

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

December 1, 2019

***“Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t
before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come
from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a
little bit more!”***

***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

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 at 732-255-3704 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.

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

A ministry of St. Andrew United Methodist Church to families with preschool children. It's fun, free and educational! "Little Blessings" is for families with children 5 years of age and under. Little Blessings is a mom/child, dad/child, grandparent/grandchild program designed to strengthen children in spirit, mind, and body while fostering positive interaction between parent and child, encouraging good relationship skills. The activities are Christian based using themes and stories from the Bible. Each session involves toddlers and their grown-ups with activities that include:

- development of fine and gross motor skills
- social skills development
- songs, music, poems and finger-plays
- crafts and games
- snack time
- prayer time

Join Us on Wednesday December 4th at 9:30-11:00am in Memorial Hall.

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

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 call Doug Clayton 609-971-0044.

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).



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 **today, 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

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 those non-profits that St. Andrew is in partnership with: Community Services, Inc./Meals on Wheels; Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey; and, Interfaith Hospitality Network. 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 prayer 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 and individuals who receive resources and for the volunteers who help in any way with those projects. Thank you and God bless you for your prayers!

DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING Today's Communion Offering will go to our Angel Tree and Christmas Outreach Projects. Special Offering Envelopes are included inside today's bulletins. Our projects distribute Christmas toys and gifts to families with children in our local Ocean County area who are struggling financially. In addition, we are providing gift bags with snacks, hygiene items, and Wawa gift cards for local area individuals who are homeless. Thank you for your generosity!

"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 sentiments of "Merry Christmas" and "Christmas Blessings", and include colorful graphics depicting the Nativity, a welcoming wreath, and cheery poinsettias. In addition, the cards include a Scripture verse from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verse 14: *Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.* 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 2019 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 over 200! Thanks to all who participated as a volunteer at our OCC Central Drop Off Center - for those who greeted people as they 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. Each shoebox 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

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*

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!

Adult Studies

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 Christmas-themed series is a 3-week course of devotional lessons, based on *Sharing God's Love and Joy* by Willa Ruth Garlow. Our schedule at Spring Oak is three consecutive Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Our schedule at The Chelsea is three consecutive Fridays, December 6, 13, and 20, 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 through the church office.



WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP on Tuesday Mornings at 10:00am in Room 4. Start 2020 in God's Word.....The next study will be *The New Testament You Never Knew: Exploring the context, purpose and meaning of the story of God*, an 8- week study by N.T. Wright & Michael F. Bird. You will discover things you never knew about Jesus' baptism and

journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church into the Greco-Roman world, and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today. Through reading the New Testament we continually discover that God indeed keeps his promises, but those promises don't always look like what people expected, especially when it comes to Jesus. The first session will be on Tuesday, January 7. Please contact Pat Lewis or Arlene Green through the church office to order your study book by Sunday, December 22.

Weekly Servers

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP USHERS (SANCTUARY)

- Dec. 8 Team #6
- Dec. 15 Team #1
- Dec. 22 Team #2
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM To be Announced

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADERS (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

- Dec. 8 Dave Richardson
- Dec. 15 Michael Mazer
- Dec. 22 Pat Lewis
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 4:30PM To be Announced

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LEADERS (SANCTUARY)

- Dec. 8 Barbara Delman
- Dec. 15 Erik Hall
- Dec. 22 Vita Hansen
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM To be Announced

9:30am SOUNDROOM SCHEDULE (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

- Dec. 8 Bill Koch, Jan Phillips
- Dec. 15 Bill Koch, Jan Phillips
- Dec. 22 Bill Koch, Jan Phillips
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 4:30PM Andrew Phillips, Dick Green

11:00am SOUNDROOM SCHEDULE (SANCTUARY)

- Dec. 8 Keila Earp, Dave VanDeventer
- Dec. 15 Bob DeBarge, Dick Green
- Dec. 22 Russ & Russ Thistle
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM Andrew Phillips, Bob DeBarge

Weekly Calendar	9:30AM	Contemporary Worship (Fellowship Hall); SOAR Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade; Adult Bible Study: Christian Coffees, Shared Ministry Office; The Wired Word, rm. 9.
Sun., Dec. 1	10:30AM	Coffee Hour
1st Sunday of Advent	11:00AM	Traditional Worship (Sanctuary); RISE! Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade.
	12:00PM	Coffee Hour
	1:30PM	Memorial Service for Audrey Berry (Sanctuary)
	1:30PM	Repast in Fellowship Hall
	4:30PM	PRAISE! Worship Experience (Sanctuary)
	5:00-7:00PM	Holiday Bonfire (Back Field)

Mon., Dec. 2	9:00-1:00PM 10:00-3:00PM 5:45PM 6:30PM 6:45PM 7:00PM 7:30PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Memorial Hall) Caregivers Annual Respite Volunteer Luncheon (Fellowship Hall) Son-Shine Bell Practice Pack 36 (Fellowship Hall) Gospel Choir Practice Troop 36 (Fellowship Hall) Cantata Practice
Tues., Dec. 3	9:00-1:00PM 10:00-12PM 1:30PM 2:00PM 5:00-5:30PM 5:30-6:30PM 7:00PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Women's Bible Study (rm. 4) Gospel Choir Practice Cantata Practice Thrive Chorus; elementary-school age music ministry (Choir Room) Thrive; elementary-school aged youth group (Fellowship Hall) Trustee Meeting (Shared Ministry Office)
Wed., Dec. 4	9:00-1:00PM 9:30-11:00AM 10:00-4:00PM 10:00-12PM 5:30-7:30PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Little Blessings (Memorial Hall) Shared Ministry Office Reserved Knit wits (rm. 6) MYF; YES CLUB (Fellowship Hall, rm. 4 -6)
Thurs., Dec. 5	9:00-1:00PM Noon on	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Memorial Hall Reserved for Toy Store Set Up
Fri., Dec. 6	9:00-1:00PM All Day 3:00PM on	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Memorial Hall Reserved for Toy Store Set Up for Women's Christmas Tea (Fellowship Hall)
Sat., Dec. 7	1:00-3:00PM 4:00PM 6:00-8:00PM 7:00PM	Women's Christmas Tea (Fellowship Hall) Pageant Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) Children's Christmas Party (Memorial Hall) AA (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen)
Sun., Dec. 8 2nd Sunday of Advent	9:30AM 10:30AM 11:00AM 12:00PM	Children's Christmas Pageant (Fellowship Hall); Adult Bible Study: Christian Coffees, Shared Ministry Office; The Wired Word, rm. 9. Coffee Hour Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) Coffee Hour Interfaith Begins (Memorial Hall & Wing)