The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church
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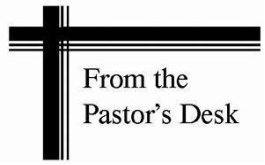
Our Mission: *"To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."*
Our Vision: *"Believe in God, Follow Jesus, and Serve Others."*

December 2025 Newsletter



Christmas is the main event of the Christian church year. We celebrate the birth of the messiah, our Lord and savior.

We all love the Advent season leading up to the great celebration of Christmas. The church is heading to Bethlehem this Advent season.

Our world struggles with anger, revenge, and jealousy. Jesus' light will shine in our sadness. Christ shines through believers to bring light to the darkness of human hearts. May our works be evidence that Jesus has transformed us to the glory of God. "Jesus the true light, shines." (John 1:9)

Advent season is about renewed hope and longing for the coming of the messiah.

While we celebrate our Christmas holiday parties, remember our Giving Tree that will benefit our general fund.

Let us invest our time and energy in supporting, encouraging, and praying for each other. Let the Christmas spirit renew you through your Advent devotions.

Remember the Christmas spiritual songs this Advent and Christmas season.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Merry Christmas!

Blessings,
Pastor Christopher Serufusa

St. Andrews Music Notes

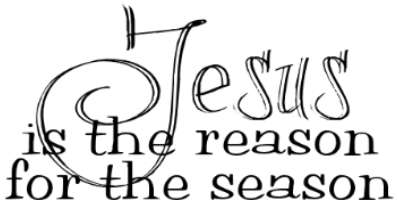
"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but it is the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but the same God who empowers them all in everyone." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

On the second (12/7) and third (12/14) Sundays in Advent, several women and men of our congregation will become the women and men in Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus, telling us their personal stories. Other members of St. Andrews will share their talents by playing the bells at our Christmas Eve Service which will begin at 7:00 pm 12/24. Members will share their voices by singing on the choir, being lay readers, and providing special music. It's wonderful how we live out 1Corinthians 12:4-6 all for the Glory of God.

Also, a reminder that Sunday, November 30th we invite you to stay for a luncheon after the church service. Thank you to everyone who brought their nativity sets to share. They may be taken home after the luncheon.

Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

Lisa Shives
Music Director



Important Dates *in December*

December is Staff Appreciation Month

11/30 - 1st Sunday of Advent-Hanging of Greens
11/30 - Nativity Scene Display
11/30 - Advent Brunch after worship
11/30 - UM Student Day

12/07 - 2nd Sunday of Advent – Monologues of Men at Jesus' Birth
12/14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent – Monologues of Women at Jesus' Birth
12/15 - January Newsletter articles are due
12/21 - 4th Sunday of Advent – Xmas Carols
12/24 - 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
12/25 - Christmas Day (church office closed)
12/31 - New Years' Eve

December is Staff Appreciation Month

As in the past, there will be a basket in the back of the church through December 28th. We are blessed with wonderful staff that help keep the church running. Please consider giving generously in appreciation for their efforts.

Poinsettia Orders

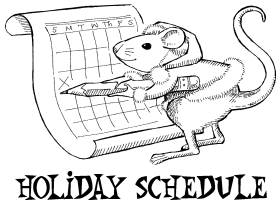
Poinsettias which were ordered by November 23 will be placed on the altar in the sanctuary for Christmas.

You can pick up the flower(s) you ordered after the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday, December 24th, or after church on December December 28th.

If you want to donate your poinsettias, please let Diane Stone know so that she can arrange for them to be delivered to a shut-in.

2026 Offering Envelopes will be available before the end of December to everyone who gives on a weekly basis and currently uses giving envelopes. The new envelopes are to be used beginning January 1, 2026.

If you do not use weekly Offering Envelopes, you will be assigned an Offering Number so that your giving can be recorded electronically and you can receive a giving statement twice a year in June and December.



The Christmas season is such a busy time for everyone. We hope you can take time to enjoy these special days:

December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent – Monologues of men at Jesus' birth

December 14 – Third Sunday of Advent – Monologues of women at Jesus' birth

December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Christmas Carols will be sung

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm

December 28 – First Sunday after Christmas Day

Christmas Eve Service
December 24
7:00 pm
at St. Andrews UMC

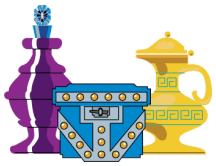
Notes on Finances …

The monthly amount needed to meet budget is $13,497.61

Our giving so far this year has been insufficient by $37,000 to support our expenses.

Please pray for our church's finances. Our 2026 budget is about $5,000 more than in 2025. We encourage everyone to participate in giving Gifts to the King. If Bethlehem was suddenly a town near Hagerstown, what would you bring to the King? We know we are capable of great things within our community. By increasing our account balance, we are securing our path to a strong 2026. God has a great plan for us.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Siebert
Finance Chairperson and Treasurer



Join the Magi: "Gifts for the King" Donation Drive

This Advent season, we invite you to participate in our special "Gifts for the King" initiative, inspired by the Wise Men's offerings to the Christ Child. Your gift—big or small—is a treasure that supports our church's vital work.
We have decorated the bulletin board in the hallway with symbolic gifts:

· **Gold:** Your gift supports our **Kingship** — the foundation of our church's ministry and supports.

· **Frankincense**: Your gift supports our **Sanctuary** — our church and parsonage operations and maintenance

· **Myrrh**: Your gift supports our **Devotion** — our spiritual programs, worship, music ministries.

How to Give:

1. Stop by the "Gifts for the King" bulletin board in the foyer.
2. Choose a gift shape (Coin, Flame, or Vial) from the board, representing a donation from **$1 up to $100.**
3.Take the shape and an envelope to make the corresponding donation. Place the completed envelope in the offering plate on Sunday.

See how quickly we can complete our royal offering! Every dollar helps keep our ministries strong and serves our community. Thank you for being a part of this special offering!

November Was Food Month
In mid-November we donated 14 boxes of cereal and 39 other items to the Food Bank. We appreciate all the different items that came in this year! The rest of the donations will be delivered before Thanksgiving. We are thankful for your GIVING!

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings
Thank you for the lovely filled stockings! They will be taken to the Salvation Army on December 8th. Please return your stocking to the hall table by Sunday, December 7th. Each stocking is a gift of love for a child this Christmas!

Red Bird Mission Mitten Tree
Our tree will be up in December and early January. Mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves will decorate our tree and be sent to the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky. This mission reaches out to people in the Appalachian area of the U.S. We will be wrapping them with warm items and caring hugs from St. Andrews! We will share some with our local community like Head Start, too.

The Hope Center
Thank you for your support of The Hope Center pantry collection and the coat drive. Sherri Heil delivered 167 food items to The Hope Center for their pantry and meals for the community. We have a number of very nice coats for their giveaway which will be donated by the end of November. Caring for others is our mission!

Bester Elementary School:
The children and staff look forward to the arrival of our snacks for a special afternoon treat. They received 210 individual snacks in the last month. Thank you for being a part of their day!

The Yarn Reclamation Project (YRP):
"We seek to take unwanted, unneeded, and excess yarn and repurpose it through reclamation and send it back into the world in the form of donations, charity items and teaching."
(from : Elizabeth Alberding- Founder)
See the flyer on the hallway bulletin board. Yarn may be placed on the hall table. Thank you!

Reach of Washington County
Donors have provided $30,000 in matching gift funds for REACH until January 11, 2026. REACH provides shelter and assistance to the most needed members of our community. Donations can be made out to “REACH” and sent to 140 W. Franklin St., Suite 300, Hagerstown ,MD 21740

Have a blessed Christmas!
Joyce McClanathan

Christmas Carol Stories

Away in a Manger

The story is told that, long ago in a faraway land, a faithful servant of God was walking home after dark. He was so taken with the sight of the stars shining through the evergreens and wished he could capture it and bring it home to his children. He cut down one of the pretty little trees and carried it home. Then he decorated it with candles, to the delight of his little ones.

This same learned scholar, who translated the Bible into German, composed a simple but pretty carol for his children. It is still a favorite of children everywhere. The composer’s name is Martin Luther.

Silent Night, Holy Night

In faraway Bavaria, the organ broke down in the village church. The organist brought the sad news to the young minister, Joseph Mohr. It was almost Christmas, too late for the organ to be repaired before the Christmas services. Besides, there was no one in the town of Oberndorf who could repair the faulty organ. So, in order to have some music for Christmas morning, Mr. Mohr suggested that Franz Gruber compose a tune for his guitar, and he would write the words. Together Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr gave to the world one of its most beautiful carols and it has been cherished by believers ever since.