ST. ANDREW'S TIMES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

St. Andrew's
united methodist church
102 Lower Market Street, Milton PA 17847
(570) 742-2000



"Night Watch"

Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends in Christ,

I really don't like this time of year, it always makes me sad. Do you want to know why? The lack of light. With the time change, it's so dark in the morning and even worse at night. There is a particular feeling to these shorter days and longer nights that just leaves me longing for light.

Advent begins November 29 this year. It is a season of watching and waiting—not because we doubt that God is at work, but because we are learning to recognize God's work when it arrives. Advent doesn't ask us to pretend the darkness isn't real. It invites us to keep watch within it, trusting that God is near.

The shepherds knew something about the night watch. Luke tells us they were keeping watch over their flocks when an angel appeared with news of great joy: a Savior had been born. The first announcement of Christ's birth came not to the powerful or the perfectly prepared, but to ordinary people working through an ordinary night. They were awake, attentive, and close enough to hear the astonishing news.

I wonder what it means for us to keep watch today. Perhaps it means noticing the neighbor who seems more alone than usual, or listening carefully when a friend says, "I'm fine," but their eyes tell another story. Maybe it means paying attention to the small signs of hope that can be easy to miss: a meal shared, an apology offered, a child's laughter, a community showing up for someone in need.

Watching is not passive. It is a way of loving—staying present to the world as it is while remaining open to what God is bringing to birth. The prophet Isaiah speaks of people walking in darkness who see a great light. That promise does not erase the night in an instant. It gives us courage to look for God's light and to carry it to one another.

Some of us enter Advent with joyful anticipation. Others arrive carrying grief, uncertainty, or exhaustion. The holidays can sharpen what is missing as much as they celebrate what is present. If this season feels tender for you, there is room for you here. You don't have to manufacture cheer or rush your way to hope. God meets us in the waiting, with grace enough for this moment.

John Wesley described grace as God's love already at work in us before we know how to reach for it. That is good news for the night watch: even when we cannot see clearly, God is not absent. The light may begin as a small flame—a promise remembered, a hand held, a prayer as simple as "Stay with me"—but small lights matter in the dark.

As we journey through Advent toward Christmas, may we practice keeping watch together:

- Notice: Where are signs of kindness, courage, or new life appearing around you?
- Stay near: Who might need your presence more than your advice?
- Make room: What might you set aside to receive the hope God is offering?
- Share the light: What simple act of care could make someone's night less lonely?

The shepherds did not remain in the fields after hearing the news. They went to see, and then they shared what they had heard. May we, too, be attentive enough to notice Christ's light, courageous enough to draw near, and generous enough to carry hope into the places where it is needed.

The night is real. So is the promise: Emmanuel, God with us.

Keeping watch with you,

Pastor Bill (AKA PB)

https://www.facebook.com/standrewsumcmilton

https://saumcmilton.org/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes from Worship Design Team - Jessica Ritenour

Dates to Remember:
11/1 All Saints Day
11/22 Hanging of the Greens
11/29 First Day of Advent
12/27 Combined Worship at Bethany Hymn Sing

-Worship Series-
Love One Another Series - We will continue this series into November. To recap the series, Jesus gathers at the table with his disciples to break bread and break the news that this is their Last Supper together. Alarming fear, bitter betrayal, and tension-laden uncertainty fill the room, in the midst of this unsettling moment, the Gospel of John records Jesus' "famous last words". Central among these was the commandment to love one another. How do we survive, or even thrive, in times like these? We put love into action, replacing "othering" with "neighboring".

The anchor image for the theme is a table which has been placed in the sanctuary. The presence of the table is a symbol of invitation to conversation and a good meal to share.

The Hanging of the Greens will be right after church on November 22nd and snacks will be provided.

Advent Series : The Inn - Housing the Holy
As we enter the Advent season, how can our church become a house where the Holy will be born anew- offering respite, sustenance, and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and "make room in the inn," the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Advent Needs: We are in need of wooden crates, lanterns and candles like those pictured here. If you have any we can use, please put them in the room to the right of the library and please label them with your name. Please have the items dropped off by November 15th. We appreciate your help with this!



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Hours: Monday-Thursday - Regularly Available
Friday - Sabbath (Emergencies Only)
Pastor Phone: 570-351-1619 Email: blucas@susumc.org

Secretary Hours: Monday & Friday - 8:00am-1:00pm
Office Phone: 570-742-2000 Email: saumc@ptd.net

Need for Servants to help for **"Ushers".**
Please contact David Stahl if you can help.

Need Servants for **Tech Team** - see Bob Snyder





"GROW" STUDY

A few years ago the Lay Servant Ministries team of the Susquehanna Conference created materials for a new laity class called "Grow" that is focused on helping people grow in faith and in spiritual leadership. PB was one of the first people trained to lead this course and is inviting you to join him on this journey beginning in January. It will take place the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:00 via Zoom and will run for eight (8) sessions. There is no cost for the class itself, but participants will need to purchase three books. This course is open to anyone interested in developing their discipleship and participating in the growth of God's kingdom. Please contact PB for more details and to register. Class size will be limited to 15, but additional opportunities for the study will be available in the future if interest is shown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update from Nurture Team:
We will bake cookies for our shut-ins on Wednesday, Dec 2nd. Please join us in the church kitchen! Many hands make light work.

Christmas caroling and delivery of the cookies to the shut-ins will be immediately following the fellowship meal on Dec 6th. This is an awesome outreach to our shut-ins. They truly enjoy it! Please join us, no experience necessary.

Mark your calendars - Our first game night of 2027 will be Friday, Jan. 29th.







CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER
Due: November 29th, 2026

Red Poinsettia:	_____ x $7.00
Amount Enclosed:	

Poinsettia 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, November 29, 2026
Available for pick-up after Christmas Eve Service

Servants

November 2026

Acolytes	
1	Laikyn
8	Lilli
15	Brantley
22	Laikyn
29	Ryker

Greeters	
1	Terry & Mona Napp
8	Debbie Haulman
15	Barry Bowers
22	Debbie Haulman
29	Steve Bennage

Ushers	
David Stahl, Chief	
Steve Bennage	Jeff Diggan
Bob Snyder	Sam Haulman

Altar Stewards
Terry & Mona Napp

Financial Stewards
Mercy Gray & Debbie Haulman

Tech Department			
Nov	Soundboard	Power Point	Video
1	Barry	Carlene	Sam
8	Bob	Carlene	Sue
15	Bob	Barry	Sam
22	Barry	Carlene	Sue
29	TBA (Adam ?)	Carlene	Sam

December 2026

Acolytes	
6	Grant
13	Lilli
20	Ryker
24	Laikyn
27	Brantley

Greeters	
6	Arnie Wilver
13	Larry & Bonnie Lloyd
20	Debbie Haulman
27	Mike & Jill Dunkle

Ushers	
David Stahl, Chief	
Terry Napp	Cindy Snyder
Nate Richie	Deb Simon

Altar Stewards
Larry & Bonnie Lloyd

Financial Stewards
Mona Napp & Shirley Coup

Tech Department			
Dec.	Soundboard	Power Point	Video
4	Bob (Noah's Ark Program)	---	---
6	Barry	Carlene	Lauren
13	Bob	Colton	Sam
20	Colton	Barry	Sue
24 (7pm)	Bob	Colton	Sam
27	Service @ Bethany	---	---

Scripture Reading

- □ November 1 - Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
- □ November 2 - Psalm 128; Joshua 4:1-24; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
- □ November 3 - Psalm 128; Joshua 6:1-16, 20; Acts 13:1-12
- □ November 4 - Psalm 128; Joshua 10:12-14; Matthew 15:1-9
- □ November 5 - Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 5:10-12; Revelation 8:6-9:12
- □ November 6 - Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 8:30-35; Revelation 9:13-21
- □ November 7 - Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 20:1-9; Matthew 24:1-14
- □ November 8 - Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- □ November 9 - Psalm 78; Joshua 24:25-33; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
- □ November 10 - Psalm 78; Nehemiah 8:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
- □ November 11 - Psalm 78; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 24:29-35
- □ November 12 - Psalm 123; Judges 2:6-15; Revelation 16:1-7
- □ November 13 - Psalm 123; Judges 2:16-23; Revelation 16:8-21
- □ November 14 - Psalm 123; Judges 5:1-12; Matthew 12:43-45
- □ November 15 - Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- □ November 16 - Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Judges 4:8-24; Romans 2:1-11
- □ November 17 - Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Exodus 2:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
- □ November 18 - Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Esther 7:1-10; Matthew 24:45-51
- □ November 19 - Psalm 100; Genesis 48:15-22; Revelation 14:1-11
- □ November 20 - Psalm 100; Isaiah 40:1-11; Revelation 22:1-9
- □ November 21 - Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:25-31; Matthew 12:46-50
- □ November 22 - Ezekiel 34:1-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 24:31-46
- □ November 23 - Psalm 28; Numbers 27:15-23; 2 Timothy 2:8-13
- □ November 24 - Psalm 28; Zechariah 11:4-17; Revelation 19:1-9
- □ November 25 - Psalm 28; Jeremiah 31:10-14; John 5:19-40



Start of Year B Daily Readings

- □ November 26 - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 13:1-9; Revelation 14:6-13
- □ November 27 - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
- □ November 28 - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Micah 2:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31
- □ November 29 - Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
- □ November 30 - Psalm 79; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 15:1-8

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day w/Communion Fellowship Meal: Turkey, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy	2 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	3 1:00pm - P. Packs Prepack 6:00pm - NA Board Meeting	4	5	6	7 11:30 - Church Conference @ St. Andrew's UMC
8 Joyful Noise Offering	9 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice 7-7:45pm Bell Choir Practice (Music Room)	10 6:00pm - P. Packs Set-Up	11 9:30am - Love Inc Board Meeting 6:00pm - P. Packs Packing Night	12	13	14
15	16 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	17	18	19	20	21
22 P. Packs Food Drive w/Noah's Ark Hanging of the Greens	23 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice 7-7:45pm Bell Choir Practice (Music Room)	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent	30 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice					





Happy Birthday

Susan Bastian - 1st
Sharon Zellers - 1st
Rebecca Derr - 2nd
Melissa Musser - 4th
Colten Pfleegor - 6th
Charlene Heddings - 7th
Paul Shellenberger - 7th
Fred Simon - 7th
Casie Baker - 8th
Carol Mitch - 8th
Nathan Richie - 8th
Lee Yocum - 8th
Bonnie Lloyd - 9th
Stacie Getgen - 10th
Katie Nickelson - 10th
Robert Layton - 11th
David (Tony) Cook - 12th
David Stahl - 12th
Alic Straub - 12th
Andrew Pfleegor - 13th
William Phillips - 13th
Linda Emery - 14th
Deb Hulsizer - 16th
Helen Rose Wertz - 16th
Sean Neilson - 17th
Tia Mitch - 18th
Ramona Napp - 18th
Marion Smith - 18th
Angela Shively - 19th

Sylvia Hendricks - 21st
Michael S. Royer - 21st
Vi Wilver - 21st
Shirley Yocum - 21st
Wayne Heddings - 22nd
Wendy Hall - 24th
Joseph Zeager - 24th
Ellen Edsall - 25th
Neal Housner - 26th
Darlene McCormick - 28th
Dennis Bastian - 29th



Dwayne & Lucille Brown - 7th
David (Tony) & Linda Cook - 13th
Dale & Michele Stahlnecker - 15th
Donald & Jean Young - 16th
Glenn & Ida Snyder - 23rd
Michael & Carlene Weaver - 27th
Michael & Jill Dunkle - 28th
Carl & Donna Reish - 28th

Scripture Reading

- □ December 1 - Psalm 79; Micah 4:6-13; Revelation 18:1-10
- □ December 2 - Psalm 79; Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 21:34-38
- □ December 3 - Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Hosea 6:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10
- □ December 4 - Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 11:19-26
- □ December 5 - Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; Ezekiel 36:24-28; Mark 11:27-33
- □ December 6 - Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8
- □ December 7 - Psalm 27; Isaiah 26:7-15; Acts 2:37-42
- □ December 8 - Psalm 27; Isaiah 4:2-6; Acts 11:1-18
- □ December 9 - Psalm 27; Malachi 2:10-3:1; Luke 1:5-17
- □ December 10 - Psalm 126; Habakkuk 2:1-5; Philippians 3:7-11
- □ December 11 - Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:2-6; Philippians 3:12-16
- □ December 12 - Psalm 126; Habakkuk 3:13-19; Matthew 21:28-32
- □ December 13 - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28
- □ December 14 - Psalm 125; 1 Kings 18:1-18; Ephesians 6:10-17
- □ December 15 - Psalm 125; 2 Kings 2:9-22; Acts 3:17-4:4
- □ December 16 - Psalm 125; Malachi 3:16-4:6; Mark 9:9-13
- □ December 17 - Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrews 1:1-4
- □ December 18 - Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; 2 Samuel 6:12-19; Hebrews 1:5-14
- □ December 19 - Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Judges 13:2-24; John 7:40-52
- □ December 20 - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38
- □ December 21 - Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-14
- □ December 22 - Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 1:19-28; Hebrews 8:1-13
- □ December 23 - Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Mark 11:1-11
- □ December 24 - Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
- □ December 25 - Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:8-20; Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrew 1:1-4; John 1:1-14
- □ December 26 - Psalm 148; Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15; Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
- □ December 27 - Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40
- □ December 28 - Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18
- □ December 29 - Matthew 12:46-50; Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15
- □ December 30 - Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13
- □ December 31 - Psalm 148; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Noah's Ark Christmas Program	5
6 Communion Fellowship Meal: Baked H am	7 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	8 1:00pm - P. Packs Prepack	9	10	11	12
13 Joyful Noise Offering	14 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice 7-7:45pm Bell Choir Practice (Music Room)	15 6:00pm - P. Packs Set-Up	16 6:00pm - P. Packs Packing Night	17	18	19 Rental Kit/SH/Gym All Day
20	21 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	22	23	24 3pm Service @ Bethany 7pm Service @ St. Andrew's	25	26
27 Combined Church Service @ Bethany	28 1:00pm - Adult Choir Practice	29	30	31		

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!

Ruth Chrismer	Sylvia Hendricks	Sean Neilson (Navy)	Sylvia Smith
Linda Emery	Janet Lee	Bonnie Rute	Marion Steese
David Everitt (Navy)	Jane Lentz	Lou Ann Sheets	Kathy & Gary Wieand
			Jean Zartman

Milton N&R - Ward Walter

Riverwoods - Nancy Stahlnecker, Edna Walter

Watsontown N&R - Lucille Zellers

Missionaries we support and their missions:
Red Bird Mission, Dr. Christiana Hena and her ministry with Healthy Women/Healthy Liberia.

Faith Promise Groups we support: Child Evangelism, Expectations Women's Center & Love INC

Prayer Chain: Please call Mercy Gray @ 570-701-7948 (home) 570-939-5225 (cell) **or**
Church Office (Susan Bastian) 570-742-2000 ext. 300 Monday/Friday 8am-1pm

DECEMBER

Happy Birthday

Holly Solomon - 1st
Cody Lytle - 3rd
Lucille Brown - 4th
Carol Layton - 4th
Shyheed Fluke - 5th
Barbara Smith - 5th
Nancy Fawcett - 6th
Janet Hippensteel - 10th
Richard McSwain - 10th
Dale Stahlnecker - 11th
Jessica Snyder - 12th
Connie Hans - 14th
Isabel Kocher - 15th
Debra Page - 17th
Donald Yount - 17th
Susan Krebs - 20th
Michael Leon - 20th
Adam Taylor - 22nd
Sheila Evans - 26th
Michael Snyder - 26th
Sandy Baker - 28th
Lara Dick - 28th



Jim & Jane Weaver - 12th
Lawrence & Bonnie Lloyd - 25th
Jonathan & Lara Dick - 27th