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."*

February 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas season is over, but the Christmas message is clear: Jesus came to bring light where there was darkness. We must keep our eyes on the Lord for no matter how dark our lives might be, we can always find the light of God.

Yes, we pray, praise, share, and serve the Lord and God's people, but we will be confronted with darkness when it comes our way- hate, anger, frustration, and disappointment.

At times we may get discouraged at the disobedience of people not following the ways of God's word. You will be depressed like the prophets who warned people but still turned away from the Lord.

February has long dark and cold nights. Your health, finances, job, family, and your spiritual outlook may be difficult, and you wonder when the good life will return.

Let me remind you that the battle is not yours, it is the Lord's. Call on the Lord to help fight all the battles, for God wins all battles.

Trust the Lord for the Lord is the strength of our life. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Serufusa

St. Andrews Music Notes

"Those who leave everything in God's hands will eventually see God's hand in everything".

It's awesome to know that God is in control; therefore, we can let go of our fears.

Our Lenten journey this year will focus on Jesus' last days before his crucifixion. We hope you will take this journey with us. **Ash Wednesday** service will be held at Emmanuel on February 18th with St. Andrews choir sharing special music. We will also join Emmanuel for the **Maundy Thursday** service on April 2nd. St Andrews will host the **Good Friday** Service on April 3rd with a light meal at 6:00 pm before the service at 7:00 pm. **Palm Sunday** and **Easter Sunday** are very special services in the church year. We hope to see you in person throughout the Lenten and Easter season.

God's blessings to you!

Lisa Shives,
Worship & Music Director

in February

Feb 01 - First day to order Easter Flowers
Feb 02 - Peanut Butter Egg making begins
Feb 05 - 7:00 pm Trustees
Feb 07 - Connect Leadership Summit
Feb 08 - "Souper Bowl" Sunday
Feb 08 - First day to pick up eggs
Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
Feb 15 - March newsletter articles are due
Feb 15 - Transfiguration Sunday
Feb 16 - President's Day – Federal Holiday
Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday at Emmanuel UMC
Feb 22 - First Sunday in Lent
Feb 22 - Last day to order Easter Flowers
Feb 24 - 7:00 pm Church Council

"Souper" Bowl Sunday
February 8th

There will be a bowl at the back of the Sanctuary to benefit the R.E.A.C.H. Cold Weather Shelter. Every dollar will help the needy. Please be generous. Also…there is a list of items needed by R.E.A.C.H. on the table in the hallway. Please pick one up and deposit the needed items in the box. Donations will be delivered in March. Thank you!

The Hope Center:
We received a lovely letter from The Hope Center thanking us for our recent donations. "I am so grateful for your interest in the ministry of The Hope Center at Hagerstown Rescue Mission..... Thank you for your recent donation of food items and coats. Your generous donation will help us provide support to people in our community that are in need of assistance in these hard times we are living in, which are possible from donations like yours." (Aimee L. Lizer)

St. Mark's Food Bank and Bester Elementary
In late December we delivered 10 boxes of cereal and 30 other food items to the Food Bank. Bester Elementary received 140 individual snacks for their students. Thank you so much! We began donating items each month beginning In January.

Red Bird Mitten Tree
Thank you so much for 155 winter hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, hats, and socks!! The tree was full and surrounded by beautiful items. It will be exciting to ship them to Kentucky for people during these cold winter months! We had enough to also donate some to Head Start of Washington County and the young women of Brooke's House.

REACH Cold Weather Shelter
February is REACH Month. On February 8th a bowl will be at the back of the Sanctuary for donations for "Souper Bowl" Sunday. If you want to write a check, please make it payable to "St. Andrews UMC" and put REACH on the memo line. In 2025 "190 Individuals aged 18-77 stayed in the cold weather shelter, totaling 6,939 bed nights." This winter will bring many people to the shelter on the cold nights that we have been experiencing! A large box is in the hallway with a list of the most needed items. Thanks for your help with this community outreach!

February 18, 7:00 pm
at Emmanuel United Methodist Church

Notes on Finances …

We want to thank everyone for the contributions to our Gifts to the King initiative. We were able to increase our balance by $2,724.00. We greatly appreciate all of you who were able to give a little more to help.

Many of you attending in December know that we had some issues with our heating system in the extended classrooms. We thank the Trustees for their work with our heating technician to get heat restored to our whole building. With our older pipes and valves in our classrooms we must keep the heat higher than in past years to keep the system up and working. This has increased our gas bill and heating budget for 2026. We are thankful for heat in our building.

This year your Finance committee will be closely watching monthly giving and expenses. When our giving is very low, we will consider not making our monthly Apportionment payment to the Baltimore Washington Conference. We will keep you informed through the newsletter and bulletin announcements if this were to happen.

Thank you for all your support through money, time and talents in 2025 and into 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Siebert,
Finance Chairperson and Treasurer

Because all that we have belongs to God, our goal in using that which belongs to Him is to glorify Him.

"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

2026 Peanut Butter and Coconut Egg Fundraiser!

It's that time again! We will begin making and selling our delicious peanut butter and coconut eggs on February 2nd and will continue until Palm Sunday, March 29thh.

First Day to Order: January 25th
First Day to Pick Up: February 8th
Deadline to order: March 22nd
Last day to pick up: March 29th (Palm Sunday)

Egg prices will be $1.50 per egg.

Order forms are on the table in the Narthex. Completed forms must be used for each order and must be received a week before you need the eggs. We require a separate order form for each DATE of DELIVERY. All orders must be paid for when they are picked up.

Join the Committee and enjoy the Fellowship!

Please contact Phyllis Ernde or Bonnie Hargett to let them know which team you want to work on each week. Here are your options, so far. Evening hours may be added:

- Monday: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Tuesday: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Thursday: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Donations Accepted

In order to make our egg sale more profitable, we will gladly accept donations of the following items:

- Powdered 10X sugar
- Jif Creamy Peanut Butter (NOT Crunchy!)
- Real UNSALTED butter (no margarine)
- Cut Rite wax paper
- Karo Syrup
- Monetary Donations to pay for supplies

Watch for more updates in the bulletin and upcoming newsletters. Thank you for your interest and participation!

2026 HUB Lenten Schedule

February 18: Ash Wednesday at Home Churches

Services at Host Churches
6:00 pm – A meal will be offered by the host church for the following Lenten Services

7:00 pm – Lenten Service begins at host church

February 25: 1st Wednesday in Lent
Rev. Rani Woodrow
Otterbein UMC

March 4: 2nd Wednesday in Lent
Rev. Randy Reid
John Wesley UMC

March 11: 3rd Wednesday in Lent
Rev. Steve Humphrey
Grace UMC

March 18: 4th Wednesday in Lent
Rev. Dionne Hall
Emmanuel UMC

March 25: 5th Wednesday in Lent
Rev. Doug Hoffman
Shiloh/WA Square UMC

2026 Lenten Bible Study

"Final Words from the Cross"
by Adam Hamilton

Tuesday mornings at 11:00 am
Grace United Methodist Church
712 West Church Street
Hagerstown, MD

February 24: 1st Tuesday in Lent
Chapter 1: ***Father, Forgive Them***
Chapter 2: ***Today You Will be with Me in Paradise***

March 3: 2nd Tuesday in Lent
Chapter 3: ***Behold Your Son… Behold Your Mother***

March 10: 3rd Tuesday in Lent
Chapter 4: ***My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?***

March 17: 4th Tuesday in Lent
Chapter 5: ***I Thirst***

March 24: 5th Tuesday in Lent
Chapter 6: ***It Is Finished…Into Your Hands I Commit My Spirit***

2026 Hub Updates at John Wesley UMC

John Wesley UMC has a host of missional opportunities for Hub participation lined up for 2026. The first one took place Saturday, January 10. Interested parties should contact Linda Sappington at rsappington@myactv.net .

Warming stations
January and February Saturdays ... 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Janessa will prepare AND SERVE soup/ sandwich lunch each Saturday!

Games - Volunteers needed

Cooling Stations
July and August ... 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Spring Fling
Saturday, April 25, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

July Community Cookout
July 18, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Vets meal
Saturday, Nov 14

Thanksgiving Meal
November 26

Upcoming Hub Meetings:
Pastors: January 28, 10AM - Shiloh UMC
Pastors & Laity: January 29, 6PM - Grace UMC

It's Time to Order

Pink or Purple Hyacinths	$10.85
Yellow or Purple Tulips	$10.85
Purple Mums	$10.85
Easter Lily	$12.25

The deadline to order your Easter flowers for this year is **February 22nd**! The flowers will be delivered in time for you to pick them up on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

Order forms are available at the church or online with the bulletin.

Please make your checks payable to "St. Andrews UMC". Place your order in the box on the church office door or give it to Diane Stone.