The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church
1020 Maryland Avenue; Hagerstown, MD 21740
www.standrewsumchagerstown.com
Phone: 301-739-7431 E-mail: standrewsumchagerstown@gmail.com

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

January 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!

We leave behind 2025, we follow Jesus who has compassion and healing in his wings.

The church is moved with compassion, thinking of the massacres at Brown University and Bondi Australia. We pray for God's healing touch and pray for comfort for the families grieving.

Let us in 2026 boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ at all opportunities that come our way.

Our immediate field mission is our co-workers, family and friends.

This new year, invite the Holy Spirit to live in you. Jesus promised to send the "*Counselor to be with us forever*." With the Holy Spirit dwelling in us the possibilities are plentiful in serving God and serving our neighbors. After all, we are the temples of the Holy spirit.

With the spirit being our counselor, we will make better decisions and we will be able to discern better God's will in our lives. The counselor will teach us more accurately the ways of God. You think **AI** has information; the Holy Spirit is superior with Godly accurate information to support our Christian life.

The Holy Spirit centers Christ in our day to day life, convicting us of the wrong things and guides perfectly in the path that leads to great life.

May the Holy Spirit order your steps in 2026. Amen

Blessings,

Pastor Serufusa

St. Andrews Music Notes

"Quiet your mind and let God speak into the open spaces that worry tries to fill". This is a quote from a contemporary Christian artist Toby Mac. I know I need to be reminded of this so it is now my New Year's resolution. If you find yourself worrying about something, remember that God is in control.

I want to thank all of the members of the Worship and Music Team who so eagerly agree to help with special decorating, special services, providing food for fellowship meals and much more. Special thanks to the Chancel Choir and Faithful Ringers for all of their time spent learning music. What a blessing it is to have Mukisa accompanying the choir and Mugabi sharing his talents on the guitar. Thank you to Jolene for the beautiful bulletin boards. Please take a moment to look closely at her Christmas board - she even used some of her own hair for Baby Jesus. Thank you to Kathy Snyder for stepping up and doing a Children's message each month. Thanks to all of those who agreed to participate in the monologues. I know there are many more who do the work of the Lord and you are greatly appreciated. As you can see, St. Andrews is alive and well!

It seems as soon as we finish one special time in the church year, another is right around the corner. Together, let's look forward to a very meaningful Lenten season as we cherish what our Lord has done for us.

Have a blessed 2026!

Lisa Shives,
Music Director
Worship & Music Committee Chair

in January

Jan 01 - New Year's Day
Jan 04 - Epiphany Sunday
Jan 07 - 7:00 pm Music & Worship meets after Bell practice
Jan 08 - 10:00 am Bible Study
Jan 08 - 7:00 pm Trustees
Jan 11 - Baptism of Lord
Jan 13 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee
Jan 15 - 10:00 am Bible Study – last day
Jan 15 - February Newsletter articles are due
Jan 18 - Human Relations Sunday
Jan 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 20 - 6:00 pm SPRC meets
Jan 27 - 7:00 pm Church Council

WEATHER WATCH!

If the weather outside is blowing and you wonder if church services will be held, look for an email from the pastor or listen to WJEJ, 1240 AM on your radio dial for a report of canceled worship services.

If Washington County schools are closed due to the weather, any meetings scheduled at the church for that day or evening will be cancelled unless you are advised otherwise by the meeting chairperson.

2026 Offering Envelopes are available on the hallway table for everyone who gives on a weekly basis and would like to use envelopes. These envelopes are to be used beginning January 1, 2026. Please do not use them in December 2025.

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

November Food Month:
Thanks to everyone for their generous support of food donations to our community! St. Mark's Food Bank received 82 boxed and canned items and 84 boxes of cereal from our donations. With the cold weather and holidays, we know our donations were greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

REACH of Washington County:
At the Thanksgiving Eve service an offering was taken for REACH. St. Andrews UMC, Emmanuel UMC, and Funkstown Lutheran Church donated $277.00 for REACH's matching grant program.

February 8th will be "Souper Bowl" Sunday. A bowl will be available for donations, and a large box will be in the hallway for needed items.

In March, John Davidson will be organizing another REACH dinner. See John for information on how to help. Thank you for caring about the homeless in our community.

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings:
Thank you for filling the dozen lovely Christmas Stockings! Your love will be shared with 12 boys and girls when they receive them this Christmas!

The Hope Center:
Thank you for your generous support of The Hope Center. Sherri delivered 26 coats to be used for their coat giveaway. We also donated 45 canned and boxed items from our food month collections.

Bester Elementary School
The students received 168 individual snacks in November. The school is always happy when we arrive with our boxes of "brain food" for their long afternoons. Thank you for supporting the Bester community!

The Yarn Reclamation Project (YRP):
Elizabeth Alberding is collecting yarn to repurpose. **Please see her flyer on the hallway bulletin board.** So far we have donated 3 large bags of yarn for her project. She was so grateful for our help. If you can donate any yarn, please put it in a bag and leave it on the hallway table. Thank you!

Happy New Year from the Missions Committee!

FUND RAISER COMMITTEE

Peanut Butter Egg Making 2026!

The Peanut Butter Egg fundraiser will begin the first of February and continue through March. Order forms and sign-up sheets will be available in January.

Join the Committee – If you are interested in helping to make eggs, please sign up on the table in the Narthex or contact Phyllis Ernde and let her know if you want to work mornings or evenings.

Watch for more information and updates in the bulletin and upcoming newsletters.

2026 REACH Meal

We Need Your Help!

We have agreed to support the Reach Cold Weather Shelter by preparing and serving an evening meal on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**.This week is covered by the Hagerstown Church of the Brethren who we helped last year.

We will meet at REACH, 140 West Franklin Street, Hagerstown at 5:30 pm to cook the meal and then serve beginning at 7:00 p.m. The meal will be fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, stuffing, green beans, rolls, applesauce, and a dessert. We will be preparing for 70 people.

The people were so thankful for the hot meal we provided last year. Those of us who went were definitely more blessed than the ones receiving the food. Let's remember how blessed we are and share our blessings with others. Let us reach out as Jesus did to meet the needs of the hungry and less fortunate.

Please see John Davidson to offer monetary donations or to sign up to participate.