



The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church

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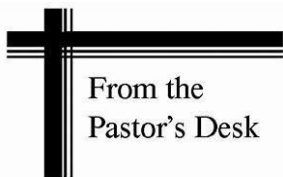
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Our Mission: "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

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

March 2023 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Desk

Telling God's Stories

³ and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us."

⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. ⁵ Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

What stories remind you of the greatness of God?

Can you tell your family how God's blessings have been given to your family over the years?

What victories can you share of how God lifted your family from a crisis? In the process of telling these stories we are worshiping God for His greatness. Our stories should show God's grace and mercy. We recount for our families God's acts in saving us from trouble securing our future.

This Lent season, hear again the stories of Faith. Stories of God's love and deliverance. God sending Jesus to be born among us. Stories of suffering on the Cross, raising on the third day.

Stories of Jesus healing and feeding people.

In retelling the stories of Jesus, we hear again the good news of God's amazing love.

Be intentional. Tell Jesus' stories again.

Blessings,
Pastor Christopher Serufusa



St. Andrews Music Notes

Jeremy Camp's new song, "Anxious Heart" is filled with lyrics which really speak to your soul in times of need. The following are some of the lyrics: "You are the light when my heart goes dark. You hold me together when I fall apart. You are the calm for my anxious heart." I know I have said it many times before, but music is so powerful for so many reasons. It can pick you up, help you find peace, make you smile, and most importantly help you with praising God, the Father. Music is a gift from God and I know I am very thankful for this gift.

When you receive this newsletter the Lenten season will have already started. We have chosen anthems that help convey the messages in our Lenten dialogues. I hope they are as meaningful to you as they are to those who are singing them.

Blessings to you this Lenten Season.

Lisa Shives
Music Director





Important Dates *in March*

- Mar 2 - 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study begins
- Mar 2 - 7:00 pm District Training-Finance 101 at Otterbein – Please register in advance
- Mar 5 - 2nd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 8 - 6:00 pm Worship Committee
- Mar 9 - 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study
- Mar 9 - 7:00 pm Trustees
- Mar 11 - Turn your clocks forward when retiring
- Mar 12 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 14 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee
- Mar 15 - 11:30 am Emmanuel Senior's Lunch at Golden Corral – Fall Prevention will be the topic
- Mar 15 - April Newsletter articles are due
- Mar 16 - 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19 - 4th Sunday in Lent
- Mar 19 - UMCOR Sunday
- Mar 21 - 6:00 pm SPRC meets
- Mar 23 - 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study
- Mar 25 - 9:00 am United Methodist Men meet
- Mar 26 - 5th Sunday in Lent
- Mar 28 - 7:00 pm Church Council
- Mar 30 - 10:00 am Lenten Bible Study
- Apr 02 - Palm Sunday



Set your clocks forward on March 11 when you retire for the night.

Head Start of Washington County:

We had a few toddler hats and mittens donated after our collection in 2021. They were donated to Head Start in early December 2022. We received a lovely thank you letter from Vicki Roberson (Executive Director). "Thank you very much for your generous donation...It is important to us to ensure that each Head Start child is given these clothing items and the opportunity to be warmer throughout the winter...please accept our greatest appreciation."

Food Donations:

Since January 23rd, we have delivered 32 boxes of cereal and 7 other items to St. Mark's Food Bank. In a recent letter they thanked us for our continuous donations. " Your generosity and compassion is a blessing to our community that will make a difference in the lives of those in need. "St. Mark's feeds about 200 families a month. We will continue our collections each month in 2023! We also delivered 63 pantry and snack boxes to Bester Elementary School. They are always so grateful for our support of their students and families!

Miscellaneous Donations:

We received a generous donation of cases of Antibacterial Wipes and Hand Sanitizer thanks to a local business and members of our congregation in February. Sherri and I were able to share them with the Rescue Mission, St. Mark's Food Bank, and Brooke's House.

We also donated two lovely afghans to Brooke's House Thrift Shop in the shopping center across from our church. Drop in sometime--they have lots of nice items for sale!

REACH of Washington County:

On "Souper" Bowl Sunday we collected \$138.00 for REACH. Thank you for reaching out to our neighbors in need. They served 222 individuals in the shelter last season. Each item you donate in our hallway box will provide supplies to the shelter! Thank you for caring!



**St. Andrews
United Methodist Men**



From Old Testament times to today, men have gathered to discuss their faith journeys and to find meaning, hope, and healing. Small group ministry was an essential element of the Wesleyan movement. The mission of the United Methodist Men is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

All men of the church are members of St Andrews United Methodist Men even if you cannot make our meetings on the fourth Saturday of the month.

We are always looking for new ways to reach out to the church and community to show God's love. Our current projects include:

- "End Hunger – Potato Project" (April 15th),
- Mother's Day flowers,
- Father's Day flowers,
- Gifts for our graduates,
- Christmas goodie bags for the children.

Our only funding source comes from the donations received when people park on our parking lot to attend the South High football games and the Washington County Showcase of Bands. Monitoring the parking lot helps keep the trash to a minimum and protects our property. People who use our lot are very generous and friendly. This requires about two hours at each school event and this past year even the ladies of the church helped. Signup sheets for parking lot coverage come out the beginning of August.

Watch for information regarding the Potato Project in the bulletin and in the Narthex. Please sign up to help distribute potatoes on April 15th!

If you can help in anyway or have new ideas, please contact John Davidson.

Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil.

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"
(Matt. 6:33)

Notes on Finances ...

Applying Bible Principles

Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil. But a wrong view of money can become a problem to us.

In First Timothy 6:9-10, Scripture warns about the dangers of a determination to get rich: "But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil; and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains."

When we have a consuming desire to get rich, when we are obsessed with money so that it becomes the focus of our time and attention, then we have made it the number one priority in our lives. In that spot, it replaces everything, including God. We begin to find our security in money, not in God and in God alone.

However, when our view of God is right and our view of money is right, we will realize that money cannot buy security; money cannot purchase happiness; money cannot guarantee peace or joy or contentment. God alone can provide these essentials as we "... strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

In his book, *The Gift of Giving*, Wayne Watts said this: "God always lovingly instructs us in the path that is in our best interest and which will bring us the greatest happiness in life. Therefore, for our good, He instructs us to put Him first in all things, and this includes how we use our money."

How do you view money? Is it at the center of your life, thereby perhaps replacing God's rightful role? And equally important, are you using the money God has given to you to advance His kingdom and His righteousness?

