

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

July 5, 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.

Welcome to St. Andrews—we're glad to have you worship with us.

Visitors, please fill out a blue “Welcome” card – we'd love to get to know you!

You will find yellow prayer cards in the pews if you have a request or a celebration you would like to share...an usher will come by to collect them.

Please sign the friendship register (on the center aisle) to record your attendance with us.

Lessons & Music for America 250

A PEOPLE STILL BECOMING

Gratitude for the Past • Hope for the Future • Faith for the Journey

Gathering Music

House of the Lord

Welcome and Announcements

Introduction of the Service:

On this 250th anniversary of our nation, we gather to tell the story in the language of faith. Through scripture, story, and song, we will give thanks for moments when hope has taken root, reflect honestly on the work that remains before us, and listen for the ways God continues to move among a people who are, even now, still becoming.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather not to glorify a nation,

but to worship the God who calls nations into being.

We gather as people shaped by history, summoned by hope,

and entrusted with the work of justice and mercy.

We believe freedom is not a gift,

but a practice we must cultivate together.

We come with gratitude for what has been made right,

and honesty about what remains broken.

We come trusting in God,

whose justice rolls on, whose mercy widens, and whose truth sets all people free.

Let us worship God, the ruler of heaven and earth!

*Hymn 561 vs. 1 & 4

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

LESSON ONE: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Scripture: Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” **He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”**

REFLECTION

250 years ago, a bold sentence was written—a sentence that named a hope larger than the moment that produced it. It was not a description of reality. It was a claim, an aspiration, a prayer disguised as a political document.

CIVIC READING (Declaration of Independence, excerpt):

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

PURPOSE

Those words formed a hope for a nation, for us, to live into.

*Sung Affirmation

We Believe

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LESSON TWO: STATUE OF LIBERTY

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 58:6–9a

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. **Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”**

REFLECTION

Liberty has always arrived with an accent. Some people came by choice. Others came in chains. Many came carrying hope heavier than their luggage.

CIVIC READING (Statue of Liberty inscription, excerpt):

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

PURPOSE

The lamp stays lit calling the nation to remember who it claimed to be.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we are an imperfect people.

We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved as you love. We have not forgiven as you forgive.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness. People of God, live into this hope.

*Passing of the Peace

Coming to Christ as a Child

Kids in Pre K-5th Grade are invited to remain in the sanctuary for this special service.

LESSON THREE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SCRIPTURE Psalm 24:1-2

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it, **for he has founded it on the seas and established it on the rivers.**

REFLECTION

For generations, these landscapes were home to Indigenous peoples who knew the land as sacred and sustaining. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Americans began to recognize that some places were too beautiful, too important, to lose. They set aside lands not for private ownership, but for the common good. In 1916, the United States created the National Park Service, committing itself to protect these landscapes so that future generations could experience wonder, solitude, and the beauty of creation.

CIVIC READING

(From the Organic Act establishing the National Park Service, 1916)

The Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

*Hymn

This Land Is Your Land

LESSON FOUR: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

SCRIPTURE Galatians 3:26-28

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.**

REFLECTION

For much of this nation's history, democracy spoke with a too narrow a voice. But voices refused to stay silent. In 1920, women secured the right to vote.

CIVIC READING (Susan B. Anthony, 1873):

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied...Is it a crime for a citizen of the United States to vote? I submit that it is not."

LESSON FIVE: WWII—GLOBAL COOPERATION

SCRIPTURE Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7–8

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; **a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.**

REFLECTION

In the middle of the twentieth century, the world was pulled into a conflict that spanned continents and oceans. Fascism and tyranny threatened to extinguish freedom and human dignity in many places. Millions served. Millions suffered. And millions never came home. The end of the WWII did not heal every wound, but it opened the door to new possibilities. Nations rebuilt. Old enemies learned cooperation. The war reminded humanity of the terrible cost of hatred and the urgent need for a more just and peaceful world. Even in the shadow of conflict, people of courage worked and prayed for a future where war would not have the final word.

CIVIC READING (*Excerpt from President Harry Truman’s remarks upon the end of World War II, August 1945*)

“Our rejoicing is sobered and subdued by a supreme consciousness of the terrible price that has been paid to rid the world of Hitler and his evil band. **Let us not forget, my fellow Americans, the sorrow and the heartache which today abide in the homes of so many of our neighbors...This is a victory of more than arms alone. It is a victory of liberty over tyranny.**”

LESSON SIX: CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

SCRIPTURE: Amos 5:21–24

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. **But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

REFLECTION:

Freedom promised on paper was denied in practice. Segregation was defended in sanctuaries. Silence was preached as patience. Generations of Black Americans and other marginalized communities were told to wait, to endure, to hope for a justice that seemed always just beyond reach. But in the midst of injustice, courage blossomed. Ordinary people raised their voices, risked their livelihoods, and demanded that the promises of this nation be made real for everyone.

CIVIC READING (Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail):

“Justice too long delayed is justice denied. **We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.**”

PURPOSE:

In 1964, the Civil Rights Act became law. It did not end racism. But it bent the law toward justice—because people of faith and courage would not stop pushing.

LESSON SEVEN: AMERICAN'S WITH DISABILITIES ACT

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:22-26

On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. **But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.**

REFLECTION

For many years, people living with disabilities were often pushed to the margins— excluded from schools, workplaces, public spaces, and even houses of worship. But voices rose in protest and hope. Advocates insisted dignity is not optional. In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law. It affirmed a simple but powerful truth: that every person deserves equal access to the life of the community. Ramps and curb cuts, captions and accommodations—these changes reshaped our common life in quiet but profound ways. They remind us that a society becomes stronger, not weaker, when every member is able to participate fully.

CIVIC READING: (*Excerpt from remarks at the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, July 26, 1990*)

“Let the shameful wall of exclusion finally **come tumbling down.**” George H. W. Bush

*Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

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Presenting Our Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

God of extravagant mercy, with hands outstretched you have poured out wonder and pleasure and delight, goodness and beauty and bounty.

So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all that is evil and ugly and impoverished, trivial and wretched and tyrannical, in our world and in ourselves— and thus may we and others know ourselves to be blessed. Amen.

Offertory

Come To The Welcome Table

Joseph Martin

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation

Prayers around the Table and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Communion of God's People

You are invited to come forward and receive communion.

If it is best for you to stay seated, let the ushers know- communion will be brought to you.

If you are at home, please find something to be the bread and the cup for you.

Prayer After Communion

*Hymn 564 vs. 1, 2, 4

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

God Bless America

*This worship services is adapted from a service
written by the Rev. Dr. Glenda Hollingshead
of 1st Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, Tennessee.*

Ways to support the ministries of the church:

1. Mail a check. If you have offering envelopes, they're self-addressed & just need a stamp.
2. Online giving. <https://onrealm.org/standrewslebanon/-/give/now>
3. Text a gift: *SAPC* \$ _____ to 73256

All services are in the sanctuary and streamed @ www.standrewslebanon.org/watchlive

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th St., Lebanon, PA 17042
717-272-9933 - office@standrewslebanon.org - www.standrewslebanon.org

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREWS

- Sun. July 5** 8:45-11AM Nursery Available / 9AM Adult Sun. School.
9:30AM Summer Drop-In Choir - warm up in choir room
10AM Worship / 11AM Coffee Hour
- Mon. July 6** Church Offices Closed
- Tue. July 7** 7PM Session Meeting
- Thu. July 9** 2PM Grief Support Group
- Sat. July 11** 9AM Men's Group
10AM-1:30PM Free Noon Meal (lead by Session/David Overholt)
- Sun. July 12** 8:45-11AM Nursery Available / 9AM Adult Sun School
9:30AM Summer Drop-In Choir - warm up in choir room
10AM Worship with Mission Speaker
11:15AM Mission Presentation w/Q&A in Chapel

Chancel Flowers are given by Tom Shott to the Glory of God.

Sunday, July 12th - Mission Speaker Veda Gill from the Presby. Education Board will offer the sermon, and at 11:15AM there will be a presentation in the Chapel with Q&A.

Starting Wednesday July 15th - Spark Park Days (10AM) & The Table (5:30PM) Wednesdays thru Aug 19th.
(Bring a chair for The Table story circle/evening prayer.)

Men's Group - Next meeting Sat. July 11 @ 9AM. (2nd Saturdays at 9AM and 3rd Thursdays at 6PM)

Free Noon Meal – Sat. July 11 10AM, lead by Session/David Overholt.

New Era Group – SIGN UP! Thur. July 16th, 11AM Painting Party & Lunch
No Experience Needed! Karen Fedder-hosting. \$10 each

Band Concert on the Lawn – Sun. July 26th @4PM – The Perseverance Band will celebrate America's 250th.
Bring a chair!

Mission Week Aug 2-9...Schedule and sign-ups are ready in the Gathering Area.

Mission Spotlight- July: Ground Coffee (10-12 oz bags or tubs), Toilet paper

Weave Week, July 7th–11th, several of our high school students will participate in a local mission experience alongside Presbytery and several of our sister churches in the area. Prayers for safety, growth, and open hearts throughout the week will be greatly appreciated.