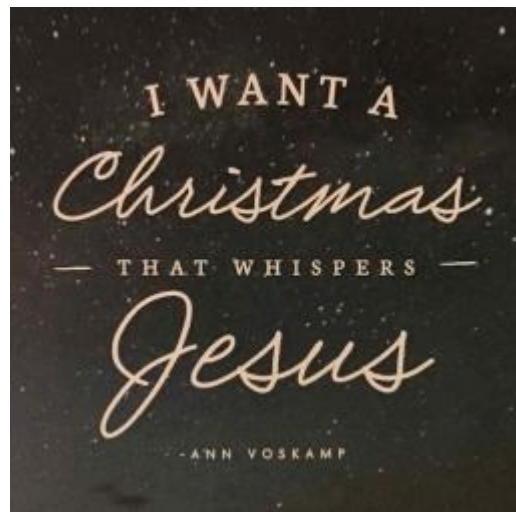
The music ministry is doing well under the excellent leadership of Donna Hamill. I have been attending choir practice on Wednesday evening and I know how much prayer and love that Donna puts into choosing music that is meaningful and matches the readings and emphasis of the worship on Sunday, as a church we are blessed.

Part of the reason I felt so drawn to Gathering Table is the ministry to those in need. Thank you to Dale and Sharon Sparks and all those who volunteer in this good work. The demand on food cupboard is high now and the need grows daily. It is concerning to see the number of seniors forced to use this service due to inadequate social programs. I am enjoying interacting with the folks in line as they wait for food, and now they are starting to greet me with smiles and openness. We offer these folks more than food, we offer a smile, a touch on the shoulder, a word of encouragement and the love of the Lord in our actions. I continue to be active with the diocesan committee on social jus-

tice and there is talk of forming an inter-church social justice committee in the city which I will join if able. Let's keep both those in need and those who administer social safety net programs in our prayers so that we move towards a society where we meet the standard of a basic living income for all.

The PWRDF project for Christmas as sent out by Diocesan Representative Carol Knox is an excellent one and I encourage everyone at Gathering Table to participate. Pick one person who you would usually gift a present for Christmas, figure out the amount you would usually gift and put that money in their name to PWRDF to fund the purchase of a water truck for Kingfisher Lake First Nation. This is a reserve up in northern Ontario where they still have no potable drinking water. There is a strong Anglican community on that reserve and our support would positively affect the quality of life for those folks.

I pray you all will have a blessed Advent season and that we all take action to bless others in our role as those who bring the light of Christ to the world. I also wish each one of you a blessed and happy Christmas full of love and meaning.



Rev Ann+
Rector

Gathering Table's Mission Statement

We are on a spiritual journey as a dynamic, inclusive, diverse community rooted in the life-giving, life-affirming and life-changing love of God, reaching beyond ourselves, caring for creation and making a difference for others. Come and meet us, we'd love to meet you.



Wardens Notes

Hello again from your Wardens. We pray that you and yours have been doing well. It always amazes us how quickly time goes by. Some would say it is our most

precious commodity. And here we are almost at Advent, as we prepare to ready our hearts for the birth of Jesus the Christ.

We are most delighted to have the Rev Ann Camber on board as our new Incumbent as of mid -September. She has already been such an encouragement to everyone and the folks attending Sunday worship have increased. Ann is eager to get to know everyone, so we would encourage you to pop in to the church to have a visit, or contact her to come and see you. A big thanks to our Concurrence Committee, to Archbishop Anne, to all who prayed, and to our Lay Readers.

Wasn't that a great weekend on October 15 and 16th when we had Ann's awesome ordination to the priesthood and we celebrated 150 years of Anglican worship in this building? Our thanks to all who helped make these events happen!

We are pleased also that there seems to be a good "vibe" as our in-person worship with live music continues, and some "new" faces are attending. Please continue to reach out and offer a warm welcome to all. It is also lovely to see folks catching up with each other. And thanks to the big and small saints putting on coffee, and to Ellen and helpers for offering their Sunday School teaching gifts. If you can help Ellen in this important ministry, please contact her or one of us. As a reminder, COVID has not gone away, and the cold & Flu season is upon us. As such, we encourage everyone to take preventative measures including mask wearing, hand washing, getting your vaccinations and staying home when sick.

As you are likely aware, our parish hall is a hub for many activities, including coffee hours, rentals from Sleepy G Farm, Camp Gitchigomee meetings, Sunday School, Food Cupboard and others. The hall is scheduled for upgrades to the windows, and new exterior security lights have already been installed. An application for a grant has been submitted to upgrade the women's washroom to current accessibility standards. If we are successful, we will need to contribute about \$30K – a portion of which could

come from the Endowment Fund. Upgrades to Rev Ann's office have been completed, including bookshelf removal, a window in the door, a new lock, paint, new overhead lights, and a new desk and chairs. We are planning to create a centralized first aid cupboard which will include a first aid kit, mask, gloves, goggles, naloxone kits and an AED.

In our last August note, we mentioned that there was an offer on the Cameron Street Rectory. This offer went through and the building has been sold to the Elizabeth Fry Society. An application to the Diocese has been made to use a portion of the funds to demolish the church house beside the driveway – hopefully in 2023. The remainder of the sale proceeds will be put into the Diocesan Consolidated Investment fund, from which we will receive the interest annually.

We moved the snowblower from the Cameron Street Rectory before it was sold. It now "lives" in the garage and has been serviced and is ready to assist in removing snow from the entrance ways as may be necessary. We would appreciate helpers to assist with snow clearing this winter. Please contact us. There is always some white stuff to clear around the steps, ramp and driveways after our contractor plows out the parking lot and driveway.

Financially, we are doing OK, and we are thankful for all your faithful donations. Some large expenditures are coming up, including the insurance bill (~\$12K) and the heating season is upon us. We encourage everyone to continue offering their time, talents and treasure for the work of building the kingdom in our little corner of the world.

We could use some help in a couple of areas – particularly someone to take the lead on our Screening in Faith obligations. Help on our Tech Team and folks to put coffee on would be much appreciated as well. Please pray about this and contact us if you feel called to assist.

Lastly, a reminder to folks using the church building to keep the doors closed between the heating five zones. This will allow each of the zones to stay in their set temperature and optimize the use of our boilers. Oh, we would also encourage everyone to attend the simple (bring your own lunch) Advent Retreat on Saturday November 3rd, from 9 AM to 3 PM. It will be a good opportunity to ready our hearts.

Your Servants – Dave, Sheila, Jim

Christmas Flowers 2022

Christmas is coming! Christmas is coming! I know, it comes every year. But, after more than 2000 Christmases, we still look forward to the season in 'exuberant expectation!' (to quote a former Rector).



To place flowers on the Altar for the 2022nd Christmas:

Deadline: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, to ensure placement of your **Dedication** in the bulletins for Christmas services. Questions? Call Rose at 621-1205.

To Place a Dedication:

A. If you cannot attend before the deadline, either contact Rose Jardine by email at roseanew@tbaytel.net, or voice mail / text at 621-1205, with the wording for your flower 'dedication'. **Then:** Make a cheque/money order out to: **Gathering Table Altar Guild**, flag the envelope 'Altar Guild Flowers', and mail to the church address. Please include **a note with your name, address, phone and the dedication.**

or

B. Prepared '**dedication submission forms and envelopes**' are located on the ledge at the back of the Sanctuary. (Hint: there are flowers on them.) Record your information and dedication; place the form, cheque/money order/cash into the envelope, **Seal** the envelope and place it into the **Treasure Chest** at the back. Note: yes, cash is fine when submitting the dedication this way.

Thank you.— Rose.



Altar Guild Decorating

Advent is a period of preparing as we await the birth of Jesus. The Altar

Guild will begin their preparations at the church by putting up the Christmas decorations on Thursday December 8th from 10am until noon.

You are welcome to join us during this time of fellowship. No experience needed, just willing hands.



We Welcome Your Prayer Requests

Requesting prayers at a Sunday Service:

If you wish to have the congregation of Gathering Table pray for you or a loved one at a Eucharist Service any Sunday, please let us know! We do not need details, and sometimes even the names are held in confidence, at your request.

How to's:

Call the church office at (807) 345-6898, or Contact Rev. Anne at rector@gatheringtable.ca, or

ask any member of Gathering Table, be added to the Prayer List,

or

Via 'The Prayer Chain', by emailing prayer-chain@gatheringtable.ca.

The 'Prayer List' is being resumed, and will be in a binder at the back of the church. If it is written on the list before the service begins, the Lay Reader will add your request to the Prayers of the People.



Food Cupboard

As another year of food cupboard operation at Gathering Table draws to a close, we give thanks to many individuals, parishes, and RFDA for supporting the mission. Clients are grateful that, with that support, and with guidance from the Diocesan Synod office, Gathering Table was able to maintain service throughout the Covid period.

During 2022 the Cupboard provided food assistance, on average, to 65 individuals and families which represents just under a 100 adults and children each Sunday. For a variety of reasons there is a desperate need for support in our city. There is no miracle solution to the diversity of challenges that force people to utilize Gathering Table's outreach program.

Top of mind ought to be recognition that clients are people. Their unique challenges should not lead to a mindset of otherness and exclusion. Rather, the approach is Christian—love, reconciliation, and inclusion—and, following Christ, striving for wholeness, unity, and peace within all humankind. The purpose of mission is love, reconciliation and inclusion, the means is food. Food addresses a systemic shortfall of our society; love, reconciliation, and inclusion focus on the inadequacy of our present being.

Each Sunday at food cupboard, I am reminded of two great concepts of human spirituality. First, in John 17:23, Christ is in all people; and Second, the Hindu greeting of Namaste wherein recognition of the divine child within other people is expressed. Food cupboard is an experience that encourages the spiritual child within each of us to grow in love, reconciliation, and inclusion of others.

As Gathering Table prepares to enter 2023, we at Food Cupboard look forward: to strengthening our mission commitment; to deepening our Christ relations with others; and becoming what can be through God who is the possibility for life abundant (Deut.30:19, John 10:10). Gathering Table's food cupboard, feeding with the bread of life, is ordinary people 'choosing' to share God's grace.



Have a joyous Christmas.

Submitted by: Dale Sparkes.



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

PWRDF is the Canadian Anglican response for emergency relief, refugees, development and justice. And it's making a difference in the world. Please visit the website to see the various ways in which PWRDF and its partners are providing humanitarian aid and development.

Donations to PWRDF can be made on the website, by special church envelope, EOP (electronic offering program), or by phone 1-866-308-7973. You can also use mail and please make cheques payable to PWRDF. The address is: The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, The Anglican Church of Canada, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

Christmas is coming.

- See the **World of Gifts Guide**, on the website or the insert in the Anglican Journal. For a unique meaningful gift, you can order seeds for farmers, livestock and contribute to projects worldwide.
- You can order **Christmas cards**.
- Sign up for a **daily Advent reflection**.

Linda Rintamaki, your parish rep
(linjrin@tbaytel.net)

Still Seeking Volunteers for the Technology Production Team

The Sunday broadcasts are an integral part of our services and church life. Our current volunteers need some help and a break.

The roles are:

Camera and Media using Vmix (2) and

Projection Media Visuals using Powerpoint (2) and **Sound** (2) using an Allen & Heath QU Chrome Edition Mixer via an iPad.

Please, if you are interested or if you know of someone who would be interested, please contact Sharon Corston at 355-1549 or sjcorston@gmail.com.





This project was started a couple of years back; however, was not completed due to unforeseen circumstances.

We have decided to begin the process anew as, due to COVID-19, everyone looks a little different!

David Reid will be set up to take pictures in the hall during coffee hour on Sundays.

If you can't make it in for a picture, and we would like to capture as many of the parish as possible, you can submit a photo to Sharon Corston at socialmedia@gatheringtable.ca.

If you feel your last picture is fine, let us know that as well.

We'd like to have this done for the new year. Thank you.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Brenda O'Neill is now looking after this Ministry (brendaoneill@shaw.ca).

If you feel the call to knit/crochet the prayer shawls or if there is someone you know who would benefit from one, please let Brenda know.



Ellen Teahan is leading the Sunday School Team. If you feel the call to help or would like more information, please contact her at: 807-473-8599 or eteahan@shaw.ca.



Men's Breakfast

The fellows at Gathering Table have been invited by Dave Middleton to join the Men's breakfast at St. Paul's on Saturday Nov 26th at 8:45 AM.

It would be great if you could join us for some fellowship and inter-church camaraderie (not to mention, coffee, conversation, chuckles and calories.....)

If you can make it, please let Jim or Jamie know by Thursday the 24th. Thanks!

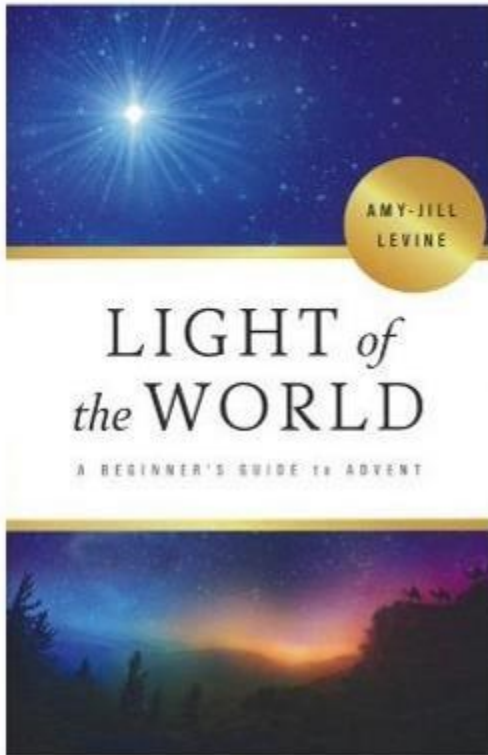


Save The Date—Camp Gitchigomee 2 Bit Auction: Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7 pm

West Thunder Community Centre, 915 S. Edward Street

We will be looking for anyone who would like to provide A basket, or a cash donation towards one. Please talk to Roberta Wolfe, or Jim Sutton for more details.

Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent—a Bible Study



Book by: Amy-Jill Levine is available through Amazon.

Presented by Rev Gail Clifton

Explore the biblical texts surrounding Jesus' birth---and illuminate your own experience of Advent! Levine traces the events of the Christmas narrative, highlighting

the accounts of Zechariah and Elizabeth; Mary and the Magnificat; the holy family's journey to Bethlehem; and the flight to Egypt.

This 4-week course will be offered at Gathering Table in the Parish Hall (use the accessibility entrance off the main driveway).

Please RSVP Rev Gail via email: gailx2@shaw.ca

Dates: November 29, December 6, 13 and 20

Time: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Advent Conspiracy 2022

Be bold and join PWRDF's Advent Conspiracy 2022.

Buy Less/Give More. The idea is to think of a person for whom you usually purchase a Christmas gift and to figure out how much you would spend on it. Instead of shopping, send that amount to the PWRDF Mishamikoweesh Water Fund.

This year the target is to raise 150,000 dollars to purchase a **Water Truck** for Kingfisher Lake one of the northern First Nations communities that do not have clean drinking water coming into all the homes. A water tanker truck gets clean water from the local water treatment plant and delivers water to the homes in the community that don't have clean water piped in Mishamikoweesh is the name of our +Lydia's diocese and Kingfisher Lake is her home community.

My Christmas Gift to You,



A Living Gift of Water has been given to a Canadian community in need



As you know PWRDF does not make decisions about funding projects on their own but in consultation with local, on the ground, partners. A few days ago PWRDF's executive director Will Postma met in Thunder Bay with a council of tribal chiefs from Mishamikoweesh and with +Lydia, to decide which community would receive a water

truck and Kingfisher Lake was chosen.....

So please **Be Bold** this Advent, join the PWRDF national Advent Conspiracy, and let us together raise the 150,000 dollars to purchase a water delivery truck for Kingfisher Lake First Nation. PWRDF is in the process of preparing Gift Cards for you to wrap and put under the tree. Your PWRDF parish rep should have them soon. Stay tuned to get more details of this important deanery project.....and in the meantime think of for whom you would like to Buy Less/Give More. As for me I easily came up with 4 names.



Be a Thunder Bay/North Shore Deanery Conspirator this Advent.

Carol Knox, PWRDF Deanery Coordinator

Dear Friends:

We appreciate the community's support as we assist seafarers. If you can help us out, that would be appreciated.



Caring for seafarers
around the world

Warm Clothing Needed

We have very little warm clothing on hand! The Mission to Seafarers would appreciate donations of **warm, small to large size men's clothing**. Many of the sailors on ocean-going vessels come from warmer countries and find our fall weather rather cold. Donations can be put in the drop off box outside the Seafarers' Centre [or given to the MTS Congregation Rep at each Anglican parish].

Christmas Gift Bags

Christmas is just around the corner, which means Christmas Gift Bags for seafarers. The Mission to Seafarers: Port of Thunder Bay is looking for donations for **Christmas Gift Bags** to be given to seafarers starting on December 1. Our objective is to prepare for 14 ships with 19 bags/ship or 266 bags. Donations need to be at the Seafarers' Centre by November 21; use the drop-off box outside the Seafarers' Centre or call the Seafarers' Centre (807) 344-8241 to make an appointment. Suggested donations include mittens, gloves, toques, neck warmers, Chap Stick, hot chocolate packets and wrapped candy. Sanitization practices will be followed when putting the bags together and the items will be in a sealed plastic bag. For further information visit www.missiontoseafarers.ca/thunderbay and click on Christmas Gift Bags or call the Seafarers' Centre.

St. Nicholas' Day Eucharist

A **St. Nicholas' Day Eucharist** will be held at 11:00 am Wednesday, December 8 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 20 Farrand St.. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of seafarers and this is a time for the community that supports the Mission to Seafarers to come together to pray for seafarers and for the Mission to Seafarers. St. Nicholas' Day is also the anniversary of the founding to the Mission to Seafarers in Thunder Bay in 1961.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Christ's service,

Ed

The Rev'd Canon Ed Swayze, Chaplain
Mission to Seafarers: Port of Thunder Bay

(807) 344-8241 Seafarers' Centre

(807) 626-2571 cell

Advent Quiet Day



***at Gathering Table with
Rev Ann Camber and Deborah Everest***

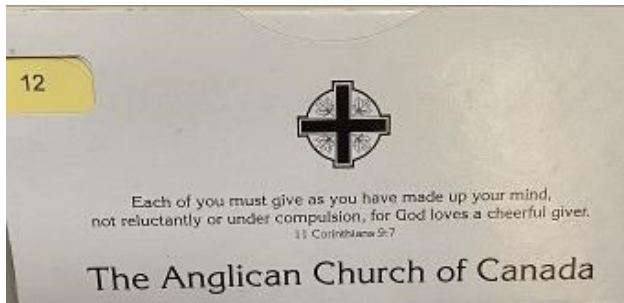
Saturday, December 3rd, 2022

9:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Bring your own lunch — coffee, tea, etc will be
provided.**

**Please RSVP if you are interested to
office@gatheringtable.ca**

Just a few other Notes



The 2023 Offering Envelopes are available at the Church!

New Church Etransfer password = Church

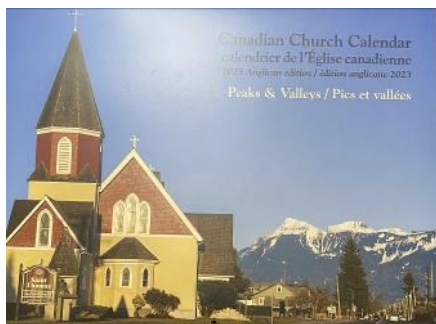
Our Daily Bread for December-January-February is at the back of the Church.



Community Clothing Assistance on May Streets collects new underwear and socks for Kids in need, or Monetary Donations for the UNDERCOVER Program. It is a year round project which provides 7 pairs of new socks, and underwear to children in need, ages 4 – 14 years. Families are identified by Ontario Works benefit services, and then Vouchers are distributed in December through the Christmas Cheer Fund hampers and are redeemed at our office

over the next ten months. Each year over 2000 vouchers are distributed to families in need. Clothing Assistance is located on the corner of May and Dease Streets. Donations will be collected till December 4th, here at Gathering Table. https://clothingassistance.com/main_website/undercover-project.html

The 2023 Parishioner Parking Passes are available through the office for 10.00. each.



The 2023 Church calendars are available through the office while quantities last.



Anniversary Time Capsule 2022

Gathering Table will be collecting small items to be included in the Time Capsule for The 150th Anniversary of Christian services here at 228 Pearl Street. Items can be a photo, a letter, a small item .





Pictures Rev Ann's Ordination on Saturday, October 15th, 2022.

- *Archbishop Anne, Rev Ann and Archdeacon Deborah*
- *Rev Ann and her brother, The Reverend Bob Bettson, Interim Priest in Charge of the Church of the Messiah, Toronto*
- *Getting ready to process in*
- *Cutting her cake!*

Pictures Rev Ann's Ordination on Saturday, October 15th, 2022.

- *A bird's eye view from the balcony*

The Ordination pictures taken by Jim Stewart on our behalf.



On Sunday, October 16th, 2022 we celebrated 150 Years of Worship at 228 Pearl Street with a sit down meal provided by the Hospitality Team headed by Carol Kostyniuk.

Presentations were made by Acting Mayor Brian Hamilton (and our ward councillor) on behalf of the City of Thunder Bay, Lise Vaugeois, MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North as well as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The presentations will be framed and on the wall in the hall for everyone to view.



Sharon Corston, Carol Kostyniuk and Marg Boone were the first Gathering Table recipients of the Archbishop's Diocese of Algoma Certificates of Appreciation on Sunday, October 30th.

This will be an annual event.

Brenda O'Neill snapped a picture of the wreath after our Remembrance Service on Sunday, November 13th.





228 Pearl Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4



Phone: 807-345-6898
E-mail: office@gatheringtable.ca
Facebook: Gathering Table

Hall: 807-345-6088
Web: gatheringtable.ca

Service Time: Sunday at 10:00 am
Food Bank Open: 2nd and 4th Sundays starting at 11:30 am

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 2:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am to noon

Pastor: The Rev Ann Camber, MDiv, RSW
Phone: 807-285-9446
Email: rector@gatheringtable.ca

Honorary Assistant: The Rev Gail M Clifton, MDiv
Phone: 768-9865
Email: gailx2@shaw.ca

Rector's Warden: David Reid
Deputy Rector's Warden: vacant
People's Warden: Jim Sutton
Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm
Lay Readers: Kim Bienvenue, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill ,
Richard Pepper, Frances Bennett-Sutton, Jim Sutton

Music Director: Donna Hamill (Pianist)