

***ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

**1528 Church Road, Toms River, NJ 08755**

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***Rev. Erik C. Hall, Pastor***

*Lee Boccuzzi, Administrative Coordinator Jan Phillips, Minister of Music*

*Bill Woerner, Church Custodian*

***December 2, 2018***

*"At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart?  
Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with  
God's own love and concern."*

*Mother Teresa,  
Love: A Fruit Always in Season*

***Welcome** first time guests - **THANK YOU** for visiting St. Andrew United Methodist Church website. We hope that as you read through the bulletin and activities you will sense our love of Christ and each other.*

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

***Please continue to pray for comfort, healing, strength and peace for members and friends of our congregation***

# *Church Family Activities*

## **WORSHIP THIS HOLY SEASON**

**December 9th, 2nd Sunday of Advent:** 8:30am Chapel Worship (Sanctuary); 9:30am Children's Pageant (Fellowship Hall); 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

**December 16th, 3rd Sunday of Advent:** 8:30am Chapel Worship (Sanctuary); 9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall); 11:00am Choral Cantata **"The First Noel: Celebrating the Birthday of a King"**

**December 23rd, 4th Sunday of Advent:** 8:30am Chapel Worship Service (Sanctuary); 9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall); 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

**December 24th, Christmas Eve:** 6:00pm Contemporary Candlelight Family Worship Service in the Sanctuary; 8:00pm Traditional Candlelight Worship Service in the Sanctuary; 11:00PM Midnight Candlelight Worship Service in the Sanctuary

**December 30th, Wesleyan Covenant Service:** 9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall); 11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

## **SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR TODAY**

Join us for a special coffee hour today! At 10:30am & 12 noon come celebrate our season of stewardship. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of St. Andrew.

**2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in the Fellowship Hall lobby. If you don't have envelopes and would like an assigned number please contact the church office.

**LAST CALL POINSETTIA SALE!** Order your poinsettia for dedication to be placed on the altar in time for the Cantata and Christmas Eve worship. Order forms are available after service outside of Fellowship Hall or on the table in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to St. Andrew UMC, thank you. For more info call Mary VanDeventer 732-255-3704. **Last date to order December 9th.**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** Saturday December 8th 11am-1pm. We will have pizza and games, we ask the parents to bring dessert and I need someone to lead a craft if we are to have one. Please RSVP and let me know how you can help! Thanks, Mary VanDeventer 732-255-3704 or [mdvandev@aol.com](mailto:mdvandev@aol.com)

**CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS CAROLING** Please join us on Sunday, December 23, at 3PM for Christmas caroling at the Spring Oaks Assisted Living (2145 Whitesville Rd. Toms River, NJ 08755). Afterwards we will be breaking into two groups to sing to a few of our St. Andrew shut-ins. As Buddy the Elf would say, "the best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear!"

**2018 NORTH STAR HOLIDAY BAZAAR-A GREAT SUCCESS!** This year's bazaar ended at an amazing \$22,500! That is wonderful and will allow us to contribute well over \$10,000 to Missions after expenses! Thank you to all of St. Andrew that help make this possible and please note the list of Community Contributors and Vendors that also helped make this possible! Please support them as they support us and let them know you appreciate their participation! God Bless! Deb Boucher

**50th ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS!!** Last Call!!! Brass ornaments are still available for \$20. A great gift to give this holiday season! Please see Mary VanDeventer to purchase.

**CHURCH GROUNDS** Volunteers needed to help keep St. Andrew looking trim and welcoming, see Dennis Poane.

## ***Women of St. Andrew***

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS** The United Methodist Women extend warm wishes for a very Happy Birthday and a year filled with God's blessings Barbara Morgan (12/2), Caren Sanns (12/4), Leah Purpuri (12/4), Lorraine Budion (12/6), Sarah Phander (12/7).

**WOW:** St. Andrew Women's Book Club meets every third Saturday at 10:30am at the church. Please feel free to join us. Upcoming book titles:

12/15/2018- The Greatest Gift by Philip Van Dorn Stern.

1/19/2019- The Bus to Corinth by Ladine B. Householder

2/16/2019- The Winter Soldier by Daniel Mason

3/16/2019 The Underground Girls of Kabul by Jenny Nordberg

4/20/2019 The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

For the rest of the 2019 list of books please look to the flyers on the tables or contact Amy Hall (908) 278-7076 or Pat Lewis (732) 674-5538 if you have any questions.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT AT SANDY COVE** Join the SAUMC Women February 1-3, 2019 for our 2019 midwinter adventure. Our souls long for time to focus on God's Word and listen to the still small voice of the Spirit. A Women Digging Deeper Weekend is designed to provide time to fervently study scripture under the guidance of a Bible teacher. Jan Silvius is the guest speaker. Join us, as we learn how to live as a balanced woman in an out of balance world.

**Sign up begins November 4th.** See Ann Canter or go to our website [standrewtr.org](http://standrewtr.org) for details.

## ***Missions***

**DECEMBER MISSION PRAYER** This month we remember in prayer those Ocean County non-profit agencies which give assistance and support to people in our local community who are in need. We especially remember Community Services, Inc./Meals on Wheels; Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey; Interfaith Hospitality Network; Peoples Pantry; and House of Hope. Pray for God's blessings upon the people who are served through these various non-profits, that needs would be met, resources become available, and lives transformed and enriched. Lift up in pray those who are on staff and those who volunteer in various capacities at these non-profits, that they will be strengthened and renewed in their service to those in need. We would also ask for prayers this December for our St. Andrew Food Pantry and our Christmas Outreach Projects here at St. Andrew, for blessings upon the families who receive resources and for the volunteers who help in any way with those projects. Thank you and God bless you for your prayers!

**"MERRY CHRISTMAS" GREETING CARDS FOR THE CHELSEA** Please join us in Fellowship Hall following worship services today where we will be signing Christmas Greeting Cards for the residents of The Chelsea Assisted Living Facility. Our greeting cards express the traditional sentiment of "Merry Christmas" and include colorful graphics depicting glowing Christmas candles. In addition, the cards include a Scripture verse from the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, verse 16: *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.* Be encouraged to include your personal note of Christmas blessings for the people who will be receiving the cards that you sign. Thank you for participating in this outreach to our senior neighbors who live at The Chelsea!

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – “THANK YOU, ST. ANDREW UMC!”** It's with great joy that we say "thank you" to everyone who participated in any way in our 2018 Operation Christmas Child Project and Central Drop Off Center activities. Thanks to all who packed OCC shoeboxes and dropped them off at St. Andrew. Our church count was 184! Thanks to all who participated as a volunteer at our OCC Central Drop Off Center - for those who greeted people who were dropping off shoeboxes; extended radical hospitality to those who dropped off shoeboxes; counted and moved shoeboxes; packed and cartonized shoeboxes; and moved cartons of shoeboxes to the trailers. Many thanks to Dave Richardson and the trailer crew who loaded the cartons filled with shoeboxes into the trailers. **Our Central Drop Off Center received and loaded into the trailers a total of 11,820 gift-filled shoeboxes!** Each one is a GO box - a "Gospel Opportunity". With each shoebox, the child will receive the toys and other items which will provide joy and happiness, and they will also receive the message of the Gospel, along with the love of God expressed through all of these gifts. We give thanks to God for His Spirit which is at work at St. Andrew! Thank you so much, and God bless you for your sacrifice of resources, time, energy and service!

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20*

**PROJECT: THANKSGIVING 2018 – “THANK YOU”** Many thanks to everyone who donated food, turkeys, and financial gifts to our annual Thanksgiving Baskets outreach project! We provided Thanksgiving Baskets (including a week's supply of additional food) to 54 families in need in our local Ocean County area. We are grateful for the energetic efforts and loving service of the entire team of volunteers, with a special “thank you” going to Sue and Dave Richardson who assisted with planning and headed the assembling and distribution aspects of the project! Thank you everyone for your dedication and faithfulness in blessing the families we serve through this outreach project!

**ANGEL TREE** is now in Fellowship Hall Lobby. Help support a child this Christmas. Pick a tag with a child's wish on it and return it by **December 9th**.

**DIAPER DRIVE FOR THE MAKER'S PLACE HOPE CENTER** The Maker's Place is a new United Methodist Hope Center located in Trenton, NJ. United Methodist churches in the Central Region of Greater New Jersey are engaging in a Diaper Drive Challenge, collecting diapers of all sizes for infants and children living in poverty. Donations will be distributed through the Maker's Place. Trenton is one of our under-served urban centers. The Maker's Place mission is to connect neighbors with neighbors in order to empower people living in poverty to make the most of their lives and communities. One in three moms struggle to provide enough diapers for their babies. You can help alleviate this challenge for low-income families in Trenton. **Missions at St. Andrew is hosting a Diaper Donation Drive as a wonderful way for our congregation to contemplate the significance of the baby Jesus during the season of Advent. We are collecting diapers of any size. A collection bin will be on a shelf in the donation station in Fellowship Hall Lobby. The last date to donate is Sunday December 16.** Diapers will be transported to the Maker's Place. The diapers will be distributed as part of “First Birthday” parties for babies and their families, hosted by the Maker's Place and Trenton area United Methodist churches. For additional information or to volunteer to transport the diapers to Trenton the week of December 17, please reach out to Missions Coordinator, Lucy DeBarge, at lucydebarge@yahoo.com or by phone at 732-833-9975. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity! <sup>15</sup> *Now they were bringing even*

infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>17</sup>Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." Luke 18:15-17

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** Thank you for your ongoing support of our St. Andrew Food Pantry! Below is the list of nonperishable food items needed to keep our pantry well stocked. Donations of food may be dropped off at the Food Pantry located next to Memorial Hall Kitchen or they may be placed in the receptacle in Fellowship Hall Lobby. Financial donations may be given at any time; special offering envelopes are located at the Missions Table in Fellowship Hall Lobby.

**Juice; Cans of Soup; Chili; Beef Stew; Canned Vegetables; Canned Fruit; Parmalat Milk (shelf-stable boxed milk); Cereal; Oatmeal; Pancake Mix (complete); Syrup; Ravioli; Peanut Butter; Jelly or Jam; Pork and Beans; Tuna in cans; Pasta; Spaghetti Sauce; Rice (2 lb. bags); Potatoes (mashed or other boxed mixes); Saltine Crackers. Also helpful are coffee, tea bags, cookies, shelf-stable puddings, etc. THANK YOU!**

## *Youth Ministries*

Please see lobby tables and our website [standrewtr.org](http://standrewtr.org) for detailed information.

## *Adult Bible Studies*

**THE WIRED WORD**, a weekly study seeking to find the biblical principles at work in newsworthy events. Because of the one-time nature of each study, ***The Wired Word*** study is perfect for those who can only attend occasionally. We meet each Sunday at 9:30AM classroom 9.

**CHRISTIAN COFFEES** Our current study is the Gospel of John. Our small group is using the John MacArthur study guide *John: Jesus – The Word, the Messiah, the Son of God*. This study will occupy our small group through March 2019. For additional information about this study, please reach out to Lucy DeBarge at [lucydebarge@yahoo.com](mailto:lucydebarge@yahoo.com) or by phone at 732-833-9975. Christian Coffees is the name of our small group. We meet each Sunday morning at 9:30am in the Shared Ministry Office (upstairs next to the Narthex). We encourage you to grab a cup of coffee or tea from Fellowship Hall and join us for an hour of study and discussion.

**Program Note:** Beginning November 25 through December 23, we will take a short break from our study of the Gospel of John in order to engage with a study for the Advent and Christmas season. *"Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels"* by Magrey R. de Vega, is a thematic Bible Study which will take us on a tour through the Gospel narratives, showing us what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel, and helps us to recognize that each Gospel writer invites us to encounter a fresh experience of the birth of Christ. For additional information, please reach out to Lucy DeBarge through the contact information listed above.

**BIBLE STUDIES AT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES** We bring Bible Study to the residents who live at two Assisted Living facilities in the Toms River area, Spring Oak on Whitesville Rd., and The Chelsea on Silverton Rd. Our current series is ***The Purpose of Christmas*** by Pastor Rick Warren. Our schedule at Spring Oak is three consecutive Wednesdays, November 28, December 5, and December 12, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Our schedule at The Chelsea is three consecutive Fridays, November 30, December 7, and December 14, from 10:30 am to

11:30 am. If you would like to join our team to help bring this Bible Study into these facilities, please contact Lucy DeBarge at [lucydebarge@yahoo.com](mailto:lucydebarge@yahoo.com) or by phone at 732-833-9975.

**ADULT CLASS** Anyone interested in facilitating an adult class please see Dennis Poane.

## *Weekly Servers*

### **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP USHERS (SANCTUARY)**

- Dec. 9 Team #2
- Dec. 16 Team #3
- Dec. 23 Team #4

### **CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADERS (FELLOWSHIP HALL)**

- Dec. 9 Pete Sabey
- Dec. 16 Scott Susich
- Dec. 23 Jeff Canter

### **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LEADERS (SANCTUARY)**

- Dec. 9 Doug Clayton
- Dec.16 David Geller
- Dec. 23 Linda Phander

### **9:30am SOUNDROOM SCHEDULE (FELLOWSHIP HALL)**

- Dec. 9 Bill Koch, Jan Phillips
- Dec. 16 Dick Green
- Dec. 23 Bill Koch

### **11:00am SOUNDROOM SCHEDULE (SANCTUARY)**

- Dec. 9 Dave V., Keila Earp
- Dec. 16 Bob DeBarge, Dick Green
- Dec. 23 Bob DeBarge

<b>WEEKLY CALENDAR</b>		
<b>Sun., Dec. 2</b>	<b>8:30-9:00AM</b> <b>9:30AM</b>  <b>10:30AM</b>  <b>10:40AM</b> <b>11:00AM</b>  <b>12:00PM</b>	Chapel Worship (Sanctuary) Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall); SOAR Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade; Adult Bible Study; Christian Coffees, Shared Ministry Office; The Wired Word, rm. 9 A special coffee hour, come celebrate our season of stewardship and welcome our new members; Blood Pressure Screening Choir Warm Up Traditional Worship (Sanctuary); RISE! Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade. A special coffee hour, come celebrate our season of stewardship and welcome our new members.
<b>Mon., Dec. 3</b>	<b>10:30-12PM</b> <b>5:30PM</b> <b>6:15-6:45PM</b> <b>6:45PM</b> <b>7:00PM</b> <b>7:45PM</b>	FP Distribution Appt. only (Memorial Hall & Kitchen) Bell Choir Rehearsal Shared Ministry Office Reserved Gospel Choir Rehearsal Troop (Fellowship Hall) Cantata Rehearsal

<b>Tues., Dec. 4</b>	<b>10:00AM</b> <b>1:00PM</b> <b>1:45PM</b> <b>5:00PM</b>  <b>5:30-6:30PM</b>  <b>6:30-7:00PM</b>	Women's Bible Study (Memorial Hall) Gospel Choir Rehearsal Cantata Rehearsal Thrive Chorus; elementary-school age music ministry (Choir Room) Thrive; elementary-school aged youth group (Fellowship Hall) Cantata Dance Practice (Sanctuary)
<b>Wed., Dec. 5</b>	<b>10:00-11:00AM</b> <b>5:30-7:30PM</b>	FP Distribution Appt. only (Memorial Hall & Kitchen) MYF & YES Club (Fellowship Hall, Memorial Hall)
<b>Thurs., Dec. 6</b>	<b>10:30AM</b> <b>12:30PM on</b> <b>6:30PM</b>	Naomi Circle (Memorial Hall) Toy Store Set Up (Memorial Hall) Den Meeting (Fellowship Hall, rm. 4-6)
<b>Fri., Dec. 7</b>	<b>All Day</b> <b>5-10:00PM</b>	Memorial Hall Reserved Toy Store
<b>Sat., Dec. 8</b>	<b>9:00-11:00AM</b> <b>11:00-2:00PM</b> <b>7:00PM</b>	Pageant Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) Children's Christmas Party (Memorial Hall) AA (Memorial Hall & Kitchen)
<b>Sun., Dec. 9</b>	<b>8:30-9:00AM</b> <b>8:45AM</b> <b>9:30AM</b>  <b>10:30AM</b> <b>10:40AM</b> <b>11:00AM</b> <b>12:00PM</b> <b>12:00PM on</b>	Chapel Worship (Sanctuary) Thrive Chorus meet in Fellowship Hall Children's Christmas Pageant (Fellowship Hall); Adult Bible Study: Christian Coffees, Shared Ministry Office; The Wired Word, rm. 9 Coffee Hour Choir Warm Up Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) Coffee Hour Memorial Hall Reserved