

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org 301-223-8887

September 2026

Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace, Growing for God

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of summer, it would be a great time to review what we learned. As I look outside at nature, it reminds me of what may happen as we practice our spiritual disciplines.

Our lawn looks worn and sad. There are brown spots and bare patches. This is usually from the fact that we forgot to care for it. We may have not watered it. This may be from the lack of fertilizer or we may have not planted new seeds.

This is like what may happen in our prayer life. If our prayer life feels dry, we may have forgotten to water it with scripture reading. If our prayer life is listless, we may have forgotten to add service to fertilize our prayers. Something special happens when we serve. We realize that we do have it good, and we feel good when we help another person. If our prayer life seems always the same, we need to flavor it with acts of righteousness. Smile at another. Give of your time. Share your resources. Each of these actions leads to our prayer life having some vibrancy about it.

As I look outside, I find bushes that have overgrown. I had been so busy that I failed to prune them. Our prayer life may be listless as a result of not pruning. We at times need to remove sin from our lives so that we want to pray. Sometimes we need to prune some friends from our lives because the fact that they are negative or that they lack purity. Friends can uplift us or they can drag us down. I am not saying remove all unbelievers from your life but if they are engaging in unfulfilling sinful behavior, it may affect your spiritual walk.

Finally, our listless prayer life may be that we need to walk through the desert of dry prayers so that we are prepared for a new stage in our spiritual walk. As the grass at times goes dormant and then bounces back in the fall so are we at times, we need to hang on through the dry time so that we may bounce back once we have walked through the desert.

Let us realize that our faith needs to be watered and pruned and focused on so that we can grow deeper in our walk with Christ. Then 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

This year, our newsletter articles will answer questions about how we support our church family. Since committee members “tidy the pews” weekly, we’ll begin with “What is the purpose of items in the pews?”

Each pew contains two hymnals, a New Revised Standard version Bible, a few bookmarks, and an attendance pad. The Bible is centered between the hymnals, emphasizing the importance of God’s word in our ministry. The hymnals represent the significance of music which presents God’s word in song through traditional hymns and contemporary praises.

The other holder includes ways for you to interact with our ministry. Offering envelopes remind us to give back to God a portion of what has been given to us. Folks may use these envelopes weekly or for occasional special offerings. Personal “numbered envelopes” are available upon request, allowing folks to monitor their offerings throughout the year. The bookmarks provide information about our ministry and offer a way to communicate with Pastor Mark.

Near the center aisle is the attendance pad. Signing the pad lets us know who worshiped with us. Passing the pad to others in the pew allows us to share a smile. Visitors who leave an address receive a letter from the church and a note from this committee. Different headings on the pew pad are ways to communicate with Pastor Mark. Passing the pew pad demonstrates the friendliness of our church family.

STEWARDSHIP

Why have a stewardship drive every fall? As each year winds down, we look forward to the coming year and how we might serve Jesus Christ. Stewardship supports both the “busyness” and the “business” of our ministry.

Throughout the year, our staff and volunteers are busy serving and sharing the love of Jesus with our congregation and the community. We offer activities at church almost every day: Sunday worship and Sunday school, committee meetings, Bible studies, Helping Hands, and coffee hours. In the community, we provide meals through Shepherd’s Table and the food bank. We offer a variety of mission outreach: Support the Harvest Hoedown by making scarecrows, offer the Living Nativity pageant, a Crosswalk and a Walk Through Jerusalem. These events keep our five staff and numerous volunteers busy!

Stewardship also provides financing for the business side of our ministry. Offerings and pledges from the congregation provide the salaries for our dedicated staff and the financial needs of our church building. The building requires insurance, utilities, and maintenance inside and out. While some of these jobs may be done by volunteers, most are done through companies who maintain the kitchen appliances, the heat and air conditioning, the custodial duties, etc. We benefit from their service to keep the “House” of God in working order, just like our own homes.

Stewardship reminds us that as we go about the busyness of serving Jesus, God provides us with the means to provide for the business side of ministry.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Mark will begin the Thursday evening Bible Study on September 17 and will go until Thanksgiving. The study will be on the Book of Colossians. The evening will go from 7:00 to 8:15 pm.

HARVEST HOEDOWN

Mark Your Calendar for Saturday October 3, 2026!

It's The Harvest Hoedown

We need many volunteers the day of the Hoedown, Saturday October 3, 2026. Volunteers from last year did such a great job working the Scarecrow area. Please sign up again. There are jobs for everyone.

If you are an early bird, we need you here at the church at 8:00 am to help load everything up to go to the park. There are 2 hour shifts for jobs such as Ticket booth, Clothes tables, supplies, babysitting bought scarecrows, helpers, and to sell premade Scarecrows. A big need for help is at 4:00 pm to load up to return everything to the church. We need help!

The sign up sheet for the volunteer jobs, at the Scarecrow Area is in the parlor. A Mission Committee member will be waiting there after each service in September to help you choose a job. Please sign up for a job and time slot that works for you !

This is the major fundraiser for the Williamsport Food Pantry to pay for rent, utilities and to purchase food from the Maryland Food Bank.

The Mission Committee Thanks you for your support for this Outreach Mission.

HARVEST HOE DOWN NEEDS FOR OCTOBER 3, 2026

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)
 - Hats, neckties, scarves, belts

Please note: We are no longer collecting clothes for Mission Week. Do not leave clothes in the hallway, except for scarecrows. Place your donations in the tub found in the hall outside of the office marked scarecrows.

The Mission Committee



PRESBYTERIAN MEN

The Presbyterian Men will meet on Tuesday, September 15 at 11:00 am and at 7:00 pm. There will be a Bible Study, fellowship, and prayer. The morning group will go to Marco's Restaurant 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. We are studying the book of James this year.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth will be attending Uprise, a Christian Music Festival, this year. The Festival will be Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12, in Shippensburg, PA. The cost is on the sign up sheet in the parlor. Please indicate whether you will attend one or both days.

The Youth Group will meet on September 13 at Pastor Mark's and Miss Annette's house. We will eat mountain pies, play games, and have a short Bible Study. The time will be the regular youth group time. Each youth is asked to bring a two liter of soda and a side dish.

The Youth Group will have Officer Elections on September 27, at the regular meeting. The Officer positions are: High School President, Middle School President, Vice President, Secretary, and Nominating Committee. You need to be a Church member to be the representative for the Nominating Committee.

The Youth and the rest of the Church will make Scarecrows for our Harvest Hoedown. We will begin on Sunday, September 27, at 5:00 pm. There will be a prize for the team that makes the most scarecrows.

SUPPER CLUB

We will be having our monthly Supper Club on Monday, September 28, 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.

FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS

Mary Ann Jung is an award actress and Smithsonian Scholar who previously portrayed Amelia Earhart several years ago here at St. Andrew. On September 18th, at 11:30, she will appear as Clara Barton, the Red Cross Angel. She was America's greatest heroine, faced bullying and bullets with astonishing bravery to save

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Our craft group is continuing to work and create 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!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL OFFERING

V.B.S. sent \$800.00 to Samaritan's Purse to help out with the programs of Hot Meals and Feeding Program, Clean Water Projects for Thirsty Families, and Emergency Medicine. Thank you to all who donated money to Samaritan's Purse during the week of V.B.S. We recently received a note of thanks from them:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift in honor of students at St. Andrew V.B.S. They have been notified of your generosity. This gift to Samaritan's Purse will be used to help hurting people as a tangible expression of God's love for them. Through relief projects in more than 100 countries around the world, we work to feed the hungry, care for the sick, minister to the suffering, and share the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Working with local churches and missionaries in strategic locations, each year we see thousands commit their lives to Christ and thousands more renewed and strengthened in their faith.

Your prayer and support help make it possible for us to share "the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all" (Acts 10:36b NIV) We deeply appreciate your partnership in the ministry of Samaritan's Purse. May God richly bless you. Sincerely, Franklin Graham

**Thank you for the gift made possible by Vacation Bible School Students of St. Andrew
Presbyterian Church. To Be Used For:**

Hot Meals and Feeding Programs

This gift enables Samaritan's Purse to support a variety of feeding programs, such as providing hot meals for those who lack access. Through these projects, our staff and partners are sharing the love of Jesus Christ, which is the "bread of life" (John 6:48)

Clean Water Projects for Thirsty Families

This gift enables Samaritan's Purse to provide families in impoverished communities with water filters, fresh water wells, latrines, and other clean water solutions and education while opening doors to share the "living water" of Jesus Christ (John 4:10-14)

Emergency Medicine

This gift equips Samaritan's Purse to deploy Emergency Field Hospital and provide life saving medical care to victims of war, disaster, or other crisis situations worldwide while introducing them to the Great Physician, Jesus Christ.

A NOTE FROM OUR MISSIONARY
JED KOBALL

Thank you for your continued prayers for Jenny, Thiago and I. We are all doing well. Thiago is 9 years old now and in the 4th grade (the school year started back in March). This year he is at a new school that specializes in working with kids who have ADHD and dyslexia, as is the case with Thiago. While changing schools is hard for any kid, we (and his teachers) have been pleased with how well he has adapted. Indeed he is already reading so much better than he was last year! He has also made friends very quickly which is a huge relief to Jenny and I. On the flip side, Jenny's and my work now requires us to travel more, and that has been difficult on him, but he is adjusting.

Apart from being away from home at times, I am enjoying getting to know new church partners across South America. Recently I was in Brazil and will actually be back in Brazil next month. After that I will head down to Paraguay. Jenny has also been traveling more this year - Korea, Philippines, Costa Rica, Guatemala. In fact she has been on the road more than me, which is probably what has been most difficult for Thiago. Grace and Peace, Jed

WORD SEARCH

Congratulations to those who completed The August Word Search.

Melanie Beckley	Debbie Kinzer
Scott Beckley	Jill Lampton
Cora Carson	Chris Lunsford
Kathy Carter	Debbie McCauley
Kenny Carter	Mark Mummert
Courtney Corkery	Linda Reid
John Harbaugh	Allison Yoder
Janet Hiett	Tom Young
Alice Johnson	

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.

SUNDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Come join us on Sunday evenings starting on September 20, 6-8pm in the Conference Room. We will be doing a study on Gideon by Priscilla Shirer. This will be a DVD/Workbook series. Here is a brief overview on the study:

Do you feel Overwhelmed? Inexperienced? Intimidated? Insufficient? Too old? Too young? Too invisible? Too afraid? Gideon's story involves far more than a wet fleece and a battle won with 300 soldiers. His epic victory actually tells of one man's struggle with his own weakness-and the One True God who transformed it into triumph. So, if you've ever struggled with insecurity or had trouble accepting your limitation, this study will help you see how God can use your weakness to unlock His strength. Yes, Gideon can attest weakness is a gift. Join Priscilla for a Bible study that will open your eyes to a brand new perspective on yourself and your God. Please sign up on the sign up sheet by September 13th. We want to make sure we have enough books for everyone. If you have any questions, please see Annette or Tammy Coyle.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

We are getting so excited about starting up a brand new year of Sunday School. We will be having a celebration of Sunday School on Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 in the Legacy Hall.

The Fellowship Committee will be providing breakfast at 9:30. During breakfast we will be highlighting our Sunday School Program and the importance of Sunday School for all ages.

After breakfast, we will be recognizing all Sunday School students from the 2025-2026 year. We will also be having a Welcome Certificate for anyone that is brand new that would like to join Sunday School for the new year. After a time of recognition and promotions for those moving up to a new grade levels there will be an Open House for all Sunday School Classes. The students will have the opportunity to see their classroom and their teacher and hear all about the exciting things that they will be learning this year.

There are 3 Adult Sunday School Classes available. The adults will have the opportunity to visit, see the Adult Classes, and see which one is right for them. Everyone is invited to this celebration! Sign up today!

SEPTEMBER **2026 COFFEE HOUR**

This month's coffee hour is on Sunday, September 20, 2026. Vivian Suffecool (parish 1), and Lauren Goodwin (parish 6) will be hosting September's coffee hour. If you are in parish 1, or 6, please let your parish leader know what you will be donating for the coffee hour. This helps us with planning. Thank you!



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.

September
October

Toilet Paper
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

THE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

“THE PERFECT FAMILY CHRISTMAS TRADITION”

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:

6:00–7:00 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**

Come join us on **Saturday, September 19, 5-7:00 pm** at the Southside Bowling Alley on Virginia Avenue. We will enjoy 2 hours of bowling and then come back to the church to enjoy some ice cream sundaes and talk about the highlight of our bowling games. Everyone of all ages is invited. We will be using the duck pins and bumpers are provided for the little ones. The cost is \$15.00 per person, which includes 2 hours of bowling and your shoes. You can pay when you arrive at the bowling alley. Hope you can join us. Please sign up if you plan on attending.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be starting our brand new year of Sunday School on September 20th. If you are not part of our Sunday School program we would love to have you join us this year. We have classes for all ages! Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45. The younger classes meet in the sanctuary from 9:45-10:00 for a brief Opening. At this time, we recite the Pledge to the Bible and to the Christian Flag. We also have a brief devotion and a time of prayer. We take up an offering. The offering goes to support our 2 sponsored children from the organization, Compassion International, and projects from Samaritans Purse. At 10:00 the students go to their classes. **Parents please note: If your child is in 3rd grade or below, please pick them up from their class at 10:45.**

We have 3 Adult Classes to choose from.

**** Voyager Class:** Is an interactive class. They choose the book to study and to discuss. The books are provided for the class. The Voyager Class is currently studying the book, *The Urgency of Slowing Down*, by Laura Smith. This class meets in the Conference Room.

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

**** The Travels of Paul Class:** This will be an interactive class on the Gospel of Matthew. Class is taught by Jason McDonald and meets in the Friendship Hall.

Each month we will be featuring the Importance of Attending Sunday School. This information is taken from the pamphlet 27 Reason Why You Should Attend Sunday School. This pamphlet is written by Rodney L. Pry, the Executive Director of the PA State Sunday School Association. This month we will be focusing on Sunday School's Primary Purpose is to Teach All Persons of All Ages God's Will For Their Lives.

"Call together all the men, women, and children, and the foreigners who live in your towns, so that everyone may hear it and learn to honor the Lord your God and to obey his teachings faithfully." (Deuteronomy 31:12)

When Robert Raikes started the very first Sunday School in Gloucester, England, way back in 1780, his purpose may have been a little different than the primary purpose that we see for Sunday School today. Raikes was concerned about the children of his community. This was near the start of the Industrial Revolution and children as young as 6 and 8 years of age were working long hours, six days a week in the factories of the London suburbs. Sunday was their only day off, and on that day, many of the kids were roaming the street in gangs, creating all kinds of trouble.