



# St. Andrew's

## Messenger

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:

Radical hospitality  
Extravagant generosity  
Passionate worship  
Authentic witness  
Intentional faith development  
Risk taking mission

**Pastor:** Suzanne Elliott  
570-682-3508 (Office)  
717-253-1263 (Cell)  
e-mail: [selliott@susumc.org](mailto:selliott@susumc.org)

### Office Hours and Information:

Secretary – Karen Koppenhaver  
Tuesday and Thursday:  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
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)

### St. Andrew's Web site:

[www.standrewsvalleyview.org](http://www.standrewsvalleyview.org)



*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength;  
they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and  
not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.*  
Isaiah 40:31

I've often heard a more seasoned adult look at a toddler with amazement and remark "If only I had that amount of energy!" The older we get the more we identify with this old saying, "My get up and go got up and went!" Feeling tired after a long day at work or a big project finished feels good. Unfortunately, most of us feel weary and we haven't done much. Our bodies are weaker than we like. Our minds and hearts are utterly drained of joy and filled with emptiness and despair at the state of the country and/or world. Energy drinks are wildly popular for a reason. So many feel wiped out and need an infusion of energy.

There are good and not so good ways to become energized. Energy drinks and other stimulants can be harmful to the body and spike an energy high which flips into an energy crash. God's remedy is so much better! First, remember that sabbath is holy rest. God felt that proper rest was so important, it became one of the Ten Commandments! Creating the right rhythm of work and rest is essential to sustainable energy. Second, prayer is the stabilizing energy for the soul, kind of like protein is the stabilizing energy for the body. If we're worked up about something stressful, prayer can bring us downward into a place of peace. If we're feeling low or depressed by circumstances around us, prayer can lift us up and give us hope. In a recent Sunday School lesson, Max Lucado suggested that if you're anxious and can't sleep you should read the Bible. Replace the anxious voice of worry with the calming truth of scripture.

After a long and very cold winter, we should all be feeling a little more energized. The sun is sending us some Vitamin D! God is speaking words of life and hope into our weary and anxious minds and hearts.

Blessings,

~Pastor Suzanne

# MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH

## SERVANTS TO ALL



*Servants to All* will be the designated Mission of the Month for May 2026. *Servants to All* is a 501 C (3), non-profit organization serving all of Schuylkill County. *Servants to All* provides homeless services, temporary housing, homeless prevention, street outreach, case management and supportive services. Supportive services include emergency food, clothing, transportation, prescription co-pays and assistance obtaining personal documents.

*Servants to All* also assists those who are either homeless, at risk of homelessness or experiencing other extreme financial difficulty. There are **no** fees charged to anyone who receives services from *Servants to All*.

We will be collecting the following items for *Servants to All*:

**HYGIENE ITEMS:** shampoo / feminine products / toothpaste / deodorant / soap / wet wipes / disposable razors / body or hand lotion / towels.

**CLEANING SUPPLIES:** toilet paper / all purpose cleaner / laundry detergent / hand sanitizer.

Items may be placed in the bin located in the Fellowship Hall during the month of May.

Thank you for your support of this critical ministry in Schuylkill County.

## Ways you can SERVE

St Andrew's is putting together a group of individuals willing to transport people to Dr. appointments, grocery stores, pharmacies, etc. Please **contact Mary Ellen Klebe at 570-728-9155** if interested in helping meet this need.

There will be two more sessions of the Youth Bible Study on Apologetics.

Time: 4:00-5:30pm.

**Sunday, May 3**

&

**Sunday, May 17**



**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026**

**5:00 - 7:30pm**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE NIGHT**

**TVHS STUDENTS – GRADES 9 -12**

This will be the last one for 2025-2026 school year! We will enjoy a meal and then have 2 hours of service work. Please RSVP to [office@standrewsvalleyview.org](mailto:office@standrewsvalleyview.org) so we have approximately how much to prepare for.



**Annual Conference Collection to benefit  
Mission Central**

This year our district is asked to contribute **Hand towels and erasers** for Activity kits and Health kits for Mission Central. All items must be new. Hand towels should **not** be microfiber, cleaning or kitchen towels. Erasers can be any color or size. A box will be provided at church for your donations. Deadline is Sunday, May 31.



## UWF DAUGHTERS DAY GATHERING

All girls & women of all ages  
are invited to celebrate being  
Daughters!

Date: Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:00pm

Bring your favorite dish to  
share. Sign up sheets in  
Fellowship Hall.

Fun, Food, Fellowship & Entertainment  
will be enjoyed!



## MAY/JUNE UPPER ROOM

The May/June devotional book has a colorful  
contemporary image on the cover. The name of the art is  
"IN TUNE." This women is Deborah, the prophet and  
leader of Israel. Page 2 tells you how to connect with  
her image. Please pick up your copy, pray, & meet with  
God daily. Copies are available at each entrance door.

## MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day Observance  
Frieden's Cemetery

May 24, 2026 @ 12:00 Noon

Join as the community remembers and  
honors those who served. Dave Williams will  
be the guest speaker. Also Rep. JoAnne  
Stehr will share. Sharol Snyder will sing our  
National Anthem and God Bless  
America. Jason Stutzman will play taps and  
we will have an Honor Guard do the 21-gun  
salute. If rain, services will be inside  
church. Bring your chairs.

## Wedding Congratulations



4/4/26

Juliana Reed & Michael Dunleavy

May God bless you as you begin your life together!

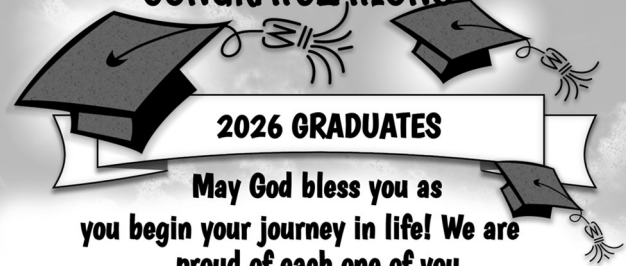
Congratulations on the Baptism of

Trinity Bernd

Welcome to our Church Family!



## CONGRATULATIONS



2026 GRADUATES

May God bless you as  
you begin your journey in life! We are  
proud of each one of you...

### TVHS Graduates:

Harlie Buchanan      Cash Lucas  
Avery Miller              Owen Miller  
Mikade Mowery              Kody Rebuck  
Elliot Stiely

### College Graduates:

Imanie Grimm  
Kelly Mattern              Casey McNally

St. Andrew's Graduation Recognition will  
be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> with a Reception  
Celebration following the worship  
service. All are invited to share this time  
with our 2026 Graduates!

## TVHS GRADUATION SERVICES

Baccalaureate Service – Wednesday, May  
27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm – Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Valley View

Graduation Ceremony – Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>  
@ 7:00pm - TVHS

## UPDATE ON TRANSITION

St. Andrew's transition period has been moving along at a steady pace. Once May arrives, the pace will pick up and changes will begin to happen more quickly. Pastor Suzanne and Pastor Andrew will both be working at their respective churches to ensure a smooth transition from their current positions into their new churches. As a congregation, we need to be keeping both Pastor Suzanne and Pastor Andrew and Megan in prayer for everything to flow in an orderly process, right down to the physical move.

St. Andrew's has formed our Transition Team which will be called upon to meet various needs throughout this transition period. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to ask any member of the team. The Team consists of: Dan Wagner; Jeff Kline; Faye Koons; Holly Koppenhaver; Karen Koppenhaver and Mary Ellen Klebe. If we don't have an answer for you, we will do our best to get one!

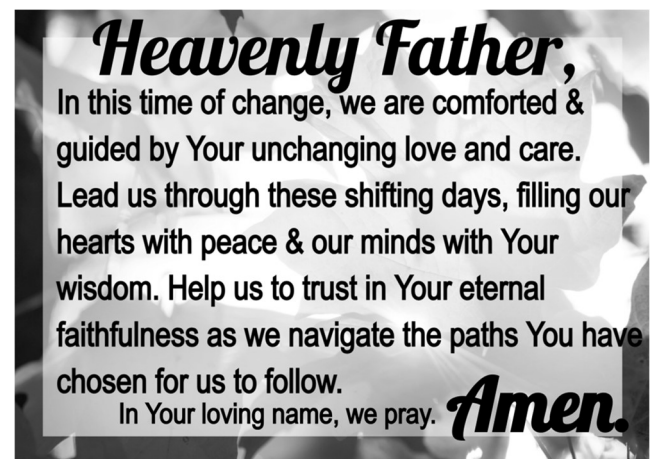
**We have scheduled Sunday, May 31, 2026 at noon for a time of celebrating with Pastor Suzanne. A meal is planned for noon.** Meat, stuffing, cake and drinks will be provided, with attendees providing sides and desserts. After the meal, there will be a Service of Sending, a time to recognize all that Pastor Suzanne has done for St Andrew's and an opportunity to release her and send her on to her next ministry field with our blessing. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the fellowship hall beginning Sunday, April 26, 2026 until Sunday, May 17, 2026. **It is important for you to sign up, as this will give us the approximate number we will need to prepare for.** Please plan to come and share in this time of celebration and closure.

May and June will be very busy months for Pastor Suzanne, as she will be working with Pastor Andrew and the Transition Team to ensure a smooth transition here at St. Andrew's. But she will also be working with the staff at Grace, Hummelstown to have a smooth transition as she assumes her duties there. Please shower her with grace and

mercy and lots of prayer as she works through this time of change.

I encourage all of us to trust God as we move through this time of change and remember Romans 8:28. "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Trust God that good is going to happen for Pastor Suzanne, Pastor Andrew and for St. Andrew's!

Mary Ellen Klebe, SPRC Chairperson








# PUZZLE



## BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.

-  VDEO \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 8:8)
-  LWO \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 102:6)
-  GEELA \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 40:31)
-  TOKRS \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 8:7)
-  APROSWRS \_\_\_\_\_

“Are not five \_\_\_\_\_ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many \_\_\_\_\_.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, sparrow



## FAREWELL CELEBRATION

Our Conference Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Gary Weaver, will be retiring as of June 30. Anyone from our District who would like to attend the Farewell Celebration is invited to attend!

**When:** Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ Noon-2:00pm  
**Where:** Fishing Creek Salem UMC  
**Address:** 402 Valley Rd., Etters, PA 17319



## LOOKING AHEAD



**Summer Ignite – Christmas in July!**  
**July 13, 14, 15 6:00-7:30pm**  
In place of a traditional VBS, join us for a summer session of Ignite. Let’s beat the summer heat with some winter themed fun & learning!



## Spring Revival

Faith UMC – Halifax  
May 14, 15, & 16 @ 6:30pm  
Saturday the **Nottingham Four Quartet** will be sharing music.  
Everyone is Welcome!



**Thanks,  
Everyone!**

Thank you so much for the Peanut Butter that was collected. We were blessed with 51 jars! This was delivered to Christ UMC, Tower City.

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Thank you to all who supported the CROP Walk. St. Andrew’s collected \$210! All is greatly appreciated!

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

**Randy Snyder  
Vanessa Weaver**

*Schuylkill Manor*

1000 Schuylkill Manor Road  
Pottsville PA 17901  
**Tillie Wolfgang**

*Edenbrook Greenwood Hill*

420 Pulaski Drive  
Pottsville, PA 17901  
**Gail Bowman**

*Providence Place, Pine Grove*

24 Hikes Hollow Road  
Pine Grove, PA 17963  
**Marilyn Herb, Dolores Stutzman,  
Larry Wetzel**

*Tremont Health & Rehab Center*

44 Donaldson Road  
Tremont, PA 17981  
**Roger Schwalm**

*Cedar Haven Healthcare Center*

590 S. 5th Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
**Sandy Bordlemay**

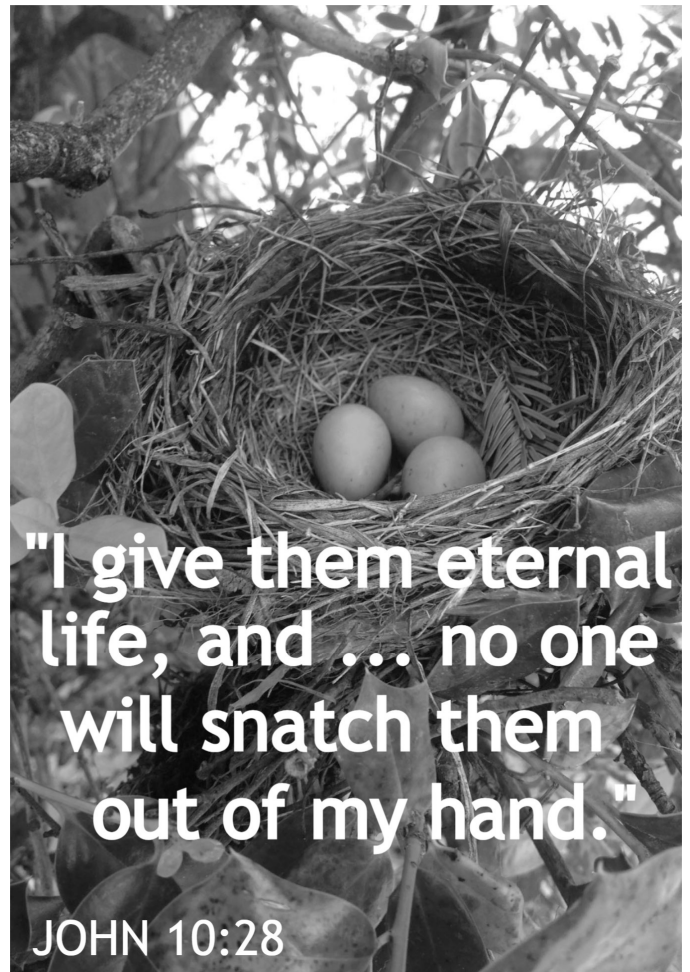
*Capital Rehabilitation*

4000 Linglestown Road, Room 105  
Harrisburg, PA 17112  
**Denise Schlegel**



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

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



Following is a letter we received from our former missionaries, Mark & Deirdre Zimmerman. God is using their gifts and talents right here in the US.

*We have not stopped praying for you.*  
Colossians 1:9

Dear Friends,

9 April 2026

As I left the service and walked into the church lobby to greet parishioners, Jim motioned me aside. "Can I have a word with you, Mark?"

"Sure, Jim," I replied, as I glanced over at others exiting the sanctuary door.

He drew a breath. "Wednesday, my doctor said I'd had a heart attack."

That got my attention.

"Really?! What were your symptoms?"

"No symptoms. It was on my cardiogram."

"Wow. That sounds serious, Jim." I considered it. "Did he say anterior or inferior?"

"I have no idea, but he also said I have diabetes."

"Hmm. Well that too has degrees. Did he mention your hemoglobin A1C level?"

"No."

"OK. Well, let's find a time to sit down and talk."

The next morning I opened an email from Jim: *When I spoke with you yesterday, Mark, I was kind of hoping you'd have on your Jesus hat, not your doctor hat.*

It's now been two years since Deirdre and I moved to this New Hampshire town for me to pastor its United Methodist Church. Our being 'called' away from long missionary stints in Nepal (and mine away from medicine) was initially startling, but a series of 'open doors' ushered us onward. Without knowing my academic background, the New England Bishop coincidentally posted us to the same town where I'd been a medical student forty years before.

While many missionaries returning to their 'home countries' face a series of empty life boxes, many of ours were already filled when we arrived here. We didn't have to search for 'the right location' or for a church. I had a job waiting and Deirdre soon found hers in the local medical center. Here was a collection of folks who were keen to get to know us (and even hear Nepal stories) and we began regularly inviting them over for meals. On days off, we took to exploring hiking trails leading to remote lakes and up mountains.

We live in a parsonage just across the road from the church and a half block from a cute, classic New England town square. The house is huge, allowing for our boys Zachary and Benjamin to each have their own rooms. Zac has his first post-university job on the South Asian desk of a DC organization working on global peace and security, while Benjamin is a year away from completing university in Philadelphia. We're glad they've come to call this place 'home,' since they initially weren't happy about us moving out of the family homestead in Kathmandu.

Deirdre got a promotion soon after she joined the clinical nutrition team at the local medical center, but she still doesn't feel completely settled professionally. US medicine tilts more towards computer screens than to patient interaction – a contrast with the work she poured herself into back in Patan Hospital. She gives and gets a lot of love in our church community, and we've always seen this calling as a partnership. Following is a letter we received from our former missionaries, Mark & Deirdre Zimmerman. God is using their gifts and talents right here in the US.

On the same afternoon I received my license to practice as a local (nonordained) pastor, my urologist informed me of my diagnosis of locally advanced prostate

cancer. This next 'coincidence' made me wonder what God had in mind. It turned out the new career of prayerfully diving into the Word, preaching, and supporting the local flock was itself a nurture for me as I went through cancer treatments. I emerged from that first year as a pastor healthier in body and spirit.

So, why at this point are we writing you a prayer letter? Didn't we retire from the 'mission field' back in 2023? Who gets to write a missionary letter anyway? Good questions. I suppose, we have found ourselves in a land which seems as much a mission field as Nepal – discovering for ourselves the universality of Christ's mission. And as much as ever, we are still *'standing in the need of prayer.'*

As time goes on, we see more clearly the need for more of Jesus' love in this community too, for a deeper Bible journey and prayer life by this congregation, and for a force to counter the strong secular undertow of this divided country. As time goes on, and our invitations to local mission projects and devotionals are met with not so much fervor, this job's challenges become more apparent.

Our 'missionary years' led us to cherish the support of praying friends like all of you around the world. We counted any fruits we'd experienced in Nepal as being linked to this prayer circle. We realize we need that just as much now as before. And we'd like to pray for you, too. Please let us know your issues.

We only intend this to be an occasional letter. Nevertheless, if this piece of mail is just a bother, let us know and we'll 'unsubscribe' you right away.

Jim (name changed), whom I met after church that Sunday, hadn't had a heart attack after all. He and his wife went on to found our church's first small group, kickstarting a movement that is gaining some momentum. I still have to remind myself to keep my stethoscope packed safely away.

Blessings of Spring to you all.

Love,  
Mark & Deirdre



# MAY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>1 Corinthians 3:6</i></p>					1	2
3	4	5 5:00-7:30pm – Community Service Night	6	7	8	9 12:00 – 2:00pm Farewell for DS Gary Weaver
10 <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	11	12 6:30pm – Trustees 7:30pm – Ad Board	13	14 10:00am – Sr. Citizens 7:00pm – Ascension Day Service – Valley View Church of God	15	16
17 Graduate Recognition	18	19 6:00pm – UWF Daughters Day Gathering	20	21	22	23
24	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27 7:00pm – Baccalaureate – Trinity Lutheran	28 10:00am – Sr. Citizens	29 7:00pm – TVHS Graduation	30 Building Rental
31 12:00pm – Sending Off Gathering for Pastor Suzanne						

## NOTES:

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 9:00 am SUNDAY SCHOOL – 10:30 am

OFFICE HOURS – Tuesday & Thursday – 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

BULLETIN DEADLINE – Thursday – 9:00 am

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Third Friday of Month

\* Watch bulletin for changes/information



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."



**MAY 2026**