St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org 301-223-8887

March 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.

This month we are going to lift up one of the essential tenants of Presbyterianism and that is we are connected through our beliefs. This means that we share in ministry even though we are separated by geography and size.

Our Church is broken up into Presbyteries which are regional in nature. There are 166 Presbyteries. We are part of the Baltimore Presbytery which has its office in Baltimore. The Presbytery goes from Annapolis all the way through Garrett County even though we don't have any Presbyterian Churches in Garrett County. The Presbytery has 72 churches. We are the largest of the Presbyterian churches west of Frederick. We have 350 members. Our weekly attendance is around 190-200.

Our denomination has over 1 million members in slightly over 8400 churches. The majority of our churches are small churches. Seventy Five percent of the churches are 150 or less. In fact, two thirds of our churches are less than one hundred.

To join our church, all you need to do is believe in Jesus Christ. We do have a process to join. Please just ask me, and I can explain how to be a member.

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

March Scriptures

Ponder on it. Meditate on it. Allow it to speak to you.
Verses are for the full weeks of March, beginning on Sunday, March 1.

Epistles Sunday	The Law Monday	History Tuesday	Psalms Wednesday	Poetry Thursday	Prophecy Friday	Gospel Saturday
I Cor. 1-2	Gen. 32-35	Judges 17-21	Ps. 24-26	Job 17-18	Isa. 45-50	Matt. 23-25
I Cor. 3-4	Gen. 36-39	Ruth	Ps. 27-29	Job 19-20	Isa. 51-55	Matt. 26-28
I Cor. 5-6	Gen. 40-43	I Sam. 1-5	Ps. 30-32	Job 21-22	Isa. 56-61	Mark 1-2
I Cor. 7-8	Gen. 44-47	I Sam. 6-10	Ps. 33-35	Job 23-24	Isa. 62-66	Mark 3-4

Membership Support

Marching closer to the cross during Lent allows us to experience spiritual growth. Church attendance provides understanding of the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. Through worship services, Bible studies, and Sunday School classes, we gain deeper insights into Scripture and develop a closer relationship with God. This fellowship offers a supportive environment where believers can encourage one another in their spiritual journey. Involvement in various church activities reminds us that we are part of a larger body of believers, united in our love for God.

Our congregation is made up of members, regular attendees, and visitors. All are invited to participate in or to help with activities promoted through the newsletters, bulletins, calling posts, or announcements.

Please sign the pew pad on Sunday mornings to let us know you were worshiping with us. The pew pad lists several categories to check: "Member," "Attend here regularly," "Visitor," or "Wish to Join." As you march closer to the cross this year, perhaps it's time to check "wish to join." Please include your contact information for Pastor Mark.

Stewardship

We are also drawn closer to the cross through Stewardship. Whether you volunteer your service or support our ministry financially, our ministry and our congregation (350 people) benefit. We appreciate your generous support through pledged giving as well as through weekly offerings and donations. These provide funds for staff salaries (only five paid staff), utilities (heat, water, electricity), building maintenance (ongoing) and seasonal grounds needs, curriculum (Sunday School classes and Bible studies), Fellowship meals (no charge for coffee hours or luncheons), Worship supplies (bulletins, music for choirs), and Community outreach (Shepherd's Table, Harvest Hoedown, Living Nativity, etc.)

The message of the Cross is experienced through our ministry.

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.

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

PW Coordinating Team

Will be meeting on **Tuesday March 10th at 6:00pm** followed by the evening Bible Study.

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 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 Jesus life as a boy.

Pre-K Class: The class has been learning about Jesus as a child: He listened to His parents, respected those around Him, and He spent time learning before He stepped into Public Ministry showing how God shapes us over time. Congratulations to **Luka Bearese** and to **Nova Vinson** for memorizing their Bible verse, *"Jesus grew and became strong."* Luke 2:40

K/1st Grade: Our class is studying the most important rule Jesus taught, *love God, love others* (Matthew 22:37) We discussed ways we can love God and how we can love others. Congratulations to **Michael McDonald** for perfect attendance and **to Emilia & Lachlan Bearse** and **Bryan Twum-Barimah** for missing only one Sunday in February. Great job!!

2nd & 3rd Grade: Our class has been studying: Jesus' miracles including the following:
Turning water into wine
Healing of paralytic man at pool of Bethesda and the resurrection of Jairus' daughter
John 2:1-11, John 5, and Luke 8: 41-42, 49-56. Jesus showed that helping others really matters.
"*Do not forget to do good and to share with others for with such sacrifices God is pleased* ." Hebrews 13-16

Congrats to the following students:
Nikolai Bearese has been diligently adding to his portfolio of God's animals.
Thomas Twum-Barimah considerately helps class locate Bible verses.
Addi Majeski penned a heartfelt poem (printed on next page)

"For GOD our Savior has always given us what we need. He has given us the trees, the flowers, the grass, and even the stars. For GOD has always been the creator of all you see from the great tall mountains to the deepest part of the seas. So when you feel like you don't have what you want, remember GOD shall only give us what we need. So remember GOD will always watch over us whenever we are a sleep and when we are awake, when we are sick and when we are well. So GOD shall always have every child as His lamb and every grown up as His sheep."
(Beautiful poem written by Addi Majeski)

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

We all have abilities to use for God. In the parable of the talents, Jesus' point is that we are to do our best for the Kingdom with what we are given—money, abilities, time, intelligence—until His return. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. (1 Corinthians 12:5)

We need to show love to those who seem least important. Using a parable, Jesus told us how one day He will judge the nations. He spoke of how real righteousness is demonstrated in caring for others who are needy. Many of the Jewish leaders will ask, when did I not help you? Jesus pointed out that they did not do for the least of them. For those who did care for the least of them, "The King will reply, "Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

God wants us to treasure Him more than anything else. In two mini-parables Jesus told us that our relationship with God is of tremendous value. We should be willing to give up what we have, are, and hope to be for our King and His Kingdom. Christ gave up his life so that we might enter His Kingdom. Jesus said to the people, *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (Matthew 6:33)

Middle School Class: Lots of fun and interesting lessons for January 2026!
Although we only had one class due to snow, illness, and vacation, but we covered a lot. We are made in GOD's image. This means we have all of the attributes that GOD has, granted, to a much, much, lesser degree than GOD and corrupted by sin. This also means GOD has our attributes. From this we know that GOD has a sense of humor. We have a sense of humor, so therefore GOD also has one. GOD is the great creator, therefore we as humans also have the ability and passion to create. GOD is good; therefore, we have a desire to be good. Can humans be good and do good? We discussed what good is. What makes something good. How do we define it? Does the world define good, or is there something else that is a better standard for good? How does belief in our GOD change our lives when it comes to goodness? Ultimately, our faith in a good and just GOD gives us hope in hopeless situations. We don't know what is coming next in our lives, it might be good or bad, but we know it will be for our good because GOD loves us and wants the best for us.

High School Class: We are studying little known important people of the Bible. We are studying Bathsheba to discover why she is listed in the genealogy of Christ.

Each month we put in an article about the importance of attending Sunday School. The information is taken from a pamphlet **27 Reason Why You Should Attend Sunday School**. This pamphlet is written by Rodney Pry, the Director of the PA State Sunday School Association. This month we will be focusing on how Sunday School Helps Put the "Great Commission" into action.

"*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age*" Matthew 28:19-20

Dr. Elmer Townes, well known Christian author and educator, says that "The Great Commission is or should be what every Sunday School is striving to live by."

When you look at the Great Commission, you see four very distinct commands from Jesus.

First, he said we are to "go". We are to get out of the church and go into the world to spread our love for Christ.

Second, we are told to "make disciples." What is a disciple? It is a seeker, someone who is striving to be like Jesus.

Third, we are told to "baptize." We usually don't think of water baptisms taking place in Sunday School, but in this case, Dr. Townes says that it means baptizing individuals with the Holy Spirit and in God's Word.

And, finally, we are told to "teach." That's normally what we think of when we think of Sunday School. Sunday School is the teaching arm of the church and it continues to be an effective program for heling all persons of all ages learn about Jesus Christ, the Bible and God's will for each person's life.

The Great Commission was given by Jesus to His disciple and the Early Church, but it is also for each of us today. Learn more about everything that Jesus did and said by attending Sunday School, this week and every week.

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

Toddler Class:

Alma Twum-Barimah
Stella McDonald

Pre-K Class:

Brentley Vinson
Nova Vinson

K/1st Grade Class:

Bryan Twum-Barimah
Michael McDonald

2nd and 3rd Grade Class:

Thomas Twum-Barimah
Addi Majeski

4th and 5th Grade:

Kohen Dayhoff
Elsie Majeski

6th-8th Grade:

Alexina Twum-Barimah
Maggie McDonald
Colton McKinley

Teen Class:

Abby Boppe
Brody Hemphill
Jeremy Hemphill
Anne McDonald
Will McKinley

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

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.

Treasurer's Report

	General Fund
January Income	$ 24,392.32
January Expenses	$ 35,582.55
Operating Income	$ -11,190.23

Youth Group News

The Youth Group will meet on **March 8, 15, 22, and 29.**

The Youth Group will be serving at the REACH shelter on **Tuesday, March 31**. We will begin preparation for the meal at 4:15 pm. We will serve at the shelter from 7-8 pm and arrive back at church around 8:30/8:45 pm. All over the age of 14 are welcome to attend.

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.

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

Have fun with this month's Word Search. When completed, please place it in the office on the Secretary's desk, by the 15th. Make sure your name is on the Word Search.

William Carper
Cora Carson
Kathy Carter
Kenny Carter
Courtney Corkery
Jill Lampton
Debbie McCauley
Mark Mummert
Allison Yoder
Tom Young

Helping Hands

Helping Hands will be meeting on **Thursday, March 5th and the 19th, 10:00-noon**. If you have never been to Helping Hands before, come join us. It is a great time of fellowship while doing ministry for the church, folding bulletins, making cards for shut-ins, putting together crafts, organizing Sunday School curriculum. There is a job for everyone. At 11:30, we take a break and enjoy lunch together. Please bring a sandwich, everything else is provided for lunch.

The Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men will meet on **Tuesday, March 17** at **11:00 am** and at **7:00 pm.** There will be a Bible Study, fellowship, and prayer. The morning group will go out to the Red Byrd Restaurant after the Bible Study. The evening group will share in a meal at 6:00 pm at the church, Bible Study will be at 7:00 pm. We will be serving Reuben sandwiches and all the fixings.

Supper Club

Supper Club will be meeting on **Monday, March 23, 5:30 pm** at the Western Sizzlin'. We hope you can join us as we have a wonderful time of fellowship with your church family as well as enjoying a delicious meal. Please sign up if you plan on attending. with your church family. Please sign up if you plan on attending.

March 2026 Coffee Hour

This month's coffee hour is on **Sunday, March 15, 2026.** Lauren Goodwin (parish 6) and Steve and Teri Young (parish 14) will the hosting March's coffee hour. If you are in parish 6 or 14, please let your parish leader know what you will be donating for the coffee hour. This helps us with planning. Thank you!

Thursday Night Bible Study

Pastor Mark will continue the Bible Study on **Thursdays in March at 7:00 pm.** We will be studying Paul's letter of Ephesians and then Philippians. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship and a deepening of your Christian faith. **We will not meet on March 19.**

Church Work Day

There will be an all Church Work Day on **Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 1pm**. We will focus on painting, clearing out items, repainting the youth room wall, gardening, and general items. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up if you can join. us.

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, 7:00-8:00 pm 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.

** March 3rd—"**War Room**" by Chris Fabry

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

** May 4th—"**The Canawlers**" by James Rada

Mission Committee Save the Dates

Mission Week, July 20-24, 2026 held by the Community Catalyst Outreach Team. Volunteers are needed. Details to come.

Harvest Hoedown Needs for October, 2026

Harvest Hoe Down 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:

*Long sleeve button/snap up shirts all sizes but especially youth and children sizes
*Jeans all sizes especially youth and children sizes
*Used and new pantyhose, No black (pantyhose can be purchased at the Dollar Tree for $1.25)
*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

Acolyte

Are you or the child in your life interested in serving as an Acolyte? You can now add your name to the sign up sheet in the parlor indicating the service dates and times you are available.

Please see **Stephanie Ragland** if you have any questions.

Hooray! Hooray! VBS Is On Its Way!

Come One! Come All! We will be having a V.B.S. Preview on March 22nd at 12:00 in the Friendship Hall. You will have the chance to hear all about the exciting V.B.S. theme for the year as well as preview the curriculum, crafts, and sample some tasty snacks! You will also have the opportunity to sign up to volunteer in the area of your choosing. There will be registration forms for you to sign up your children and grand children as well. Mark your calendars for March 22nd. You don't want to miss the exciting news all about this year's 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.

Did you know....

St Andrew provides several simple methods for submitting your offering.

- Of course, we have the offering plates where you can place your offering as you enter the sanctuary.
- Another way is to set up automatic payments at your bank to have them send a check to the church on your schedule.

* We also offer a link called **tithe.ly** on our website **standrewpresbyterian.org.**
If you go to the website and select the **MENU** button, you will see on the lower portion of the tab **Giving/Donate**. When you select it, it will take you to the **tithe.ly** page where you can set up a one time or recuring donation to the church.

..... and now you know.

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *8:30 am Worship* *9:45 am Sunday School* *11:00 am Worship* *Noon Meet Biblical Characters* *6:00 pm Sunday Night Class*	**2** *9:30-noon Craft Workshop*	**3** *7:00 pm Book Club*	**4**	**5** *10-noon Helping Hands* *7:00 pm Bible Study*	***6*** *11:00 am CWU*	**7**
8 *8:30 am Worship* *9:45 am Sunday School* *11:00 am Worship* *6:00 pm Sunday Night Class* *6:00 pm Youth Group*	**9** *5:30 pm Food Bank/Shepherd's Table* *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**
15 *8:30 am Worship* *9:30 Coffee Hour* *9:45 am Sunday School* *11:00 am Worship* *6:00 pm Sunday Night Class* *6:00 pm Youth Group*	***16*** *9:30-noon Craft Workshop* *6:00 pm Bldg & Grounds* *7:00 pm Admin/ Deacon.*	**17** *11 am & 6 pm Men's Bible Study*	**18** *6:30 pm Handbells* *7:30 pm Choir*	***19*** *10-noon Helping Hands*	**20** *Noon Potluck with Friends*	**21** *9:00 am Church Work Day*
22 *8:30 am Worship* *9:45 am Sunday School* *11:00 am Worship* *Noon VBS Preview* *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***
29 *8:30 am Worship* *9:45 am Sunday School* *11:00 am Worship* *6:00 pm Sunday Night Class* *6:00 pm Youth Group*	***30*** *9:30-noon Craft Workshop*	**31** *REACH*				

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.

At a Clerk of Session review meeting the churches who have 300 or more members were asked if our church wanted to continue to grow and if we do then Session should seriously consider bringing on an Assistant Pastor. One person pastoring that size congregation is not sustainable. When this information was shared with Session the vote to add this full time position was unanimous. I'm sharing this information and praying that each member of the church sees the need and supports this decision.

In Christ,
Rebecca Collinson
2026 Clerk of Session

Friday Potluck Luncheon with Friends

Please join us for our Friday Potluck Luncheon with Friends on **March 20 at noon.** Our next speaker is Len Schindel. He will be speaking on the book he wrote entitled "The Strike that Changed Maryland's Wilderness County".

Len is a retired steel worker at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point, MD where he worked for 30 years. In 2004, after Bethlehem's bankruptcy, Mr. Schindel went to work for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as a communications specialist in the union's Washington D.C. headquarters, winning many awards for his writing.

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 9:30-12 in Friendship Hall. March dates are **March 2nd, March 16th, and March 30th**. 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!

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