

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org 301-223-8887

October 2026

Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace, Growing for God

Dear Friends,

Each season has its own special quality about it! Summer is filled with fun in the sun and vacations. In the Fall, we are back—back to work or school, back to a routine, back to our church activities, back to a normal in life.

We are also back to our walk with Christ. Last month, we talked about how the summer weather can reveal or reflect our Spiritual walk with Jesus. We find the same kind of reflection here in the Fall of our lives.

We are back to school or work. It is here that God has placed you. Sometimes it may feel that work or school is difficult and a hard place to be. But it is here that God can show the greatest of His love. I would like to share a Scripture with you about your place in your work or school. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians, chapter 3, verse 23, “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do it as if you are serving the Lord.”

There will be trying situations in your lives. Try to lift up the situation in such a way that you are serving Jesus in that moment. If there is one person who is particularly difficult, show the love of Christ to them as if you were serving the Lord. Pray for that person or that situation. Not so much to escape but for God’s strength and enlightenment. Have God show you how you can make an impact.

As we settle into the church routine, remember to take advantage to the growth opportunities that are provided from the Women’s Bible Study, to the Men’s Bible Study, to Youth Group, to Sunday School, to the evening Bible Study, to Choir and...I could go on. Needless to say that at St. Andrew, we seek to give you a chance to grow and to use your gifts and talents.

One of the ways in which you can use your gifts and talents is to join a committee and serve there. We have listed out the six committees that we have. You are welcome to join any one of them as a means to make a difference in this world. If you have any questions, just ask so that we can be a blessing as you are seeking to be a blessing.

When we serve together, 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

As we continue to share how we support our congregation, here are this month's questions:

Who makes up our church family? Individuals and families who have a common interest in worshipping our Lord and choose to do so here. We trust and support each other, becoming friends through faith. Excited about our ministry, folks often invite others to come to church and meet Jesus.

Our congregation includes church members, regular attendees, and visitors for an average weekly attendance of 182 worshipers. Additionally, we have folks watching on Facebook. What a blessing to be involved with a vibrant church! Anyone in our church family is welcome to participate in or volunteer to help with our activities. Many are mentioned in this newsletter and weekly bulletins. However, only church members may be an officer (Elder or Deacon).

How does a person become a church member?

1. Share your interest in membership with Pastor Mark or attend a Membership Class. Taking the class is not required nor are you expected to join afterwards.
2. Share your faith journey at a Session meeting.
3. Declare your faith publicly during a worship service.

All members of our church family are welcome to attend our events, volunteer your time and talents, and support our ministry financially.

STEWARDSHIP

Each year there is a budget provided to all detailing the financial needs of our ministry as we tell others about Jesus and His love.

How can we provide financial support? Both pledged and un-pledged giving support our ministry. Pledges confirm a commitment of financial support that is expected during the year and is the basis of the budget. Unpledged giving are offerings or other donations that may be provided but lack the commitment needed to build the budget. Both pledged and un-pledged giving are depended on to meet our ministry needs.

What is the best time to give financial support? Regular giving (weekly or monthly) is the most beneficial way to maintain the business of the church throughout the year. Some folks wait until the end of the year which may cause a financial strain to pay ongoing bills in a timely manner.

How can folks support financially? Many folks still pay with checks or cash and use pew envelopes or a box of personalized numbered envelopes which help to keep track of giving. Others now take advantage of e-giving through our website, Tithely. Still others use automatic payments through their banks. Another option for those over 70 years old is to have their Required Minimal Distribution (RMD) go directly to St. Andrew. However you choose to support St. Andrew financially, feel blessed knowing you are partnering with God!

ST ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Through August 2026, year-to-date income totaled \$256,145, which was \$16,634 (6.1%) below the \$272,779 budget. Expenses were \$286,482, essentially flat to the \$286,454 budget, so the church recorded a \$30,336 year-to-date net loss—\$16,662 worse than planned. The shortfall is primarily revenue-driven rather than the result of overall overspending. Within expenses, Admin / Building & Grounds was the largest unfavorable section at \$2,831 over budget, while several other sections remained under budget and partially offset that pressure.

OFFICER TRAINING FOR ELDERS AND DEACONS

Saturday, October 10, from 9am to noon. Let Pastor Mark know if you are unable to attend.

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

Please note that Helping Hands will be meeting on Thursday, October 8, 10:00-noon

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The Presbyterian Men will meet on Tuesday, October 20 at 11:00 am and at 7:00 pm. There will be a Bible Study, fellowship, and prayer. The morning group will go to Z Buffet after the Bible Study. The evening group will share in a meal at the church, 6:00 pm with Bible Study at 7:00 pm.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group will host the Harvest party on Sunday, October 25, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. There will be Trunk or Treat cars, a Children's area, a Moon Bounce, a wagon ride, and a Walk Through our Scary area in the Basement. We look forward to enjoying a time together.

Youth Group will meet on October 4, 11, and 18.

The Youth will serve at the Lobster Dinner on October 10, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

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

We will be having our monthly Supper Club on Monday, October 26, 5:30 pm at the Western Sizzlin'. We hope that you can join us for a time of great fellowship with your church family and for some delicious food. Sign up on the sign up sheet if you plan to attend.

BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESS

On behalf of the American Red Cross, St. Andrew Church and Deacons, we thank all those that participated in our blood drive. We collected 34 units of blood at the Sept 8th drive, which was the goal, and had seven first time donors.

We held our first drive in July 2024, so in two years, we have hosted seven blood drives and collected 231 units of blood.

Thank you to all the donors, volunteers and to the Deacons, Mission Committee & Presbyterian Women for paying for the food. And a HUGE thank you to Melissa Lake for making all the delicious desserts.

Our next drive is Thursday, January 7, 2027 from 1 pm - 6 pm. We hope that you will prayerfully consider donating blood or if you are unable to donate, please tell your family, friends and co-workers about our blood drive. And if you can't donate, we are always looking for volunteers to help the day of the drive.

Hosting a blood drive coincides with St. Andrew Presbyterian's core values of giving back to the community. With a simple blood donation, we have the ability to help save the life of someone who could be a coworker, loved one or neighbor. Blessings, Jen Metz, Blood Program Leader



American
Red Cross

FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Steve Hatleberg will be presenting "The Scots-Irish Settlement of Washington County", on Friday, October 16 at noon. It concerns the colonial era, before the Revolutionary War, when Washington County was the frontier. The talk will be about the Scots-Irish as a group and their emigration to America. They were the Presbyterian Forefathers. He is a retired Internal Medicine physician from Meritus Health ten years ago. He and his wife Lois have four granddaughters, a second grader, and a tenth grader living in Silver Spring and a senior and second year college student in Boston.

WORD SEARCH

Congratulations to those who completed The September Word Search.

Courtney Corkery

Mark Mummert

John Harbaugh

Linda Reid

Alice Johnson

Chris Rhodes

Josiah Kesler

Rayetta Schindel

Chris Lunsford

Allison Yoder

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

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.

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. See the Holly Place Wish List below.

October	Napkins
November	Laundry Detergent
December	Dryer Sheets
January	Air Freshener
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

HARVEST PARTY/TRUNK OR TREAT

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 25th! We will be having a fun family night filled with lots of candy, fun, games, crafts, and maybe a little fright at the haunted house. Kids, wear your costumes. We will have lots of people handing out candy in our parking lots. Invite your friends and bring a big bag to put your candy in! In the Legacy Hall there will be crafts, games, and refreshments available for everyone! If you are brave, go check out the haunted house downstairs. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

Needed: We need lots of people to hand out candy to the kids at our Trunk or Treat/Harvest Party. It is such a fun evening watching the kids come by in their costumes and getting candy. The more people we have participating the more fun it is for the kids. So, get in the Halloween spirit and decorate your trunk and maybe yourself and come join the fun on the 25th. Please sign up if you are able to participate.



LIBRARY

As we enter the season of fall with multi-colored trees and sitting by a campfire, take the time to appreciate all that God has made. Slow down and relax with a good book.

Lydia: Follower of God by Debbie Smallwood. Long ago, in a city called Thyatira, a woman named Lydia learned how to create beautiful purple cloth in a color so rare it was fit for kings. As a businesswoman, traveler, and worshipper of the one true God, Lydia's life was full of courage, hard work, and faith.

The Peacemaker (Men of the Saddle, Book 1) by Lori Copeland. Beloved author Lori Copeland takes readers back in time to an era when cowboys were heroes and the rules of the Wild West prevailed. Lori's trademark blend of humor, romance, and Christian content make this an irresistible read.

The Dog That Talked to God by Jim Kraus. "Jim Kraus has written a funny, heartfelt novel in the tradition of Garth Stein and John Grogan. For a long time, dogs have been man's best friend. It only made sense one would finally come along to save our souls."

The Lost Wife by Alyson Richman. In pre-World War II Prague, the dreams of two young lovers are shattered when they are separated by the Nazi invasion. Then, decades later, thousands of miles away in New York, an unexpected encounter leads to an inescapable glance of recognition, and the realization that providence has given Lenka and Josef one more chance...

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Do you like to read? Do you like good conversations and fellowship? Come and join our monthly Book Club. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Friendship Hall. These are the books that we will be discussing for the next few months:

October 6th – Route 66

November 2nd – Julia by Catherine Marshall

Note: Day change - Monday

December 1st – Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

Pick up a book and come join us!

FARMERS AND HUNTERS FEEDING THE HUNGRY

FHFH has been feeding the hungry for 29 years. St. Andrew has given the Thank Offering each November for many years to FHFH. The following information is taken from their newsletter, which is on the Mission Committee Bulletin Board in the hallway.

“Every deer donated, every dollar given, and every prayer offered has helped make a difference. Thanks to your support, Totals for 2025-2026; 3,707 Deer & Livestock, 142,401 Pounds of Meat, 569,604 Meat Servings. FHFH creates networks of people who work to transform a God-given resources into food for the hungry. Together, we are helping feed the hungry, strengthen communities and share the love of Christ. God Bless, Josh Wilson Executive Director “

Look for the Thank Offering in November.

VOLUNTEERS AT THE WILLIAMSPORT FOOD PANTY

St Andrew needs to provide volunteers November 2 and 5. If you would like to volunteer with Steve, Debbie and Terry, Monday November 2 or with Mark and Rebecca, Thursday November 5 contact Vivian Suffecool.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR LOCAL KIDS IN NEED

Help Needed! The holiday season is a special time to come together and spread joy, and we are excited to begin planning our annual Christmas party for local kids in need. To help make this celebration warm, festive, and memorable, we are looking for caring volunteers to assist in several important areas: someone with fundraising experience or creative ideas, a person to coordinate shopping and gifts for each child, someone to help coordinate the hot meal, and a craft/activities coordinator to plan fun, cheerful activities for the children. If you would like to share your time, talents, or holiday spirit to help make this event a success, please contact Tammy Coyle at 240-409-2410 or tammy.coyle93@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM

The CCO Team will be hosting dinner and devotions at Elizabeth Court, October 14, 2026. If you would like to help or donate towards the meal contact Grace McDonald or Pastor Mark.

OCTOBER 2026 COFFEE HOUR

This month's coffee hour is on Sunday, October 25, 2026. Pastor Appreciation will also be celebrated on October 25. There will be a Pastor Appreciation program to celebrate Pastor Mark and Annette.

Terri Long (parish 2), Carrie Kesler (parish 4) with Teri and Steve Young (parish 14) will be hosting the coffee hour. If you are in parish 2, parish 4, or parish 14, please let your parish leader know what you will be donating for the coffee hour. This helps us with planning. Thank you!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We had a great celebration of the beginning of a brand new year at Sunday School last month at our Rally Day Celebration. If you have not joined a Sunday School Class for this new year, we would love to have you join us. We have classes for all ages, including 3 Adult classes. Here is a brief summary of our Sunday School Program:

- All classes start at 9:45 am and end at 10:45 am.
- Children 5th grade and under start in the sanctuary for a brief opening at 9:45. During the Opening we have a brief devotion, a time of prayer, and take up an offering. Our offering goes to support our 2 sponsored children from Compassion International and various program from Samaritan's Purse. At 10:00 the children are dismissed to their classrooms.
- Please Note: Parents, if your child/grandchild is in 3rd grade or younger please pick them up in their classroom at 10:45.
- We have 3 Adult Classes to choose from:

The Voyager Class: Meets in the Conference Room. This class chooses the book they want to read and discuss. They are currently reading, The Urgency of Slowing Down, by Larua L. Smith. All books are provided by the class.

The Seeker Class: Meets in the Legacy Hall and is taught by Pastor Mark and Hank Hemphill. This is an in depth study of the Bible. They are currently studying II Timothy.

The Study of the Gospel of Matthew is taught by Jason McDonald. This is an interactive study and meets in the Friendship Hall.

Hope you can join us for Sunday School.

Sunday School is making Christmas so special for children around the world who live in poverty. On October 4th all the Sunday School students will watch a video of the Program Operation Christmas Child. The video explains the program, but most importantly shows the children receiving the shoeboxes filled with gifts. We truly are so blessed here in the United States, what a blessing it is to give to those in dire need.

Each month we will be highlighting 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 highlighting: Sunday School Is Important Because God's Word is Being Studied and Taught.

"But if you keep looking steadily into God's perfect law, the law that set you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you have heard, then God will bless you for doing it. James 1:25

The American Bible Society says that 90% of all Americans own a Bible. They also say that fewer than 20% read their Bible on a regular basis. And fewer than 10% have a good working knowledge of the Bible and how to apply its lessons to their day-to-day lives.

It's certainly important for everyone to own a Bible, and it's important to read your Bible. (We think you should read it every day!) But it's that last statistic that really concerns us.

The Bible is our "Handbook for life" and a roadmap for our daily walk with Jesus Christ. But, if you don't understand what you are reading and if you don't know how to apply its messages and lessons to your daily life, is it really doing much good?

Even in today's modern translation forms, the Bible is often quite hard to understand. And, often when people start searching for answers to a particular problem or concern in the Bible, they have no idea where to look. That's why it is so important to come together with others in Sunday School to "dig in" to God's Word and to work together to find the answers that are there, waiting for you to discover.



2026

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 10-noon Helping Hands 7:00 pm Bible Study	2	3 10-4 Harvest Hoedown
4 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 6:00 pm Youth 6:00pm Sunday Night Class	5	6 7pm Book Club	7 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Choir	8 10-noon Helping Hands 7:00 pm Bible Study	9	10 9-12 Officer Training 5:30-7:00 pm Lobster Fest
11 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 6:00 pm Youth 6:00pm Sunday Night Class	12 9:30-noon Craft Workshop 7pm Committee Mtg.	13 10 am & 7 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Coordinating Team	14 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Choir Elizabeth Ct Dinner Pastor -----	15 No Bible Study Mark -----	16 Noon Potluck with Friends and -----	17 Miss Annette ----
18 8:30 Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 6:00 pm Youth 6:00pm Sunday Night Class On -----	19 9:30-noon Craft Workshop 7:00 pm Admin Committee Vacation -----	20 10am & 7pm Men's Bible Study -----	21 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Choir -----	22 7:00 pm Bible Study	23	24 8am – 8 pm Craft Retreat
25 8:30 Worship 9:30 Pastor Appreciation 11:00 Worship 6-7:30 pm Harvest Party	26 9:30-noon Craft Workshop 5:30 pm Supper Club 7:00 pm Session	27	28 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Choir	29 7:00 pm Bible Study	30	31