St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org 301-223-8887

November 2026

Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace, Growing for God

Dear Friends,

This is the month that we focus on being grateful. Gratitude is an essential in our lives and needed in our society. So valuable is this and so important is this thought that thanks or thanksgiving or gratitude grateful is mentioned 229 times in the Bible.

So what are we to be thankful for? The easy and quick answer is that we are grateful for family and friends, jobs and school. We are grateful for home and food, pets and hobbies. We are grateful that we live in the United States and all the luxuries that we have such as in home plumbing and bathrooms to the freedoms that we enjoy. We have paved roads and cars to drive on the paved roads. I could go on and on.

In addition to this, we have the blessing of the fellowship of the church that was created by the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus has forgiven us and then placed us in His kingdom which is the church. We are loved by God and as a result of His forgiveness, we are forgiven and free.

The point is that sometimes we forget how blessed we are. We need to follow that great hymn and "count our blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done." Since we humans have this tendency to ask, "What have you done for me lately?", we need to be reminded to be grateful.

We set aside a day for gratitude—Thanksgiving Day. We are to insert gratitude in our prayers and our speech. We need to challenge ourselves to live as grateful people. If you find this difficult, please take a moment to contact me as I have been blessed with the ability to see those items in our lives, both good and bad, for which we can give thanks.

So this Thanksgiving, let us be who God has called us to be—Thankful people. Let us not just have this attitude for a day but for every day. For when we show gratitude in every aspect of our life, 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

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT COMMITTEE

November is a time to be thankful for the blessings God has provided. As a committee, what are we thankful for?

We are thankful for how God has blessed St. Andrew's ministry. We appreciate those who heard God's call and came here in response.

We are thankful for those who give financially to our vibrant ministry through pledges and offerings. We are also thankful for those who give smiles and words of welcome to newcomers and friends.

We are blessed by those who serve at our many events. Coming up this month are The Presbyterian Women's craft bazaar and the annual church family Thanksgiving dinner. Check the sign up tables and bulletins for other activities. We can also serve as we pray for those on our prayer list, make a visit, or phone call. Sending cards to those away at college or home bound is another way to serve.

Worship service attendees are grateful for the inspiration received from words and music. We appreciate those who sign the pew pad and welcome visitors. Usually about 175 folks attend in person on Sundays. Others attend "live" on Facebook or watch another time. We are thankful for this capability.

We've been blessed by several new members. Mike and Mary Batt, have attended less than a year. Scott Beckley has regularly attended for over 20 years. If you are not a member and want to be, check the "wish to join the church" box on the attendance pad or contact Pastor Mark. See their photos on our New Member bulletin board in the parlor.

STEWARDSHIP

Recently we heard a lot about financial support of our ministry. Why is financial support so important?

Our church budget is based on our ministry needs that range from staff salaries; worship, curriculum, and technology needs; paper supplies; utilities; building and grounds maintenance; and outreach ministries. We benefit from our ministry personally and as a church family. Instead of being limited by expected income, we rely on faith that God will provide what is needed.

Pledging is important because the Administrative Committee uses pledged responses, money they can expect to receive, as the basis for the budget. If you haven't already done so, please return your pledge soon.

Since the amount of pledged money usually does not meet all of our ministry needs, financial support that is not pledged is also important. These offerings and donations make up the difference between the amount pledged and the amount needed to maintain our ministry. While we may be called to serve at a few events, financial support is a year round need. Please give to support of the ministry as God has called you to do.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the youth for helping serve at the Lobster Fest. Many of the people from other churches commented on how many young people were helping. You represented St. Andrew in style! Thank you!!

Also, a big thank you to the choir members who baked all the desserts and especially Barb Smith for that delicious Broccoli Salad. Several people asked for the recipe!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Christmas Bazaar – November 13 & 14

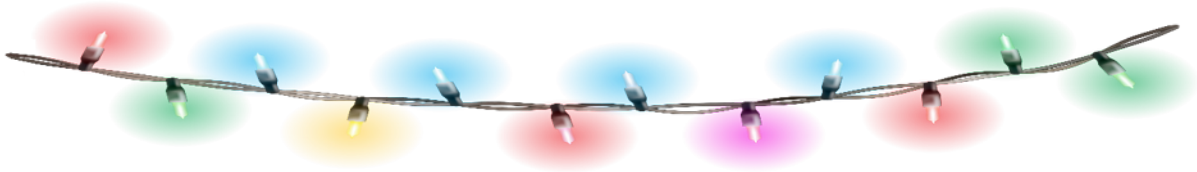
Bazaar Time is here! The Presbyterian Women (with help from several others!) have been working feverishly to get things ready for our BIG EVENT! Our hours will be:

Friday night, November 13th..…6:00p.m. - 8:00pm
Saturday, November 14th…….8:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

We hope you will all come out and do some Christmas shopping with us! Not only will you find some top-quality gift items and an amazing variety of hand-made crafts, but you'll be able to find some special bargains in our Thrift Shop and scrumptious candies, cookies, and other baked goods at our Bake Sale. Our kitchen will be open both days for made-to-order meals, and Santa will be here both days, as well, so bring along your kids and/or your pet for a free photo op!

Special thanks to all who have worked so hard over the last several months in preparation for the Big Event! We have accomplished so much together, and have certainly had a good time in the process!

Share the word with your friends! Hope to see you all on Friday the 13th and/or Saturday the 14th! Merry Christmas!.



MARTIN'S/WEIS GIFT CARDS

St. Andrew has gift cards available for purchase each week after the 8:30 a.m. service and before the 11:00 a.m. service. When you purchase these gift cards, St. Andrew receives 5% of the total purchase—at no additional cost to you!
Available Gift Cards:

- Martin's: $25, $50, $100, $250
- Weis: $25, $50, $100

Gift cards are perfect for personal shopping, birthdays, helping someone in need, or stocking stuffers. Please see Stacy MacMillan, Mo Theriault, or Mary Beth Alphin to purchase your cards.

BLESSING BAGS

If you have been counting your blessings over the summer, please return your Blessing Bag anytime from now through January. You may give your bag to Fran Quinn or Lynn Lowman, place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office.

Thank you for helping to make a difference through this special ministry!

HELPING HANDS

Will be meeting on November 5th and November 19th from 10:00-noon. Hope you can come for a time of ministry to our church as well as a time of great fellowship and lunch.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The Presbyterian Men will meet on Tuesday, November 17 at 11:00 am and at 7:00 pm. There will be a Bible Study, fellowship, and prayer. The morning group will go to a local restaurant after the Bible Study. The evening group will share in a meal at 6:00 pm with Bible Study at 7:00 pm.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Youth Group will meet on November 1, 8, 15, and 22. There will be no Youth Group on the 29th because of the holiday weekend.

The new Youth Group officers are:

High School President:	Blanca Brown
Middle School President:	Maggie McDonald
Vice President:	Anne McDonald
Secretary:	Lily South
Nominating Committee:	Colton McKinley

The challenge for our Youth Group is to invite 27 friends to our wonderful youth group. Each friend invited (for two times) gets a candy bar as well as the person who did the inviting.

The Youth Group filled 12 boxes for the Operation Christmas Child. It was enjoyable filling the boxes for those who live around the world. We ended the night by going to the Meadows for frozen custard.
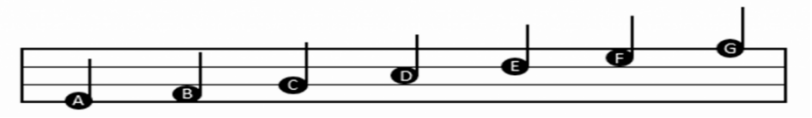
We have a Facebook page just for the Youth and their families. If you would like to be part of that, please contact Pastor Mark. Did you know that St. Andrew has an Instagram page. You can find it at: st.andrew_presbyterian. Look forward to seeing you there.

SUPPER CLUB

Come join us for our monthly Supper Club on Monday, November 23rd at 5:30 pm at the Western Sizzlin'. This is a great evening of food and fellowship. Sign up if you plan on attending.

HARVEST HOEDOWN SUCCESS

Many Thanks for all those who made Harvest Hoedown a great success. We raised over $9000 for the Williamsport Food Bank and its ministries. Thanks to the Mission Committee for getting everything ready for the Scarecrow area. Also thanks to Shirley Fox for coordinating the event and the premades. Special thanks to the Helping Hands for stuffing the bags for the Scarecrows, to the Youth Group for helping with the premades and for the day of the event, to the His Message for singing during the Hoedown, to all those who made certain



WORD SEARCH

Congratulations to those who completed The October Word Search.

Nikola, Emilia, Lachlen and Luka Bearese

Scott Beckley
Melanie Beckley
Jenny Brown
Kenny Carter
Zachary Faith
Shirley Fox
Alice Johnson
Josiah Kesler
Debbie Kinzer
Jill Lampton
Chris Lunsford
Debbie McCauley
Rayetta Schindel
Donald Shula
Sandra Smith
Alan Weaver
Belle Weaver
Pam Weaver
Tom Young

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.

FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Friday with Friends is on Thursday, November 20th, at noon. We will be featuring the author Lynn Pechuekon who is an historian and author residing in scenic Harpers Ferry. She lives in the Saunders home one block away from the former college and operates a small bed and breakfast there with her husband Christian. She frequently gives talks and tours on Harpers Ferry Black heritage, covering Reconstruction through Civil Rights. She recently received the 2026 Arts & Letters Award presented by the Eastern Panhandle Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

About the Presentation: The Hill Top House Hotel was for generations a beloved Harpers Ferry destination with an iconic view. Yet, few guests knew that it was founded in 1890 by an enterprising African-American couple. Lynn's presentation will overview their fascinating 35-year span as owners of a segregated whites-only resort during the early decades of the Jim Crow era.

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ARE SELLING CHRISTMAS CANDY

The Presbyterian Women are selling Christmas Candy. We will be selling the ever popular See's Candies and we will also be selling Gardner's Candies, a new addition this year.

The brochures and order forms can be found on the information desk in the parlor and on the church website. There are extra brochures/order forms in the church office or you can contact Jen Metz for a copy or to have one emailed to you. There is an envelope to put your money in. (Checks or cash) Orders and money are due by Sunday, November 8th and the candy will arrive in time for Christmas.

Monday, November 2nd – Julia by Catherine Marshall
December 2nd – Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

Pick up a book and come join us!

THE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

"THE PERFECT FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITON"

Thousands of Lights • Picturesque Decorations • A Homestyle Feast • Award-Winning Vocalists & Dancers

St. Andrew is once again sponsoring an evening at Antietam Entertainment's Christmas Experience! Now in its 11th year, this annual event combines live theater, drama, comedy, holiday activities, and down-home cooking for a wonderful evening of Christmas fun. Join us as a church family on **Friday, November 27, at 6:00 p.m**. What a great way to begin the holiday season with fun, food, fellowship, and a fantastic Christmas show! If you have never experienced the Christmas Show at Antietam Entertainment, you definitely want to join us this year! Here is a sneak preview of what the evening is all about:

6:00–6:45 p.m. — Pre-Dinner Activities
- Wagon ride
- Petting Zoo
- Bonfire & marshmallow roasting
- Horse rides
- Live Nativity
- Christmas photos

7:00–7:45 p.m. — Dinner Menu is subject to change.
Adults:
- Oven-roasted chicken & honey-glazed ham
- Green beans & mashed potatoes
- Broccoli cheddar soup & cornbread

Kids' Menu (ages 11 & under):
- Chicken nuggets & pizza bites
- Mashed potatoes & applesauce
- Green beans & mac & cheese

Dessert: Chocolate fudge brownie & ice cream

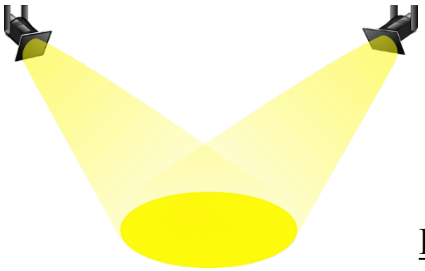
7:45 p.m. — Christmas Show Begins
Show duration: approximately 100 minutes

Cost (this includes 15% group discount and 10% state admission tax)
- **Children (ages 3–11): $43.48**
- **Adults (ages 12–59): $65.92**
- **Seniors (60+): $64.05**

Seating: Our church group's seats are located on the right side facing the stage, in Pastor Mark and Annette's section.
Sign Up & Payment (Starting September 6th) If you plan to attend, **please sign up in the Parlor and pay by Tuesday, November 3rd.** Please place your payment in an envelope and then place that envelope in the larger envelope. **Make checks payable to:** St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, **Memo:** Christmas Experience
Location
Antietam Entertainment

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Through September 2026, year-to-date income totaled $295,594 which was $11,283 (3.7%) below the $306,877 YTD budget. Expenses were $315,523 which was $6,737 (2.1%) below the $322,261 YTD budget, so the church recorded a $19,930 year-to-date net loss—$4,546 worse than planned. The shortfall is primarily revenue-driven rather than the result of overall overspending.



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Every month the Membership Support Committee will feature a different staff person and current Elder or Deacon as a fun way to get to know our leaders. Here are the questions asked of each person and their answers. Enjoy!

1. Where were you raised, and what was your educational or career path prior to (or alongside) your role here at St. Andrew?
2. How did you come to faith and was there a pivotal moment that shaped your walk with God?
3. What is your favorite Bible verse or passage that has guided your faith journey?
4. What does life look like outside of the church building - family, pets, hobbies, sports, travel?
5. What does your perfect day look like?
6. What is one hope or prayer you have for our congregation this year?

ANNETTE SANDELL, Director of Church Education and Outreach

1. I was born in Minnesota. I went to Grove City College in Pennsylvania and majored in Elementary Education. I love teaching kids - especially about Jesus.

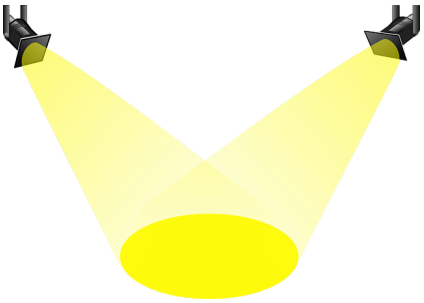
2. When I was about 8 or 9 years old, a friend asked me to her VBS. I had always gone to church but never heard the salvation message. At VBS I gave my life to Christ after hearing the Salvation Message. That is why I love VBS so much! People can strengthen their faith at VBS or accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior at VBS.

3. "*Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him and He with me*." Revelation 3:20. This verse led me to Christ.

4. We love spending time with our grandchildren. We love doing fun activities with them and making memories with them.

5. A perfect day would be watching all 9 grandchildren being together and having so much fun together.

6. My hope and prayer for the church is for it to keep growing with all ages represented, our faith will continue to grow as we worship together, and that we continue to feel the love, warmth, support, and care from one another
within our church family.



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JULIE MALECKI, Elder and Chair of Christian Education

1. I was raised in Williamsport and I've been involved in education of some sort since I graduated high-school: I taught Sunday school, studied early childhood education, worked with kids with autism, and homeschooled my children from birth to graduation. Near the end of my journey as a homeschool mom, I completed a 3-year apprenticeship to get my certification as a Master Classical Teacher and I am currently in a graduate apprenticeship program for classical curriculum development.

2. My mom raised me on songs and stories from the Bible, but the veil was lifted when I was 17 after visiting St. Andrew on the day Pastor Mark was welcomed. I kept coming back each week because I felt like every word was meant for me personally; I began to hunger for Scripture and to walk closer with God.

3. In my twenties, anything Paul wrote was foundational; Psalms and Proverbs were foundational and life-giving through my thirties; in my forties, John 1 and Micah 6:8 filled me with wonder and aspirations; so far in my fifties, Romans has been inspiring and I've returned to, or never left, John 1.

4. I read and study Classical Education and the necessary questions of life; I play video games with my husband; I write poetry and stories; I knit and paint with watercolor; I still teach in the homeschool world.

5. Sitting on a balcony hearing the ocean as I write or paint.

6. I pray that we will continue to grow the bonds of community and relationship to stand as one in Christ; with 'oneness' we will be a city on a hill that beckons people to come and see that the Lord is good.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

If you have not joined a Sunday School Class we would love to have you join us for this new year in Sunday School. Here is a brief overview of Sunday School:

We have classes for all ages from Toddlers to 3 Adult Classes. Sunday School starts at 9:45 and ends at 10:45. All students from 5th grade and under meet in the sanctuary at 9:45 for a brief Opening. During the Opening program we say the Pledge to the Christian Flag, Pledge to the Bible, and have a brief devotion. We take up an offering. Our offering goes to our 2 Sunday School sponsored children through the organization of Compassion International as well as support the various projects through the organization of Samaritan's Purse. We close our time in prayer. At 10:00 the children are dismissed to their Sunday School classes. **Parents Please Note**: If your child is in 3rd grade or younger, please pick them up from their classroom at 10:45.

- We have 3 Adult Classes to choose from:

  The Voyager Class: Is an interactive class which chooses a book to read together and to discuss. They are currently reading the book, The Urgency of Slowing Down. The books are provided by the class. This class meets in the Conference Room,

  The Seeker Class: This is an in-depth Bible Study taught by Pastor Mark and Hank Hemphill. The are currently studying II Timothy. This class meets in the Legacy Hall.

  The Gospel of Matthew is taught by Jason McDonald in the Friendship Hall. This is a DVD/workbook study of the life of Jesus as seen through the Gospel of Matthew This is an interactive class with lots of discussion.

  Hope you can join us for Sunday School.

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, written by Rodney L. Pry, the Executive Director of the PA State Sunday School Association. This month we are focusing on Sunday School Helps Lay a Spiritual Foundation In the Lives Of Children And Youth

Sunday School Helps Lay A Spiritual Foundation In the Lives Of Children and Youth

"*We will not hide these truths from our children but will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord. We will tell of His power and the mighty miracle He did*." Psalm 78:4

Statistics tell us that today's average adult Christian became a Christian by age 13. Why is that important? It reminds us of the importance of reaching our children early in their lives for Jesus Christ. If you turn this statistic around, you can see that if we don't reach our children for Christ by age 13, the odds of them ever becoming a Christian go way down.

From its beginning over 240 years ago, Sunday School has been primarily aimed at children and youth. Today, Sunday School is for everyone, but there is still a major emphasis on reaching and teaching our kids. We

want to see each of our children come to know Jesus as their very own personal Lord and Savior. But, when they do, is that the end of the road? Certainly not! That's just the start of a life-long walk with Jesus Christ.

One of the primary purposes of Sunday School is to teach our children and youth the lessons of the Bible, to see them place these lessons in their hearts and in the minds. Then, as they face problems, concerns and temptations later in life, hopefully they will remember these lesson and draw upon their knowledge of what they know God would want them to do.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPPETS:

Here is what is happening around Sunday School:

Toddler Class: The class is learning about how important God's Word, the Bible is. They are enjoying doing fall crafts. Congratulations to **Lucy Coyle** and **Stella McDonald** for having Perfect Attendance.

Pre-K Class: The class studied the story of Jesus Feeding the 5,000. One little boy shared his lunch of 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. We talked about how wonderful it was that the little boy wanted to share his lunch with the people. Jesus took the bread and blessed it. After blessing the bread and fish Jesus was able to feed the multitude of people who came to listen to him that day. Jesus can and does perform great miracles. Jesus can do great things in our lives each and every day. The students also learned the story of the Lost Sheep. At the end of the lesson the children had to find the lost sheep in the classroom. We talked about how important we are to God and how we always want to stay close to God. **Congratulations to: Luka Bearese, Kali Coyle, Lincoln Faith, and Alma Barimah-Twum** for great attendance in Sunday School.

K/1st Grade: Our class is studying how important and special we are to Jesus. We learned how Jesus healed the blind beggar and how He cares for all of His sheep. **Congratulations to Bryan Barimah-Twum** for his perfect attendance in Sunday School.

2nd & 3rd Grade: Through the extraordinary account of David and Goliath(1 Samuel 17),the second and third grade class has learned to trust in God as His power is always greater than our biggest problems. "*Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power*" (Ephesians 6:10) Proud to recognize the following students:
Emilia Bearese drew an awesome compilation of God's wonderful creatures.
Addi Majeski illustrated a beautiful watercolor depiction of Easter morning.
Michael McDonald cleverly explained how fish survived the Great Flood.
Aiden Paul kindly helps other students look up Bible verses.
Splendid work class!

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

God put authority in our lives for different reasons. Jesus asks for a tribute coin, when the men brought a coin back to Jesus, they were forced to admit that Caesar's image was upon it. The fact that such money was current in their country proved that they were under Roman authority. *Jesus said, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."* (Matthew 22:21) Jesus was pointing out that citizens were under the authority of their government. *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." (Romans 13:1)* For a Christian, however, submission to God's authority is the more important.

If you want to be great, you must serve others. Just before His trial and death, Jesus showed His disciples the true meaning of love and unselfish service. James and John were Jesus' cousins. Their mother who was the sister of Jesus' mother asked which one of them were greater. During NT times, a servant would wash the dusty feet of his master's guests. Jesus set aside His own needs to wash His disciples feet. His emphasis was on an attitude of humble service for others. "*Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all."* (Mark 10:43-44)

(Continued on next page)

Forgive each other even when it's hard. Paul's letter to Philemon is unique among other NT books, in that it deals with a completely personal issue. It also presents a beautiful picture of how Christians should resolve differences, by going to the offended party, making amends, and forgiving the offender. "*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."* (Ephesians 4:22)

There is Freedom in Forgiveness - In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus taught us how to pray. The two verses following the Lord's prayer are two of the most important verses for Christians. Jesus said, *14" For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* (Matthew 6:14-15) As Jesus was hanging on the Cross, in unimaginable pain, he prayed and said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:34)

6th – 8th Grade: Wow!!!! What an amazing start to the year it's been! We had so many students in the middle school class that we had to change rooms! We are now down in the basement in the teen room. Lots more room in there. And the teens have moved over into the teen's activity room. We have so much space that we don't know what to do with it! On the day of Rally Day, we had 8 students. But consistently, we've had between six and eight since then. What a blessing! We started off the year looking at why we are Christians. Why do we believe what we believe? Why is Christianity different than other belief systems? Why would we choose to become Christians? We also spent some time playing games and trying to get to know each other, being that most of the students are new to the class. Last week we looked at names. In the Bible names are very important. But not so much in our world today. We looked up our names to see what they mean and if there is any correlation between what our name means and who we are. Turns out some members of our class are actually warriors based on the meanings of their names. I guess I need to be careful about what I say and do being as I have warriors in my class. It's a very interesting exercise if you've never done it. We discovered some interesting parallels. We also looked at the different names for God and why there's different names for God and how each of his names reflect part of who he is. Lots of fun, lots of games, lots of food! More to come next month!

Teen Class: Our class is studying the book "The Gospel Centered Community for Teens" by Robert H. Thane and Will Walker. This book talks about applying Christ's teaching to loving as a Christian Community.