



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org 301-223-8887

February 2026



Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace, Growing for God

Dear Friends,

As we close out this year, we Presbyterians have had a vibrant impact in our society. In these columns, we have looked at what makes Presbyterians so unique and impactful in our society.

We Presbyterians are a very orderly people. We are a people of the Book meaning the Bible where we gain insight into how to live. We are also a people of the Book in another way—it is referring to the two books that make up the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church. The first is the Book of Confessions and the second is the Book of Order. The Book of Confessions is based on the Bible while the Book of Order may not swerve away from the Bible.

The Book of Confessions is a series of 12 historical confessions that express our faith in a certain time frame. Each and every week, we share one of these confessions so that we are grounded in the essentials of our faith. The one that we do the most is the Apostle's Creed that was originally a baptismal creed. It gives, in a very succinct fashion, the core of what we believe. We have confessions that originated from the time of the Reformation to the era of Nazi Germany to modern day.

The other portion of our Constitution is the Book of Order. This could be considered our manual of operations. In the Book of Order, we find the essentials of our Presbyterian government to standards for worship to what we would need to do concerning disciplining an ordained officer. In this book, we find how to function as a Presbyterian church.

When we share our faith in love with those we know and those we don't, as we share in love, we demonstrate to others that we as a people are rooted in love, grounded in grace, and thus growing for God.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mark



Scriptures

February Scriptures

Ponder on it. Meditate on it. Allow it to speak to you.

Verses are for the full weeks of February, beginning on Sunday, February 1.

Epistles Sunday	The Law Monday	History Tuesday	Psalms Wednesday	Poetry Thursday	Prophecy Friday	Gospel Saturday
Rom. 9-10	Gen. 16-19	Josh. 21:24	Ps. 12-14	Job 9-10	Isa. 23-28	Matt. 11-13
Rom. 11-12	Gen. 20-23	Jude 1-6	Ps. 15-17	Job 11-12	Isa. 29-33	Matt. 14-16
Rom. 13-14	Gen. 24-27	Jude 7-11	Ps. 18-20	Job 13-14	Isa 34-39	Matt. 17-19
Rom. 15-16	Gen. 28-31	Jude 12-16	Ps. 21-23	Job 15-16	Isa. 40-44	Matt. 20-22



Jeremiah 31:3

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."



Membership Support

A huge benefit of being part of our church family is the ability to be loved and to love others. In John 15:12, Jesus said, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

In our church, casual acquaintances often turn into meaningful, lifelong friendships. These are vital for our physical, spiritual, and emotional well-being, offering support and companionship. We offer many opportunities to get to know others while enhancing faith journeys.

Join one of our Sunday school classes or Bible studies. Attend monthly coffee hours or the upcoming Ash Wednesday meal and service on **February 18**. Go to a committee meeting or volunteer to help with an activity. Helping Hands is a twice monthly daytime event where folks fold bulletins, newsletters, or prepare lesson materials for children's Sunday school. Children's classes always need more helpers. If you have a talent or an interest in any of our ministries, let Pastor Mark know.

While you don't have to be a member of our church to participate in most of our activities, we welcome those who are interested in joining. Talking to Pastor Mark about membership is the first step.

Experience God's love through our church family.

PW Holly Place Angel Tree Ministry

We would like to thank everyone who participated in our Angel Tree Ministry by purchasing Christmas presents for the residents at Holly Place. Your continued support of Holly Place monthly item donations and the Angel Tree ministry is a blessing from God and greatly appreciated.

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 is a featured item each month, but you can donate anything on this list at any time. Please place your donations in the tub located in the lobby labeled Holly Place. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Presbyterian Women's Missions

Each year, at our December meeting, the Coordinating Team decides, based on our fundraising profits for the year, the missions to which we will donate. This year, we were able to make donations of \$550 for ten recipients, totaling \$5,500, plus our annual pledges of \$3,000 to Holly Place and \$150 to Church Women United.

The ten recipients are: ****The Hope Center, Camp Wild, **The Washington County Family Center, **Humane Society of Washington County, **Williamsport Food Bank, ** Brook's House, **Mt. Hope Prison Ministry, **It's a Blessing to be a Blessing, **Sleep in Heavenly Peace, **Williamsport Ministerium, and **CASA.**



Sunday School

We have Sunday School for all ages including 3 Adult Classes. If you have not joined a Sunday School Class, we would love for you to come and join us on Sunday morning.

Here is a brief overview of Sunday School:

Sunday School starts at 9:45 and ends at 10:45. All students meet in their classrooms at 9:45 except those 5th grade and younger. These students meet in the sanctuary for an opening program. At this time the students recite the Pledge to the Bible, Pledge to the Christian Flag, have a devotion, take up offering, and have a time of prayer. At 10:00 the students are dismissed to their classrooms. **Please note parents: if your child is in the 3rd grade or below, please pick them up from their class at 10:45.** If you are unsure where your child's classroom is, please ask Pastor Mark or Miss Annette.

Here is a brief description of the 3 Adult Classes:

**** Voyager Class:** Is an interactive class. The class decides what book they would like to read and to discuss. They are currently reading Living With Confidence in a Chaotic World by Dr. David Jeremiah. This class meets in the Conference Room.

**** Seekers Class:** Is taught by Pastor Mark and Hank Hemphill. This is an in-depth Bible Study. They are currently studying the book of Psalms. This class meets in the Legacy Hall.

**** The Travels of Paul Class:** Is taught by Jason McDonald. The class is using a DVD series by Beth Moore and are studying the travels of Paul. This class meets in the Friendship Hall.

Sunday School Snippets

Here is what is going on at Sunday School:

Toddler Class: The toddler class is studying the birth of Jesus.

Pre-K Class: The class has been studying about how to be a good friend and the ways that Jesus is a good friend to us. Congratulations to **Luka Bearese** and **Nova Vinson** who have been very engaged and helpful in class. Congratulations to **Nova Vinson** for memorizing Proverbs 17:17. *"A friend loves at all time."*

K/1st Grade: Our class is studying the stories after the birth of Christ. We learned about Simeon and Anna and the visit of the 3 Wisemen. The students have been working on their memory verses. Congratulations to **Emilia Bearese, Lachlan Bearese, Michael McDonald, and Bryan Twum-Barimah** for being able to say their memory verse to their parents. A special recognition to **Bryan** and **Michael** for Perfect Attendance for the month of December.

2nd & 3rd Grade: The second and third grade class learned about the miraculous birth of a son, a joyous gift from God.

"You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21)

I am pleased to recognize the following students:

Addi Majeski: drew a beautiful interpretation of how "God Blessed the World"

Nikolai Bearese: illustrated a lovely scene of animals lying together in peace.

Thomas Twum-Barimah: tenderly reminded us that Christmas is not about presents, but about Jesus and love.

EXCELLENT WORK CLASS!



4th –5th Grade: We have been studying the following themes:

As our Good Shepherd, Jesus knows and cares for us. Jesus said He was the Good Shepherd. In a parable, Jesus contrasted the shepherd, who protected his sheep with his life, with the hired hands, who ran away at the first sign of trouble, leaving the sheep unprotected. Jesus proved he was the Good Shepherd when he willingly laid down his life for us.

"I AM the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. (John 10:14).

Jesus has absolute power over death. Jesus' raising of Lazarus demonstrated His absolute power over death and gave a foretaste of the His total conquest over death that would come with his resurrection. *"I AM the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."* (John 11:25).

Jesus wants us to stay connected to Him. Jesus said to the people, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."* (John 15:5)

Do not just listen to the Word; do what it says. In His parable about the wise and the foolish builders, Jesus divided all people into two groups: those who take action upon His Word and those who don't. He left no middle ground. Either a person acts on Jesus' words and endures, or doesn't and is lost. *Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.* (James 1:22)

Middle School Class: Lots of fun and interesting lessons for December 2025! We had a Sunday School Christmas party where we played Christmas and Bible knowledge games. Bible Family Feud, Outbursts, Gift wrapping competition, etc. We didn't have a lot of actual Bible study time due to all of the activities in December, but we got a few lessons and discussions in. We looked at scripture and how Jesus' birth was predicted hundreds of years before it happened. We looked at how we know that everything predicted and fulfilled in Jesus is true and accurate due to the astronomical odds that someone could come along and meet all of the prediction by faking it. We talked about Thanksgiving and how being thankful and showing gratitude is so important in life and to GOD. We looked at ways you can show gratitude and how not to show gratitude. How forced gratitude is worse than not showing gratitude at all.

High School Class: We are surveying people of the Bible to identify one's we are not as familiar with. Then we will be doing focused studies to build our Biblical knowledge of people in the Bible. We will also connect their stories to our lives now by asking, "What can we learn from" each one and "how should his/her story impact our lives today".





Each month we highlight the importance of attending Sunday School. This information is taken from the pamphlet **27 Reason Why You Should Attend Sunday School**. Rodney Pry, the Director of the PA State Sunday School Association, shares this information in the pamphlet that he wrote.

This month we are focusing on how It Encourages People To Invite Others to Come to Sunday School

Several years ago a man told me how he and his wife started to attend Sunday School. They were a young couple who had just moved into the community and really didn't know very many people in the area. He said that one Saturday morning there was a knock at their front door. When he answered the door, it was an older woman from down the street. The woman stood there with a big smile on her face and in her hands was a big plate of home made chocolate chip cookies.

The woman had come to welcome them to the neighborhood but she also came with a second purpose. She invited the young couple to attend her church and Sunday School. The man said that he and his wife were both impressed by the woman's sincerity and her special efforts in giving them an invitation, so they told her they would come with her the following morning. They went to the woman's church and Sunday School. They enjoyed both and they continued to attend. Today their entire family is active in the church. The man said there are many reason why they attend the church, but it all started with the invitation from that loving, concerned neighbor. And, as the man said, "How can you say no to a plate of home-made chocolate chip cookies?" How does a Sunday School grow? It grows when the members become actively involved in telling others about why they love Sunday School and when they invite their friends,

neighbors and other to join them each week in Sunday School. Inviting others to come to Sunday School is not just a job for the Pastor or the Sunday School teachers, it is every member's responsibility.

Congratulations to the following students for great Sunday School Attendance for the month of December:

Toddler Class:

*Alma Twum-Barimah
Stella McDonald*

K/1st Grade Class:

*Michael McDonald
Bryan Twum-Barimah*

2nd and 3rd Grade Class:

Thomas Twum-Barimah

4th and 5th Grade:

Kohen Dayhoff

6th-8th Grade:

*Alexina Twum-Barimah
Maggie McDonald
Colton McKinley
Lily South*

Teen Class:

*Abby Boppe
Anne McDonald
Will McKinley*

We are so proud of you for making Sunday School such a top priority. Thank you parents and grandparents for bringing your children/grandchildren to Sunday School Class, we would love for you to come and join us on Sunday morning.





Thursday Night Bible Study

Pastor Mark will continue the Bible Study on Thursdays in February. We will be studying **Paul's letter of Ephesians**. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship and a deepening of your Christian Faith.

Congratulations to those who completed the **January Word Search**.

Have fun with this month's Word Search. When completed, please place it in the office on the Secretary's desk.

Please have them turned in by the 15th, make sure your name is on the Word Search

***Melanie Beckley
Cora Carson
Kathy Carter
Kenny Carter
Courtney Corkery
Taylor Faith
Debbie Kinzer
Melissa Lake
Jill Lampton
Debbie McCauley
Mark Mummert
Linda Reid
Rod Woodson
Allison Yoder
Tom Young***

Supper Club

Supper Club will be on **Monday, February 23, 5:30 pm** at the Western Sizzlin'. Come join us for a wonderful evening of delicious food and great fellowship with your church family. Please sign up if you plan on attending.

Stewardship

The love we have for our Lord and our ministry is evidenced by our stewardship. We not only give through our time and talents, but also through our financial support. We celebrate the total number of pledges which as of January 4, 2026 was 81 for a total of \$291,914.00. What a blessing!

Thanks to all who generously support our ministry through service or financially through pledging, donations, or gifts throughout the year. These are all needed to maintain our vibrant ministry. The congregation can do a "happy dance" knowing that our stewardship continues through the year.

Valentine BINGO Party at Homewood

We will be going to Homewood Nursing Center and will be having a Valentine Bingo Party for the residents in the Memory Care Unit on **Valentine's Day**. We will be meeting at the Williamsport McDonald's at 12:30 for lunch and then caravan to Homewood at 1:00. Please sign up if you plan on attending. If you would like to donate any prizes, here are some suggestions: stuffed animals, baby dolls, word searches, lotion, jewelry, etc. The Dollar Tree is a great place to find Bingo prizes. If you have any questions, please see Annette.





February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth Group	2	3 7:00 pm Book Club	4 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	5 10-noon Helping Hands 7:00 pm Bible Study	6	7
8 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Noon Valentine Party	9 6:30 pm Christian Ed 7:00 pm Committees	10 10 am & 7 pm Ladies Bible Study 6 pm Coordinating Team	11 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	12 7:00 pm Bible Study	13	14 12:30 Homewood Valentine Bingo
15 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Class 6:00 pm Youth Group	16 7:00 pm Admin.	17 11 am & 7 pm Men's Bible Study	18 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	19 10am—noon Helping Hands 7:00 pm Bible Study	20 Noon Potluck with Friends	21
22 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Class 6:00 pm Youth Group	23 5:30 pm Supper Club 7:00 pm Session	24	25 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm Choir	26 7:00 pm Bible Study	27	28





An Open Letter of Appreciation to Our Church Family

February 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

We appreciate your ongoing support and partnership with our ministry. We hope your continued involvement in worship, Sunday School, and Bible Studies serves to enhance your faith journey.

We feel truly blessed by those who support for our vibrant ministry through service and financial resources. Thanks to your past support, several projects have been completed and we are benefiting from them. Solar panels reduce electric bills. New heat pumps warm the Children and Youth areas in the basement. These examples and other improvements demonstrate how our ministry benefits from your stewardship and how our stewardship benefits you! Our ministry continues to grow and make a difference in the lives of those within our church and in our community.

If you've attended church or watched on Facebook, you've heard about our Stewardship Drive. We started promoting Stewardship in September 2025 by mailing the congregation a letter, Time and Talent Form, and Pledge card. During the past few months, announcements encouraged folks to support our ministry through their volunteered service and through financial resources. Last month, we wrapped up our Stewardship Drive by sharing these generous results: as of January 4, we received 81 pledges for a total of \$291,914.00. We celebrated 23 new pledgers! There were also quite a few Time and Talent forms. In gratitude for a very successful Stewardship Drive, we celebrated with chocolate candy and a "happy dance."

We appreciate the support that you have provided in the past and hope this support of our ministry will continue through 2026. This letter is being shared as a reminder that there is still a need for our congregation to support our church through stewardship this year. To do so, you may use the pledge cards and time and talent forms available on tables in the sanctuary, parlor, or from the office. Unpledged offerings and donations are appreciated as well.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry Please let us know how we can help you remain strong in your faith and, like our ministry, remain rooted in love, grounded in grace, growing for God.

In Christian Love,
Membership Support Committee



Save The Date

Mark Your Calendars for the **2026 V.B.S.** **June 8-12, 6:00-8:00 pm**

We are already getting so excited and are starting to plan for this year's V.B.S. We will be having an **Open House on March 22, at noon**. At the Open House we will reveal the theme and hear all about the exciting plans for this year's V.B.S. You can sample some tasty snacks and preview the curriculum and crafts. At the Open House you will be able to sign up to volunteer in an area of your choice as well as register your children and grandchildren. Hope you can come. If you have any question, please see Annette.



Inclement Weather Policy

If Washington County Schools are closed due to bad weather, all church activities for that day are cancelled. If the schools are delayed, daytime activities will be cancelled, but evening activities may still be on. If delayed, please call the church answering machine for details. If bad weather falls on a Sunday, we will call you on the Calling Post, or call the church. Worship will still occur on Facebook live.

2025 GO Boxes

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child GO Boxes. Together we sent **167 boxes**; most were actual boxes and several were done online by members of the congregation. We recently learned that our boxes went to Thailand and to a hard-to-reach country.

Christianity is a minority religion in Thailand. With a population of almost 70 million, only 1.2% were Christians as of the 2021 data available. The majority (90%) practice Theravada Buddhism. There were nearly 1 million Christians in Thailand in 2021. Half of all the churches, both Protestant and Catholic, were established in the last 25 years.

Hard-to-reach countries are defined by OCC as those countries facing poverty, conflict, or religious restrictions, including places like remote Pacific Islands, jungle regions, mountainous areas, war zones and nations with limited Gospel access. Samaritan's purse often uses local partners for culturally sensitive delivery to unreached people groups. So, we don't really know where those boxes went. Blessings to all who participated.

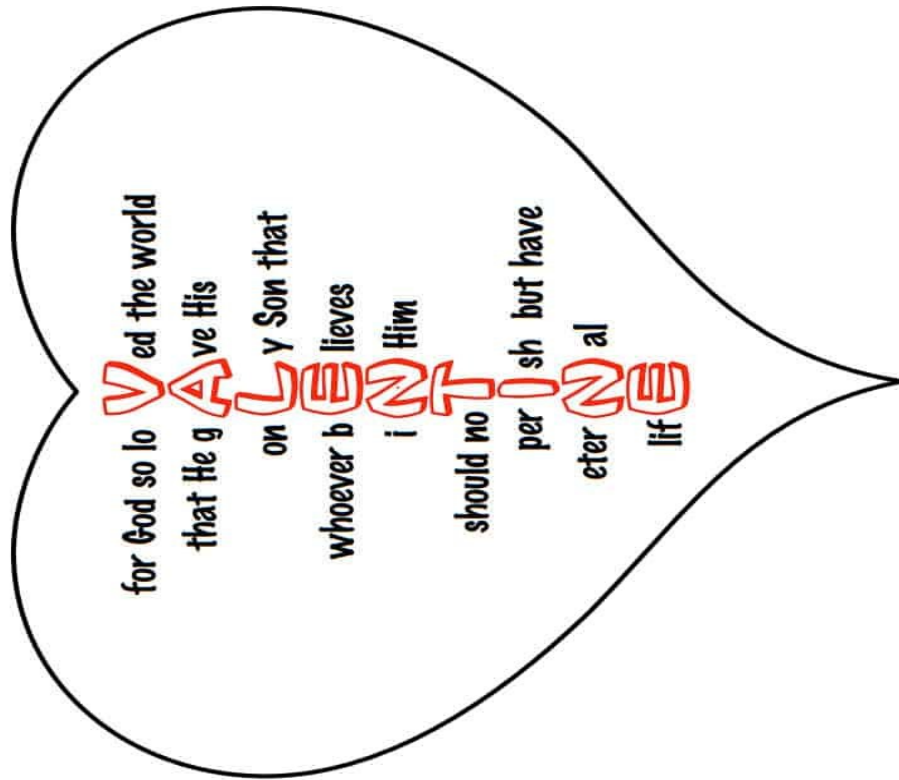
Book Club

Do you like to read? Do you enjoy great conversation and fellowship with your church family? If the answer is yes, then come and join us for our next monthly Book Club. We will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 3, 7:00 pm in the Friendship Hall**. We will be discussing the book **"Atlas of the European Reformation"**, by Tim Dowley.

Hope you can join us. Nothing better than curling up with a good book on a cold wintry day.



John 3:16



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
10813 Donelson Drive
Williamsport, Maryland 21795