

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 8, 2019

It's a Wonderful Life

"Clarence: [to George] Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

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 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. **TODAY is the last day to order.**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE USHER NEEDED!

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

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

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.

Prayers & Sympathy

Don Covert, formerly associated with the music program at St. Andrew and many other churches, passed from this life on November 29th. He will be cremated and a memorial service is being planned. Details to be announced.

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 Allison Susich (12/10), Marie Bahr (12/10), Mari Lou Morgan (12/11), Stephanie Claus (12/11).

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!

ANGEL TREE PROJECTS Thank you to everyone who has participated or is participating in our Angel Tree and other Christmas Outreach Projects. Your generosity is amazing and truly reflects God's love to those local families in need who are receiving gifts through these programs! For anyone who is providing gifts for our Traditional Angel Tree (tags with the Angel graphic), we would ask that you drop off your gift by next Sunday December 15. Please place the gift, unwrapped and with the original tag, near the Angel Tree station in Fellowship Hall Lobby. If you have any questions concerning our traditional Angel Tree program, please see our Angel Tree coordinator, Vita Hansen. God bless you for your compassion and kindness!

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

*Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act.
Proverbs 3:27-35*

This Sunday we start our hosting week for Interfaith.

Interfaith Hospitality Network is a program that helps working families, who have suddenly become homeless, get back on their feet.

A network of houses of worship take turns feeding and housing children and their family for a week.

WE NEED YOU!

Can you spare 1 night approximately every 12 weeks? Do you like to sleep? We need volunteers to spend a night while we host the families. Please contact Vita Hansen through the church office.

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 at lucydebarge@yahoo.com or by phone at 732-833-9975.

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.

Music News

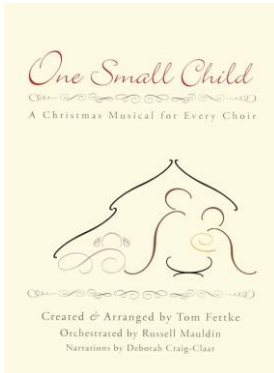
MUSIC CONCERT - Messiah & More!

Today 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. Tickets (\$25) contact Frank Ruzicka through the church office to purchase.

FREE Music Concert

The Island Singers presents: ***A Choral Concert of Holiday Music*** featuring American Sign Language. Sunday December 15, 4PM @ St. Paul Lutheran Church 130 Cable Ave. Beachwood, NJ & Saturday, December 21, 7:30PM @ Pheasant Run Barnegat Clubhouse 219 Pine Oak Blvd. Barnegat, NJ. See Barbara Smith for further details!



**Join us Sunday December 15, 2019
11:00am in the Sanctuary
St. Andrew Presents Our Annual
Christmas Choral Cantata**

**Conducted by Jan Phillips, Director of
Worship**

Weekly Servers

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP USHERS (SANCTUARY)

Dec. 15 Team #1
Dec. 22 Team #2
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM
Linda & John Phander, Linda & Gavin Stobie

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADERS (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Dec. 15 Michael Mazer
Dec. 22 Pat Lewis
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
4:30PM David Geller

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LEADERS (SANCTUARY)

Dec. 15 Erik Hall
Dec. 22 Vita Hansen
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
7:00PM David Geller

9:30am SOUNDROOM SCHEDULE (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

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. 15 Bob DeBarge, Dick Green
Dec. 22 Russ & Russ Thistle
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 7:00PM Andrew Phillips, Bob DeBarge

Weekly Calendar	9:30AM	Children's Christmas Pageant (Fellowship Hall); Adult Bible Study: Christian Coffees, Shared Ministry Office; The Wired Word, rm. 9.
Sun., Dec. 8 2nd Sunday of Advent	10:30AM 11:00AM 12:00PM	Coffee Hour Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) RISE! Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade. Coffee Hour Interfaith Begins (Memorial Hall & Wing)
Mon., Dec. 9	9:00-1:00PM 6:30PM 7:00-8:30PM 7:00PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Pack 36 (Fellowship Hall) Cantata Tech Rehearsal (Sanctuary) Troop 36 (Fellowship Hall) Interfaith (Memorial Hall & Wing)
Tues., Dec. 10	9:00-1:00PM 10:00-12PM 5:00-5:30PM 5:30-6:30PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Women's Bible Study (rm. 4) Thrive Chorus; elementary-school age music ministry (Choir Room) Thrive; elementary-school aged youth group (Fellowship Hall) Interfaith (Memorial Hall & Wing)
Wed., Dec. 11	9:00-1:00PM 10:00-4:00PM 10:00-12PM 5:30-7:30PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Shared Ministry Office Reserved Knit wits (rm. 6) MYF; YES CLUB (Fellowship Hall, rm. 4 -6) Interfaith (Memorial Hall & Wing)
Thurs., Dec. 12	9:00-1:00PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Interfaith (Memorial Hall & Wing)
Fri., Dec. 13	9:00-1:00PM	Senior Nutrition Site (Fellowship Hall) Interfaith (Memorial Hall & Wing)
Sat., Dec. 14	9:00-11:00AM 4:00-5:00PM 7:00PM	UMM Breakfast Meeting (Fellowship Hall) Cantata Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary) AA (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen) Interfaith (Memorial Hall & Wing)
Sun., Dec. 15 3rd Sunday of Advent	9:30AM 10:30AM 11:00AM 12:00PM	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 Choral Cantata "One Small Child" (Sanctuary) RISE! Christian Education Pre K - 5th grade. Coffee Hour