January 2024

**St.**

**Andrew’s**

**Messenger**

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St. Andrew’s United Methodist Church “growing in passion for God, showing compassion to all”

**Our Mission:** “To make disciples of Jesus Christ, who are growing in passion for God and showing compassion to all, by sharing God’s **REPAIRing Love.**”

**Our Vision:**

making disciples through

**R**adical hospitality

**E**xtravagant generosity

**P**assionate worship

**A**uthentic witness

**I**ntentional faith development

**R**isk taking mission

St. Andrew’s Web site: www.standrewsvalleyview.org

Pastor: Suzanne Elliott

570-682-3508 (office)

570-682-3520 (home)

e-mail: selliott@susumc.org

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently published an article on the effects of loneliness. It states "Loneliness and social isolation are serious public health risks affecting a significant number of people in the United States and putting them at risk for dementia and other serious medical conditions." The article goes on to state (essentially) that you can be around people on a regular basis and still feel lonely. The quality of your relationships is what matters.

This should be no surprise to us in the church! We were made to be in relationship with each other! God gave the Holy Spirit to a gathered group of people. Paul described the faith community as "the body of Christ." Even God's very nature is about relationship: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. The better the "quality" of our relationship with God, the more satisfying our faith is to us. In order to be our best spiritually, mentally, and emotionally, we need quality relationships with God and with others.

When the Christmas lights come down and the cold icy evenings are dark and long, loneliness is more real than ever. Don't let the darkness overwhelm you. Reach out to a friend. Try a new hobby. Visit the local library. Come on out to church! There will be a seat and a friendly smile waiting!

Sharing the warmth of Christ's love,

~Pastor Suzanne



**What’s Happening**

**MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY 2024**

St Andrew’s Council of Ministries has designated Israel as the Mission of the Month for January 2024. All donations made during the month of January will be sent to UMCOR to be directed to Israel.

UMCOR is assisting churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events – to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community’s ability to recover on their own.

As of the end of November, UMCOR has awarded emergency grants to local partners in Israel and Gaza. Partners are using funds for relocation support, food and hygiene kits for internally displaced people, psychosocial treatment and trauma counseling for women and children, and telemedicine services for disabled children in need of follow-up care, but without safe access to a clinic.

Your donations will go to help innocent people who have been affected by the war between Israel and Hamas. Millions of innocent people are affected and are without basic, everyday needs for survival. All through January we will be collecting monetary donations. These donations will be sent to UMCOR to be distributed to Israel to help alleviate the suffering. Donations can be made using your regular giving envelope. Simply indicate on your check and on the envelope the amount to be given to UMCOR for Israel. The Mission of the Month container will also be available each Sunday of January. All donations

placed in the container will be designated for UMCOR for Israel.

Thank you for your generous support for these, our brothers and sisters, who are suffering beyond anything we can imagine.



**Confirmation Class 2024**

Anyone in grades 6 and up that would like to take classes to prepare to join the church should sign up with Pastor Suzanne. Classes will start the week of January 28. Day and time will be coordinated among the members of the group.



**Giving Envelopes**

Giving envelopes are now available in the Fellowship Hall for pick up. Anyone not assigned an envelope number that wants one or anyone requiring access to the church during the week to pick up their envelopes, please call David Herb at 570-682-9346



UWIF sold 104 platters for the annual Thank Offering meal held November 12, 2023. Additionally, $570.00 in monetary donations was collected and will be submitted to the Conference. The World Thank Offering is a way for members of United Women in Faith to show gratitude for God’s blessings and find creative ways to raise funds to improve the lives of women, children, and youth. The meal that we host every November here at St. Andrews is our way to raise these funds. Thank you to all who purchased meals and made monetary donations. We also thank the staff at Bixler’s Meats of Hegins, for preparing and serving the meal and donating the left overs. The leftover meals were delivered to various shut-ins in our community. Through your gifts to the World Thank Offering, you support the total program of mission carried on through United Women in Faith’s national office in the United States and around the world.

Christmas Gift Bags were prepared and delivered to 20 of our Home Shut-ins, Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Rehab facilities residents. They were very grateful not only for the goodie bags but for the visits and prayers our ladies provided.

**Thank you note received:**

Thank you for the generous donation!

~Justin Bowman

**Altar Flower Chart** 

The 2024 chart is posted for the flowers to be placed on the altar.

If you want to honor or place flowers on the altar in memory of a loved one, please list your name on the chart.

You are responsible to order the flowers.

Notify the office with your announcement.



We received a very nice thank you letter from Pine Creek Outreach Ministry for our support of their Christmas ministry. It is hanging on the bulletin board in the entryway. Thank you for your generosity!

**2023 Contribution Statements**

Below are three options to request a print out

of your 2023 Contribution Statement

-        Call church office at 570-682-3508

-        Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall

-        Email church office

at [office@standrewsvalleyview.org](mailto:office@standrewsvalleyview.org)



**Office Hours and Information**

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Phone – 570-682-3508

[office@standrewsvalleyview.org](mailto:office@standrewsvalleyview.org)

**Newsletter Articles**

E-mail to the address below:

[office@standrewsvalleyview.org](mailto:office@standrewsvalleyview.org)

**Prayer Chain Contact**

Carole Hepler (570) 682-3301

[chelper@comcast.net](mailto:chelper@comcast.net)

**Upper Room Devotional**

The Upper Room provides a daily devotional for you to read.

It includes a Bible text, memory verse, inspirational reading, thought for the day, and a closing prayer. The prayer focus for that day is listed at the end.

Start each day with time for the Lord.

The books are available at the entrance doors.

**Pastoral Sons**

**Chaplain Glenn R. Scheib**, 95-957 Wikao Street Mililani, HI 96789

**Rev. David Wagner** 7517 S. 950 W-92 North Manchester, Indiana 46962

**Our Military**

**Major Jennifer Renninger**

512 American Legion, Pine Grove, Pa 17963

**Nursing Home – Assisted Living – Group Homes – Rehab, (family)**

Danville: Vanessa Weaver

Mt. Carmel Nursing Rehab Center

2610 Locust Gap Highway

Mt. Carmel, PA 17851

**Jeannette Zerbe**

Polk Personal Care Center

301 North Street,

Millersburg, PA 17061

**Roberta Huntsinger**

Pottsville Nursing & Rehab

420 Pulaski Drive

Pottsville, PA 17901

**Gail Bowman**

Providence Place, Pine Grove

24 Hikes Hollow Road,

Pine Grove, PA 17963

**Ella Artz, Marilyn Herb**

Rosewood Rehab. & Nursing Center

401 University Dr., Room 203C

Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

**Josie Artz**

Schuylkill Manor

1000 Schuylkill Manor Road

Pottsville PA 17901

**Tillie Wolfgang**

Tremont Health & Rehab Center

44 Donaldson Road

Tremont PA 17981

**Jo Ann Shade**



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| **Camp Ministry** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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2022

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| \*Bulletin deadline is Thursday at 9:00am\* | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
|  | Happy New Year! | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours | 6:00-7:45pm  Awana | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours |  | Epiphany of the Lord |
| **7**  **Epiphany Sunday** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** |
| 9:00am Worship  10:30am Sunday School |  | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours  6:30pm Trustees  7:30pm Adm Board | 6:00-7:45pm  Awana | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours  10:00am Senior Citizens |  | 4:00pm Hall Rental |
| **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** |
| 9:00am Worship  10:30am Sunday School |  | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours  1:00pm UWIF | 6:00-7:45pm  Awana | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours | Newsletter deadline |  |
| **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** |
| 9:00am Worship  10:30am Sunday School |  | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours | 6:00-7:45pm  Awana | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours  10:00am Senior Citizens |  |  |
| **28** | **29** | **30** | **31** |  |  |  |
| 9:00am Worship  10:30am Sunday School |  | 9:00-11:00am  Office Hours | 6:00-7:45pm  Awana |  | \*Watch the bulletin for Chancel Choir and Men’s Chorus Rehearsal Times\* |  |
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St. Andrew’s U.M. Church

PO Box 221

Valley View, PA 17983

\*address service requested

ST. ANDREW’S U.M. CHURCH

“S.A.M.”



**January 2024**