

St. Andrews Herald

Newsletter of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 2025 - January 2026



~ 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.

Worship with us at 10am on Sundays, or watch live @ www.standrewslebanon.org/watchlive On YouTube by early afternoon.

Unexpected Advent

Dec '25-Jan '26 Worship



Nov 30 Luke 1:26-38
 Luke 17:20-37
Will it ever come?

Dec 28 Luke 19:11-27
About the Gifts

Dec 7 Luke 1:11-20
 Luke 18:1-14
Persistence & Prayer

Jan 4 Epiphany with Star Words
 Matthew 2:1-12
 Luke 19:28-40
Stars Shine, Stones Speak



Dec 14 Luke 1:39-45
 Luke 18:15-34
Like a Child

Dec 21 Matthew 1:18-24
 Luke 18:35-19:10
What do you want?

Jan 11 Luke 19:41 - 20:8
 Rev. John Green

Jan 18 Luke 20:9-26
On Rebels & Taxes

Jan 25 Luke 20:27-44
Family Systems & Eternity
 Congregational Meeting after worship



Dec 24th Christmas Eve
 7PM Family Worship
Carols, Cookies and Candles
Nursery available



A Message from Pastor Robin



Dear Beloved People of God,

A year ago we started the dual journey of Advent and moving through the whole Gospel of Luke. Advent beautifully led us through Luke chapter 1 with the birth narrative of John the Baptist weaving through the birth narrative of Jesus. I will admit, I was nervous (I think I still am). I have never taken on a worship series longer than a few months, and yet to walk through the Gospel of Luke, without skipping significant sections, I knew it would take us over a year. My hope has always been, that each one of us, would find certainty in the good news of Jesus Christ, by starting to know this one Gospel. This is just what Luke wrote to Theophilus (God lover): *"to write an orderly account for you...that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."* Luke 1: 3b-4.

On this journey, I have had moments of doubt. This summer, I wondered if these passages were connecting from one week to another. And as we came to September and I clearly understood why those particular passages were rarely preached. And yet, at every moment of doubt, the Spirit offered a moment of encouragement. At every passage that I was tempted to skip, God opened my eyes to see how this Word was the Word we needed, right at that moment. This year Advent comes to Luke 17, 18 and into 19. It is unexpected for this season and yet these chapters lead us to the heart of Advent in a different way. As the Pharisees ask: *When the Kingdom of God will come*, as the persistent widow reminds us to pray always and not to lose heart, as Jesus welcomes the little children and talks with the rich young ruler who wonders *what must I do to inherit eternal life?* We will find Advent offering us new ways to come to Jesus, right now, in this year full of ups and downs, in these difficult and confusing days.

The darkness of standard time and the darkness of the world around us invite us to lean into Advent, longing for God to be with us, and longing for the light that shines in the darkness. Starting in Luke 17, the Gospel will offer us Advent through unexpected passages. May it also lead us to an *unexpected Advent* in our lives, where God unexpectedly interrupts our lives, unexpectedly shines a bright light, unexpectedly brings heaven with angels descending, and where God comes unexpectedly into these present days, abiding with us, here and now.

The season is full. Calendars may already be overfull. But, may we pray for our own *unexpected Advent*, one we could never put on a calendar, one that overshadows our plans with God's plans.

Come and worship.

Advent is here to prepare us.
Christmas is coming to astound us.
Epiphany is all ready to lead us.

Looking forward to our worship
and our journey together.

In the wonder of God,
Pastor Robin



From the Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Earlier this year I tried out for The Saint James Players Christmas musical, The Christmas Doll. Adelyn had asked if I would join her in this winter's musical, and I am glad that I have. One of the greatest things about being a part of this production is the welcoming community of the theater. Students and adults have gathered in unified effort to produce beauty and creativity in our community.

I am grateful to find similar communities in the church and theater. St. Andrews has worked as a multi-generational community to produce beauty and creativity in our community! The most recent effort is the success of Trunk or Treat. Did you know this is the 10th year we have done Trunk or Treat? Which, if you add up the average number of Trunk or Treaters, we have handed out candy to over 3000 kids! That is a lot of candy...

Additionally, the church continues to find new ways to connect with the community. Story Time with St. Nick and its growth into Free Photos with Santa is a wonderful example of this growth. It was a great joy to be standing at the cotton candy machine and hear a family express excitement for getting canes and an invitation to Story Time with St. Nick, because they loved the photo they got last year.

From candy, to photos, water day, to summer fun, and all the food between. These wonderfully simple actions are seeking to live into the Gospel in loving and caring for our neighbors. While these may not always seem like direct actions, they are ones that show we want to invest action with our faith. I am grateful for this because as we continue to work and grow with the students, it communicates to them that we (the church) serve a living God, in hope and faith. The students see this, and it makes revealing Christ to them, alive and active.

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

Story Time With St. Nick

Sunday December 7th 2-4pm, Free Photos with Santa at Story Time with St. Nick. In addition to photos, we will have hot chocolate, cookies, crafts, and Story Time! Come for an afternoon of Christmas cheer and celebration of the gift of Christ.



Story Time with Santa

December 7th 2-4pm

A Community Christmas Celebration

Share a Christmas wish with Santa

Free Photos with Santa

Crafts

Milk & Cookies

Santa's Favorite Christmas Story!

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

600 S. 12th St. Lebanon, PA 17042

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Sharing Star Words



This year my star word was *Content*. It was a good word for me, as I rush from the bus stop to preschool drop-off, to the grocery store, to church, to the list of things left to do. It was a good word to remind me over and over, of the blessings beyond the to-do list. To remind me of all that was and is good. Of all the hopes of my past that are a reality. And to remember, that God is the one leading this crazy journey, so just hold on to this moment and be *content*.

As we draw nearer to the Christmas season, find your star word. Reflect on where you have found this word leading you. Reflect on what has happened and is happening in this year and consider ponder where God was and where God is. Sometimes I find, I am 'done' with a word as Epiphany looms on the horizon and other years, I know the word will stay with me for a while longer. As you consider your star word for 2025 ask yourself: *Who in my life, could I see connecting to this practice of walking with a word?*

Star words to share will be available by November 21st. We will have them available at the concert and all through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Put a few in your wallet to share with those you run into unexpectedly. Put some in Christmas Cards to those the Spirit puts on your heart. Pass them around the table at Thanksgiving or Christmas! These words, hidden in small golden envelopes are ready to go out to those near and far offering a way to connect to God.

As we gather for worship on Epiphany, this year on January 4th, we will open our star words together. If you will be at church in person, star words will be held and waiting for you. If you will be online let the church office know. We would love to send you a star word!

You will find the star words in the narthex on the invitation table. Share the words, let them be part of how you give and receive God's wonder and love.

In the joy of Christ, *Pastor Robin*

"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy." Matthew 2:10

Christian Education

Even though we have finished Bible in a Year, The Christian Education committee has decided to keep the Dwell App for 2026. We may be using it in the future for more churchwide study opportunities. If you currently have the Dwell app, there are many other ways to continue using the app for your devotional needs. There are daily devotions, audiobooks, Bible studies, commentaries, and more! If you do not currently have the dwell app and would like to give it a try, please see Rob Cochran for instructions on how to install the app.

Advent season is approaching quickly; there will be opportunities for advent study. The WEBS group will be studying the themes of repentance, redemption, and the transforming power of grace by using the movie "A Christmas Carol". There will also be devotionals for individual or family study available under the TV in the Gathering Area. Also, be on the lookout for a devotional calendar with daily bible readings for use during advent.

Respectfully Submitted: Ken Gries - Christian Education Co-chair



Bible in a Year

By now you may very well have heard the numbers for Bible in a Year. In case you have not heard we spent 118,833 minutes which is 1980 hour, or 82 days listening to the Bible. While the podcast side has been 750 gigabytes of data and 1000+ listens to the podcast. That is an impressive amount of time and energy spent in God's word over the past year!

Interestingly, when we started Bible in a Year last year, I put a Star Word in the bible I used. At the end of Bible in a Year I finally opened that word, it was *ENDURANCE*. What a beautiful final statement to reading through bible in a year. Especially when we consider

Hebrews 12:1 (ESV):

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"

This past year we have run the race set before us, completing a study of God's word driving us deeper into his love. This journey has brought out new layers of growth understanding and joy in me in new ways. Likewise, I have seen it in everyone who has undertaken this race of endurance. We have spent a year very intentionally embracing scripture, and we will continue that pattern in new ways. There is more to come and very soon!

The Bible

From *FAST* to *S L O W*

Coming to St. Andrews - JANUARY 2026

And your favorite podcast platform

Rob and I have had so much fun talking and podcasting through the Bible in a Year.

So often the Bible in a Year felt fast!

Like we were flying through parts of scripture.
Months before we finished that amazing journey,
we started to ask: **what's next?**



To follow the FAST journey through all of scripture,
we will begin a SLOW journey through a section of scripture.

The Bible from FAST to SLOW will change the pace,
slow us down, giving time and space to *ponder these words in our hearts*.

We will choose a book of scripture to dig into deeply.
To walk with, not just through a day, but through a week and a month.
To live, as the Spirit offers us ways to practice living into God's word.

There is a time to go FAST!

And there is a time to *S L O W* down.

May we listen, may we live, may we find God's Word that is for us.

Fellowship Committee



Christmas Carols with Carole and Lisa:
Thursday, **December 11th.**
Lunch will be served also! \$5 Donation



All-Church Christmas Luncheon December 14th After Worship - Snyder Hall

We'll provide the meal—including dessert!

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



Afternoon Movie & Luncheon
Thursday, January 29th @ 11:30am



RING AND SING

The members of Ring and Sing are looking forward to sharing their talents with the church family during the Advent and Christmas season. They will be sharing a skit, "*The Ornaments of Christmas*" at the Christmas Luncheon on December 14. On Christmas Eve, they will join with Lisa, our organist, on "*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*." We will have rehearsals 12/7, after Santa's visit, around 4 PM. We will also rehearse on 12/14, and on 12/21.



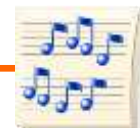
For the **New Year**: Ring and Sing members have spent the fall working on rhythm, melody, solfege (with help from Alexia!), ukuleles, singing, bucket drumming and chimes. We will continue this, extending our music reading skills by working with the handbells. The tentative rehearsal schedule is January 11, 18, & 25 when we'll rehearse from 3:30-4 PM. If you know a young friend who is age 6 – 16 years old, please invite them to join us. For further information, contact Maggie Beatty (memab3@comcast.net) or call the church office.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year





Music Notes



Chancel Choir, Handbells and Praise Team Rehearsal Schedule:

Praise Team at 6:00 pm Wednesdays in the sanctuary

Handbell Choir at 6:45pm Wednesdays in the Music Room

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

New singers & ringers are always welcome to join us in leading worship to sing & ring our praises to God. Our music groups share their love of God and music as they sing and play in fellowship with each other. Come join our music family!

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

Applause...Memorable Music at St. Andrews

Future Concert dates in 2026!



Friday, March 6, 2026 7:30 PM

Perfect Harmony's program is titled ***Inspiration! An Evening with Perfect Harmony.*** They sing all styles of music from folk to Broadway to gospel. They describe themselves as storytellers through music. Come, listen, and be inspired.

Friday, May 8, 2026, 7:30 PM

The **Summit Hill Bluegrass Band** has been an organized band for more than 30 years, performing in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Come and enjoy an evening of toe-tapping music including gospel, bluegrass, and country, with a little comedy sprinkled throughout.



FOLLOW-SHIP
@ ST. ANDREWS

Are you missing out on the fun? Follow-Ship groups meet twice a month to "follow Jesus together". There is room for you. Ask around. Over half of our attending congregation is in one.

If you are interested in more info, sign up in Gathering Area and Gayle Reilly will reach out to you.

In January we are hoping to start more groups, but don't wait. There is room for you right now.



Here is a Follow-Ship group celebrating September birthdays.



Mission

Monthly Mission Spotlight:

December: Flour and Sugar (1 lb. Or 2 lb. bags or boxes), Cooking Oil

January: Chicken or Tuna Salad Kits;
Canned Soup



Free Noon Meals
Dec 13 - Adult Sun.
School / Rick Borger

THE ANGEL TREE

is in the Gathering Area!

Specific items are on the tags for you to purchase and return,
unwrapped by Dec. 14th

Please consider helping to provide a gift for a local child or youth this Christmas.

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



DONATIONS for the GIVING TRAIN Needed

New and gently-used coats, especially adult sizes. Also, there is a need for new adult underwear, pajamas, and socks in all sizes and styles for men and women. Donated items will be given to local charity groups as needed. All of these items can be placed in the "Train" collection bin in the Gathering Area throughout December.



Sewing Ladies' Christmas Shop

Sale table open Nov 25th through Christmas!!

Handmade gifts – All kinds of ideas
for your Christmas Shopping List!

Look for our tables
in the hallway by the Music Room

Checks payable to Sue M. or Ann O.

Grief Support Group of St Andrews



In our lives, we all experience seasons of loss and grief. Whether it is the passing of a loved one, a difficult diagnosis, or another significant change, these moments can leave us feeling isolated and overwhelmed. St. Andrews is here to walk alongside you, and we invite you to find solace and strength in our Grief Support Group.

Inspired by the scripture, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4), this ministry offers a safe, welcoming space for healing.

The group is for anyone who is grieving, regardless of when their loss occurred. You do not have to walk this path alone.

Our Grief Support Group gathers on the Second Thursday of each month at 2:00 PM. Anyone is most welcome to join us.

St. Andrews Salutations



I want to thank Gayle and Astrid, Robin, Lorna and Rob for the visits, chats, flowers. I am blessed to receive all the cards and prayers along the way from members of St. Andrews. It is so nice to know so many people care and pray for me. Also thanks to Lorna for the prayer shawl, it is beautiful and I use it almost every day and the delicious meal you prepared for Mike and I. God has surely sent me many blessing to get me thru some days. It has been a long recovery and I am taking it slowly. Still walking with the walker and hopefully getting to use the cane soon.

Again thank you all for the well wishes. -Gwen Yordy

There is an updated church directory in the Gathering Area and in the Workroom. If you want your own updated church directory (names, addresses & phone #s) let the church office know.



Dec- Feb Birthdays



December

1 Jeannie Tice
2 Shelby Lister
4 Jeff Muraya
6 Lisa Hamme
10 Steve Schulte
17 Marc Hamme
29 Penny Samuelson
31 Scott Stambaugh

January Birthdays

1 Sally Renda
Robert Lowrie
3 Timothy Sensenig
5 Rakim Allen
8 Ray Cochran
12 Sharon Schulte
13 Nedra Embich
14 Jacob Overholt
18 Mary Reitz
19 Grace Hakkinen
21 Karen Fedder
Jonghoon Lee
25 Maggie Beatty
Sarah Flowers
Susan Strock
26 Jean Ditzler
IvaJean Conley
Gary Strock
28 Doug Lister
Karen Uhrich
30 Kate Tshudy

February Birthdays:

3 Benta Samuelson
5 Daniel Peelen
7 Jack Shuey
9 Ysatis (Izzy) Jimenez
10 Barbara Hains
11 Jill Kreiser
John Butler
15 Nansi Alexander
17 Louise Batdorff
21 Sarah Hamme
24 Louise Rahalewich
26 Rick Borger
Joe Prentice
27 Kaitlyn Mulligan
28 Carol Smith-Kilgore
Ken Gries

Session Notes

The Session held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 acted on the following business items:

- A motion passed to recommend that the minutes of the meeting of the congregation held on October 25, 2025, be presented to the congregation for approval at its annual meeting in January 2026.
- Session approved guest preachers: Susan Blouch on Nov. 23, 2025 and Rev. John Green on Jan. 11, 2026.
- Session approved the purchase of a new boiler for \$48,000 to replace the existing one, which is 50 years old.
- Session elected Bill Mulligan to serve as a Commissioner to the Nov. 19, 2025, meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle.
- Session approved Worship Committee plans to have the Living Last Supper play for Maundy Thursday in 2026.
- The Session reviewed the first draft of the 2026 church budget.
- The Treasurer's report for the end of October 2025 included Income: \$26,440.56; Expenses: \$47,544.12, and Balance: (\$21,103.56).
- The Safety Task Force reported annual fire drill held in October went very well and noted that the building was entirely cleared in 1 minute, 23 seconds.

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

Immediately after worship
on Sunday, **January 25th** Save the date!
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.
The Annual Reports will be available closer to the meeting.
*It is good to look back and reflect on what God has done
and look forward to where the Spirit is leading us.*

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 posted below the streaming
box on our website, and on Facebook & YouTube.
Look on the website
or call the office for a recorded message.

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
Office Manager	Mary Lynne Mulligan

Church Officers:

Session

2025

Paul Kilgore (Admin. & Pers.)
David Overholt (Mission)
Penny Samuelson (Worship)
Doug Lister, (Pres. Trustees/Property)

2026

Rick Borger (Clerk / Christian Ed)
Karen Fedder (Fellowship)
Ken Gries (Christian Ed)
Bill Mulligan (Worship)

2027

Fred Jones (Nominating)
Gini Badger (Stewardship & Finance)
Bob Dowd (Mission)
Tim Peelen (Fellowship)

Nominating Committee

Maggie Beatty
Diane Pomeroy
Glenn Royer

Deacons

2025

Kathy Crager
Lorna Everhart
Katie Martel
Mary Lynne Mulligan

2026

IvaJean Conley
Jean Ditzler
Karen Regester
Astrid Santiago

Gwen Yordy

2027

Judy Borger
Rita Solie
Sheri Timm

Automatic Online Giving may need to be renewed starting in January. Check with your credit card company or bank.

If you have checks sent to church
from a Financial Organization please
be sure to check your
statements to ensure that we have
received your gift!

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.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
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www.StAndrewsLebanon.org

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St. Andrews 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.

Our Values

Christ First

We will do all things as a reflection of Christ.

Inviting

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.

