

St. Andrews Herald

Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

DEC. 2022—JAN. 2023



Story Time With St. Nick

Sunday, December 4th

2—4PM

Crafts for the Kids

Cookies and Hot Chocolate



December-January Worship Schedule

Worship December 2022 – January 2023

Dec. 4 Advent 2/Communion (Alternative Gift Fair & Storytime w/St. Nick)

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 1:5-20

Luke 1:26-38

Hearing the Miracle

Dec. 11 Advent 3 (Christmas Luncheon)
'A Weary World Rejoices' Cantata—during worship

December 18 Advent 4

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 1:18-25

Choosing the Miracle

Christmas Eve (Sat Dec 24) 6PM Worship
A Miracle for Every Generation

Christmas Day (Sun Dec 25) 10AM Worship

Isaiah 52:7-10

Luke 2:1-20

Celebrating the Miracle.



January 1 Christmastide/
Communion

Psalm 148

Luke 2:22-38

The Celebration Goes On

January 8 Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

Giving and Receiving Gifts

January 15 1st Sun after Epiphany
Guest Preacher Rebecca Lister

January 22 2nd Sun after Epiphany
Annual Mtg of Congregation

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Who Do You Follow?

January 29 3rd Sun after Epiphany

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Boasting For God!

The church
office will be
closed
Mon-Tue,
Dec. 26-27,
and Mon Jan. 2

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

In the case of inclement weather on Sunday morning
we will do our best to have worship online.

If the worship leaders are unable to be in the building
there will be a service online. Look on the website or call
the office for a recorded message.

THE HERALD is published eleven times per year at St. Andrews
Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is time! It is the time to bring out the trees, the ornaments that bring up so many memories, and to put up all the lights!

Advent comes and we open our boxes of special decorations, and we are invited to open our hearts to get ready for more of God's hope, peace, joy and love. This is a season for us to open our eyes, to see the weary world, to see the longing for hope, for peace, for joy, and always for God's love. In this I can't help but think about Ukraine and China, yet also in our own country as I so long for peace between warring views. As we count the days, may we offer more prayers than we can count for our weary world, our weary brothers and sisters all across the world.

This year, I keep thinking about the shepherds, on that clear, cool night. And on that night, as they watched their flocks, as they did night after night, they may have been weary and feeling like nothing would change...and then miraculously, suddenly the heavens opened, and that calm night sky was filled with angels singing! It was then they heard about Jesus, a new baby born, who was God, come to be with us!

In this Advent and Christmas season, I encourage you to look for God. It could be a night sky filled with angels! Yet, it could also be the miracle of a diagnosis healed, or the miracle of a loved one arriving at just the right time. The miracle of God's blessings coming for us in any ordinary day, like the shepherd's regular night shift, that became the most memorable night, proving that God does show up. Some would say things like this are simply a coincidence. What will we say? Are we ready to glimpse the miracle, the presence, the work of God, in our everyday?

Join me in looking and longing to get a glimpse of God this year. And also, to savor the hope of a child who can't wait for Christmas, the peace of a calm, clear night with the stars shining down, the joy of family and friends whose presence gives us a hint of what God's presence is like, and makes us long for more. And above all, love that binds us together, love that soothes and empowers, love that reminds us who we are, God's beloved children.

Together at St. Andrews, we are facing the challenges of reaching out with the good news to a world that is drastically changing both how they communicate and how they receive information. We are facing our own reality and financial challenges. Yet, while there is plenty to write, nothing is more important than opening our lives to more and more of God's presence. Perhaps, all our answers lie in the miraculous mystery of God with us.

And so from Advent, to Christmas, in all 12 days of the Christmas celebration, to Epiphany and into the New Year; may we go seeking Christ, following Christ, looking and longing for more and more of God, here and now. This is what we need most. Look for glimpses of God. Look for miracles every day.

With faith and hope in Christ,
Pastor Robin



DEC/JAN AT A GLANCE

A Quick Word from Rob



Anyone else feel like 2022 just started? What a wild year of transitions out of the social precautions of 2020 and returning to a new normal. But Looking ahead to 2023, it is going to be an amazing year of fun and fellowship centered around the Love of God in our lives! I look forward to this journey with you!

In Christ's Hope,

Rob

Winter Events

- December 4th 2-4pm, Story Time with St. Nick.
- December 18th 4-6pm Family Movie night in Snyder.
- January County Youth Rally
- Upcoming Murder Mystery Dinner and Lent Scavenger Hunt

Youth Groups

- Trailblazers 4-6pm Dec. 11, Jan 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th(1st-5th grade).
- Epyc 4-6pm Dec. 11, Jan 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th (6th-12th grade)

In Youth Group

Joy
Joy will be journeying through the theme of Joy in January. Read along with us and find the Joy of God at work.
Luke 15:7
Psalm 16:11
1 Peter 4:12-13
Hebrews 12:2

For More Information

Contact Rob

Cell 717-847-7618

or

youth@standrewslebanon.org

EPYC Expectations

December

Merry Christmas! The turkey has been turned into leftovers, The tree is up, and Christmas music is playing on every radio station! Which also means that it is time for St. Nicholas! Come join us for a time of fellowship and fun with St. Nicholas sharing stories and the true reason for this season, Jesus Christ born into this world.

Sunday December 4th, Story Time with St. Nick 2-4pm

If you are interested in Helping a few things are needed.

-Cookie Bakers

-Setup and Clean up crews

-Hosts to gather with the community

Youth Schedule for December.

Dec 4th Story Time with St. Nick

Dec 11th 4-6pm Epyc and Trailblazers

Dec 18th 4-6pm Family Christmas Movie in Snyder Hall

Dec 25th No Youth Group—Merry Christmas !

January

Every year I feel like the reflection is that the past year went by way to fast. This year certainly offered up speed, but also a year of transition! I am grateful to have moved in the new normal with everyone. 2023 offers a multitude of adventure and opportunities for youth and family ministry! Be on the Lookout for all the amazing events!

Youth Schedule for January

Jan 1st No Youth Group—Happy New Year!

Jan 8th 4-6pm Epyc and Trailblazers

Jan 15th 4-6pm Epyc and Trailblazers

Jan 22nd 4-6pm Epyc and Trailblazers

Jan 29th 4-6pm Epyc and Trailblazers

Upcoming Winter/Spring

January

County Youth Rally TBA

February

Murder Mystery Dinner

Lent Scavenger Hunt

April

Easter Egg Hunt

St. Andrews/Derry Pres Spring Retreat

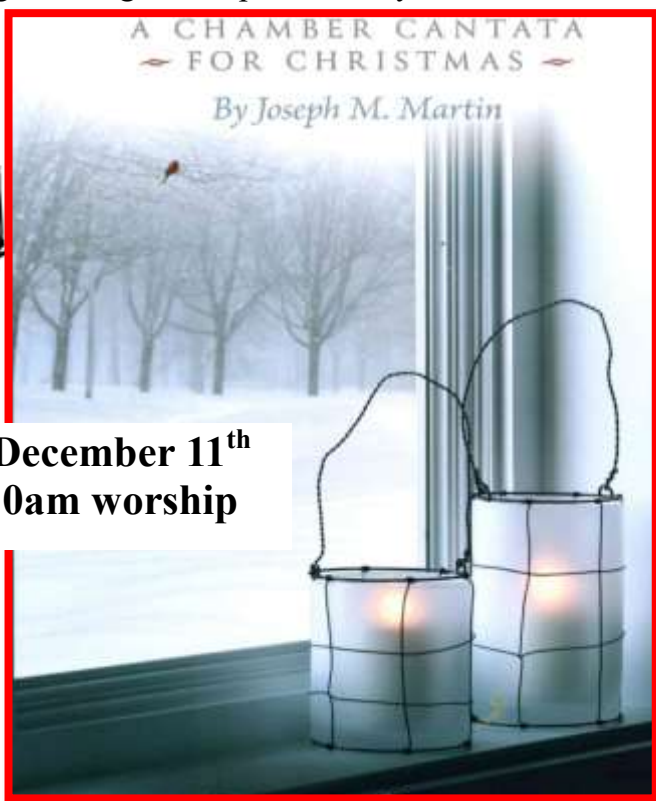
All Youth announcements and information can be found in the weekly email and in the podcast: EPYC TLDR

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“A Weary World Rejoices!” by Joseph M. Martin

In the weary days of winter, when peace seems like a distant dream, as wounded songs shiver in the night and shadows fall heavy upon the heart, unexpectedly, at just the perfect time, the hope of Christmas begins to glow. Redeemed, restored and renewed, we are awakened by God’s grace and we rejoice!

St. Andrews Chancel Choir, assisted by Dr. David Overholt and Pastor Robin Morgan, will present this beautiful promise of hope and light during worship on Sunday, Dec. 11th at 10.



**Sunday, December 11th
during 10am worship**



WEBS Group—(Wednesday Evening Bible Study)

We began our Advent study on Nov. 30th and we meet Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. When you hear the phrase “Follow the Star”, what does it mean to you? Over 2,000 years ago a star appeared in the night sky, and it guided the wisemen to the Savior (Jesus). Jesus’ light draws us to follow him still today. We are using the devotional “The Star: A Journey to Christmas” This book will guide us through Advent as we look deeper into Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Plan to make this Advent a time that helps draw you closer to Jesus as we prepare for His coming.

If you would like a book, contact me. The cost is \$2.00. If you have any questions on this study, or WEBS in general, please contact Ken Gries knagries@aol.com or 717.679.0677 (call or text).

Wishing you a blessed Advent season! Ken Gries



Annual Congregational Meeting

Immediately after worship
on Sunday, **January 22nd**

Mark Your Calendar: the fourth Sunday in January,
is our Annual Congregational Meeting
for the purpose of hearing the reports of the committees
and organizations of the church.

Save the date!

Deacon Doings:

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” -Isaiah 436:19

The end of another year is upon us. As we transition into the new year, it is worth noting that there will be some turnover on the Board of Deacons. With this turnover, please be aware that your Deacon **may change** in 2023. If you receive a new deacon, please take the time to develop a relationship with them. It will be easier to contact your deacon when you have a need if you have an ongoing relationship with them prior to that need arising. If nothing else, you may make a new friend. The deacon flocks will be finalized by the end of February, so please be patient while we make our adjustments. As always, if a need arises, and you are unable to contact your deacon, please contact the church office. Have a great advent season and a Happy New Year!

In Christ's Service,

Ken Gries – Deacon Moderator

“Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own.”

- Henri Nouwen, Bread for the Journey



If you know of someone who would like to have a prayer shawl, please contact Joanne Whary or Ann Ormond!

FELLOWSHIP

Discipleship and Fellowship



Fellowship groups have started,
but there's room for you!

These groups still have space:

-Thur @ 2:00pm at SACP -Sun @ 4:00pm at SACP

-Mon @ 7:00pm at various homes -Thur @ 1:30pm at Cornwall Manor
(ZOOM group is full, but another could be started)

Don't miss out! These groups are fun and feed your soul, If none of these times or locations are good for you, look for the sheet in the gathering area and let us know what would work for you or contact the church office to let us know you are interested in a group. We want everyone to be included.

A good word from Dallas Willard:

Non-discipleship costs abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout by love, faith that sees everything in the light of God's overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm in the most trying of circumstances, power to do what is right and withstand the forces of evil. In short it costs exactly that abundance of life Jesus said He came to bring.

St. Andrews Relay for Life Team is back!

Date: May 19–20, 2023.

Time: 6:00PM – Noon;

Location: Cedar Crest High School

We will begin our fundraiser after Easter.

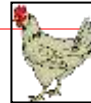
We will have our informational meeting in early spring
along with sign up times to walk.

We would like to start building a team now, so
if you are interested in joining our team for some fun
and great exercise while supporting a great cause
please contact Lorraine Lowrie at

lowrie.lorraine1@gmail.com; Text/Call 717-222-0295



18th Annual



Alternative Gift Fair

Sunday, December 4

8:45AM to 10:00AM in Snyder Hall

Do your Christmas shopping while helping others! Representatives from charitable organizations will have opportunities for you to make a donation in honor of someone on your Christmas list. Instead of purchasing the usual returnable items, alternative gifts are contributions to non-profit organizations that help those in the community and around the world.

Organizations participating are:

Habitat for Humanity, LifeWater International, Heifer International, and Lebanon Community Library. Lebanon HS Life Skills Class and Fair Trade will have items for purchase.

*****Cash and checks accepted by all organizations*****

**Coffee/Tea & refreshments
will be in Snyder Hall during the fair.**

Sign Christmas Cards for Home-based Members!

DONATIONS NEEDED

Gently used coats, especially adult sizes, will be donated to LCCM. LCCM is also in need of adult underwear, pajamas, and socks (all sizes and styles for men and women).

All of these items can be placed in the "Train" collection bin in the Gathering Area throughout the month of December.

THE ANGEL TREE

is in the Gathering Area!
Specific items are on the tags
for you to purchase
and return, unwrapped by 12/11.
Please consider helping to provide a gift
for a local child or youth this Christmas season.



Unwrapped gifts should be returned to the Angel Tree by December 11th at 11am.

Instructions are provided at the tree.
Wrapping paper, ribbon, and tape will also be collected so that parents can wrap the gifts for their own children.



MISSION SPOTLIGHT For DECEMBER

Ready to Serve Canned Soups and Bagged Noodles

LITTLE FREE PANTRY:

The pantry is being used every day. Several members put items in on a regular basis. Thanks to everyone. If you prefer, you can place items in the bin across from the Christian Ed office.

Some reminders:

- Remember only non-perishables should be put in. If you are putting in canned goods, all types are welcome. If you are able, those with flip-top lids are good because some folks may not have can openers. You can put in items that are in plastic jars, just no glass jars please!
- Easily-prepared dishes such as mac & cheese or mashed potatoes are always needed. If you can find mixes that use water as an ingredient rather than milk and/or butter, those are even better.
- Tea bags, instant coffee, powdered creamer, and packs of sugar.
- Cereal is good, but boxed milk makes it a treasure.
- Tuna in foil packs and crackers can make a good lunch.
- Don't forget that things such as toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Kleenex, and feminine items



**Christmas Luncheon
December 11th -
After Worship -
Snyder Hall
Ham and Fixings**

Come join us for a festive meal and we'll
do our part to put
a little Christmas
in each and every heart!



St Andrews is a registered charity with Amazon Smile. If you purchase products on Amazon Smile you will have the same shopping features as on Amazon.com. Amazon will donate .5% of your purchases to St Andrews. When you first visit smile.amazon.com you are prompted to select a charitable organization. Use the full name of St Andrews Presbyterian Church Lebanon, Pa. There is no cost to the church.

DECember birthdays

1	Wilma Miller	15	John Wissinger
	Jeannie Tice	17	Marc Hamme
2	Shelby Lister	29	Penny Samuelson
6	Lisa Hamme	31	Scott Stambaugh
10	Steve Schulte		



JANUARY birthdays

1	Sally Renda	25	Maggie Beatty
	Robert Lowrie		Sarah Flowers
3	Timothy Sensenig		Susan Strock
12	Sharon Schulte	26	Ron Hetrick
14	Jacob Overholt		Jean Ditzler
	John Spicer IV		Gary Strock
18	Mary Reitz	28	Doug Lister
19	Grace Hakkinen		Karen Uhrich
21	Karen Fedder	30	Kate Tshudy



Sewing Ladies' Christmas Shop – Sale table open through Christmas!! Checks payable to Sue M. or Ann O.

December 9th Violin Recital – students of local violin teacher, Ashley Butters, present a recital at 7PM. All are welcome and encouraged to come!

December 10th Free Noon Meal served by the Adult Sunday School classes.

SESSION NOTES

The Session held its regular monthly meeting in the Chapel on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. Rev. Morgan opened the meeting with prayer and led devotions from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24.

A report of the Transformation Team was received which included a mid-course review and a request for volunteer job descriptions.

Upcoming events include Hanging of the Greens on November 20. Story Time with St. Nick will be on December 4. The Angel Tree will be set up by November 20, with gifts due back by December 11. A Coat/mitten/glove/hat/pajama/underwear/sock Train will be put in the gathering area. An Alternative Gift Fair will be on December 4. The Christmas luncheon will be held on December 11.

Follow-ship small groups are meeting, which includes two Zoom groups.

Don and Maggie Beatty will be preparing a Thanksgiving Day meal at the Church. Those seeking fellowship on the holiday are welcome to attend.

The annual Stewardship campaign and 2023 budget preparations are underway. Preliminary estimates indicate a sizeable shortfall of revenue versus proposed expenses. Committee chairs are being asked what can realistically be cut from the budget. The Session and Trustees will meet jointly on December 6 to act on the adoption of the 2023 budget.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Stuart Juppenlatz. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6 at 7 PM which will be a joint meeting of the Session and Trustees to act on the proposed 2023 budget.



Mourning Has Broken—

A Grief Support Group of Saint Andrews Church

Meetings held the 2nd Thursday of each month. Join us!

THIS CHRISTMAS

MAY ALL MY FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO NEED A MIRACLE BE BLESSED.

MAY WHOEVER IS FEELING UNWELL AND WEAK
BE GIVEN STRENGTH.

MAY ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE HEAVY BURDENS
HAVE THEIR LOAD LIGHTENED.

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE ONE FILLED
WITH PEACE, HAPPINESS AND JOY.

Arthur Weinman



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