

# St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org 301-223-8887

*January 2024*

## *Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace, Growing for God*

Dear Friends,

We have entered a New Year! It is only appropriate that we look to live newness in our lives.

The Bible highlights that we can be new all because of Jesus Christ. Sadly, sin corrupts us. The end of the Roman road of the book of Romans gives us a sad ending to our lives with these words, “The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23). What a sad ending to our lives! Fortunately, the Apostle Paul does not end this section with these words. He concluded this section with the promise of a future blessing as Paul ended with “But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

In fact, new life is the promise of the New Testament. We can begin each day new in Christ Jesus. Once again, Paul gave us this perspective in the Scriptures: “Behold, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has begun.” (II Corinthians 5:17). We are able to start new all because of what Jesus has done for us.

You see, in Christ, that which has corrupted us, sin, has been removed by the loving grace of our Savior. In addition to this, the blood of the Son of God has removed the stain of sin from our soul so that we do not have the desire to sin. The key to this is to submit to the Son of God. The key is to focus our lives on the Savior.

Now I share all of this in the context of New Year’s resolutions. We tend to make our resolutions with the idea of improving ourselves physically. Is it possible to look at our New Year’s resolutions in terms of improving ourselves spiritually? Some of the ways would involve: a daily devotional time with a favorite author or a reading like the Daily Bread; read the Scripture in a year (we provide that for you in each newsletter); keep a thanksgiving journal of all those events, good and hard, for which you can give thanks to God; think of the What Would Jesus Do in times of conflict before you speak or act; forgive those who have hurt you even if they haven’t change; and confess your fears to another and to God.

Let us resolve to be better Christians this year! As we do so, we will demonstrate that we are rooted in love, grounded in grace, and thus growing for God.

In Christ Love,

*Pastor Mark*



## **Helping Hands**

We will be starting up on **January 18, 10-noon**. We will start out our new year with a pizza lunch. Many, many thanks for all the work these behind the scene angels do for the church.

- \*\* Fold weekly bulletins
- \*\* Prepare mailings that need to go out
- \*\* Make cards for shut-ins
- \*\* Prepare crafts for the kids
- \*\* Collate Sunday School curriculum
- \*\* Prepare boxes and packages for our away and local college students
- \*\* Stuff Easter Eggs
- \*\* Prepare Face kits for Harvest Hoedown

These are just a few of the items that this group does at Helping Hands. We are so blessed to have these servants come and do whatever is needed for the church.

## **Thank you!**

Thank you so much to **Helping Hands** for the beautiful Christmas card and for the gift card to my favorite store. I am so blessed by your kindness and generosity. Thank you also for your ministry to our church. We will take a break and start up on January 18th with a Back to Helping Hands Pizza lunch. Thank you once again for making my Christmas so special.

With Love, Annette

## **The Evening Book Club**

Will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 2, 7:00 p.m.** in the Friendship Hall. We will be discussing the book, **Sgt. York**. If you didn't get a chance to read or finish this book, come anyway to enjoy an evening of interesting discussion.

## **Holly Place**

Holly Place was established to target low-income seniors with limited resources who could not afford alternative care systems.

The Presbyterian Women support Holly Place as one of our local missions.

### **Holly Place Wish List**

This is an updated list of items Holly Place needs. The Presbyterian Women collect items each month and deliver them to Holly Place. There will be a featured item each month but you can donate anything on this list at anytime. Place your donations in the tub located in the lobby labeled Holly Place. Thank you for your generosity.

January	Air Freshener
February	Storage Bags, Gal. & Qt. Size
March	Dishwasher Detergent
April	Trash Bags (13 & 33gal)
May	Furniture Polish
June	Floor Cleaner
July	Batteries (AAA, AA, 9V)
August	Aluminum Foil

## **February Book Club**

Will be on **Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.** We will be reading the book, **Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne** by Renee Sansom Flood

Pick up a copy and come and join us in February.

## **Treasurer's Report**

	<b><u>General Fund</u></b>
November Income	\$ 61,161.82
November Expenses	\$ 30,584.10
Operating Income	\$ 30,577.72



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## **Your Stewardship At Work**

Our Stewardship Drive resulted in overwhelming support of our ministry. Your generous financial resources and many willing volunteers allow us to share God's word and His love with others. Each month we'll look at some of the many achievements provided through your stewardship. This month, we'll focus on the upgrades to the church building, inside and out, made by the Administrative/Building and Grounds/Technology committees. Thanks to you for the funds needed to maintain our building and reach out to those unable to attend church.

Recent upgrades include but are not limited to the following:

- \*\* Landscaped gardens on all sides of the church;
- \*\* Cleared area behind sheds;
- \*\* New cross on the outside of the sanctuary wall that faces Virginia Ave.;
- \*\* Replaced shingles on Sanctuary and Friendship Hall roofs;
- \*\* Installed LED lights: tower lights, outside and inside of church;
- \*\* Installed 24/7 security cameras, inside and out;
- \*\* Updated fire alarm and security alarm systems;
- \*\* Updated Wi-Fi system throughout church;
- \*\* Improvements made to sound and video system;
- \*\* New shelving for storage in Micah's Room, Christmas Shoebox area and Youth area

## **Williamsport Foodbank**

A few items needed for the Foodbank.

Pasta sauces, Pasta sides, Beef Stew, Beets and Peanut Butter

## **Membership Support**

"January opens the box of the year." As the 2024 "box" opens, what will you find? Visitors seeking a welcoming place to worship? A committee in need of members? A Bible Study or Sunday School class to attend or help teach? Participation in choir or Helping Hands? January is a great time for your faith journey to expand.

"And brings out days that are bright and clear. . . "Meet our bright new members at the coffee hour on **January 21**. Perhaps the decision to join St. Andrew this year is clear to you. Please let Pastor Mark know.

"And brings out days that are cold and gray" Brush away those dark, gloomy days by becoming active in our ministry. Seeking food and fellowship? Attending "Friday Potluck with Friends" and "Supper Club Mondays" will lift your spirits! Want to help others with meals? The Food Bank and Shepherd's Table are always in need of workers.

"And shouts, Come see what I brought today! "January's "box" extends an open invitation for you to become more involved in our ministry. Our newsletter and bulletins usually list upcoming events. We'd love to see you at some of them!

## **Facebook Live**

Each Wednesday on Facebook live, Pastor Mark will share insights concerning the women of the Bible. These short talks are designed to deepen your faith as well as heighten your awareness concerning how to be an ethical person in this world. The talks will occur around 2:00 pm if you desire to watch live. Otherwise, you can check the Facebook page any time after that.

## **Communion**

We will celebrate communion on **January 14, at both services.**

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## **Community Action Council**

Community Action Council will meet on site at the church on **Thursday, January, 11, from 10:00 am to 11:00 am** in the Legacy Hall. If you know of anyone who needs assistance, please let them know that they can receive help at this mobile site.

## **Presbyterian Men**

We will have our regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 16, 6:00 p.m.** We will have a delicious meal, Bible Study, and share in our business. Each man is welcome to attend. Please donate \$5.00 to defray the cost of the meal. Please sign up if you plan on coming.

## **Pastor Mark's Bible Study**

Will begin on **January 18, 7:00 p.m.** The focus of the study will be the names and titles of Jesus. Come and be blessed by this informative study.

## **New Member Reception**

Will be **Sunday, January 21**, at our monthly coffee hour.

## **Supper Club**

Come join us at the Western Sizzlin' on **January 22, 5:30 p.m.** Please sign up if you plan on attending.

## **Thank you!**

I am so thankful and grateful for such kind and generous people at St. Andrew, thank you for the special gifts, cards and gift cards given to me for Christmas. God bless you all, Tina Sundergill

## **Library**

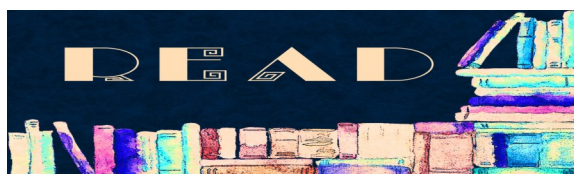
January offers an opportunity for fresh starts and to change if necessary. Here are books with new thoughts to try.

**Every Day Deserves a Chance** by Mac Lucado. Biblical truths tie in to everyday events. One look at the diaries of a dog and cat, found on pages 23 -24, and you'll be hooked!

**Fearless**, another book by Max Lucado. . Read and take comfort that the Lord will never leave your side. Unleash your worries and become filled with peace and learn to trust more and fear less.

**In His Steps** by Charles Sheldon. In this novel, a minister challenges his congregation: "Do not do anything without first asking, 'What would Jesus do?'" Thus creating a profound way of looking at life's dilemmas.

**The Inn at Rose Harbor** by Debbie Macomber. Seeking a fresh start, a young widow purchases a local bed-and-breakfast the newly christened Rose Harbor Inn ready to begin her life anew.



## **Sunday School Offering**

During the months of November and December the children's Sunday School offering went to Samaritan's Purse. We were able to send \$200.00 toward **Feed A Hungry Baby and Feed a Family**. Thank you kids, families and teachers for helping those who are less fortunate than us. We are so blessed by your generosity in giving to those who have such great needs.



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## **Sunday School News:**

If you have not joined a Sunday School class, we would love to invite you to be apart of our Sunday School Family. All classes go from 9:45-10:45. Students from the 5th grade down meet in the sanctuary from 9:45-10:00 for an Opening Program. At this time, we say pledge to the Christian Flag and to the Bible. We have a brief devotion and a time of prayer. We also take up an offering. Our offering goes to the 2 sponsored children we have through Compassion International. During the months of November and December we will be taking up an offering to help out with the various projects through Samaritan's Purse. Whenever there is a local or church need we help out with that as well. At 10:00 all children are dismissed to their classes. Please note: if your child is in 3rd grade or below, please pick them up from their classroom at 10:45. If you have any questions, please see Mark or Annette.

We have Sunday School for all adults! If you are not a part of a Sunday School class, come and join us Sunday morning from 9:45-10:45. You have 3 options, pick one out that is right for you.

**Parenting Class**—Sunday School Class for those who love kids.

This class is using the DVD/Study Guide Curriculum—**Effective Parenting in a Defective World**. This class is for equipping parents, grandparents and anyone who works with youth and children to raise their children, grandchildren with a Christian and Biblical world view and foundation. This class meets in the Friendship Hall and is taught by Pam and Jason McDonald.

**Seeker Class** is taught by Pastor Mark and Hank Hemphill. This is an in depth Bible Study that meets in the Legacy Hall. They are currently studying **Ephesians**.

**Voyager Class** reads and discusses a book that the class chooses. They are currently reading the book, **Promise of the Holy Spirit**, by Max Lucado. All books are provided for the members. This class meets in the Conference Room.

## **Sunday School Snippets**

**Pre-K Class:** Congratulations to the following students **Emelia and Lachlan Bearese** and **Jude Gogan** for memorizing their Bible Verse—*"Christ is the head of the church"*. Ephesians 5:23. These students also memorized, "God sent His Son." Galatians 4:4. So proud of these students for memorizing their Bible verses. The Pre-K Class has been learning about the birth of Jesus.

**Kindergarten/1st Grade Class:** Congratulations to the following students, **Nikolai Bearese, Addi Majeski**, and **Aiden Paul** for memorizing their Bible verse, *"God sent His Son"* Galatians 4:4. This class has been studying the birth of Jesus during the month of December.

**2nd & 3rd Grade:** Congratulations to **Elsie Majeski** for memorizing the Bible verse, *"Keep me as the apple of your eye, hide me in the shadow of your wings."* Psalm 17:8. **Elsie** also memorized the following Bible verse in sign language, *"For the Lord give wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge and understanding"*. Proverbs 2:6. So proud of you, **Elsie!** **Kohen Dayhoff** drew a picture of a beautiful Christmas tree with many gifts placed underneath the tree with the biggest and best gift of Baby Jesus. **Elsie** is in the process of creating a Christmas newspaper with the heartfelt intent to joyfully share the Good News to all. We have been studying the importance of believing in Jesus. For it is by God's amazing grace through faith in Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us that we are saved.

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**4th and 5th Grade:** This month, we move to the New Testament to talk about Saul/Paul. As Saul, he was a Roman citizen, a Jew, and Pharisee who was zealous in his persecution of Christians after Jesus ascended into Heaven. When he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul realized that Jesus is the Messiah and immediately began to preach to fellow Jews in Damascus about Jesus. Renamed Paul, he focused on helping Jews and Gentiles alike to understand the significance of Jesus' birth, his teachings, life, and resurrection. Paul is proof of the fact that the life of a believer is not always easy. Paul and his companions were harassed, threatened, beaten, and imprisoned, however, they continued to spread the good news about Jesus.

Themes we are currently studying in December and January, are: Jesus can make you a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17); Christians are called to do things differently (Romans 12:1); The message of Jesus is for everyone (Luke 2:11); Following Christ can be tough (2 Corinthians 1:21); and Share your faith and leave the results to God (Isaiah 55:11).

**Middle School:** We had a lot of interesting discussions in November. After looking at Influence in October and the first class of November, we looked at Advice for the next two cases in November. We all get advice whether we ask for it or not, but who should we be listening to? Our Friends, Parents, Sunday School Teachers, the Internet, Influencers on the internet, TV shows, our Pastor? Ultimately, the greatest and most reliable source of advice is the Bible and through GOD's word, Jesus. We did a deep dive into Proverbs to see what advice we could find there. We looked at the worst places and people to take advice from and the kinds of things people commonly asked for advice. For Thanksgiving we looked at how we seek out fun, and confuse fun with happiness, and how sin creeps in when we are constantly looking for fun to make us happy. After all, sin is fun in many cases. That it one of the reasons sin is so difficult to deal with.

**High School:** We are currently studying the minor prophets and the impact they had and how their works in rebuilding Jerusalem apply to the lives of the youth.



Congratulations to the following students for **Great Attendance and for Perfect Attendance** for the month of November. We are so grateful to the students and to the parents (and grandparents) who see attending Sunday School as a top priority.

**3 out of 4 Sundays**

**Addi Majeski**

**Perfect Attendance**

**Pre-K**

**Michael McDonald**

**K/1st**

**Aiden Paul**

**2nd and 3rd**

**Kohen Dayhoff**

**Elsie Majeski**

**4th and 5th**

**Maggie McDonald**

**6th-8th Grade**

**Abby Boppe**

**Natalie Farioli**

**Brody Hemphill**

**Anne McDonald**

**Teen Class**

**Jeremy Hemphill**

**Grace McDonald**

**The History of Sunday School and Its Importance**

As we begin the new year it is a great time to reflect on ways we can change and improve our lives with a brand new year ahead of us. With the start of a brand new year, let's make attending church and Sunday School a top priority for 2024! Here is an excerpt taken from some literature from the Pennsylvania State Sunday School Association.

Sunday School started back in 1780. A man named Robert Raikes was concerned about the gangs of unsupervised youth that roamed the street of Gloucester, England.

This young printer established classes to teach these uneducated youth the "3-R's" and the Bible. Within a few years these classes had become so successful that they had been established in almost every town and village in England. These early classes grew into what we know as Sunday School.

Sunday School was instrumental in bringing the Word of God to the frontiers of America. Groups such as the American Sunday School Union established thousands of Sunday Schools throughout the Colonies and in the West. Many of these Sunday Schools grew into churches, churches that were in many cases, the only Christian influence in these wild frontier areas.

(Continued on next page.)



## **Valentine's Party**

We will be having a Valentine's Party/and Valentine Card Exchange on Sunday, **February 11, 12:00**. Everyone is invited to lunch and enjoy a time with Sonshine as he talks about how much Jesus loves us. All kids are invited to do the valentine card exchange. When you sign up for the Valentine Party, **please list the names of those participating in the valentine card exchange. Please sign up by February 4th.** A list of names will be going out to all those doing the card exchange that week. Hope you can join us! This is always such a special party enjoyed by all ages. The kids always enjoy running around looking for all the valentines hidden everywhere downstairs. The adults can stay upstairs and enjoy some more coffee and perhaps another piece of cake. Please sign up as soon as possible.

## **Thank You, Dear Church Family**

We are so grateful to be part of such a generous and kind church family! You are wonderful throughout the year and especially kind at Christmas. We are blessed by your generosity. In Christ Love, Mark and Annette

## **Sunday Night Classes**

Will be starting up soon. We will be doing another Tony Evan's DVD/workbook series, **"Power of the Holy Spirit"** Watch your bulletin for further updates.

## **Thank you Fellowship Committee**

Thank you so much for providing us with such a wonderful lunch at the Birthday Party for Jesus. Thank you to all who came, we had a wonderful time celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

**Congratulations** to those who completed the Word search **for Pastor Appreciation, and The Christmas Story**. There is a new Word Search in the parlor. Please turn in to the office by **January 15th**. Make sure to have your name on it.

### **Pastor Appreciation Puzzle**

Mary Beth Alphin  
Holly Brunner  
Kenny Carter  
Shirley Fox  
Fran Hardy  
Melody Johnson  
Debbie Kinzer  
Jill Lampton  
Debbie McCauley  
Jen Metz  
Margie Reed

### **The Christmas Story**

Melanie Beckley  
Scott Beckley  
Holly Brunner  
Cora Carson  
Kenny Carter  
Courtney Corkery  
Jeremy Hemphill  
Janet Hiatt  
Debbie Kinzer  
Jill Lampton  
Stacy MacMillan  
Bonnie Morgan  
Mark Mummert  
Allison Yoder  
Tom Young

## **Thank You to My Church Family**

I wanted to write a little note to say thank you for the well wishes, prayers, cards and phone calls. They are all appreciated more than mere words can say. I'm healing and pray to be back soon to worship with you. In Christ's Love, Jenny Brown





# January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  <i>7:00 p.m. Book Club</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth</i>	<b>8</b>  <i>7:00 p.m. Committees</i>	<b>9</b>  <i>10 am &amp; 7 pm Women's Bible Study</i>	<b>10</b>  <i>6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir</i>	<b>11</b>  <i>10-11 CAC</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <i>8:00 a.m. Living Nativity take down</i>
<b>14</b> <i>8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Communion Noon Congregational Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Youth</i>	<b>15</b>  <i>6:00 p.m. Building/Ground 7:00 p.m. Deacon/Admin</i>	<b>16</b>  <i>6:00 p.m. Presbyterian Men</i>	<b>17</b>  <i>6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir</i>	<b>18</b>  <i>10-noon Helping Hands 7:00 p.m. Bible Study</i>	<b>19</b>  <i>Noon Friday Pot Luck Lunch</i>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <i>8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship New Member Tea Coffee Hour 6:00 p.m. Youth</i>	<b>22</b>  <i>5:30 p.m. Supper Club 7:00 p.m. Session</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <i>6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir</i>	<b>25</b>  <i>7:00 p.m. Bible Study</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 p.m. Youth</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  <i>6:30 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir</i>			





St Andrew, has initiated a **Capital Campaign** to help offset the cost of our Building Projects, such as the roof replacement, the solar project, and much more! Through this campaign, you have an opportunity to direct your offering or a special donation to help fund these efforts. Just indicate "Capitol Campaign" on your offering envelope, write "Capitol Campaign" on the memo portion of your check, or go to the web site and look for the giving button and indicate "Capitol Campaign" in the memo field. The goal is to raise \$100,000 to help fund these projects. In just a short amount of time, through the generosity of our congregation, approximately \$56,000 has already been raised. If everyone gives even a small amount, we'll reach our goal.

ALSO, If you're 70.5 or older and you have an IRA or other investment account with a RMD (Required Minimum Distribution), you contact your investment company, have the RMD sent directly to St Andrew and you won't have to pay tax on it. That's using your RMD as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. It's a Win-Win! If you have questions, contact your accountant or investment counselor.



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