

# St. Andrew's Times

**March 2024**

**ST ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**102 LOWER MARKET STREET; MILTON, PA 17847**

**(570) 742-2000**

**The Lord Turns Our Darkness Into Light.**

*A guiding lighthouse and saving station to our Community, Nation, and World!*



**MISSION STATEMENT: "To know Jesus Christ and to make Him known as Savior and Lord"**

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## Meet The Staff

Rev. Dr. Michael Stine, <i>Pastor</i>	570-406-0836 revdocmichael@gmail.com
Susan Bastian, <i>Church Secretary</i>	570-742-2000 X 300 saumc@ptd.net
Debbie Haulman, <i>Financial Secretary</i>	570-742-2000 X 301 sastaff@ptd.net
Mary Richie, <i>Church Treasurer</i>	570-742-3325 mkarichie@yahoo.com
Naomi Reed, <i>Chancel Choir Director</i>	570-847-0463 ndries124@icloud.com
Julie Blanton, <i>Chancel Choir Pianist</i>	570-713-5050 jblanton6401@gmail.com
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**If you would like to be removed from receiving this email Newsletter  
 or if you no longer require an additional copy in the postal mail,  
 please email or call the church at  
 SAUMC@PTD.NET or 570-742-2000 ext. 300**

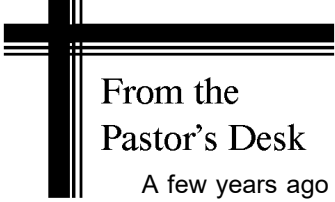
# SCRIPTURE READING

- March 1 - Day 61 - Matthew 9:1-17; Leviticus 3-4; Proverbs 20
- March 2 - Day 62 - Matthew 9:18-38; Leviticus 5-6; Proverbs 21
- March 3 - Day 63 - Matthew 10:1-25; Leviticus 7-8; Proverbs 22
- March 4 - Day 64 - Matthew 10:26-42; Leviticus 9-10; Proverbs 23
- March 5 - Day 65 - Matthew 11:1-19; Leviticus 11-12; Proverbs 24
- March 6 - Day 66 - Matthew 11:20-30; Leviticus 13; Proverbs 25
- March 7 - Day 67 - Matthew 12:1-21; Leviticus 14; Proverbs 26
- March 8 - Day 68 - Matthew 12:22-50; Leviticus 15-16; Proverbs 27
- March 9 - Day 69 - Matthew 13:1-23; Leviticus 17-18; Proverbs 28
- March 10 - Day 70 - Matthew 13:24-58; Leviticus 19; Proverbs 29
- March 11 - Day 71 - Matthew 14:1-21; Leviticus 20-21; Proverbs 30
- March 12 - Day 72 - Matthew 14:22-36; Leviticus 22-23; Proverbs 31
- March 13 - Day 73 - Matthew 15:1-20; Leviticus 24-25; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
- March 14 - Day 74 - Matthew 15:21-39; Leviticus 26-27; Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26
- March 15 - Day 75 - Matthew 16; Numbers 1-2; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
- March 16 - Day 76 - Matthew 17; Numbers 3-4; Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16
- March 17 - Day 77 - Matthew 18:1-20; Numbers 5-6; Ecclesiastes 5
- March 18 - Day 78 - Matthew 18:21-35; Numbers 7-8; Ecclesiastes 6
- March 19 - Day 79 - Matthew 19:1-15; Numbers 9-10; Ecclesiastes 7
- March 20 - Day 80 - Matthew 19:16-30; Numbers 11-12; Ecclesiastes 8
- March 21 - Day 81 - Matthew 20:1-16; Numbers 13-14; Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
- March 22 - Day 82 - Matthew 20:17-34; Numbers 15-16; Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20
- March 23 - Day 83 - Matthew 21:1-27; Numbers 17-18; Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
- March 24 - Day 84 - Matthew 21:28-46; Numbers 19-20; Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14
- March 25 - Day 85 - Matthew 22:1-22; Numbers 21; Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7
- March 26 - Day 86 - Matthew 22:23-46; Numbers 22:1-40; Song of Solomon 2:8-3:5
- March 27 - Day 87 - Matthew 23:1-12; Numbers 22:41-23:26; Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1
- March 28 - Day 88 - Matthew 23:13-39; Numbers 23:27-24:25; Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3
- March 29 - Day 89 - Matthew 24:1-31; Numbers 25-27; Song of Solomon 6:4-8:4
- March 30 - Day 90 - Matthew 24:32-51; Numbers 28-29; Song of Solomon 8:5-14
- March 31 - Day 91 - Matthew 25:1-30; Numbers 30-31; Job 1

The Christian Education Committee would like to remind the congregation that St. Andrew's children and youth (who attend Sunday School and/or Church regularly) can receive a 50% contribution (up to \$200) towards their attendance at a Christian-based summer camp from the Sunday School Account. All interested persons should contact Crystal Wertz by April 28th.



The Christian Education Committee will hold a meeting Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending this meeting to discuss summer activities.



## From the Pastor's Desk

"Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

Jeremiah 23:28-29

A few years ago in the weeks prior to Easter, headlines carried claims of shocking new "discoveries". Famed filmmaker James Cameron (director of *Titanic*) and director Simcha Jacobovici had just announced they were about to release a documentary called *The Jesus Family Tomb* which was scheduled to air several times throughout March on *The Discovery Channel*. Their film, they claimed, was about to challenge basic Christian beliefs and bring down the entire Christian house of cards. As one outlet reported: "New scientific evidence, including DNA analysis conducted at one of the world's foremost molecular genetics laboratories, as well as studies by leading scholars, suggests a 2,000-year-old Jerusalem tomb could have once held the remains of Jesus of Nazareth and his family. The findings also suggest that Jesus and Mary Magdalene might have produced a son named Judah."

The day after this story broke, Cameron and Jacobovici made the rounds on TV, claiming "this changes everything." Soon the media was saying that it was the "discovery of the millennia."

Now if their claims had been true, for Christians at least, it would have "changed everything." Because from the outset, the entire Christian faith has rested on the claim that Jesus had been raised from the dead. But if it could be proved that Jesus' body has been sitting in tomb for the last two thousand years, this claim would be blown to bits. It would mean the entire Christian faith is based on a lie. As Paul says in I Corinthians 15, "If Christ has not been raised from the dead, then what we teach is worth is worthless and so is your faith. More than that, we have told lies about God by saying that he raised Christ to life, when he really did not. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. We are pitiful fools, more miserable than anyone else on earth."

However, a strange thing happened on the way to destroying the Christian faith. As soon as this story hit the news, people began examining the evidence Cameron and Jacobovici put forth. Within hours, people began pointing out errors of logic, questionable analysis, and misleading arguments in their case. Initially many of these counter-arguments came from Christian scholars. But soon they were joined by many others with no ties to the Christian faith. Archeologists, philologists, historians, mathematicians, and even the folks who did the DNA analysis came forth to refute the film's conclusions. Even *Scientific American* (hardly a religious journal) ran a piece taking Cameron and Jacobovici to task for promoting pseudo-science. Perhaps most telling was the statement of the Israeli archeologist who'd uncovered the tomb in question. "The claim that the burial site has been found is not based on any proof, and is only an attempt to sell, I refute all claims and efforts to waken a renewed interest in my findings. With all due respect, they are not archeologists. It makes a great story for TV, but it's nonsense."

As these responses emerged, an interesting thing happened. After the initial airing of the show, references to it were buried on *The Discovery Channel* website. Plans to rebroadcast it were abruptly canceled. And the media reports about it went completely silent. In little more than a week, the world had concluded that the Family Tomb of Jesus was, as one headline said, "a titanic fraud."

This incident was one of many that represents an emerging pattern. Each year as Easter approaches, someone attempts to discredit something at the core of the Christian faith. As Bill Donohue wrote at the time, "Not a Lenten season goes by without some author or TV program seeking to cast doubt on the divinity of Jesus and/or the Resurrection. One year it was NBC's 'Dateline' trying to sell the wholly discredited claims of Michael Baigent. Two years ago ABC treated us to a special that questioned every aspect of the Resurrection. Now we have the Cameron-Jacobovici thesis."

These attacks on the foundation of our faith are troubling and some may find them causing their faith to slowly be eroded. The sheer number of these claims may cause you or someone you know to start to wonder if, in fact, the Gospels have gotten it all wrong about Jesus.

If so, I would simply remind you of how quickly *The Family Tomb of Jesus* has fallen off of the world's radar. The fact is there is really nothing new about these modern "discoveries" and claims. While modernity gives them "new and improved" twists, these conspiracy theories have been around (as the Gospels themselves attest) from the first Easter. Since day one, people have been challenging the claim that Jesus was who He said He was and proved it by rising from the dead.

And yet then, as now, the skeptics and deniers have been unable to prove their case. Time after time, their theories have come forth and been rebuffed by men and women who have examined the evidence and come to the conclusion that "He is risen indeed!"

Like any historical event, the Resurrection cannot be "proven" in the same way that one can prove 2+2=4. As Paul says in Romans 10, faith is needed to affirm that God raised Jesus from the dead. Nevertheless, there are a number of sound, rational historical reasons for believing in the Resurrection. Not the least of which is the fact that almost all of those eyewitnesses to the Resurrection eventually were put to death because of their faith. After all, people don't usually choose to die for what they know is a lie.

If one examines the historical record, it seems clear (to me, at least) that the real discovery of the millennia was made nearly two thousand years ago, when a group of poor peasants came upon an empty tomb and a Risen Savior. For them, and for countless billions since, this was the discovery that "changed everything."

So let the skeptics and revisionists have their day. Let them attempt their broadside attacks on "the old Gospel ship." The Scriptures say, "Let God be true, and every man a liar." As the case of *The Family Tomb of Jesus* and the others have demonstrated, eventually they will run up against the iceberg of Truth. At which point their theories, like the mighty *Titanic*, will sink into the depths of the sea!  
~Pastor Michael

# INCOMING PASTOR



## SOME THINGS ABOUT ME

### Rev. Brian L. Lucas

I grew up in a small town in NEPA (Northeast PA) the youngest of 8 children. My parents made sure I went to Sunday school and church every week. My church family taught me much about love, grace, and acceptance, as well as how to sing parts in a group. After high school, I was asked to be a Sunday school teacher, starting with different grade school classes, and moving up to youth.

As I got into my 20's, my involvement seemed to wax and wane like the phases of the moon, until I was asked to lead an adult class at VBS. I believe that I got much more out of the class than my students, and this was the beginning of my call (I'd be happy to share more about that).

I am a second career pastor having taken my first appointment in 2001. My passions in ministry are worship, missions, outreach, discipleship, and relationships (which are the foundation of all the others). Currently, I am very excited about the use of AI in developing possibilities for worship and ministry, as well as the "Free Expressions" movement of "doing" church in new ways and places in order to reach new followers of Jesus.

My wife's name is Susan and we have been married for 31 years. We have one adult son named Christopher who lives and works in Mechanicsburg. We have a dog named Faith and a cat named Zeus (we had another cat named Hades and we said, "we were covered from heaven to hell.").

Sue is a Civil War buff and a moose fanatic, and so her happy places are Gettysburg, PA, and Moosehead Lake, Maine (whereas mine is a warm beach). I believe that God calls us to places and ministries for a season, and I am excited about spending our next season together with the folks of St. Andrew's UMC.

**Rev. Brian L. Lucas begins his appointment  
at St. Andrew's UMC effective July 1, 2024**

**CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY AND EGG HUNT**

The Children's Easter Party will be held on Sunday, March 24th during the Church Service in the Social Hall and the Gym. Children will start in the Sanctuary and they will be directed when to come to the Social Hall.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on God's Lot (weather permitting) directly following the Church Service. If there is inclement weather, the Egg Hunt will be in the gym.

**CANDY DONATIONS FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT**

We will be accepting candy donations beginning Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, March 17th. A box will be in the foyer. Please NO peanut butter or nut items. Thank You!





**Maundy Thursday**

**7pm Service with Communion at St. Andrew's UMC**

**Good Friday**

**7pm Service at Bethany UMC, Milton**

  
**FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY**  
**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  


**Potted Plants:**

	Number of:	Cost		Number of	Cost
Easter Lilies	_____ x \$9.00	=	Hyacinths	_____ x \$8.00	=
Daffodils	_____ x \$8.00	=	Tulips	_____ x \$8.00	=
Amount Enclosed:					

Flowers Placed -

In Memory of:	
In Honor of:	
Placed By:	

I do **not** want flowers but wish to make a donation to the following:  
(Circle One)

Memorial Fund	Library	Other (Specify): _____
In Memory of:		
In Honor of:		
Placed By:		
Amount Enclosed:		

**PLACE COUPON IN OFFERING PLATE or**  
**RETURN TO CHURCH OFFICE**



**Order Deadline: Sunday, March 10, 2024**

# **Panther Packs Ministry**

Spring is finally here. Which means that the school year is quickly coming to an end. And the Panther Packs Ministry at St. Andrew's will be taking a break. Come and help at the packing night in one of the last three packings.

We have applied for a grant from the Central PA conference of the United Methodist Church and we are awaiting their selection of grant recipients. We should know by early April if we have been selected.

You are a Blessing to this ministry and the children of our community.

Here are the packing details for next few months packing:

Month	# of Wks.	Prepack (1:00)	Set Up (1:00)	Packing (6:00)	School Pick Ups
March	4	2/27/2024	3/5/2024	3/6/2024	3/7, 14, 21, 26
April	4	3/26/2024	4/2/2024	4/3/2024	4/4, 11, 18, 23
May	5	4/23/2024	4/30/2024	5/1/2024	5/2, 9, 16, 23, 28

Come and join in on the fun.

Panther Packs, showing the love of Christ through one meal at a time.

## **Panther Packs Committee**



## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Date:	Details:	Time:
March 3	Regular Youth	6-8pm
March 9	Winter Jam (Cost \$15 per youth)	TBD
March 10	No Youth	
March 17	Regular Youth	6-8pm
March 24	Regular Youth	6-8pm
March 31	Easter—No Youth	

**\*\*Safe Sanctuary  
Approved Volunteers  
Needed\*\***

**Get CONNECTED**

<https://www.remind.com/join/9228b7>

# ANNIVERSARIES

EISLEY, THOMAS & DANA	4
FORESMAN, JIM & JILL	6
NAPP, TERRY & RAMONA	18

# BIRTHDAYS

JOSHUA DESIDERATI	1	BEVERLY RANCK	14
SUSAN O'BRIEN (GATES)	1	GRANT STITELY	14
MIKE REICH	1	ALAINA TAYLOR	14
RUTH EISLEY	2	JUSTIN SMITH	15
CHRIS EMORY	2	SUSAN PAUL	16
ANTHONY MEADE	2	MICHAEL RIEHL	16
RUSTY BAKER	3	TERRY GOOD	17
JEREMY BROWN	4	TERZA KLINE	20
SANDRA MILLER	4	CARSON KOCH	20
CINDY SNYDER	5	LUCAS SHEARER	20
KEVIN WAGNER	5	BUD DUGAN	21
HEATHER RIVERA	6	BRENDA PEARL	21
DANIEL BROWN	7	LAUREN STEINER	21
STEPHANIE BYERS	7	CRYSTAL WERTZ	21
CLAIRE DICK	7	MICHELLE MCNICHOLS	22
DAVID MILLER	7	FREDA VASTINE	22
CAROLYN REIMENSNYDER	7	MOLLY BROWN	23
KELSEY STAHLNECKER	9	TERRI SNYDER	23
SANDEE STITELY	9	MARY STYER	23
CASEY LYTL	10	DENISE BAKER	27
IRENE DICK	11	KEITH BAKER	27
OWEN HOLMES	11	DONNA CHRISMER	27
MADelyn SNYDER	11	ELI REITZ	27
TABITHA WINGATE	11	MICHAEL SNYDER	27
KYLIE ORTITY	12	HELEN WERTZ	27
DONNA RIDER	12	LOGAN STAHLNECKER	29
SHARON WERT	12	DARREN STITELY	29



# MAR 2024

Email: [saumc@ptd.net](mailto:saumc@ptd.net)  
 Website: [saumcmilton.org](http://saumcmilton.org)  
 Facebook: [facebook.com/standrewsumcmilton](https://facebook.com/standrewsumcmilton)

## Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday — 8:00am-1:00pm  
Tuesday, Thursday — Please Call First  
 Church Office: 570-742-2000 ext. 300  
 Noah's Ark: 570-742-8951

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
						02
	03	04	05	06	07	08
10am Children's Choir Practice *Fellowship Meal after church  2-4pm Grief Share	10am Cluster Lenten Study @ Bethany  4:00-4:45pm Community Harvest	1:00pm Panther Packs Set-Up	Noon@ First Presbyterian Soup & the Word  6:00pm Panther Packs	7:15pm Choir		
	10	11	12	13	14	15
Daylight Savings *Scouting Sunday  10am Children's Choir Practice  2-4pm Grief Share	10am Cluster Lenten Study @ Bethany  4:00-4:45pm Community Harvest  7:00pm Admin Council	7:00pm Trustee Mtg	Noon@ First Presbyterian Soup & the Word	6:00pm Girl Scouts  7:15pm Choir		Noah's Ark using Social Hall 6-8pm
	17	18	19	20	21	22
10am Children's Choir Practice *Communion  2-4pm Grief Share	10am Cluster Lenten Study @ Bethany  4:00-4:45pm Community Harvest		Noon@ First Presbyterian Soup & the Word  Newsletter Article Deadline	6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir		
	24	25	26	27	28	29
Palm Sunday 10am Children's Choir Practice *Children's Easter Party & Egg Hunt  2-4pm Grief Share	4:00-4:45pm Community Harvest		9:00am Mail Newsletter  Noon@ First Presbyterian Soup & the Word  7:00pm Choir	7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion	7:00pm Good Friday Service at Bethany UMC, Milton	11:00-4:00pm Rental - Kitchen, Gym & Social Hall
	31					

## Easter

10am Children's  
Choir Practice

## *Upholding our Members in Prayer*

In keeping with HIPPA privacy regulations, we list only the names of  
Members and active Attendees who agree to be listed.

*Please help us keep the list updated with additions, removals  
and any corrections by contacting the church office. Thank You!*



Pastor Mark Brumbach	Jane Lentz	Dale & Lou Ann Sheets
Diane Delcamp	Richard & Gloria McSwain	Fred Simon
Jeff Diggan	Aaron Merwin	Sylvia Smith
Ruth Eisley	Devynn Napp-Barker	Glenn & Ida Snyder
Larry Emery	Sean Neilson (Navy)	Marion Steese
Linda Emery	Edith Noaker	Pastor Michael Stine
David Everitt (Navy)	Helen Phillips	Sharon Wert
Marlene Fama	Judy Pursell	Kathy & Gary Wieand
Peggy Fullmer	Fred Ranck	Richard Winter
Don Geiger	Mary Richie	Shirley "Sis" Yocum
Sylvia Hendricks	Robert Riehl	Bob Zartman
Denise Larsen	Michael S. Royer	Emma Zeager & Family
Janet Lee	Bonnie Rute	

**Celebration Villa (Lewisburg) - Shirley Wilver**

**Milton N&R - Mary Scholl, Lois Wagner, Ward Walter**

**Riverwoods - Nancy Stahlnecker, Edna Walter**

**Watsonstown N&R - Peg Cravatt, Lucille Zellers**

**Missionaries we support and their missions.**

Red Bird Mission

James and Bernice Keech – Board of Global Missions

Sierra Leone Initiative: Partner Church

– Zimmi United Methodist and Pastor Dominic Kanu

Dr. Christiana Hena and her ministry with Healthy Women/Healthy Liberia.

### **Prayer Chain - Please Call:**

Mercy Gray - 570-701-7948

Edith Noaker - 570-742-4756

\*Changes to printed list should be given to the office\*



Those Recently Lost:

Gary Mitchell 2/14/24

# VOLUNTEERS SERVING — March 2024

## Ushers

Larry Lloyd, Chief	
Richard Neilson	Nate Richie
Dennis Delcamp	Robert Snyder
Steve Bennage	Debbie Haulman

## Altar Stewards

Scott & Michelle McElwee
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## GREETERS

3	Dave & Sue Miller
10	Susan Bastian
17	Bonnie Thomas
24	Debbie Haulman
31	Mercy Gray



## LOVE PATROL

3	Lisa McManus Barry Bowers, Jr.
10	Mary Richie Michael Porter
17	Sandee Stitely Jim Neuer
24	Lauren Richie Dan Baker
31	Nathan Richie Leslie Porter

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

3	Leslie Porter Lara Dick
10	Lauren Richie Krissy Lytle
17	Crystal Wertz Debbie Haulman
24	Children's Party
31	No Children's Church

## Financial Stewards

Mona Napp & Shirley Coup
--------------------------

## ACOLYTES

3	Irene Dick
10	Casey Jo Lytle
17	Nelson Wertz
24	Grant Richie
31	Layla Richie

## CHILDREN'S MINUTE

3	Pastor Michael
10	Nate Richie
17	Krissy Lytle
24	Dave Miller
31	Pastor Michael

# Financial Picture

2024	Jan-24	Year-to -date totals
<b><u>CURRENT</u></b>		
Budgeted	21,978.22	21,978.22
Receipts (Incl. loan from Cap Impr. Acct)	23,462.40	23,462.40
Expenditures	20,797.40	20,797.40
<b><u>MISSION</u></b>		
Budgeted	4,092.51	4,092.51
Receipts	4,160.52	4,160.52
Expenditures	3,956.96	3,956.96
<b><u>FAITH PROMISE (non-budget)</u></b>		
Receipts	70.00	70.00
Expenditures	0.00	0.00
<b><u>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</u></b>		
Budgeted	0.00	0.00
Receipts	1,503.87	1,503.87
Expenditures (loan to current fund)	0.00	0.00
<b><u>TRUSTEE</u></b>		
Budgeted	2,808.48	2,808.48
Receipts	413.75	413.75
Expenditures	1,468.13	1,468.13
Rally Day Receipts (non-budget)	0.00	0.00
<b><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u></b>		
Budgeted	495.87	495.87
Receipts	297.00	297.00
Expenditures	83.94	83.94
<hr/>		
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>29,375.08</b>	<b>29,375.08</b>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>29,907.54</b>	<b>29,907.54</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>26,306.43</b>	<b>26,306.43</b>