

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org 301-223-8887

April 2026

Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace, Growing for God

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 have discussed that we are reformed which means that we hold the Scriptures in high regard, that forgiveness is the core of our living, that we are governed by Elders and that we are an orderly people following the rule of the Bible, the Book of Confessions, and the Book of Order. We have also looked at the fact that we are connected with other Presbyterian churches through our shared beliefs.

This month we are going to highlight the essential belief of our faith – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Only two miracles are in all four gospels – the feeding of the 5,000 and the resurrection of Jesus Christ! This main point of our theology is what gives our faith power and our lives hope – the fact that Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

This is an absolute fact. In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul gave us the facts about this fact. There were many eyewitnesses, not just the apostles, but others who would not financially benefit from the resurrection. He also then gave us a biological reason – that an eternal God needed to have eternal beings join with Him.

And then Paul gave us the deep reason – we gain hope from the knowledge that Jesus Christ has defeated our greatest enemy. He used some poetry to illustrate – “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the Law; but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Resurrection is what ties us together not only as Presbyterians but with other Christian faiths as well. It is the unifying factor of our beliefs and our walk as Christians.

Our faith is connectional in nature, and when we live in this connection, 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

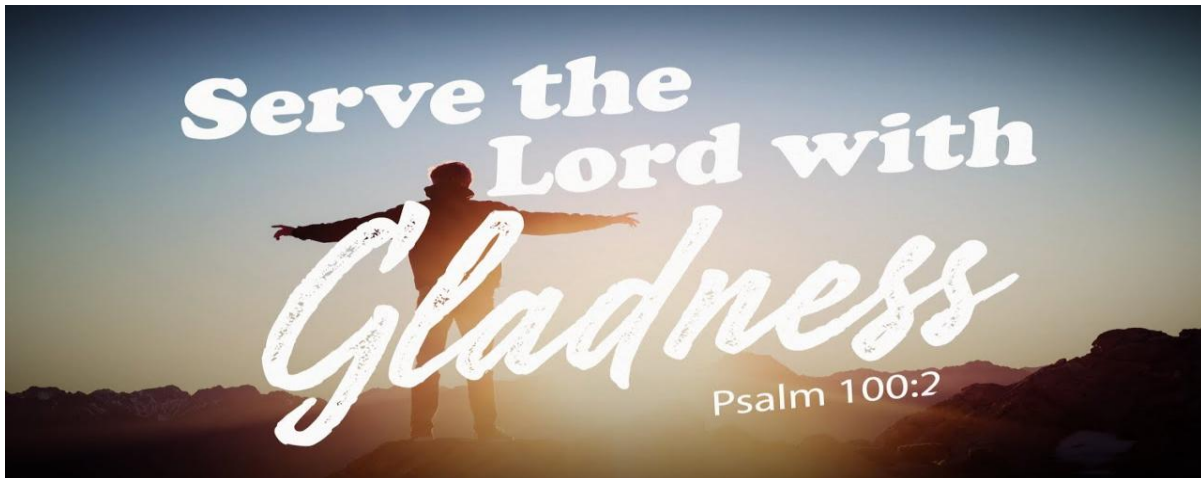
Scriptures

April Scriptures

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

Verses are for the full weeks of April, beginning on Sunday, April 5.

Epistles Sunday	The Law Monday	History Tuesday	Psalms Wednesday	Poetry Thursday	Prophecy Friday	Gospel Saturday
I Cor. 9-10	Gen. 48-50	I Sam. 11-15	Ps. 36-38	Job 25-26	Jer. 1-6	Mark 5-6
I Cor. 11-12	Ex. 1-4	I Sam. 16-20	Ps. 39-41	Job 27-28	Jer. 7-11	Mark 7-8
I Cor. 13-14	Ex. 5-8	I Sam. 21-25	Ps. 42-44	Job 29-30	Jer. 12-16	Mark 9-10
I Cor. 15-16	Ex. 9-12	I Sam. 26-31	Ps. 45-47	Job 31-32	Jer. 17-21	Mark 11-12



Membership Support

Each step we take during April draws us closer to the Cross. Here are a few Easter events for all ages that will make our walks memorable:

Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00pm: A somber service that reminds us of the Last Supper and the darkness of the coming day.

Good Friday's Cross Walk - Noon: A public witness of our faith, we have an opportunity to carry a cross as Scripture leads us along the path Jesus took.

Virtual Cross Walk - 2:00pm: Take a Facebook walk through various stations on the way to the Cross.

Easter Saturday's Easter Carnival and Walk Through Jerusalem - 1:00pm:

While kids enjoy games and activities organized by our Youth, others make up the crowd following Jesus from "Hosanna" to "He is Risen!"

Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00am: Join us at 7 am for an early morning visit to the empty tomb in a service led by our Youth.

Easter Sunday Breakfast: After the early service, enjoy a continental breakfast in Legacy Hall hosted by the Membership Support committee.

Easter Sunday Services: At the regular 8:30am and 11:00am worship services, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through special music and a meaningful sermon. He has risen!

Throughout the year: Be inspired as our faith is strengthened by the many opportunities offered by our active ministry.

To the Cross and beyond, we are faithful witnesses acting as beacons of light that point to the Resurrected Jesus Christ.

Stewardship

A year-long journey, as we move thru the year, it's easy to think of "stewardship" as something that only happens during our

annual fall campaign. However, stewardship is essential as we continue our faith walk together.

Your ongoing support, whether through a recurring financial gift, a morning spent volunteering, or sharing your unique skills ensures that our doors stay open and our programs remain vibrant 365 days a year.

We are so grateful for your continued faithfulness that keeps our church thriving long after the pledge cards are turned in.

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.

April: Trash Bags (13 & 33 Gal.)

May: Furniture Polish

June: Floor Cleaner

July: Batteries (AAA, AA, 9V)

August: Aluminum Foil

Your Input is Welcome!

We welcome your input for our newsletters. Please place all submissions in the church office, by the **15th of each month.**

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 9:45am except those 5th grade and younger. These students meet in the sanctuary for an opening program. At that 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 10:00am 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 10:45am.** 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 I Timothy. 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 is studying the travels of Paul. This class meets in the Friendship Hall.

Sunday School Snippets

Here is what is happening in Sunday School:

Toddler Class: The toddler class is studying how God takes care of His people. Congratulations to **Stella McDonald** and to **Alma Twum-Barimah** for their great attendance and for their participation.

Pre-K Class: We have been looking at Jesus' life and His earthly ministry. We also talked about how Jesus is our friend, and how He prays for us! We've been learning the verse Hebrews 7:24: "Jesus lives forever". Thank you to **Luka Bearese** and **Nova Vinson** for always being great helpers!

K/1st Grade: Our class is studying different stories about Jesus in the Bible. We started when He was an infant to when He was a child. We are now in the beginning of His ministry. He has chosen His disciples and taught us to pray! We are working on prayer and thanksgiving. We also discuss how we can be like Jesus by sharing love and being helpful. Every Sunday we are memorizing our Bible verse. Congratulations to **Michael McDonald** who has attended every Sunday! His knowledge of the Bible is very impressive! Please encourage your child to pray at home. Praise them when they exhibit behavior that praises God.

2nd & 3rd Grade: The second and third grade classes have been studying the parables of the Good Samaritan and Jesus washing the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. (Luke 10:30-37, Luke 22:7-13 and John 13:1-17)

In learning that God wants us to "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31), and to "Serve one another humbly in love." (Galatians 5:13), we now know how to serve with a heart like Jesus.

We are proud to recognize the following students:

Addi Majeski shared a beautiful illustration of a horse surrounded by a marvelous stained glass window frame.

Nikolai Bearese gave a fantastic example of conditional versus unconditional love.

Thomas Twum-Barimah recited the biblical account of the Good Samaritan. How awesome! He essentially taught class that day.

All of you are such wonderful gifts from God!

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

We follow Jesus because we know Him:

Jesus is our Good Shepherd, who cares for His sheep (us) and is known by them. Jesus calls for His sheep to follow Him and trust that He will meet their needs. *The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. (Psalm 23:1-2)*

Jesus willingly died to save us. Jesus' willing sacrifice for us compares to a shepherd who is willing to lay down his life to protect His sheep. *I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11)*

Jesus is our promised king: All four gospels record Jesus' triumphant, very public, entry into Jerusalem. Crowds of followers, and pilgrims, wanted a glimpse of the Rabbi they had heard about, they filled the road from Bethphage to Jerusalem. The coats and palm branches were a custom of paying homage to royalty. *"Hosana to the Son of David!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9)* Hosanna means "save".

Become humble and obedient to God's will.

Just as Jesus is, we are to be humble and obedient to God's will. After the Last Supper, Jesus took Peter, James and John to a garden named Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. He left them and went to pray to His Father. As the weight of our sins came upon Him, Jesus was in agony and said to His Father three times, *"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."* (Matthew 26:39) *and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:8).*

Middle School Class: Lots of fun and interesting lessons for February 2026! We started looking at the Bible in a different way. If we assume the Bible is 100% true, and that everything the Bible says happened, exists, and was said, what does that mean that we have to believe? What evidence is there for these things in the world? The first thing we have to believe is that there is a GOD and He created everything. So, we started there. What evidence is there that GOD exists and what evidence is there that He created everything? We looked at three arguments for GOD, the Cosmological argument, the Theological argument, and the Moral argument. We looked at the fact that we cannot see God, and that for some people this is a problem. But we cannot see air. So, if we can prove that air exists without being able to see it, can we prove GOD exists without seeing Him? We did an experiment to prove air exists. Surprisingly, it does! We then looked at the creation story and the scientific discoveries about our Universe and the Earth. We discovered that the science and the Bible story actually tell us the same thing. There was nothing, and then there was stuff. A big Bang, some might say. If science says there was a big bang, does the Bible support that? Was the big bang an accident, as science tells us, or did

something, maybe GOD as it says in the Bible, do it? More to come next month!

High School Class: Through detailed Scripture reading and discussion, we are targeting little known figures of the Bible to increase our Bible literacy. We finished an in depth look at Bathsheba to learn why she is listed in the lineage of Christ. Then we discussed Herod the Great and Herod Antipas.



This month we will be focusing on **The Importance of Children.**

“But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” Matthew 19:14-15

During the Christmas season, a little three-year-old girl was excitedly watching the pile of presents under the family Christmas tree growing day after day. Caught up in the spirit and excitement of the gifts and giving as only a three-year-old can be, one morning she was picking up, examining, shaking and guessing what was inside each package. Then, in a burst of inspiration, she picked up a big red bow that had fallen off one of the presents and held it on her own head. She looked up excitedly with a twinkle in her eyes and smiled brightly as she said, “Look at me, Daddy! I’m a present!”

That little girl’s words were more true than she realized. Our children are indeed the most wonderful gifts that God gives us. We may appreciate the gifts of talents and skills, either God-given or acquired, but do we consider our children as divine gifts – presents from God? What is more unique and special than a child? And, to help us understand the kind of God that we have,

He went so far as to send us His own Son... the most remarkable present of all!

To learn more about Jesus and his great love for you and every member of your family, please join us.. this week and every week.. in Sunday School!

Congratulations to the following students for their great Sunday School attendance:

Toddler Class:

**Alma Twum-Barimah
Stella McDonald**

Pre-K Class:

**Luka Bearese
Brentley Vinson
Nova Vinson**

K/1st Grade Class:

**Emilia Bearese
Lachlan Bearese
Bryan Twum-Barimah
Michael McDonald**

2nd and 3rd Grade Class:

**Nikolai Bearese
Thomas Twum-Barimah
Addi Majeski**

4th and 5th Grade:

**Kohen Dayhoff
Elsie Majeski**

6th-8th Grade:

**Alexina Twum-Barimah
Maggie McDonald**

Teen Class:

**Abby Boppe
Brody Hemphill
Jeremy Hemphill
Anne McDonald**

Thank you to the parents and grandparents for bringing your children/grandchildren to Sunday School each week. Thank you for making Sunday School a top priority!

Coming Soon!

***Save the Date,
Saturday April 11, 2026
Build a Bed Day***

You **must register online** at **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Hagerstown**. Scroll down to the April 11 event. **Spots are limited.** *St. Andrew Church volunteers will be going to Lee Street in Hagerstown, Saturday April 11 for a bed Building Day Event at Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Last year 24 volunteers went from St Andrew, along with 54 bedding items and \$1300 that were donated.*

What is Sleep in Heavenly Peace?

It is a nonprofit providing hand-made bunk beds to children who don't have beds of their own. Not only do they deliver these beds to children in need, but they partner with organizations, churches, businesses and individuals to build them at events called Build Days.

Other ways you can help.

1. Donate to the cause. *Each bed costs \$250 to build and includes all of the bedding. If you want to donate any amount, mark a pew envelope 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace' or 'Mission Committee'.*

2. Purchase bedding in Twin size: *sheets, mattress covers, bedspreads, pillows. A box will be in the narthex for collection in March.*

3. Pray for this mission *that we get volunteers and donations of bedding.*

Thank you for your support.

The Mission Committee and the Community Catalyst Outreach Team.

We will **no longer** be collecting plastic bottles.

Youth Group News

The Youth Group will meet on April 12, 19 and 26.

The Youth Group will host the Easter Carnival. There will be carnival games, a petting zoo, the Egg Hunt, refreshments, balloon animals, moon bounce, face painting, and prizes. All those under fifth grade can come to the carnival.

We have a Facebook page just for the Youth and their families. If you would like to be part of that, please contact Pastor Mark.

Did you know that St. Andrew has an Instagram page? You can find it at: [st.andrewpresbyterian](https://www.instagram.com/st.andrewpresbyterian). Look forward to seeing you there!

Friends!! We would love for you to invite your friends to Youth Group! What a better gift to give to a friend than the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! If you bring a friend, both you and the friend will receive a candy bar. You can invite that friend two separate times for the friend to be a friend for our contest. If the Youth Group invites 25 friends by the end of May, we will have a very special road trip!!

Many thanks to all those who participated and led worship on Youth Sunday. You touched the hearts of the congregation.

NEW Youth Group Announcement!

The Youth Group of St. Andrew will present "St. Andrew Has Talent!" (formerly known as the Dessert Theatre). We will have a Taco Bar **immediately following** church service at **noon** on **Sunday, April 26**, hosted by the Fellowship Committee. Then plan on staying for our "St. Andrew Has Talent" program. All are welcome to display their talent. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parlor. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Group and is on a donation only basis.

Book Club

Do you enjoy reading? Do you enjoy great conversation and fellowship? If you answered yes, then come and join us for our monthly Book Club. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, 7:00-8:00pm in the Friendship Hall. These will be the books we will be discussing the next few months. Pick up a copy and come join us.

** April 7th—"**The Hiding Place**, by Corrie ten Boom

** May 4th—"**The Canawlers**" by James Rada Jr. James Rada Jr. is a local author who wrote this book all about the life on the C and O Canal.

** June 2nd – **Secrets of the C and O Canal** by James Rada Jr.

We hope you can join us for our monthly Book Club!

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 17th!**

This is the day that we will be celebrating all the teachers here at St. Andrew. We will be serving breakfast at 9:30am and then have a time to recognize and to show our appreciation to all our teachers here at St. Andrew. Everyone is invited!! Please sign up on the sign-up sheet if you plan on attending. Hope everyone can come and show your support for all our amazing teachers here at St. Andrew!

April 2026 Coffee Hour

This month's coffee hour is on Sunday, April 19, 2026. Jenny Brown (parish 7), Mo Theriault (parish 10), and Libby Llewellyn (parish 13) will be hosting April's coffee hour. If you are in Parish 7, 10 or 13, please let your parish leader know what you will be donating for the coffee hour. This helps us with planning. Thank you!

Harvest Hoedown Needs

The date is October 3, 2026!!

Harvest Hoedown will be here before we know it. St. Andrew Presbyterian raises funds for the Williamsport Food Pantry with the Scarecrow Making Booth. We are short on the following items needed to make a scarecrow. We need enough of each item to make at least 400 scarecrows.

The items are listed by greatest need:

*Used and new **pantyhose**, no black. (Pantyhose can be purchased at the Dollar Tree for \$1.25).

*Long sleeve button/snap up shirts all sizes, but especially youth and children's sizes.

*Jeans all sizes, especially youth and children's sizes.

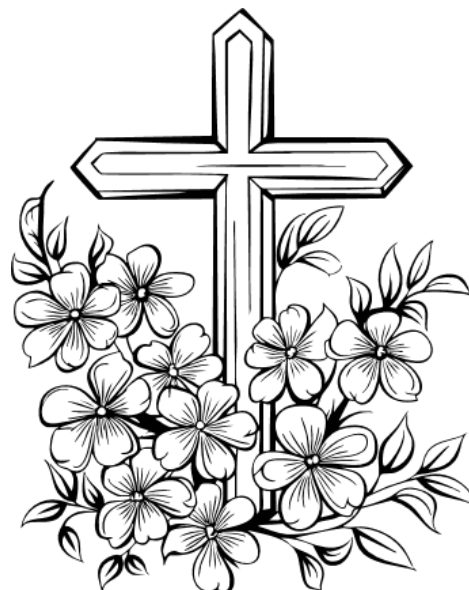
*Leggings, but no prints or black

*Hats, neckties, scarves, belts.

Place your donations in the tub found in the hall outside of the office marked scarecrows.

Thank you,

The Mission Committee



Hooray! Hooray! V.B.S. News!

V.B.S. will be here before we know it! Here are some things for you to know:

Registration: There are registration forms in the weekly bulletin. Please register your child/grandchild as soon as possible! You can place your registration forms in the offering plate, in the basket in the parlor by the newsletter, in the folder provided at the sign-up table, or directly on the secretary's desk.

Guest registration forms are placed in the slot above the sign-up table. Please take some of these registrations and hand them out to friends. Bring the forms back when they are completed.

Volunteer: We need volunteers in all areas of V.B.S. Please prayerfully consider where you would like to volunteer your services for the week of V.B.S. We have a job for everyone!! We especially need teachers and assistants for the younger grades. All curriculum is provided. The sign-up sheet for volunteers is at the sign-up table. If you have any questions, please see Annette.

Donations: We provide nightly snacks for the week of V.B.S. The snacks can be quite creative and will reflect the daily lesson. If you would like to donate some items for the snacks, there is a sign-up sheet at the sign-up stand in the parlor. When you bring V.B.S. snacks, please put them on the back counter in the Secretary's office and label them "V.B.S. Snacks". If anything needs to be refrigerated or frozen, place them in the refrigerator/freezer and label it "V.B.S Snacks".

Thank you!

Pray: The most important thing about running a smooth and effective V.B.S is through the power of prayer. There are prayer calendars in the back of the sanctuary that you can take as a reminder to lift V.B.S. in your prayers. May the Lord bring people to V.B.S. to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. For those already committed their lives to Christ, may their faith be strengthened as a result of attending V.B.S. May we have enough volunteers to cover all areas of V.B.S. Most of all, may the Lord Jesus Christ be glorified throughout the week of V.B.S.

June 7th will be our **V.B.S. Set-up Party from 4:00-7:00 pm.**

Mark your calendars for **June 8-12, 6:00-8:00 pm** for this year's V.B.S.!

**APRIL
2026**



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30pm Assistant Pastor Search Committee 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir	2 10:00am - Helping Hands 7:00pm - Maundy Thursday Service	3 Noon - Cross Walk 2:00pm - Virtual Cross Walk	4 1:00pm - Easter Carnival Petting Zoo, Walk Through Jerusalem
5 7am - Sunrise Svc. 7:45am - Continental Bkfst 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship	6	7 7:00pm - Book Club	8 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir	9 7:00pm - Bible Study	10	11 Build-a-Bed
12 8:30am - Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 6:00pm - Youth Group	13 9:30am - noon Craft Workshop 6:30 pm Christian Ed 7:00 pm Committees	14 10:00am & 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:00pm Coordinating Team	15 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir	16 10:00am - Noon Helping Hands 7:00pm - Bible Study	17 Noon - Friday Potluck with Friends	18 Birthday Party
19 8:30am - Worship 9:30am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 3:00pm Recorder Concert 6:00pm Youth Group	20 6:00pm Bldg/ Grounds 7:00pm - Admin	21 11:00am & 6:00pm Men's Bible Study	22 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir	23 7:00pm - Bible Study	24	25 8:00am - 8:00pm Crafts in Legacy Hall Senior Thesis in Sanctuary
26 8:30am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 11:00am - Worship Noon - St Andrew Has Talent 6:00pm - Youth Group	27 9:30am - Noon Craft Workshop 5:30pm - Supper Club 7:00pm - Session	28	29 6:30pm - Handbells 7:30pm - Choir	30 7:00pm - Bible Study		

From the time Pastor Mark came to St. Andrew and the current size of the church, and the Pastoring needs have greatly increased. Also, the congregation lives in multiple cities and states.

The Pastor:

- ** Is on call 24/7, 365 days a year
- ** Visitation to the sick, elderly, home bound, hospitals, etc.
- ** Performs weddings, funerals, baptisms
- ** Prepares and provides sermons and two worship services
- ** Prepares and provides Sunday School Class
- ** Prepares and leads one weekly Bible Study and two monthly Bible Studies.
- ** Attends and participates in other functions at the church

Currently Pastor Mark provides the above for 350 members of all ages and groups; youth, young adults, young families, men & women of all ages plus nonmembers who attend regularly, St. Andrew is in need of an Assistant Pastor to meet all of these needs as the congregation grows.

Session approved a search committee.

Jerred Brown
Rebecca Collinson
Matthew Goodwin
Ed Lampton
Tim Malecki
Grace McDonald
Chris Mosley
Lisa Scumpieru
Jess Stemper
Izzy Telemeco

Please keep them in your prayers for wise decisions.

In Christ,

Rebecca Collinson
2026 Clerk of Session

Friday Potluck Luncheon with Friends

Please join us for our Friday Potluck Luncheon with Friends on **April 17 at noon**. Our next speaker will be Ann Dadisman, a retired West Virginia educator and active storyteller. Tales of the Appalachian Region are her favorite. She also shares stories from around the world. All are welcome! Bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

Christmas Bazaar

After taking a break to “recuperate” from our amazingly successful 2025 Christmas Bazaar last November, our craft group is now back at work creating crafts for our 2026 Bazaar (scheduled for November 13th & 14th.) It seems like a long way off, but time flies when you’re having fun! And we do have fun together!

Join us every other Monday morning from 9:30am-12pm in Friendship Hall. April dates are **April 13 and April 27**. Bring along ideas and/or materials if you have them or come and see what we have “in the works” that you can be part of. We’d love to have your input! Copies of our schedule for the year are on the Presbyterian Women’s bulletin board in the hallway --- feel free to take one with you. See you at our next gathering!

