

The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church

1020 Maryland Avenue; Hagerstown, MD 21740

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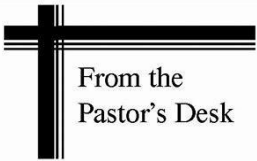
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Our Mission: "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

Our Vision: "Believe in God, Follow Jesus, and Serve Others."

February 2024 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Desk

Bold Faith

³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard. It was an expensive perfume. She poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the sweet smell of perfume.
John 12:3

Mary generously poured the expensive ointment on the feet of Jesus. She knelt on her knees wiping the feet of Jesus with her hair. Can you be bold enough to do such an act? This is spectacular.

The cost of the extravagant pour of the perfume did not worry her. She was authentic in her bold faith to honor her Lord, Jesus Christ. Mary's great love for Jesus demands that we be generous with our resources, time, gifts, and talents.

When you follow Jesus long enough, you learn to give in an extravagant manner. You learn how Jesus gave himself for his friends, even his death on the cross to secure eternal life for all people. Mary surely possessed a fragrance of faith in Jesus.

May the saints offer such a fragrance of love without a worry about our time and resources. May we develop a bold faith for Jesus all the time.

Blessings,
Pastor Serufusa

St. Andrews Music Notes

While I was waiting for my eye exam, I noticed some sayings in the Md Vision waiting room that literally caught my eye. "Smile, Jesus loves you" and "Choose to inspire someone today" were just two of the statements that were scrolling across the TV screen. I was so happy to see a business spreading positive comments.

The Worship and Music Team would also like to promote and spread the Good News. Our Lenten and Easter Season will be filled with special services. **February 14th** will be Ash Wednesday Service held at Emmanuel. Sunday, **March 17th** we will be presenting a special program titled "At The Cross" which will explore various people in Biblical times who were touched by Jesus during his short time on Earth. Holy Thursday service will be held at Emmanuel and Good Friday will be at St Andrews when we will listen to the "Seven Last Words of Jesus".

We are hoping to get some youth involved in our Palm Sunday service when we will begin with the triumphant entry into Jerusalem and end the service with the road to suffering. Easter service will be filled with lots of special music and joyous celebration as we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord. Hopefully you will be able to attend all of these services.

The Worship and Music team is also excited to invite you to a soup and sandwich meal after the church service on Sunday, February 11th. We think of love when we celebrate Valentine's Day on the 14th, so we would like to fellowship and have a meal with our church family which we love. We hope you will plan to stay after the service with us and enjoy good food and good conversation.

Lisa Shives,
Worship & Music Director



Important Dates *in February*

Feb 01 - Nancy off (works

Mon, Tues, Wed)

Feb 01 - 7:00 pm Trustees

Feb 11 - Transfiguration Sunday

Feb 11 - Soup & Sandwiches after service

Feb 11 - "Souper" Sunday

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day

Feb 14 - 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday at Emmanuel

Feb 15 - March newsletter articles are due

Feb 18 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Feb 18 - Deadline for Easter Flower orders

Feb 20 - 6:00 pm SPRC meets

Feb 21 - 11:30 am Emmanuel Senior's Lunch at Western Sizzlin'

Feb 25 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Feb 27 - 7:00 pm Church Council

"Souper" Bowl Sunday February 11th

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!

In early January we were able to help feed local families during these winter months. St. Marks Food Bank received 23 boxes of cereal and Bester students received 18 boxes of individually wrapped snacks. They are very thankful when we arrive with much needed food items. Thank you for caring about our neighbors! Please continue picking up an item or two when you are grocery shopping. Thank you!

Red Bird Mitten Tree

On January 11th two large boxes were shipped to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. They were filled with 117 beautiful winter items! As I counted each item, I could feel the love that St. Andrews sent to the families of Appalachia. Thank you so much! We also donated 12 pairs of mittens to Head Start children this year.

REACH Cold Weather Shelter

In 2023 "211 individuals aged 19-75 stayed in the cold weather shelter, totaling 6,432 nights." They need our help in 2024! In February we will be donating to REACH Cold Weather Shelter. A box will be in the hallway with a list of needed supplies throughout the month. They will be delivered in early March. Every dollar and item will be greatly appreciated!

On February 11th a bowl will be placed in the back of the Sanctuary for our annual "Souper Bowl" collection for REACH. Please donate a dollar or two for this important community project.

Christmas Greetings

We received two lovely Christmas cards with personal greetings and thanks from Brooke's House Family and St. Andrews Potato Project. Brooke's House says "Thank you so much for your love and support! We appreciate you!" The local society of St. Andrew wrote "With support of congregations like yours, we have shared more than a million pounds of food this year as far west as Cumberland. Thank you!"



St. Mark's Food Bank and Bester Elementary



Notes on Finances ...

Your Administrative Council met in January with our District Superintendent, John Wunderlich, to analyze our 2023 finances. The Council agreed that we can financially support our full-time appointed pastor, Pastor Chris Serufusa, for the next year. We are planning two major fundraisers to supplement our giving: the peanut butter egg-making (January-March) and a soup, sandwich, and bake sale in the Fall (Oct or Nov). Consider volunteering your time to support one or both of these efforts.

Thank you for your generous Christmas Tree gifts to St. Andrew's during the month of December. Your donations totaled \$7,361. All monies were deposited into the checking account. This has allowed us to have a strong balance to start 2024.

Our largest winter expense is our gas bill for heating. We don't turn the thermostat down super low throughout the week due to the older piping and valves leading to the Sunday school rooms. The Trustees learned that more of the valves break or malfunction when they are colder. Since maintaining the warmer thermostat setting, we have had less issues and service calls. Thank you for your continued support of our budget including the gas bill.

Applying Bible Principles

When he was president of Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship, Gordon MacDonald said, "One of the greatest teachings missing in the American church today is the reminder to men and women that nothing we have belongs to us."

We own nothing. We have been given material means to use, but not to own. All that we have belongs to God. He is our Source according to Psalm 62:5. We are only managers and stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

Because all that we have belongs to God, and because He gives us the ability to obtain wealth, every spending decision is in reality a spiritual decision. According to 1 Corinthians 10:31, our constant goal must be to glorify God in all of life, including how we use His resources.

Stephen Olford wrote this: "... man's chief end is 'to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.' We are to glorify God by our worshipful praise (Psalm 50:23). We are to glorify Him by our consistent fruit bearing (John 15:8). We are to glorify Him by our spiritual unity (Rom. 15:6). We are to glorify Him by our entire dedication (1 Cor. 6:20). And we are to glorify Him by our good works (Matt. 5:16). In this

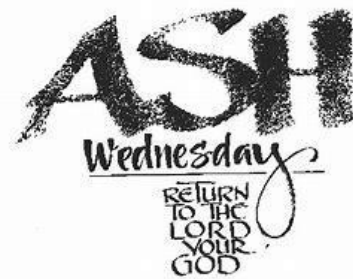
last category is included the matter of giving. Only in this way can we provide for 'honest things in the sight of the Lord.' The glory of God should motivate us to give and to give our best."

If our goals and ambitions are truly set on spiritual things, if our emphasis in life is to glorify God, we will use the funds He has "loaned" to us on a temporary basis to glorify Him. We will put His money and possessions to good use by giving to His work and by storing up "treasures in heaven" (Matt. 6:19-21).

There are two key questions to be asked concerning money and possessions: First, are you glorifying God in how you are using the money and possessions He has entrusted to you? And second, are you viewing these things as yours or as His?

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).*



**February 14, 7:00 pm
at Emmanuel United Methodist Church**



**2024 Peanut Butter Egg
Fundraiser!**

It's that time again! We will begin making and selling our delicious peanut butter eggs the week of January 22nd and will continue until Palm Sunday (March 24th).

First day to pick up: January 28
Deadline to order: March 17
Last day to pick up: March 24, 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 11:30 am
- Tuesday: 9:00 am to 11:30 am
- Thursday: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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

- Powdered 10X sugar
- Jif Smooth Peanut Butter
- Real UNSALTED butter (no margarine)

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



Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Please join the Worship and Music Team for homemade

soup and sandwiches after the worship service on February 11th! We would like to get a head start on Valentine's Day – we would LOVE to enjoy good food and conversation with our church family. We hope you can be with us.

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 the church office.

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.

It's Time to Order



Pink or Purple Hyacinths	\$9.50
Yellow or Purple Tulips	\$9.50
Purple Mums	\$9.50
Easter Lily	\$11.00

The deadline to order your Easter flowers for this year is **February 18th**! The flowers will be delivered Friday, March 29th (Good Friday). You can pick them up Easter Sunday, March 31st.

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

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