

FEBRUARY 2023

CROSSROADS

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Called by Christ to bring others into the Nets of God's Love"

611 SWAMP CREEK ROAD • BECHTELSTVILLE, PA 19505 •
610.367.7043

WWW.SAINTANDREWUMC.ORG

[FACEBOOK.COM/BECHTELSTVILLEUMC](https://www.facebook.com/BechtelsvilleUMC)

Church Staff

Pastor.....Pastor Barb Seekford

PastorBarb@saintandrewumc.org

Pastor Barb's Cell# 610-310-8349

Director of Children & Youth.....Dave Stauffer

Dstauffer@saintandrewUMC.org

Administrative AssistantJeanine Deckert

Office@saintandrewUMC.org

Adult Choir Director.....Nancy Webb

Youth Choir Directors.....Bob & Faith Schlegel

OrganistMarian Meitzler

Pianist.....Kay Behle

TreasurerDonna Werkheiser



We will have an
Ash Wednesday Service here on
Wednesday, February 22nd at 7pm.
Everyone is welcome to attend!

INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



In case of inclement weather . . .
St. Andrew will use the following guidelines:

Sunday Mornings

In the event that we cancel Sunday services, the closing will be posted on our Face Book page [FACEBOOK.COM/BECHTELSTVILLEUMC](https://www.facebook.com/BECHTELSTVILLEUMC), on the local TV station WFMZ (69 News), on St. Andrew's voicemail and a mass email will go out to the congregation.

Weekdays

If Boyertown School District is closed then the church office is closed and all scheduled activities that day and evening are cancelled.

If Boyertown School District has an early dismissal due to inclement weather, all church activities that evening are cancelled.

If Boyertown School District has a late start all evening church activities will commence as scheduled.

If bad weather begins after school is out, check our Face Book page for updates or be safe and just stay home!



Will Someone Please Tell Me What is Going on in the United Methodist Church?

There's a lot of talk and a lot of news out there about the United Methodist Church these days. Unfortunately, it's hard to know what is true and difficult to understand what is really going on. Therefore, I wanted to take some time to give you an update and hopefully answer some of your questions.

Is the United Methodist Church splitting?

As of now, the UMC has not split, broken, or made any changes. General Conference is the global governing body of the United Methodist Church, and the only body that can make decisions about the UMC. General conference meets every four years and will not meet again until 2024. Until then (and possibly even after) nothing has officially changed.

Has the United Methodist Church changed its core beliefs or doctrinal standards?

No. The doctrinal standards of the United Methodist Church have remained the same. Doctrinal Standards- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/foundational-documents>

We believe in the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Resurrection (to name a few that have been under question). We believe in the authority of scripture, we pray the Lord's prayer, we ground ourselves in worship and spiritual practices, and we wholeheartedly receive God's grace through the sacraments of baptism and communion.

So, then what exactly has happened or changed?

Members of traditionalist groups- The Wesley Covenant Association, Good News Movement, etc. have created a new denomination called The Global Methodist Church (GMC), which launched on May 1st, 2022. At this time they have put together an extensive advertising campaign to get United Methodist Churches to leave and join them. We refer to the churches that are leaving as "disaffiliating" from the UMC.

This summer, Rob Renfro, Publisher of Good News Magazine, produced a series of six videos making the case for why United Methodist individuals and congregations should leave the UMC. His hope is/was that these videos would persuade folks to join the new the Global Methodist Church that he has helped form. As mentioned – most United Methodists have a very different perspective from the one he is presenting and feel that he is misrepresenting the United Methodist Church.

In response Pastor Adam Hamilton, pastor of The UMC of the Resurrection has recorded brief responses to each of the videos to clarify the misinformation that is being shared. You will find these videos on a new website called Proud to Be UMC. I hope you'll check it out.

<https://www.adamhamilton.com/blog/i-am-proud-to-be-united-methodist/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bo7dH72sR28>

What is all this talk about disaffiliation?

Some individual churches have chosen to disaffiliate (or leave the UMC) to either become independent or to join another denomination such as the Global Methodist Church. To do this, many are utilizing a temporary provision that was added to The Book of Discipline at the 2019 General Conference. Paragraph 2553 "Disaffiliation of a Local Church Over Issues Related to Human Sexuality" allows for a church to leave the denomination under different provisions than are normally required in the Book of Discipline, based on this one specific issue related to human sexuality.

Disaffiliation Info from EPAUMC- <https://www.epaumc.org/disaffiliation-discernment/>

What are the next steps? Do local churches need to decide anything?

No. There is nothing we must do right now and no decisions that need to be made. Currently, nothing has changed in the United Methodist Church, and we continue to focus on our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What has been St. Andrew's response to all of this?

St. Andrew has refused to be slowed down or distracted by the chaos. Per our Church Council, we are choosing to remain focused on our mission. No, we don't all think alike (isn't that great?!) and yet our shared love for God and for one another is bigger and stronger than any differences that might separate us. At a time of great divisiveness, we continue to find more ways to be in ministry together. We have chosen to remain focused on the greatest commandments—loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

What can I say when my friends ask me about this?

Invite them to come and see for themselves! Invite them to be a part of the awesome things that God is doing here at St. Andrew. Tell them our focus is on the mission and sharing the love of Christ with others.

Remind them that the United Methodist Church has built churches, schools, colleges and hospitals. We have marched for justice, and rebuilt communities after natural disasters. (Check our UMCOR) We show up to the food pantry and the prison and visit the ones who are sick and alone. We are grounded in a theology of God's grace, rooted in scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. We love God with all our hearts and truly believe in the possibilities of seeing God's Kingdom here on earth as we "make disciples for the transformation of the world."

So that's that!

I know this is a lot of information. I hope that this letter will answer some questions and alleviate some anxiety. As always, I am happy to meet you for coffee or at the office if you want to talk more about any of these things.

In the meantime, keep the faith! God is on the move, at St. Andrew and in the world, and we are fully along for the awesome ride! If you haven't been here for a while, this is a great time to reconnect. We don't need to have everything worked out or figured out to continue to be the church. And friends, it's a really good time to be the church and to be part of the church.

In Christ's Love,

Rev. Barbara Seekford
Pastor, St. Andrew UM Church

****This letter was partially adapted from a letter written by Rev. Beth Spencer Anderson**

Lent at St. Andrew

This year our Lenten journey begins on Wednesday, Feb 22nd at 7:00 pm (known as Ash Wednesday). Worship will begin at 7:00pm and will include the imposition of ashes.

Lent is the 40-day period before Easter. Historically, it has been a time for personal reflection, introspection and spiritual renewal as we join Christ on his walk to the cross. (Sundays are not included since each Sunday is a celebration and remembrance of Christ's resurrection.) During Lent we are challenged to think about our own walk with Christ. We are encouraged to think about who we are today and who we want to be.

This year we are going to be looking at Jesus' words from the cross. You can learn a lot about a person when they know they are nearing the end of their life. They'll tell you things that they want you to know or remember about them. You might hear a "death bed confession" This confession often helps the person alleviate their guilt or regrets or even reveal some secrets. You find out what is/was important to them. Sometimes they offer advice as they reflect back over their life. Last words are powerful, how much more so are the last words uttered by Jesus? Hanging on the cross, knowing his time on earth was coming to an end, Jesus' words provide rich insight into his heart, mind and soul. Lives were changed that day as witnesses gathered to watch the crucifixion. Together we'll explore the power behind these words and the significance of them for us today.

We will also be meeting on Thursday evenings for dinner and small group study. Dinner will begin at 6:15. We will be using Adam Hamilton's study *"Final Words from the Cross"* as a complement to the sermon series. We'll conclude at 7:30pm.

Let this year be the start of a new lifetime adventure with Jesus of learning, reflection and action! Join us Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings beginning Sunday February 26th.

Week #1	Sunday 2/26	"Father forgive them"	Luke 23:32-38
	Thursday 3/2	Dinner begins at 6:15 pm	
Week #2	Sunday 3/5	"Today you will be with me..."	Luke 23: 39-43
	Thurs. 3/9		
Week #3	Sunday 3/12	"Behold your son...behold your mother"	John 19: 25-27
	Thursday 3/28		
Week #4	Sunday 3/19	"My God, why have you forsaken me?"	Matthew 27: 45-49
	Thursday 3/23		
Week #5	Sunday 3/26	"I thirst"	John 19: 28-29
	Thursday 3/30		
Week #6	Sunday 4/2	"Into your hands I commend my spirit" & "It is finished" - Palm/Passion Sunday	Luke 23: 46-49 John 19: 30
	*Thursday 4/6	Maundy Thursday/Holy Thursday	

*Holy Thursday - Join us on Thursday April 6 beginning at 6:15. The evening will consist of a pot-luck dinner in Fellowship Hall as we gather around the tables to remember Jesus' gathering in the Upper Room for his last dinner with his disciples. We will also share together in communion and worship.

Blessings,
Pastor Barb



Cash 4 Causes Help Raise Money for Our Youth Ministries and Missions Programs!

Cash for Causes – New Year/New Goal!

It's a new year and a new chance to participate in our monthly Cash for Causes Fundraising program. Last year we beat our goal of raising \$1,200; this year we're aiming higher and need your help to make it to our goal of \$1,400! We take orders for cards in any denomination from \$10 up, on the first & second Sunday of each month and you normally get your cards on the

third Sunday. Cards don't expire and are good at any Giant grocery store - for gas, groceries, flowers, cards...just about anything you need! 5% of our total order for the month, comes back to St. Andrew for our Missions and Youth Ministries. If you would like to participate or have questions, please see Phyllis Conroy.

The Monday Group

This group is in keeping with
Saint Andrew Women's objective;
to serve others.

They meet on Mondays from about
9AM to 12PM. Except for the last Monday of the month when
they go out to breakfast first.

If you'd like to join them, they'd love to have you be a part of
the group.

Please contact Edie Scherer at 610.754.7793,
if you have any questions.

**NEXT BREAKFAST: Monday, February 27th
@ 9AM at The Americana Diner**



Christian Companions



*Christian Companions Women's Bible
Study - Walking through life with God
and each other.*

*The Christian Companion Women's Bible
Study group will be meeting on
Friday, February 3rd & 17th at 7pm
in the Library.*

*Contact Linda Clancy or Donna
Werkheiser with any questions.*

*Saint Andrew Women will be meeting on
Wednesday, February 8th at 1pm
in the Fellowship Hall.
All women are welcome to attend.*

*We would like to thank everyone that purchased a
poinsettia at Christmas to Decorate the Church.*

*Please remember to save your Redner's register
receipts. Please DO NOT cut the receipt as
Redner's requires the entire receipt. There is a box
on the table in the Welcome Center for the
receipts.*

SAW SOUP FUNDRAISER

*The St. Andrew Women will be making their famous Vegetable Beef and
Ham and Bean soups during February. The soup cost \$8.50 per quart
and the bread will be \$3.50 each. The last day to order will be February
28th. Pick up will be on Saturday March 11th in the Fellowship Hall. There
will be order forms in the welcome center. You may also call Rose Marie
Bireley at 610-473-0402 and leave a message. Leave your name, phone
number and what you would like to order.
All checks should be made out to St. Andrew Women.*



The United Methodist Men
will meet for breakfast on
Sunday, February 5th at 7:30am
At the Saville Diner.

All the men of the church are welcome to join
them!

Contact: John Stauffer.

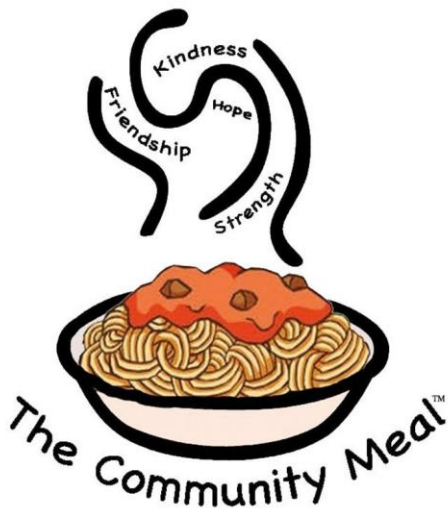
YARN SPINNERS

As the New Year begins so are our needles and
crochet hooks starting to get busy again!
We will be deciding what our project is to be for
the coming year.

Our Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 23rd at 12pm
in the Welcome Center. Anyone is welcome to
attend!





Free Community Meal

The Monthly Community Meals are held the 3rd Saturday every month from 12-1pm.

Volunteers and groups are needed to sponsor, and/or assist in cooking, serving, take out, and clean up.

Please consider signing up on the sheet in the Welcome Center to sponsor or help with the meals.

If you have general questions about the Community Meal, please contact Faith Schlegel or Becky Rhoads.

Next Meal: Saturday, February 18th @ 12PM

Graveyard Flags

If anyone sees downed or damaged flags over our Veterans graves,
PLEASE notify Bill or Delores Evens to be replaced.
Thank you!



Thank you for continuing to use our paper & cardboard recycling containers in our rear parking lot.

All boxes must be broken down flat and please do not throw any paper in plastic bags in there. This brings in several hundreds of dollars yearly and we wouldn't benefit from this without you.

Thank you!

YOUTH GROUP PAGE

Sunday School Plans:

Nursery care is provided at both worship services.

Sunday School for Children meet at 10:30am in the classroom downstairs.

Sunday School for Youth & Young Adults also meet at 10:30am in the Youth Room downstairs.

St. Andrew Youth Group:

The St. Andrew Youth meet on Thursdays from 7-8:30pm for fun games, lessons and conversation. Students grade 6-12 are welcome.

Help our group grow and invite your friends!

Thursday nights during lent (March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th) the St. Andrew Youth meeting time is changing to 6:15-7:30pm. We will join the adults for dinner first and then have game and lesson time in the youth room.

St. Andrew Young Adults:

The St. Andrew Young Adults (college age-20's) meet on Monday nights. Location & time varies.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

The St. Andrew Youth Winter Retreat to Camp Gretna Glen is Feb. 3rd – 5th. We will leave from St. Andrew on the 3rd at 5:30pm and return on the 5th around 12:30pm.

The weekend includes food, worship and speaker sessions, lots of indoor and outdoor activities, and sleeping in cabins.

Mark your calendars:

VBS is July 10-13

Harvey Cedars Sr. High Week is July 24-29

Harvey Cedars Jr. High Week is July 31-Aug 4

Stay tuned for more info!

For more info, email Dave Stauffer (dstauffer@saintandrewumc.org).



**Please keep the following members who are unable to
attend services in your prayers:**

Donna Baith

1600 Black Rock Rd.
Room# 711
Royersford PA 19468

Virginia McKinstry

PO Box 113
New Berlinville PA 19545

Richard Rhoads

2307 Ming Dr.
Pottstown PA 19464

June Stoudt

17 Stacy Dr.
Barto PA 19504

Jeanette Kline

2849 Big Rd.
Cedarwood Room# 1313B
Zieglerville PA 19492

Joan Maute

1666 County Line Rd.
Bechtelsville PA 19505

Laverne Maute

Lutheran Community at Telford
12 Lutheran Home Dr.
Telford, PA 18969

Our Current Prayer List:

Faith Schlegel, Marsha Farrow, Community Friend Arthur, Linda Moser's sister Joan & sister-in-law Sandy, Walter Rolph, Barbara Kirkley, Connie Redfern, Dennis Kline, Betty Hartung's Family, Tom Landis, Carol Norton & Family, The Schlegel's Friend Jimmy, Community Meal Friends Peg & Rose, Phyl Minner, Richard Rhoads, Terry Hewitt, Colleen Simmons' Mom Betty Lee Stringer, Laverne & Joan Maute, The Residents & Staff at Frederick Living, Stanley, Michelle & Kirstie Weller, Alex Schollenberger and their son Levi, and Julia Welsh.



TREASURER'S REPORT

St Andrew United Methodist Church Treasurers Report December 31, 2022

	Y-T-D 2021	December 2022	December 2021
Funds Received *	226,872.48	21,326.00	19,840.00
Bills Paid	272,626.98		
Open Bills	1,269.41		
Total Bills	273,896.39		
Net Increase(Decrease) in Funds	-47,023.91		

Other Collections that do not affect the budgeted expenses

	Dec-22	2022
Improvements	1,982.00	25,649.94
Special Offerings	100.00	7,890.50
Memorials	425.00	2,186.39
Sunday School	21.05	310.86
Carpet Replacement	1,000.00	3,520.00
Sign	40.00	7,335.00

* The funds received includes Current offerings, Church plate and other income used to pay budgeted expenses.



Celebrating FEBRUARY Birthdays

<i>John Gale Fisher</i>	<i>2/3</i>	<i>Mark Egbert</i>	<i>2/16</i>
<i>John Bartman</i>	<i>2/6</i>	<i>Lynda Egbert</i>	<i>2/18</i>
<i>Linda Moser</i>	<i>2/7</i>	<i>Mary Frain</i>	<i>2/19</i>
<i>George Bireley</i>	<i>2/9</i>	<i>Megan Kuder</i>	<i>2/20</i>
<i>Rebecca Riefenstahl</i>	<i>2/11</i>	<i>Samantha Stauffer</i>	<i>2/20</i>
<i>Linda Drabinsky</i>	<i>2/12</i>	<i>Mary Conroy</i>	<i>2/22</i>
<i>Elizabeth Foster</i>	<i>2/13</i>	<i>Colleen Simmons</i>	<i>2/25</i>
<i>David Purnell</i>	<i>2/13</i>	<i>Evan Riefenstahl</i>	<i>2/26</i>
<i>Glenn Miller</i>	<i>2/14</i>	<i>Ruth Fuchs</i>	<i>2/27</i>



Paul & Sandra Bancroft ~ February 9th
George & Rose Marie Bireley ~ February 24th

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary information printed here
and you would like it to be, please contact the church office to update your
record.*



Mission: Salvation Army

Our mission team is asking our church family to answer a need expressed by Boyertown Salvation Army. You were all great in our goal to reach over 500 cans of "veggies" for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. We are now going to collect one non-perishable food item a month to help them throughout the year.

Starting in January we will collect one specific item a month.

The item for February is boxed mac & cheese.

There will be a basket in the narthex for this item.

Thank You!

Food Item for February 2023

BOXED MAC & CHEESE



MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION LIST FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

JANUARY: SOUP

FEBRUARY: BOXED MAC & CHEESE

MARCH: PASTA OR ANY NOODLE (DRY)

APRIL: SPAGHETTI SAUCE (JAR OR CAN)

MAY: SOUP

JUNE: INSTANT POTATOES

JULY: CANNED TUNA

AUGUST: PEANUT BUTTER

SEPTEMBER: RICE

**OCTOBER: CANNED VEGGIES FOR
THANKSGIVING COLLECTION**

**NOVEMBER: CANNED VEGGIES FOR
THANKSGIVING COLLECTION**

**DECEMBER: NO COLLECTION
(SINCE WE'LL BE DOING THE ANGEL TREE)**



The Mission Committee's Annual Spud Luncheon!!!

**Join us on
Sunday February 5th,
after the second service**

They will have baked potatoes with many different toppings,
and will be sharing information about the missions

St. Andrew is supporting.

Come for the food, come for the fellowship, come to learn
some of the ways we are reaching out to share God's love.

Bring your appetite, bring your generous heart and bring a
friend!



Dr. Zimmerman Lenten Project

Lent and Easter are fast approaching and with them, the opportunity to provide support for Dr. Zimmerman, our missionary in Nepal.

Dr. Zimmerman continues to provide medical services at the Patan Hospital in Kathmandu, and his wife, Deirdre; who provides nutritional services and teaching.

We, as a church, have contributed to their work for many years, and they have been here to share their mission with us.

During Lent, February 22nd – April 2nd, we will be collecting money in support of their work. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex where individuals, families or groups may donate.

We are suggesting donations of \$20, but any amount you can donate is welcome and much appreciated.

Checks should be made out to St. Andrew UMC with "Dr. Zimmerman Lent" on the memo line. Thank you!



Brian Peddle
General



William A. Bamford
Territorial Commander

Larry Ashcraft
Divisional Commander

Captains Joseph and Rebecca Smith
Corps Officer

THE SALVATION ARMY

Founded in 1865 by William Booth

Boyertown Corps

409 S. Reading Avenue, (PO BOX 254)
Boyertown, PA 19512
Telephone: (610) 367-4089
Fax: (610) 369-5029

January 18, 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you for making another Christmas Season wonderful for so many families in the Boyertown and Beyond Area. The Angel Tree Program was another remarkable success. Because of your kindness, over two-hundred children had smiles of joy on Christmas morning. Three-hundred Christmas food boxes that included either a Ham or Turkey were handed out. Tears filled the Boyertown Salvation Army on distribution day.

This would not have been possible without your generosity. Whether you collected food for the Christmas food drive, sponsored a child through the Angel Tree program, collected toys or clothing, gave a monetary donation, packed the Angel bags, or assisted on distribution day, we thank you and appreciate everything that you have done to help make this Christmas very special for the families in Boyertown and Beyond communities.

Blessings,

Captains Joseph and Rebecca Smith
Employees and Volunteers of Boyertown Salvation Army

Heart to God – Hand to Man



FEBRUARY 2023

Love

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOTES: The SPUD Luncheon Fundraiser will be on Sun. 2/5 at 11:30am.			1 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7:15PM Band	2 7PM Youth Group Pastor--	3 7PM CC Women's Bible Study Barb----	4
5 <small>Communion</small> 7:30AM Men's Breakfast at Saville's 9AM Celebration Worship & Sunday School 10:30AM Traditional Worship & Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting 	6 9AM Monday Group ----- Will-----	7 7PM Trustees Meeting ----- be -----	8 1PM SAW 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7:15PM Band ----- on -----	9 7PM Youth Group ----- Vaca	10 tion-----	11
12 9AM Celebration Worship & Sunday School 10:30AM Traditional Worship & Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting	13 9AM Monday Group	14 	15 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7PM Mission Mtg. 7:15PM Band	16 7PM Youth Group	17 7PM CC Women's Bible Study	18 12PM Community Meal in the Fellowship Hall! 
19 9AM Celebration Worship & Sunday School 10:30AM Traditional Worship & Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting	20 9AM Monday Group 	21	22 5:30PM AA Mtg.  7PM ASH Wednesday Service	23 12PM Yarn Spinners 7PM Youth Group	24	25
26 9AM Celebration Worship & Sunday School 10:30AM Traditional Worship & Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting	27 9AM Monday Group Breakfast at Americana Diner	28 1PM Bible Study				Please Note: Pastor Barb will be on vacation from 2/2-2/10!