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."*

July/August 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

We always need a spiritual renewal in our church and in our individual lives.

What are we running short of? Is it a zeal for the Lord, peace, joy or is it enthusiasm, the original fire for Jesus.

In Revelation 2:4 "***You have forsaken the first love***."

With all the hard work, endurance of hardship, is it possible to be disconnected from Jesus?

Is it possible to lose sight of the path Jesus has set before us? So let us always love the Lord with all our strength, heart, mind, and soul.

Let the fire of the Holy Spirit constantly burn to keep us alive spiritually. So, we intentionally make time for Bible study, worship, prayer and participate in Holy Communion, and support the church activities.

Let us declare, "***I want to be like Jesus***." Spiritual renewal happens when we use the gifts that God has given us. What is your gift? A teacher, hospitality, encourager, leadership or giving?

May God's Holy Spirit rekindle anew our church. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Christopher Serufusa

St. Andrews Music Notes

"The best things in life are not things" says Winnie the Pooh. The Worship Team would like to explore that theme a little more in depth by inviting you to give a short testimony during the church service on what God has done for you. You can share something from the past or present of how you have been blessed. Please see me so I can schedule you for a Sunday in July or August.

On July 5th, we will be recognizing the 250th anniversary of our country with patriotic additions to our church service. Let's wear red, white, and blue that Sunday to celebrate all of the freedoms we cherish, especially our religious freedom.

August 23rd will be our picnic and service in Doub's Woods Park beginning at 10:15 am. Look for a sign-up sheet in the church hallway so that we can plan accordingly for this event. This is a wonderful way to give thanks to God for the beautiful creation of nature as we worship outside.

The choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, August 30th after church. We practice for one hour and really enjoy the fellowship of our members. The door is always open to new members. Please feel free to give it a try. Brian Langmyer will announce the start-up of the Faithful Ringers in the fall. He welcomes new members also.

It is very evident that St. Andrews is alive and well. Enjoy your summer and especially enjoy all that St. Andrews has to offer you on your religious journey. Praise God!

Lisa Shives
Music Director

in July & August

Please note that Sunday School will begin at 9:15 am and the Sunday worship service at 10:15 am beginning in July.

July 04 - Independence Day
July 05 - Independence Sunday (consider wearing red, white and blue)
July 09 - 7:00 pm Trustees meet
July 14 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee
July 15 - 3:00 pm Sight & Sound Trip
July 21 - 7:00 pm Church Council meets

Aug 06 - 7:00 pm Trustees (tentative)
Aug 12 - 6:00 pm Worship & Music Committee
Aug 19 - 11:30 am Senior's Lunch
Aug 23 - 10:15 am Worship in The Park at Doub's Woods Park, South Potomac Street entrance.
Aug 25 - 7:00 pm Church Council (tentative)

…during your summer vacation!

St. Mark's Food Bank

Summer is here for many families with
students home for lunch.
Washington County Public Schools provide lunches for children ages 18 and under with their Summer Meal Machine in about 21 locations M-F. However, cereal provides a breakfast, a snack, and for some a meal for dinner. Recently, we donated 20 boxes of cereal and 11 other items to the pantry.
Thank you for supporting our cereal collection this summer!

Society of St. Andrew

Did you know the Society Of St. Andrew saves millions of pounds of produce which is gleaned from farmers' fields or donated by companies? The cost to ship those pounds to food pantries, potato drops, and other community locations throughout the US is about 5 cents a pound.
Please enjoy any fresh vegetables on the hall table this summer and leave a small donation!
Thank you!

Bester Elementary School

We donated about 300 individual snack bags to the children in May. The school was so thankful for our help making the end of the school year nice for the students! Thank you for reaching out to our community!

Coming February 18-20, 2027
"Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Event"' is coming to Hagerstown! More information will be shared during a Mission Moment in July.

HAVE A SAFE SUMMER FILLED WITH SHARED BLESSINGS

Mark Your Calendars!
Worship & Picnic in the Park
August 23rd

On August 23rd our **10:15** am Sunday worship service will be held

at the covered pavilion in Doub's Woods Park, South Potomac Street entrance. The service will be followed by a picnic with meat and beverages provided! Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share. ***Monetary donations for the meat are appreciated. See Vickie Lookabaugh.***

A sign-up sheet to let us know how many are attending, what you will bring, or how you can help, will be on the table in the Narthex. You can also email standrewsumchagerstown@gmail.com or call the church office (301-739-7431) to let us know what you will bring.

Half-Time Ministry Agreement Received from District Superintendent

An Appointment Covenant has been agreed to and signed by all parties from St. Andrews United Methodist Church and Grace United Methodist Church to accept the appointment of Christopher Serufusa as a half-time pastor as of July 1, 2026.

Beginning Sunday, July 7, Pastor Chris will begin his half- time ministry at Grace UMC at 9:00 am. He will arrive at St. Andrews UMC by 10:30 am to deliver the message, but the service will begin at 10:15, led by our Lay Leaders. Seasonal and special services will be agreed upon at the consent of both churches.

St. Andrews will continue to pay the pastor's salary, Medical, Pension, and Budgeted Expenses. Grace UMC will reimburse St. Andrews for half of these expenses on a monthly basis.

Pastor Chris will remain in the parsonage which is owned by St. Andrews UMC. Grace UMC will contribute to the regular maintenance and upkeep of the parsonage by remitting one-twelfth of the annual total parsonage support to St. Andrews monthly. One trustee of Grace UMC will sit on the Trustees of St. Andrews for purposes of discussion and collaboration around parsonage upkeep, maintenance and expenses.

Additional information will be provided as received.

Notes on Finances ...

Thank you to the Fundraisers for their hard work with the peanut butter and coconut egg making project. A little over $12,000 was donated to the General Fund in May. The hard work of the crews has benefited our church in an amazing way financially!

The SPRC and your Church Council have voted to approve a part-time pastor. The changes, outlined by our District Superintendent, Rev. John Wunderlich, are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

We truly feel this is the best pathway for St. Andrews to carry on God's mission. Pray for a smooth transition and wisdom to navigate any obstacles. Updates will be given during church, in the church bulletin and/or through email since we will not have another newsletter until September.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Siebert
Finance Chairperson and Treasurer

Remember, there are 3 ways to give to the church:

1. Join us on Sunday and give in person.
2. Mail a check to:
   St. Andrews UMC
   1020 Maryland Avenue
   Hagerstown, MD 21740
3. Contribute online on the church website, www.standrewsumchagerstown.com

Click on "Donate" or digitally use the Vanco app by scanning the QR code here, using your phone's camera. Directions from Vanco are available.