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."*

June 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

WHO IS THE CHURCH? WE ARE THE CHURCH

Kairos prison ministry has a talk or sermon on the church. In the talk a question comes up – "who is the church? The answer: We are the church."

"*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer*." Acts 2:42

Christians need each other to succeed spiritually. Believers find unity, fellowship, support as they serve and work together for Christ.

Christians cannot be alone like an island in their walk with the Lord. Alone, one loses their way. Life pressures can make us fail. We need each other's encouragement. The blessings of God are upon those who stay together.

Who is the church?

-God's people praising and worshipping together

-God's Goodness runs after them

-Believers who go about making disciples for Christ

-Christians who share and tell the stories of Jesus

-Christians serving the poor, fighting hunger

-Christians who serve the sick, and the imprisoned

-Christians who spend time, studying the Word and are in prayer

We are the church in our witness, service, and worship.

Blessings,
Pastor Christopher Serufusa

St. Andrews Music Notes

"I trust the next chapter because I know the author". I'm working on that very quote. I just had a family member call me out about why I worry if I trust God. She is so right. Phillipians 4:6-7 says, "Don't worry about anything, instead pray about everything." Worry drains us and takes time away from us doing God's work and we have lots of work to do for God.

Take a look at everything planned at St. Andrews and see where you can offer a helping hand. Here are only a few areas where you can help:

- Beginning July 12th thru August we are asking members to share testimonials on the theme "Look what God has done for me".
- Anyone who would like to share their musical talents for the Glory of God this summer, please see Lisa for a Sunday that is available.
- Consider joining the bell or vocal choir when they begin rehearsals in September.
- Take a Sunday and offer a children's message.
- Join a committee, sign up for lay reader, send cards to our shut-ins, help with communion preparation.

Sunday, June 21st will be a special Sunday as Second Chances will be with us to provide the message through word and song. Please plan to join us for a delicious meal after the service.

On July 5th, special patriotic readings and patriotic music will be offered.

Watch for information about our service and picnic in the park on August 23rd.

Have a great summer as you do Gods work.

Lisa Shives, Music Director

June 04 – No Trustees meeting this month
June 15 – July/August newsletter articles are due
June 17 – 11:30 Senior's Picnic – Schaefer Park – Boonsboro Please RSVP to Vickie Lookabaugh. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.
June 21 – Father's Day
June 21 – Second Chances performs and there will be a luncheon after the service in the Fellowship Hall
June 21 – First Day of summer
June 24 – No Church Council this month

Please note that the Pastor's trip to Uganda in June has been postponed due to the recent Ebola outbreak in Africa.

Join us Sunday, June 21, as Second Chances shares their musical talents and spiritual gifts at our worship service.

There will be a luncheon immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Mark's Food Bank and Bester Elementary School

Feeding our community has been one of our outreach projects for many years. In the last month we donated 41 boxes of cereal and one other item to the Food Pantry at St. Mark's. We also delivered 176 individual snack packs to Bester Elementary for the students. Thank you for caring! Our cereal collection will continue all year, but we will begin donating snacks again in the fall for the new school year. Thank you!

Society of St. Andrew

"Hunger is closer to home than many of us realize. According to Bread for the World, more than half of all Americans - 51.4 percent - will experience poverty at some point before the age of 65. Food insecurity can stem from a single event: a job loss, an illness, a natural disaster, rising costs, or an unexpected bill. It can happen to anyone, and it often happens quietly.

That is why your support matters so deeply. When you support the Society of St. Andrew, you make sure that whenever hunger shows up in a community, nourishing food shows up too." (Society of St. Andrew Quarterly Report- Number 1, 2026).
Thank you for supporting St. Andrew's annual Potato Drop and our vegetable table this summer!

Reach of Washington County

"Dear Friends at St. Andrews United Methodist Church. Thank you for your donation of $148.00 to Reach of Washington County. Your generosity and compassion are a blessing to our community. Your support helps us assist those in need through our programs that range from safety-net to independence, which include a Cold Weather Shelter for homeless adults, and our year-round initiatives that include Case Management, a Day Resource Center, Bridge to Change, and financial assistance to those facing a housing crisis." (Jeannie Asbury, Executive Director).
This was our "Souper" Bowl donation.

Notes on Finances …

Our District Superintendent, John Wunderlich, has presented an option to St. Andrews beginning in July 2026. St. Andrews would be in a good position to consider a part-time pastor. Why you ask? By the end of April, we are already $16,393.51 behind in our giving. Our checking account balance is half what it was on January 1st of this year.

There is at least one or more other United Methodist churches in the Hagerstown area who have vacancies for a part-time pastor. We could pair with one of them to offer Pastor Chris a full-time pastor charge. Two of our concerns in our original discussion of going to a part-time pastor were:
1. What would we do with the parsonage?
2. Would we have to get a new pastor?

We would not have to worry about either of these concerns. Pastor Chris and his family would stay in the parsonage, and he is willing to accept a two-church charge.

Our partner church would assist in paying half of the pastor's salary, pension, and health insurance. They will also assist in paying for parsonage utilities.
In 2026, this could mean we could reduce our expenses by $20,000. In 2027, our annual budget could be reduced by about $40,000.

Please pray for our church and the members of the Administrative Council as we consider what is best for the future of St. Andrews

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Siebert
Finance Chairperson and Treasurer

Money is one of God's gifts to people.

"Likewise, all to whom God gives wealth and possessions and whom he enables to enjoy them, and to accept their lot and find enjoyment in their toil – this is the gift of God" (Eccl. 5:19)

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Special Music Volunteers!

Remember! The Faithful Ringers and the Chancel Praise Choir will be taking a break during the summer. If you would like to provide special music during the summer months, please see Lisa so that we can get you scheduled for a Sunday.

Consider the whole family choosing a Sunday. That would be fun! This could mean you and your siblings, your children, you and your spouse, or any other family members.

Senior's Annual Picnic
June 17th at Schaefer Park in Boonsboro

Chicken and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

RSVP to Vickie Lookabaugh by June 14 if you plan to attend. Thank you!