

St. Andrew's Times

December 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"

SCRIPTURE READING

- December 1 - Day 336 - Galatians 5:16-26; Ezekiel 1; Psalm 148
- December 2 - Day 337 - Galatians 6; Ezekiel 2-3; Psalm 149
- December 3 - Day 338 - Ephesians 1; Ezekiel 4-5; Psalm 150
- December 4 - Day 339 - Ephesians 2; Ezekiel 6-7; Isaiah 40
- December 5 - Day 340 - Ephesians 3; Ezekiel 8-9; Isaiah 41
- December 6 - Day 341 - Ephesians 4:1-16; Ezekiel 10-11; Isaiah 42
- December 7 - Day 342 - Ephesians 4:17-32; Ezekiel 12-13; Isaiah 43
- December 8 - Day 343 - Ephesians 5:1-20; Ezekiel 14-15; Isaiah 44
- December 9 - Day 344 - Ephesians 5:21-33; Ezekiel 16; Isaiah 45
- December 10 - Day 345 - Ephesians 6; Ezekiel 17; Isaiah 46
- December 11 - Day 346 - Philippians 1:1-11; Ezekiel 18; Isaiah 47
- December 12 - Day 347 - Philippians 1:12-30; Ezekiel 19; Isaiah 48
- December 13 - Day 348 - Philippians 2:1-11; Ezekiel 20; Isaiah 49
- December 14 - Day 349 - Philippians 2:12-30; Ezekiel 21-22; Isaiah 50
- December 15 - Day 350 - Philippians 3; Ezekiel 23; Isaiah 51
- December 16 - Day 351 - Philippians 4; Ezekiel 24; Isaiah 52
- December 17 - Day 352 - Colossians 1:1-23; Ezekiel 25-26; Isaiah 53
- December 18 - Day 353 - Colossians 1:24-2:19; Ezekiel 27-28; Isaiah 54
- December 19 - Day 354 - Colossians 2:20-3:17; Ezekiel 29-30; Isaiah 55
- December 20 - Day 355 - Colossians 3:18-4:18; Ezekiel 31-32; Isaiah 56
- December 21 - Day 356 - Luke 1:1-25; Ezekiel 33; Isaiah 57
- December 22 - Day 357 - Luke 1:26-56; Ezekiel 34; Isaiah 58
- December 23 - Day 358 - Luke 1:57-80; Ezekiel 35-36; Isaiah 59
- December 24 - Day 359 - Luke 2:1-20; Ezekiel 37; Isaiah 60
- December 25 - Day 360 - Luke 2:21-52; Ezekiel 38-39; Isaiah 61
- December 26 - Day 361 - Luke 3:1-20; Ezekiel 40-41; Isaiah 62
- December 27 - Day 362 - Luke 3:21-38; Ezekiel 42-43; Isaiah 63
- December 28 - Day 363 - Luke 4:1-30; Ezekiel 44-45; Isaiah 64
- December 29 - Day 364 - Luke 4:31-44; Ezekiel 46-47; Isaiah 65
- December 30 - Day 365 - Luke 5:1-26; Ezekiel 48; Isaiah 66
- December 31 - Day 366 - Luke 5:27-39; Genesis 1:1-2:25; Psalm 1

Dear St. Andrew's UM Church Family,



As the calendar turns to December, we feel it—the days are shorter, the nights stretch longer, and the darkness seems to linger. This season reminds us how much we depend on light, both for physical warmth and spiritual hope. Advent arrives in the heart of this darkness, offering us a chance to reflect on the power of light to transform even the darkest night.

Advent isn't just a countdown to Christmas; it's an invitation. It calls us to prepare our hearts, to watch, and to wait. It's a journey through hope, peace, joy, and love—each week bringing us closer to the light of Christ that breaks into our world on Christmas Eve. This year, we'll be reflecting on these themes in our worship series, "The Light of the World." Together, we'll explore how Jesus, as the Light of the World, brings hope to the weary, peace to the restless, joy to the sorrowful, and love to the lonely.

This series comes at a time when many of us need light more than ever. Perhaps the darkness feels overwhelming in your life right now. Maybe you're navigating uncertainty, loss, or simply the heaviness of the world around us. Advent reminds us that the light is coming—and it will not be overcome by the darkness.

Each Sunday, we'll light another candle, symbolizing the growing light of Christ as we move closer to Christmas. I encourage you to pause during this season, reflect on the ways light has broken into your life, and open yourself to the ways Christ's light might guide you forward.

This Advent, let's embrace the journey from darkness to light, trusting in the promise that the Light of the World is coming—and with Him, the hope, peace, joy, and love we long for.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your life, even on the darkest nights.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bum (AKA: PB)

FINANCE TEAM UPDATE

Dear Church Family,

As we look toward the year 2025, the Finance Committee has carefully reviewed and set the budget at \$350,146.91. Although this represents a slight decrease from our 2024 budget, we are steadfast in our mission and hopeful for what God has in store for us.

We find ourselves currently running below projections for receipts, and we understand the challenge this presents. However, during these times, we are reminded of the wisdom found in Scripture. Malachi 3:8-10 (CEB) invites us to bring our whole tenth-part to the storehouse so there will be food in my house. The promise of blessings too vast to measure encourages us to reflect on our stewardship and the ways we choose to give.

This past week, we included an "Estimate of Giving Card" within the church bulletin, and it is also readily available from our office. We kindly ask each of you to prayerfully consider making a pledge for 2025. By doing so, you are contributing to the life-changing ministries and community projects that our church is called to support.

Please complete your pledge card and either return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate during Sunday service. Your faithful giving enables our church to continue its mission, reaching out in love and compassion to all.

Thank you for your continued generosity, faith, and support. Together, we can embrace the future with hope, guided by God's grace.

Blessings,

David Stahl, Finance Committee Chair

Brian Lucas, Pastor





Panther Packs

Recently the team mailed donation / support letters to area churches and businesses. We continue to be in need of support of products and finances. Not only is the cost of products increasing, grants are harder to find or are lower in return. Donations of products (listed below) as well as financial support are always welcome!

World Hunger Sunday (11/17) resulted in food donations from church members and Noah's Ark. We also collected funds for the conference, allowing us to apply for a grant. Thank you for your donations!

Upcoming Schedule:

Month	# of Wks.	Prepack (1:00)	Set Up (1:00)	Packing (6:00)	School Delivery
December	3	11/26/2024	12/3/2024	12/4/2024	12/5, 12, 18
January	4	12/17/2024	1/7/2025	1/8/2025	1/9, 15, 23, 30
February	4	1/28/25	2/4/2025	2/5/2025	2/6, 12, 20, 27
March	4	2/18/25	2/25/25	2/26/25	3/6, 12, 20, 27
April	4	3/25/25	4/1/25	4/2/25	4/3, 10, 15, 24
May	5	4/22/25	4/29/25	4/30/25	5/1, 8, 16, 22, 29

Food Items always being collected: (Watch Dates)

Ramen Noodles	Canned Pasta (Pop Top Lid)	Soup, Stew, Chili
Fruit Cups	Individual Sized Boxes of Cereal	Cereal Bars
Applesauce Cups	Pudding Cups	Oatmeal Packs
Tuna Packs	Pop Tarts	Mac and Cheese (Individual Cup)
Granola Bars	Breakfast Bars	Small Cans of Chicken

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

Susan Bastian, Co-Leader & The Panther Packs Team

CHURCH SERVANTS

December



USHERS

David Stahl	Chief		
Terry Napp	Nate Richie	Robert Snyder	Steve Bennage
Christmas Eve Additional Help: Barry Bowers & Richard Snyder			

ALTAR STEWARDS

Larry & Bonnie Lloyd

FINANCIAL STEWARDS

Mona Napp & Shirley Coup

NURSERY

1	Debbie Haulman
8	Jill Foresman
15	Julie Neilson
22	Debbie Haulman
24	Room Open for Use but Not Staffed
29	Debbie Haulman

Can you help in the Nursery???

Sign-Up now with Debbie Haulman

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

1	Mary Richie & Sam Haulman
8	Lauren Richie & Crystal Wertz
15	Christmas Party
22	TBA & TBA
29	Susan/Chloe Bastian & Lauren Richie

ACOLYTES

1	Grant Richie
8	Helen Wertz
15	Layla Richie
22	Jane Wertz
24	Helen & Gerald Wertz
29	Kinlee Lytle

LOVE PATROL

1	Lisa McManus & Barry Bowers
8	Mary Richie & TBA
15	TBA & Jim Neuer
22	TBA & Mary Richie
24	Lisa McManus & Barry Bowers
29	Debbie Haulman & TBA

GREETERS

1	Fred & Deb Simon
8	Debbie Haulman
15	Debbie Haulman
22	Debbie Haulman
29	Arnie Wilver

TECH DEPARTMENT

	SOUNDBOARD	POWER POINT	VIDEO
1	Chadrick, Jr.	Layla	Helen
8	Bob (Dennis)	Susan	Sam
8-PM	Bob	Layla	Sam
15	Barry	Colton	Chadrick, Jr.
22	Bob	Chadrick, Jr.	Sam
24	Colton (Bob)	Layla	Chadrick, Jr.
29	Barry	Chadrick, Jr.	Sam

DEC 2024

Email: saumc@ptd.net
 Website: saumcmilton.org
 Facebook: facebook.com/standrewsumcmilton

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday — 8:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday — Please Call First
 Pastor Hours:
Monday-Thursday — Regularly Available
Friday — Day of Sabbath - Emergencies Only

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
**Bell Choir **Fellowship Meal 5:30pm SHINE Youth Group (MS/HS)	4:00-4:45pm Community Harvest Meal 7:00pm Bell Choir	1:00pm P. Packs Set-Up	1:00pm Bible Study w/PB(Conference Room) 6:00pm P. Packs	6-7:30pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Adult Choir	Noah's Ark Christmas Concert (Sanctuary & SH)	Noon-5pm Rental (K/SH/Gym)
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
**Children's Choir **Joyful Noise 6:00pm Community Sing-along w/refreshments	4:00-4:45pm Community Harvest Meal 7:00pm Bell Choir	7:00pm Trustee Mtg.	1:00pm Bible Study w/PB(Conference Room)		*Jan. 2025 Newsletter Article Deadline	1-3pm & 6-8pm Open House @Parsonage
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
**Children's Christmas Party 2-4pm Open House @Parsonage 5:30pm SHINE Youth Group (MS/HS)	4:00-4:45pm Community Harvest Meal Servants Needed 7:00pm Bell Choir		9:00am Mail Newsletter 1:00pm Bible Study w/PB(Conference Room)	6-7:30pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Adult Choir		All Day Rental (K/SH/Gym)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	NO Community Harvest Meal 7:00pm Bell Choir	Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm pre-worship 7:00pm worship	**Merry Christmas**			
29	30	31				
	NO Community Harvest Meal					

SPPR UPDATE

Hello Church Family!

December 2024

But how?

On any given Sunday morning, we as creatures of habit enter the sanctuary and make our way to our usual seat, surrounded by our usual friends, in our usual comfort zone and everything is just perfect, as usual.

But, have you ever wondered how this all happens so seamlessly? I mean it's great, we are warmly greeted at the door, we take our seats, we greet our friends, sing the pre-selected songs of praise, watch the screens and take in the good message (intentional plug for Pastor Brian). Perfectly organized! Can I get an Amen?

We know that God could miracle everything to perfection for our Sunday morning service in his house, but instead, he bestows gifts upon each of us to accomplish his work. Pretty interesting how he has designed it that we must perform tasks together to accomplish his work. Remember Matthew 18:20, where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.

So, having said all that, allow me to solve the puzzle, because I know how it happens. I have the answer. Wait for it....

It's our church employees! Not exclusively, because there are a lot of unpaid servants that put forth a tremendous amount of effort. To our faithful servants we offer our thanks, but the employees are the focus at this time.

The SPPR Team is in a unique position, in that we get to see behind the curtain and witness the work it takes to keep St. Andrew's open for business on a daily basis, not just on our day of worship. Have you ever wondered who answers the phone? Who pays the bills? How do we get the monthly newsletter prepared and delivered to our homes? How does the church get cleaned? How do broken things get repaired? How do we keep people out (time appropriate)? How do we keep people in (age appropriate)? Music selection? And how about that Sunday morning bulletin? I could go on, but I think we all get the picture.

We know as Christians we typically like to stay humble, but we also know that a little recognition for hard work goes a long way and it can still be given to those that prefer to remain humble. To be totally honest, I can't think of anyone who wouldn't rather hear compliments than complaints. Our church employees do not complete their responsibilities for acknowledgement or compliments, but rather commitment and dedication. Today we would like to acknowledge the efforts of one of those employees. In this submission, Susan Bastian will be in the light of recognition.

For anyone not aware, Susan is our Church Secretary and the pulse of the daily operations of the office and sits at the right hand of Pastor Brian. :) Susan is a 2001 graduate of the Milton Area School District and in June 2004, she married Chad Bastian. Susan is the mother of two teenage children, Chadrick and Chloe and has many irons in the fire both personally and professionally. Susan joined St. Andrew's in February 2001 and has been faithfully attending ever since. Susan is involved in many aspects of the church to include assisting the coordination of our youth activities and recently has assumed the duties of overseeing the Panther Packs outreach program. Susan's professional responsibilities at St. Andrew's are numerous and her job description is quite lengthy, yet she manages to be very organized and flexible while at the beckoning call of all things St. Andrew's. Susan's job description includes 26 different areas of responsibility. Some areas of responsibility include random secretarial duties, maintaining the church calendar to include scheduling all events, and daily, weekly, monthly and annual reporting both locally and to the District and Conference. Susan also provides assistance to the Financial Secretary and Church Treasurer as needed and is assigned too many other duties to mention. Confidentiality is a must and the position comes with great responsibility. Susan has proven repeatedly that she is up for the challenges and completes her tasks in a commendable manner.

In closing, we extend a big thank you to Susan and if you see her in passing or happen to stop by the office for any reason, please feel welcome to just say hello or thank her for her dedication to St. Andrew's.

Stay tuned for the next employee recognition.

Sincerely,
Mike Dunkle, SPPR Chair



ANNIVERSARIES

DUGAN, BUD & PEGGY	5	MUSSER, MELISSA & JARED	21
MITCH, TIA & MATTHEW	10	LLOYD, LAWRENCE & BONNIE	25
WEAVER, JIM & JANE	12	DICK, JONATHAN & LARA	27
ZEAGER, JOE & JASMINE	13	NEUER, JAMES & BONNIE	28

BIRTHDAYS

SHIRLEY COUP	1	JANET HIPPENSTEEL	10	SUSAN KREBS	20
HOLLY SOLOMON	1	RICHARD McSWAIN	10	MICHAEL LEON	20
ZELDA STEWART	1	DALE STAHLNECKER	11	OWEN MCMANUS	20
CODY LYTLER	3	BRIDGET KILGUS	12	JAWANA MEADE	20
LUCILLE BROWN	4	IAN MILLER	12	WAYNE CROMLEY	21
CAROL LAYTON	4	JESSICA SNYDER	12	SUSAN MILLER	22
ISABELLE BURD	5	CONNIE HANS	14	TREVOR LEON	23
JOVIE RAE COUP	5	ISABEL KOCHER	15	ANGELA PAGE	25
SHYHEED FLUKE	5	NICHOLAS SHIVELY	15	SHEILA EVANS	26
BARBARA SMITH	5	PEGGY CRAVATT	16	MICHAEL SNYDER	26
NANCY FAWCETT	6	RUSS HULSIZER	17	SANDY BAKER	28
DORIS SHADE	8	DEBRA PAGE	17	LARA DICK	28
KERRY TILFORD	8	DONALD YOUNT	17	BETTY LONG	28
JOSHUA BROWN	9	LOIS CAMERON	19	DANIEL WEAVER	29
TYLER NOAKER	9	PATSY HOLLENBACH	19	BRANDON STOKES	30
		KIM SCHRADER	19	WARD WALTER	30



Please Join Us

Annual Community

Christmas
"Sing - Along"

Refreshments Following
December 8th @ 6 PM

ST. ANDREWS UMC

Lower Market St, Milton

Made with PosterMyWall.com

**Children's
Christmas Party**




Sunday, December 15th
(During Church)


**Craft, Christmas Story,
Games, and Snack**



Advent Open House

Pastor Brian and Sue love the Advent and Christmas season for many reasons, including the opportunities to host gatherings! This year, we will be hosting three Open House opportunities at the parsonage and are inviting all of you! We will eat cookies, drink hot cocoa, and enjoy each other's company. These gatherings will take place on Saturday, December 14th from 1 until 3 and from 6 until 8, and on Sunday, December 15th from 2 until 4. You are welcome to come for five minutes or to stay the whole time, to attend one or all three! We know how busy this time of year is for everyone and totally understand if you can't make it (Please note that we have a dog and a cat and will also understand if you can't attend due to allergies or phobias).



 1035 Sunset Drive
Milton PA 17847

MISSION TEAM UPDATE

The missions team met on November 5th to review our current mission involvement and to discern where we are going in the future. We identified that we have been involved in a large number of local, regional, and global missions, and it was agreed to use a more focused approach for 2025 by concentrating on only a couple in each area. To that end we would like to announce that for 2025 our local missions will be: Panther Packs, and our Faith Promise partners (Expectations Women's Center, Golden Rule/Love INC, and Child Evangelism); our national project will be Red Bird Mission; and our global mission will be Healthy Women/Healthy Liberia. Although we will not be resigning a ten-year commitment to Sierra Leone Initiative, we will be able to support them from time to time.

In addition to these projects, we are looking at ways to respond to natural disasters through a quarterly focus/drive to assist UMCOR, UMVIM mission trips, and Mission Central kits. We also want to be more active in responding to the needs of the Milton community (and surrounding environs) by planning a day of hands-on mission work.

We are quite proud (in a good way) of all the work we have done in the past (including support of the Keeches) and believe this focused approach will work best for us moving forward.

The team would like to publicly and heartily thank our sister in Christ, Carriann Shultz for her dedication to and past leadership of St. Andrew's missions, she will be missed on the team.

SHINE YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

This year we kicked off youth with a dinner including families to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming year. We have been meeting every other week keeping High School and Junior High separate to ensure our youth are getting the most informative and beneficial lessons for their age. The youth are excited to be meeting again, and enjoy their lessons and games they get to play together. Every youth group meeting kicks off with a dinner which allows the youth to catch up on their past week before heading to their rooms. We can't wait to see what this year has in store stay tuned for upcoming activities!

<i>Upholding our Members in Prayer</i>		
In keeping with HIPPA privacy regulations, we list only the names of Members and active Attendees who agree to be listed.		
<i>Please help us keep the list updated with additions, removals</i>		
<i>and any corrections by contacting the church office. Thank You!</i>		
Pastor Mark Brumbach	Sylvia Hendricks	Michael S. Royer
Karen Croman	Denise Larsen	Bonnie Rute
Diane Delcamp	Janet Lee	Lou Ann Sheets
Jeff Diggan	Jane Lentz	Fred Simon
Ruth Easley	Krissy Lytle	Sylvia Smith
Larry Emery	Mike McManus	Glenn & Ida Snyder
Linda Emery	Aaron Merwin	Marion Steese
David Everitt (Navy)	Devynn Napp-Barker	Sharon Wert
Marlene Fama	Sean Neilson (Navy)	Kathy & Gary Wieand
Peggy Fullmer	Helen Phillips	Richard Winter
Don Geiger	Robert Riehl	Shirley "Sis" Yocum
		Jean Zartman
Celebration Villa (Lewisburg) - Shirley Wilver		
Milton N&R - Mary Scholl, Lois Wagner, Ward Walter		
Riverwoods - Nancy Stahlnecker, Edna Walter		
Watsontown 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

Changes to printed list should be given to the office

Members recently lost:

Edith Noaker - 10/27/24



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

Financial Picture

2024	Oct. 2024	Year-to -date totals
<u>CURRENT</u>		
Budgeted	21,994.65	220,021.70
Receipts	16,049.33	194,318.82
Expenditures	18,941.77	195,073.46
<u>MISSION</u>		
Budgeted	4,092.48	40,924.94
Receipts	3,360.25	29,264.72
Expenditures	3,849.16	34,512.50
<u>FAITH PROMISE (non-budget)</u>		
Receipts	65.00	920.00
Expenditures	0.00	845.00
<u>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</u>		
Budgeted	0.00	0.00
Receipts	2.58	8,532.78
Expenditures (transferred to Trustees)	0.00	19,650.00
<u>TRUSTEE</u>		
Budgeted	2,808.32	28,083.36
Receipts	406.60	29,886.01
Expenditures	1,062.74	41,553.21
Rally Day Receipts (non-budget)	0.00	50.00
<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>		
Budgeted	495.83	4,958.34
Receipts	171.86	4,963.38
Expenditures	105.39	3,470.03
Total Budget		
	29,391.28	293,988.34
Total Receipts		
	20,055.62	267,885.71
Total Expenditures		
	23,959.06	295,104.20

Note: Shares of ministry owed to the conference as of 10/31/24 = \$16,626.36