

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

~ *Our Values* ~ **Christ First - Inviting - Joyful - Open-Minded**
~ *Our Mission Statement* ~ Inspired by the love of Christ, we are building a community that invites our neighbors into a relationship with God and each other.

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS/FALL KICK-OFF NEWSLETTER



Worship with us in person
at 10am on Sundays,
or watch live @
www.standrewslebanon.org/



September Worship

September 1: **Rest. What is Rest?**

Genesis 1:31-2:3

Revelation 21:1-4

Sept 15: **Making Disciples**

Matthew 28:16-20

John 1:43-51

Living the Great Commission

Sept 8: **Going**

Matthew 28:16-20

Acts 16:11-15

Sept 22: **Here & Now**

Matthew 28:16-20

John 4:1-42



Spark Park Days



A Message from Pastor Robin



Dear Beloved People of God,

Two years ago, we gathered as a congregation, to consider where we were going and more importantly, where God was leading us.

We claimed this Mission Statement:

Inspired by the love of Christ we are building a community that invites our neighbors into a relationship with God and each other.

And defined our values:

Christ First: We will do all things as a reflection of Christ.

Invitational: We will extend Christ's welcome to all.

Joyful: We will vibrantly serve Christ with courage, enthusiasm, and a fun-loving attitude.

Open-Minded: We will embrace people and consider ideas with empathy and without judgment.

This mission statement and these values, have been such a gift to me as I plan and preach, reminding me of where God is calling us, and where the Spirit is guiding us together. It is a joy to see guests come in and be welcomed with love, grace and with open minds and hearts as we connect with them and hear about their journeys. It has been amazing to see God work, as we get to know our neighbors and seek to Love them, in the name of Christ. I have had more conversations with neighbors in the last 2 years than in my first 7 years at St. Andrews.

Two years ago, we also wrote 3 goals. This summer, Session appointed a team to gather the final conversation with Ministry Architects on May 19th and offer suggestions for our *Next Steps* to these goals, as we continue to move where the Spirit leads. I am grateful for the team that prayed and considered our next steps. The team consisted of Rick Borger, Ken Gries, Tim Peelen, Rob Cochran and me. Before we considered our steps forward, we reflected on where our ministry has connected to these goals.

Here are the Goals from 2 years ago, what we have done, *and* the next steps Session approved in July.

Goal 1 - By 2025, we will create balance for all adults, youth, children, and young adults to be more actively involved in discipleship activities than in committee meetings.

By the Summer of 2024 we have:

Adjusted our structure to reduce the # of members in an elected position.

Adjusted our meeting structure so that regular committee meetings are on 2 nights per month.

We have 7 Fellowship groups meeting regularly.

We have created a Discipleship Pathway for the congregation.

We have actively planned worship to connect to our specific pathway points to Knowing God's Word (Bible Basics, Fruits of the Spirit, Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, Revelation)

We are now able to actively connect new members/attenders with discipleship activities (Choir, Bell Choir, Fellowship Group, Grief Group, Sewing Group, WEBS, Sunday School...).

New Steps By 2026 we will:

Form 3 inter-generational discipleship opportunities.

Challenge each person to find 1 ongoing group, outside of worship, to walk with in faith. (Fellowship Groups, Bible Study, Sunday School, other Small Groups, walking group...)

Goal 2 - By 2025, each member will have a regular rhythm of inviting at least 3 people, each year, into our welcoming church community.

By the Summer of 2024 we have:

a rhythm of creating invitations for events (concerts, community events, special services, WOW services, Spark Park, Church Picnic).
We have also begun creating prayer cards, other spiritual elements for people to use during the week, and to share and invite others (no matter their faith community) to walk with us in faith.
Created an invitation center in the Narthex.
The deacons have adjusted their ministry to include visitors and new members.
The deacons lead a welcome team that helps intentionally connect visitors
Welcome gift bags are available
the office sends a welcome letter
New Member gatherings are usually held twice a year (seasonally in Fall and Spring)
The mood of the congregation has changed, and people enjoy being at St. Andrews which makes it easier to invite others.

New Steps By 2026 we will:

No one sits alone. (unless they want to, of course)
This is for all of us (long time members, newer members) to walk into worship, the GA, Snyder Hall, the Church Picnic....any gathering and intentionally look for anyone alone before choosing a seat.
Celebrate meaningful moments with our expanding community and one another.
Possibly create spaces (potluck/dinner) to get to know and celebrate New Members becoming a part of our church family.

Goal 3 - By 2025, we will re-imagine how we use and invest in our physical and online space to bless our neighborhood, by leveraging and elevating our members' existing community relationships and partnerships.

By the Summer of 2024 we have:

Revised, updated and implemented a new building use policy.
Intentionally invited neighbors into Spark Park
Between Spark Park, the Basketball hoop and the free little library/pantry the community crosses our green moat (large lawn) and feels welcome.
The community knows us through Spark Park, Concerts and Community events (Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-R-Treat) and not as the Bethlehem Steel Church.
We have a cross in the front yard, as we seek to share Christ and the cross in a way that connects to our values of Christ First, Open Minded and Inviting – people to pray with us.
We have a Grill to host Spark Park Community BBQ
We have the canopy up all summer and worship under the tent occasionally in the summer.
We have added sound equipment that can be used easily around the space (indoor or outdoor).
We have put up a port-a-potty to be available for the park as well as those who may not have easy access to a restroom.
We have used our space, beyond the doors, to help us know and love our neighbors.

Continued on next page...

New Steps By 2026 we will:

**Continue our ministry creativity outside the 4 walls.
Creatively use our indoor space to enrich and support our community.
Revitalize our digital space (New Website, Constant Contact)**

I am deeply humbled to see where God has been working in our midst. And my heart is lifted up with hope as I see where the Spirit is leading us, as we seek to follow Christ. Out of our conversation in May, the team recommended two new bold goals to Session, and they were both approved. As we continue to move forward, we will seek to step towards these goals, as the Spirit leads, living into the love of Christ.

By 2027 we will walk in love, with neighbors experiencing housing insecurity, partnering with community ministries and organizations, to build God's Kingdom, here and now.

Already this summer:

We hosted the PIT (Point In Time) Count, with the Coalition to End Homelessness, and created more connections with those in our community who feel called to care for our homeless neighbors.

We were blessed to have Susan Blouch, Executive Director of the Lebanon Rescue Mission share with us and invite us to be a part of their Christ-Centered Ministries.

By 2027 we will grow through our own deepening connection to God, and our willingness to receive friend and stranger, as the Spirit nudges and arranges introductions.

What might this look like?

See people as more than someone to add to our numbers.

make a new friend

love someone in the name of Christ, with no strings or expectations.

Look for how you can learn from someone else

As a community find a way to tangibly mark interactions with others that feel Spirit-led

Beloved People of God, every time someone shares with me that their church is struggling or even dying it tears at my heart and I pray for each of those churches, for them to be lifted up and enlivened by the Spirit. And every time, I am grateful that Ministry Architects helped us find a path that draws us nearer to God and our neighbors. We are growing in faith. We are following Christ, as the Spirit leads us. It is the greatest gift to know Christ and to walk with God together. I do believe these goals and steps above *are* leading us on this path of faith. Yet, be assured, if at any point the Spirit leads us in another direction, we will do our best to follow.

Let us pray as we journey together.

Let us boldly go together, as we seek to follow Christ, taking new steps, even uncertain steps.

May we know that God is with us always, even to the end of the age.

In the Love and Hope of Christ,
Pastor Robin



From the Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Thank you for all that you have done and encouraged with the 23/24 year of Sunday School, Youth Ministry, and Family Ministry! Your work with the students, families, and adults of the church shows a genuine love and care for our congregation and Community. As we are looking towards the 24/25 year of ministry I am excited for the directions that we are moving in as a church. Session approved a change from our Discipleship Pillars of Know, Grow, Serve. To a Discipleship Pathway of Know, Walk, Serve. The Sunday School, Youth Ministries, and Family/Adult ministries are incredibly important to setting a pace and pattern of Knowing God, Walking with God and our Neighbor, and Serving in Christ.

Looking at this upcoming year of Ministry I would like to ask if you would like to continue in the ministries you have faithfully worked alongside. I am grateful for the work that you have done, and I ask that you would prayerfully consider the path forward. Thank you for your willingness to serve the congregation!

In Christ's Hope, Robert W. Cochran, Director of Children and Youth Ministry

Summer Review

There are a lot of ways to measure the summer. I would like to offer this, 360 hamburgers. This summer we served 360 hamburgers, to anyone and everyone! A means of continuing to open the doors of the church to the community at large. Our summer has been a means of reaching out and presenting the Gospel in action and I am incredibly grateful to everyone who came along side and made this happen.

A few Highlights of the summer are that through the continued mission of Spark Park Days we provided a haven for families. In doing so we enabled curiosity to explore art, puppets, reptile friends, bug friends, music, and so much more. Maggie led a team of amazing volunteers to encourage music in kids lives through Music Week. Craig and Kayla provided a water slide for water day that is a tremendous draw to the community and show the life and love of Christ in our church. The students worked in mission week with a multitude of projects. Finally, we gathered on Thursday to music, food, and fellowship welcoming all in Christ. With each of these we have had amazing volunteers, Thank you to EVERYONE, Big and Small who made this all possible!

Fall

Of course, as you are reading this students are beginning their final plans for return to school. With the school year starts the launch of the 24/25 ministry year with all kinds of fun, excitement, and continued seeking of God. As we move into this year I want to quickly highlight the material we will be covering in Epyc and Trailblazers.

Trailblazers will continue their journey through scripture with What's in the Bible. This is a wonderful series that explores the books and narrative of scripture. We have used this course in the past with students and it set them up for great curiosity and success in navigating and understanding God's Word.

Epyc will begin a two-year journey through The Bible Project exploring the books of the Bible in a deeper manner and looking at how God has worked through the ages. The Bible Project can easily be found on YouTube and is an incredible resource for every age to use as a bible study resource.

We also have a season full of outreach and connective ministry ahead of as well. Each of these ministries will offer an opportunities to Volunteer and work with the community and students. If you are interested in helping with any of the upcoming events please let me know.

Backpack Blessing

August 25th we will bless the backpacks, educators, and lift our schools in prayer. This will take place in service and students are invited to bring their backpacks if they would like.

Continued on next page...

From the Director of Children & Youth Ministry Cont'd...

Volunteer Training

Sunday September 8th A volunteer training will happen 4-6pm in Snyder Hall. This training is intended for anyone involved in student ministries or interested in volunteering. Dinner will be provided.

Epyc and Trailblazers Resumes

Epyc and Trailblazers will resume September 15th 4-6pm. 24/25 ministry year healthy and liability forms will be available via email and hard copies will be available for parents that night.

Looking ahead!

Mark your calendars (Kind of...) Trunk or Treat is approaching! I do not have dates yet from the city but, we will host our Trunk or Treat on Trick or treat night during trick or treat!

The theme this year is Carnival. Get those games ready for a fun night with the community.

We will also have a pumpkin carving workshop with Dr. Overholt, stay tuned in for date and time.

December 1st 2-4pm St. Nick is coming for story time! This is a fun filled afternoon for the family and community. We will have a photo time with St. Nick, stories cookies and more!

Christian Education

The busy season for Christian Ed is just around the corner. We will begin the season with the **Kick-off Breakfast on Sunday September 8th** beginning at 9:00. Stay tuned for additional details as they become available. Sunday School will begin on **Sunday September 15th** from 9:00 to 9:45. We will have classes for all ages. From pre-K through adult. Once again, this year there will be two adult classes:

9:00 am: Various teachers. Topics to be determined. 11:00 am: Rick Borger. Topic Psalms

Small groups are an important part of our discipleship pathway. It is a goal of Christian Ed to have a place for anyone who wants to be part of a small group. We currently have several Follow-ship groups and our WEBS (Wednesday Evening Bible Study). We are hoping to create some additional Follow-ship groups as we move into fall. If you are interested in joining a group look for the sign-up sheet at the Kick-off Breakfast. Also, we are looking for those who would be interested in being the contact person for new Follow-ship groups that will be forming.

The WEBS Group will begin their study season on Wednesday September 11th at 7:00 pm in the chapel. The topic will be the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). The group will use the book "What if Jesus was Serious?" by Skye Jethani. Books are not needed, but the cost is \$10.00. Sign up in the Gathering Area or at the Kick-off Breakfast.

Heip Wanted: We are looking for a second paid caregiver for the Nursery. For information talk to Ken Gries. While we are looking for the caregiver, we are also looking for individuals willing to volunteer in the Nursery. Interested individuals will need to have their child abuse clearances. If interested, please sign up in the Gathering Area or at the Kick-off Breakfast.

Upcoming Events:

Have you ever wanted to read through the entire bible? Have you ever wanted to gain a basic knowledge of the bible? St. Andrews will be embarking on a Bible 101 the bible in a year. This will feature reading plans and some bible trivia nights! This offering is in its infancy currently. Please look for more details soon!

Respectfully, *Ken Gries – Christian Education Co-chair*



Mission

Monthly Mission Spotlight:

SEPTEMBER: Oatmeal & Cold Cereal

**Free Noon Meals:
Sep 14 - Friends of LCCM
Oct 12 - Music Ministry**

Mission Week Wrap Up!

Thanks to all who joined us for Mission Week **Sun, Aug 4 -11**

The activities included: Clean up at St. Andrews, Quittie Estuary and local Rail Trails; tours of local missions (Chestnut Street, Jubilee and LCCM); a trip to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg; and a new opportunity to work with the Lebanon Coalition to End Homelessness.

Our week ended with worship on Sun. Aug. 11th with a special message from Susan Blouch, Exec. Dir. of the Lebanon Rescue Mission.



Church Grounds crew



Kitchen Clean-up crew



Quittie Estuary crew.



Grief Support Group of St Andrews



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

Losing a loved one is a very difficult experience. Whether it's a close friend, spouse, partner, parent, child, or other relative, few things are as painful as losing someone you love. After such a significant loss, life may never seem quite the same again. But in time, you can ease your sorrow, start to look to the future, and eventually come to terms with your loss.

St. Andrews is here to help in your time of grief. Our Grief Support Group gathers on the first Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM. We share thoughts and feelings, and comfort and support for each other. Anyone is most welcome to join us.

Memorial Fund Update

Financial gifts received in memory or in honor of members or friends of St. Andrews are deposited in the Memorial Fund. Funds in the Memorial Fund may be used for any proper church related purpose, but not for ordinary operational expenses. The Memorial Fund Committee makes suggestions to the Session for approval for use of Memorial Funds.

Recently, Memorial Funds have been used for TV and equipment carts, the basketball hoop, the white picnic table, hand bell refurbishment, kneeling benches, the outdoor canopy, and the grill and accessories.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

We gratefully acknowledge memorial gifts received since 2022 In memory of the following individuals:

Bob Capobianco
Leo Seiser
Bill Andrews
Janet Grun
Tom Jackman
Charlotte Allwein

Barbara Kalbaugh
Bob Mauer
John Wissinger
Bill Birt
Bill and Jane Williams



THE RECORD OF MEMORIAL GIFTS IS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX

Music Camp





Music Notes



Chancel Choir and Praise Team Rehearsals Regular rehearsals resume Wed, Sep 4th.

Praise Team at 6:00 pm Wednesdays in the sanctuary

Chancel Choir at 7:30 pm Wednesdays in the Music Room

New singers are always welcome to join us in leading worship to sing our praises to God.

Our Chancel Choir and Praise Team share their love of God and music as they sing and pray in fellowship with each other. Come join our music family!

Singing brings your heart, soul, mind and strength together to focus completely on God.

Bells of St. Andrews Handbells rehearse at 6:45 pm Wednesdays in the Music Room.

Start date TBA for mid to late September.

Applause... Memorable Music at St. Andrews

Concert dates are set for the 2024-25! Concert programs brochures will be arriving soon!

Friday, December 6, 2024, 7:30 p.m. The Hershey Handbell Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Shawn Gingrich, will present a wonderful program of holiday music.

Friday, February 28, 2025, 7:30 p.m. Ben Mauger's Vintage Jazz Band will present a concert of New Orleans Style Jazz in celebration of Mardi Gras.

Friday, May 9, 2025 7:30 p.m. Chamber Ensemble and the Show Choir from Lebanon High School under the direction of Mark Naimoli. This concert will showcase the outstanding singers from our local high school in celebration of National Music Week.



Our Church Family

Dear friends and family of St Andrews,

Our daughters and others in our family have been laboring hard to empty our home as we prepare to sell it and complete our plans to move to Maryland. I want to share with you the number of folks who have helped us and also share some stories about folks who have been helped in many ways. As our daughters worked to sell some items, a family was looking at a dresser at a very low price. My daughters said they could pick it up for free. The man picked up the dresser gladly and returned in a few days just to show the girls a picture of how he had repaired and painted it making it useful for their family.

Another large Mennonite family with many children got a piano for free so the children can take piano lessons. She even came back for lots of free piano music. We were able to provide many pieces of furniture to help people in need.

A man whose wife is suffering from cancer went home with a car filled with food from our pantry and fridge. We have had so many good feelings about how we can share with others. Even though we have fought some medical challenges, we are so very grateful for the ways we have been helped and for how prayers have been answered in different and unexpected ways.

In addition to our girls selling items or giving away much from our home, our son-in-law took countless trips to Jubilee, many trips to the local library, and donations to the local men's mission.

Saying goodbye and letting go of so many things is made so much easier knowing we were able to pass it on and have others extend the life of things we have enjoyed. This makes our hearts glad.

We are so comforted by the church family and for the life lessons we have enjoyed. Give unto others. We are glad we could be here to see that happen.

Margi and Bob Hearson

Session Highlights

Session Meeting - June 4

At the beginning of the meeting, everyone gave their observations of the current status of the church, a follow-up to the Ministry Architects visit in May.

The Christian Education Committee proposed amendments to the Operating Manual which were approved.

Session voted to endorse Rob Cochran's Commissioned Ruling Elder Application to the Presbytery.

-Doug Lister

Session Meeting - August 13, opening prayer and scripture reading of Acts 9:10-19

1. Working in pairs, reviewed the new goals established by our work with Ministry Architects and brainstormed ways in which we could establish concrete steps to achieve those goals.
2. Approved changing Session meeting dates for the next three months as follows:
from Sept 3 to Sept 10; from Oct 1 to Oct 8; from Nov 5 to Nov 12
3. Accepted the resignation of Karen Dielmann from Session, effective 31 December 2024;
4. Received the resignation of Bonnie Houtz from the Deacons, effective immediately.
5. Approved a motion from the Worship Committee to grant a budget variance in the amount of \$1,449.45 to cover the cost of replacing the handbell foam pads and covers.
6. Approved a motion from the Worship Committee to authorize the performance of *The Living Last Supper* including Communion on Maundy Thur Apr 17, 2025, at 7PM in the Sanctuary.
7. Reviewed the proposed 2024 Stewardship Campaign timeline.
8. Approved a motion from the Memorial Fund Committee a request from Christian Education to make updates to the "family room" in the Education wing in furniture, lighting and other fixtures, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500
9. Elected Ken Gries and Marc Hamme Commissioners to Presbytery meeting Sat. September 7, at First United Church in Newville, PA.
10. Approved a motion from the Worship Committee to hold Christmas Eve services on Tue, December 24, at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Fredrick A. Borger

Please note: Minutes from Session meetings are available through the church office.

From the Deacons

Visitor's Bags & Invitation Center

Please help direct any visitors you meet (or bring with you) to get a Visitor's Bag as part of our welcome to St. Andrews! They are on the table at the Invitation Center in the Narthex, just outside the sanctuary.

In addition to the bags there are Invitation flyers & cards for upcoming activities to attend!
Pick some up to share with everyone!



Church Officers:

<u>Session</u>	<u>Nominating Committee</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
2024	Don Dreibelbis Robin Gries Lorraine Lowrie	2024 Rosemary Birt John Butler Jean Ditzler Robert Kopp Sue Mechura
2025	Karen Dielmann (Admin. & Pers.) David Overholt (Mission) Penny Samuelson (Worship) Doug Lister, (Pres. Trustees/Property)	2025 Kathy Crager Lorna Everhart Bonnie Houtz Mary Lynne Mulligan
2026	Karen Fedder (Fellowship) Rick Borger (Clerk / Nominating) Ken Gries (Christian Ed) Jack Kopeski (Christian Ed)	2026 Gwen Yordy IvaJean Conley Karen Regester Astrid Santiago

Church Staff:

Ministers	Members of St. Andrews
Pastor / Head of Staff.	Rev. Robin Morgan
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Richard L. Cassel
Director of Youth and Children’s Ministries.	Robert Cochran
Coordinator of Music Ministries	Carole Haines
Organist.	Lisa Meyer
Contemporary Music Leader/Digital Media Spec.	Johnathan Shuey
Media Coordinator.	Lew Sauerwein
Treasurer	Marc Hamme
Church Custodian	Daphne Hoke
Office Manager	Mary Lynne Mulligan



Church Office Hours
 9AM—4PM, Monday–Thursday, and
 9AM—Noon, Friday.
 If you should have an emergency when
 the office isn’t open,
 please leave a voicemail for Pastor Robin or
 email her at pastor@standrewslebanon.org.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

St. Andrews Mission Statement

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