

**ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

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*Rev. Erik C. Hall, Pastor Jan Phillips, Director of Worship  
Lee Boccuzzi, Admin. Coordinator Bill Woerner, Church Custodian*

***November 24, 2019***

***"Seeking God is not a casual cosmic game of "hide or seek." God desires to be found."***

***- Nancy Kay Grace***

***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 1st, 1st Sunday of Advent:** 9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall);  
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

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

**December 15th, 3rd Sunday of Advent:** 9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall);  
11:00am Choral Cantata "One Small Child"

**December 22nd, 4th Sunday of Advent:** 9:30am Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall);  
11:00am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)

**December 24th, Christmas Eve: 4:30pm** Contemporary Candlelight Family Worship Service  
in the Sanctuary;

**7:00pm** Traditional Candlelight Worship Service in the Sanctuary

**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 contact Mary VanDeventer through the church office. **Last date to order December 8th.**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** Saturday December 7th at 6:00pm in Memorial Hall. Pizza, desserts, games and a craft. You must RSVP to Mary VanDeventer through the church office Thank you!

### **ST. ANDREW UMC AND THE WAY FORWARD**

The Pastor and Administrative Board of St. Andrew UMC have assured our congregation that our priority is the health, vitality, and unity of St. Andrew and its ministries, and that we, as a local church, will not be compelled to take a direction that we do not choose for ourselves. No one is going to be asked to change their Biblical/Theological commitments and convictions. It is therefore essential that EVERYONE have the opportunity to voice their hopes and concerns around how to be in ministry with LGBTQ people. We are beginning to schedule small group conversations to be hosted by board members together with the Pastor. There is also an open invitation for people to address the pastor or board members, one-on-one, to share hopes and concerns. Soon you will be contacted by a board member with an opportunity to attend one of these sessions. If a congregation member is uncomfortable sharing their hopes and concerns in these ways they should contact a board member to discuss other arrangements.

**PROJECT THANKSGIVING "THANK YOU!"** Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to this annual outreach project which blesses so many families in our local Ocean County community. Your generosity and sacrifice of time and service provide food and much needed hope this Thanksgiving holiday season to those who struggle with financial challenges. God bless you for your outpouring of love and kindness towards families in need!

### **TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE USHER NEEDED!**

If you would like to be an usher please see or contact Shirley Stone at 732-286-9508.

### **LITTLE BLESSINGS**

Little Blessings December date has moved to December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED**

Sunday mornings 9:15-10:30am and 10:45-12 noon. Must have experience with children, CPR and first aid certified a plus. Please contact Pastor Erik Hall or Harry Humphreys through the church office.

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE** hosted by the Interfaith Clergy Association of Toms River will be held this afternoon 4:00pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church; Hooper Avenue. Holy Cross is across the street from Hooper Elementary School. Michael M. Mazer is the event coordinator.

### **COME JOIN SCOUTING**

Pack 36 for youth kindergarten through 5th grade. Girls and boys welcome. Monday nights 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

Troop 36 for boys ages 11-18.

Monday nights 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.

For more information see or contact Doug Clayton through the church office.

### **BOX TOPS for EDUCATION for RED BIRD MISSION in KENTUCKY and ALUMINUM POP-TOPS for RONALD MACDONALD HOUSE**

Yes! We are still collecting both of them. Containers for each of these items can be found in the lobby of Fellowship Hall. Look for the door whose sign indicated where the containers are kept. Questions? Please speak to Barbara Morgan or Arlene Green.

## *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 Lydia Poane (11/28).



**WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA** Begin your Christmas celebration by attending the annual Women's Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 7, at 1:00pm. We will be serving delicious finger sandwiches and desserts.

Tickets: \$15.00 Program: Holiday Music All tickets must be purchased by Sunday, December 1. Tickets are available in the lobby of Fellowship Hall after Sunday services, until Sunday, December 1. If you have questions or wish to reserve a ticket, please contact Betty Stein through the church office by 12/1. Each table will seat the hostess plus 5 people, leaving room for all the table's goodies and decorations. (More hostesses are welcome so that we can accommodate all those who wish to come. If you would be willing to host a table, please speak to Vita Hansen as soon as possible. All food is provided by our caterer.)

## *Music News*

### **MUSIC CONCERT - Messiah & More!**

Sunday December 8, 2019 @ 2:30PM

Celebrate the season with one of the best-known choral works in Western music, Handel's Messiah, as well as added seasonal selections performed by the Garden State Philharmonic and the GSP Chorus under the direction of Steven Russell ON 12/8/19 @ 2:30PM St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church 685 Hooper Ave. Toms River, NJ. Sign up for tickets (\$25) on the Music Room bulletin board or contact Frank Ruzicka through the church office to purchase.

## ***Missions***

**NOVEMBER MISSION PRAYER** The first Sunday in November is set aside as the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). At St. Andrew, let us join with fellow Christians to lift our prayers before God on behalf of Christians throughout the world who are persecuted for their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. In many nations, Christians face worship restrictions, public humiliation, and social isolation. Let us become more aware of these situations and throughout this month let us be united in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters worldwide. *"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."* Hebrews 13:3

### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

(From the United Methodist Book of Resolutions)

As Paul writes of the interrelatedness of the body of Christ to the Corinthians saying that when "one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26), so we recognize the presence of religious persecution throughout the world. As The United Methodist Church condemns religious intolerance and persecution of all faith groups, we heed Paul's words and acknowledge the interconnectedness we have with members of the body of Christ throughout the world who endure persecution because of their faith.

Since The United Methodist Church opposes injustice, intolerance, and bigotry and believes in the power of prayer, we encourage United Methodist congregations to observe in November an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. It is through our earnest prayers that we grow in our sense of unity with Christians around the world, as well as with all members of religious groups who endure persecution. We become more aware of the needs of our brothers and sisters who suffer because of their faith, as we defend the religious freedoms of all faith communities.

**ANGEL TREE PROJECTS** The Advent and Christmas Seasons are fast approaching! At this special time of the year, we ask our St. Andrew members and friends to help provide Christmas gifts for children whose families are in need and struggling financially. There are two projects which we are highlighting in this article: our "Flash" Christmas Toy Store in early December; and, our Traditional Angel Tree Project. Both involve gifts which are being requested for children in need. The difference is the timing.

**The first group of gifts need to be turned in to church on Sunday December 1.** The tags for this group are currently available for you to pick up. See Lucy DeBarge in Fellowship Hall Lobby following worship services today for the tags and details.

**The second group of gifts need to be turned in to church on Sunday December 18.** The tags for this group are also now available for you to pick up beginning today Sunday November 24. See Vita Hansen in Fellowship Hall Lobby for the tags and details.

If you have any questions at this time about these Christmas outreach giving opportunities, please contact Missions Coordinator, Lucy DeBarge, through the church office God bless you in a special way during this wonderful time of the year! Thank you for your continuing and amazing generosity! *"Blessed is the one who is kind to the needy."* Proverbs 14:21

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD "GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY."** Thank you to everyone who packed OCC shoeboxes with gifts for children in need around the world! Your generosity is truly amazing! Shoeboxes should be returned today Sunday November 17. However, you can still drop off shoeboxes at church this week in order to be included in the count for St.

Andrew. Please contact Lucy DeBarge through the church office if you have any questions. Again, thank you and God bless you for your compassion and kindness!

**2019 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DROP OFF CENTER UPDATES** Through tomorrow, Monday November 25, St. Andrew is currently serving as an Operation Christmas Child Drop Off Location. Thank you to all of our volunteers who are giving of their time and energy at our OCC Drop Off Center! Please continue to pray for all have packed shoeboxes and are dropping them off; for our volunteers; and for our facility at St. Andrew, that our efforts are characterized by joy, excitement, and safety for everyone as we continue to receive gift-filled shoeboxes from local churches, organizations, families, and individuals! We are filled with wonder and awe as we witness how God is blessing this project and all of the people who are touched by this important global mission outreach!

**THANK YOU NOTE** Recently the Missions Committee at St. Andrew decided to send a financial gift in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Kita Jean-Marc Mutwale to help pay housing expenses while he is a student at Drew University in Madison, NJ pursuing courses in theology. Jean-Marc is the son of our Covenant Missionary, Kabaka Alphonsine, and her husband, Rev. Mutwale. Jean-Marc and his wife, Fallone and infant daughter Kitsiah (about 9 months old) are currently living in campus housing at Drew University. Jean-Marc asked me to let the Missions Committee and the congregation at St. Andrew know how very much he and his family appreciate the gift. *"From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank you and all the members of the Missions you Coordinate with St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Toms River for this huge donation and check that I received for the payment of our housing here at Drew University. May God bless you and all the people in missions and their families in abundance and may He bless the missions and the church of St. Andrew UMC in Toms River."* Thank you, St. Andrew, for supporting the missions and ministries of our church! Through our giving, we are able to help enlarge God's Kingdom and give much needed aid to people like Jean-Marc who are preparing for a life of service in ministry!

**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!**

## *Weekly Servers*

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

Dec. 1 Team #5

Dec. 8 Team #6

Dec. 15 Team #1

Dec. 22 Team #2

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADERS (FELLOWSHIP HALL)**

Dec. 1 Jan Phillips  
Dec. 8 Dave Richardson  
Dec. 15 Michael Mazer  
Dec. 22 Pat Lewis

**TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LEADERS (SANCTUARY)**

Dec. 1 David Geller  
Dec. 8 Barbara Delman  
Dec. 15 Erik Hall  
Dec. 22 Vita Hansen

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

Dec. 1 Bill Koch, David Schwartz  
Dec. 8 Bill Koch, Jan Phillips  
Dec. 15 Bill Koch, Jan Phillips  
Dec. 22 Bill Koch, Jan Phillips

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

Dec. 1 Russ & Russ Thistle  
Dec. 8 Keila Earp, Dave VanDeventer  
Dec. 15 Bob DeBarge, Dick Green  
Dec. 22 Russ & Russ Thistle

<b><u>Weekly Calendar</u></b>	<b>9:30AM 10:30AM  12:30-2:30PM</b>	<b>One Worship Celebration (Sanctuary)</b> Brunch for all in celebration of "Commitment Sunday" (Fellowship Hall) Shoebox Drop Off Hours for the Public (Memorial Hall) Memorial Hall Reserved All Day
<b>Sun., Nov. 24</b>		
<b>Mon., Nov. 25</b>	<b>9:00-1:00PM 8:00-10:00PM 5:45PM 6:30PM 6:45PM 7:00PM 7:30PM</b>	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Shoebox Drop Off Hours for the Public (Memorial Hall) Son-Shine Bell Practice Pack 36 (Fellowship Hall) Gospel Choir Practice Troop 36 (Fellowship Hall) Cantata Practice Memorial Hall Reserved All Day
<b>Tues., Nov. 26</b>	<b>9:00-1:00PM 1:30PM 2:00PM 5:00-5:30PM  5:30-6:30PM</b>	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Gospel Choir Practice Cantata Practice Thrive Chorus; elementary-school age music ministry (Choir Room) Thrive; elementary-school aged youth group (Fellowship Hall) Memorial Hall Reserved All Day
<b>Wed., Nov. 27</b>	<b>9:00-1:00PM 10:00-4:00PM 10:00-12PM 5:30-7:30PM</b>	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Shared Ministry Office Reserved Knit wits (rm. 6) MYF; YES CLUB (Fellowship Hall, rm. 4 -6)
<b>Thurs., Nov. 28 Thanksgiving</b>	<b>9:00-1:00PM</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b> Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) <b>Closed</b>

<b>Fri., Nov. 29</b>	<b>9:00-1:00PM</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b> Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) <b>Closed</b>
<b>Sat., Nov. 30</b>	<b>All Day</b> <b>7:00PM</b>	Fellowship Hall Reserved for Floor Cleaning AA (Memorial Hall & Kitchen)
<b>Sun., Dec. 1</b>	<b>9:30AM</b>  <b>10:30AM</b> <b>11:00AM</b>  <b>12:00PM</b> <b>12:30PM</b> <b>1:30PM</b> <b>4:30PM</b> <b>5:00-7:00PM</b>	Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall); SOAR Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade; Adult Bible Study: Christian Coffees, Shared Ministry Office; The Wired Word, rm. 9. Coffee Hour Traditional Worship (Sanctuary); RISE! Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade. Coffee Hour Memorial Service for Audrey Berry (Sanctuary) Repast in Fellowship Hall PRAISE! Worship Experience (Sanctuary) Holiday Bonfire (Back Field)