

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: Andrew Burd-Harris
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570-854-9940 (Cell)
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Office Hours and Information:

Secretary – Karen Koppenhaver
Tuesday and Thursday:
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
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office@standrewsvalleyview.org

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office@standrewsvalleyview.org

Prayer Chain Contact:

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www.standrewsvalleyview.org



I write this note surrounded by chaos. Moving boxes and paper all around. Books hastily thrown on shelves. Pathways obstructed. The moment feels a little overwhelming. I struggle to find things at the best of times, and now it feels impossible.

When we read the beginning of the book of Genesis, God creates the universe, and then there is chaos. God spends six days bringing order out of disorder. By the seventh day, God organized the disordered chaos. Our beautiful world emerged. I take comfort in this.

Our world and our lives often seem chaotic. Plans coming head-to-head with unanticipated challenges. Reality often rains on our dreams. Season of joy can be interrupted by storms of anxiety, fear, and sadness.

God did not create the world all in one day. In the beginning, it was chaotic and nothing like the world we enjoy today. Out of chaos, God orders a world full of wonder, life, and joy. And God did not stop there! The Book of Revelation reveals God is "making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, *NRSV*). Jesus came, in part, to bring healing and wholeness to the damage and destruction of sin and death.

Although I doubt Deacon Megan and I will unpack and organize our things soon (especially not within seven days), I am grateful that God is with us amid the chaos. Whether it is the disorder of moving or the challenges of living, God offers us grace and strength, hope and possibilities.

My sermons in July and part of August will focus on those hopes and possibilities. We will explore our dreams, and God's dreams. How God brought order to creation in the very beginning, because we, as individuals, and as a church, are one of God's dreams.

Deacon Megan and I would like to thank you for your prayers, your preparations, and your labor in welcoming us. We feel blessed to be part of your church family and part of the larger Valley View community. You have made us feel so welcome, and we are thankful to you! In the weeks and months to come, I look forward to meeting you and learning your stories as we explore what God has in store for us.

~Pastor Andrew

JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Child Evangelism Fellowship



July's mission of the month will go to support Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of Schuylkill County. CEF operates in most of Schuylkill County School districts including Hegins-Hublely and Mahantongo Elementary Schools. They also operate summer camps throughout Schuylkill County including one that is held at the Valley View Park. In addition, they hold day camps in people's home, Soccer Clubs and Christmas parties.

At all of these events our children learn the gospel message and the children are given the opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. They also encourage the children to grow in their faith by attending church, reading their Bible and prayer. They give Bibles to any child who does not have one and also provide them with a devotional guide. If a child so chooses, they can also receive weekly lessons from the mailbox lady.

Your support will go to help CEF ministry with their operating costs and also help them to obtain Bibles and devotional guides, camp supplies, etc. As someone who has taught and helped with this ministry for many years, I can attest that it is truly a worthwhile ministry for our young people. Your financial support will help CEF continue meeting the needs of the children and youth of Schuylkill County. Also remember to support our children and this ministry by uplifting them in your prayers.



July 6-10, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 3:00p.m.
Valley View Park

THE UPPER ROOM: The July/August devotional book has contemporary art entitled *I Shall Not Want*. The image depicts our Lord, the good shepherd. Page 2 tells how to reflect this image in your life. Please pick up your copy and read, pray, and study the scriptures daily. The booklet is available at each entrance door.

Summer IGNITE

July 13, 14, 15
6:00 - 7:30pm

Christmas in July!

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!

**Church Secretary will be on
VACATION July 17-26**



**Please have all
information for the
7/19 & 7/26 Sunday
bulletins in by 7/16.**

**Can You
Spare
A Drop?**

St. Andrew's will be hosting a **Blood Drive**, **July 28, 2026** from 1:00pm-6:00pm. You can make an appointment to donate blood at redcross.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends at St. Andrew's UMC,

On behalf of Servants to All, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for selecting us as your May Mission of the Month and for the generous donations you collected. Your support comes at a time when hygiene items and basic necessities are urgently needed. Your kindness will directly impact the men and women we serve here in Schuylkill County.

Because of your compassion, our neighbors experiencing homelessness will have access to essential items that help restore dignity, comfort, and hope. Your congregation's commitment to serving others truly reflects the heart of your ministry and we are grateful to be the recipients of such thoughtful care.

Thank you for standing with us and for helping us continue our mission. Your partnership strengthens our work and uplifts our community in meaningful ways.
Sincere appreciation,
Jeanette Triano Sinn, Executive Director

Just a Note: St. Andrew's also received \$296 which was sent to Servants to All. Thank you all for your generous giving.



The following is a poem Patricia Williams found. It is a beautiful poem about lives and knowing the Lord. I tried to find who wrote it, but had no luck.

The Candle Poem



Just see how short
this candle is,
This candle that I hold;
It represents a man
who found
The Lord when he was
old!
And though his light is
shining now
And bright beyond a
doubt,

He hasn't much to give because
His light will soon be out.

This candle that I have will burn
Much longer than the other;
I love its glowing light, don't you?
It represents a mother!
Who found the Lord in middle age,
Her children were all grown.
If only she had known the Lord
When they were still at home!

This candle is a longer one;
It represents a youth
Who gave his heart to God and walked
The path of right and truth!
His light can shine out long and bright;
With many trophies won
With more to give because he found
The Lord when he was young.

This candle is the longest one
I'm sure you'll like it best.
Because you know 'twill shed its light
Much longer than the rest.
It represents a little child,
Who heard the call and came.
With many years to serve the Lord
And shine in Jesus's name.

2026 SUSUMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT – DAN WAGNER

First, I want to thank the church for allowing me to represent our congregation at the Susquehanna Conference of the UMC 2026 Annual Conference. Each session included worship, singing, and prayer along with conducting the business of the church.

This year's AC was non-confrontational and had an atmosphere of cooperation and working together. The theme this year was "Rise Up and Love Boldly". St Andrew's Mission Statement aligns well with this theme - ***Radical hospitality, Extravagant generosity, Passionate worship, Authentic witness, Intentional faith development.***

Our Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez was again, a spirited, welcoming, and personable force, who focused on the Glory of God, and showed a personal relationship with Christ. The realignment with northern New York, and the assignment of Bishop Hector seems to be working very well for our conference. Bishop Hector emphasized the importance of small churches and the impact that they can make.

All the resolutions brought up this year were without deep disagreement, and much of the time was spent on resolutions to acknowledge stands on various topics. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am not a big fan of "feel good" resolutions that simply show support of a topic or idea without any concrete, measurable outcomes.

Then, on Friday, our incoming pastor, Rev. Andrew Burd-Harris presented a resolution. He presented a video and motion to support raising \$1.5 million dollars (expected over 3 years) to fund the building of a women's dorm at African University. He noted how the college currently graduated 96% of their students from 30 different countries, and how the women's dorm was needed to provide safe housing for students that might otherwise need to travel off campus for housing. The resolution was passed with no opposition, and I felt good about the outcome.

Then during Saturday's session, I was even more moved. A gentleman came to the microphone and asked to "suspend the rules to be able to address a Resolution from Friday". I don't recall the exact legal term used, but he was granted permission and addressed the African University Dorm resolution. He made a motion to create a group to perform a feasibility study concerning the current availability of funds to provide the \$1.5 million by the end of 2026. His points were –

- 1) The need is now, not in three years
- 2) The costs will only rise
- 3) If we have the faith that we can raise the money to support this resolution, then let's give the money to them now, and fundraise to replenish the funds.

The motion passed with no opposition. For me, this was the highlight of the business portion of this year's Annual Conference and showed how our faith should work. It also got me thinking about another opportunity that St Andrews might have. There was a presentation to a UMC in Woolrich, Pa that was reaching youth and had funded two campers this year and hoped to be able to fund four next year. I will be bringing up at another meeting that I could like our Council on Ministries to consider either a Mission of the Month or using some of our camping funds to support additional youth at Woolrich.

We should pray that with the realignment and our current bishop that we continue to be the hands, feet, and face of Christ in our communities.

Again, let me thank the church for providing me with this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Wagner / AD Board Chairman and Lay Member to the Annual Conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 REPORT

RISE UP! ...Love BOLDLY / Serve JOYFULLY / Lead COURAGEOUSLY

Karen Koppenhaver

I would like to begin with saying, "Thank You." This was the 7th Annual Conference at which I have had the opportunity to represent St. Andrew's as a Lay Representative. As usual, the days were busy with much going on.

Thursday began with the Laity and Clergy each having their separate Opening sessions. Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez spoke to the Laity session first and then he also shared with Clergy. During the Laity session he told us that both Clergy and Laity are both equally important...God calls All to serve. Jesus Christ is leader and teacher of All.

Bishop Hector stressed we were to come with the expectation that God will do only what God can do! He also thanked Laity, praised and encouraged us for all that we do in our churches. Laity is everyone in our congregation! He also said Laity is the engine that keeps the church moving. We are the foundation of the church. Since that is the case, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and fill others with that spirit of love.

The Youth shared with us as well. We often say they are the future of the church. They are the church NOW! They must be taken seriously...listen to them, allow them to question, invite them to be part of the church life, include them now, not later. We need to remove barriers, invest in our Youth...camps, missions, activities. We need to give them the opportunities to lead and serve.

There will be 10 youth traveling to Ireland to be joining youth from around the world for the Global Young

People's Convocation in July. Pray for safety as they travel and for the Spirit to guide them.

We are never too young or old to serve God. Our work and service may and will change as our lives change. Our love of the Lord will grow deeper and stronger as we serve. We are to serve with bold love. The question was asked if we are just playing church or are we truly serving the Lord? We need to have deeper love in Jesus and wider love of neighbors.

I enjoy the One Church Matters Award. It is amazing to hear and see what these small churches are doing. The people they are reaching and children they are leading. Pastor Suzanne's brother-in-law, Pastor Michael Bentz's church was one of the churches that received the award. There is one church from each District receiving this award. There was also a church receiving the New Places, New People Award.

The Susquehanna Conference and the Upper New York Conference are both led by Bishop Hector. The conferences are working together...Connectivity in Action. Together we can change one by one, church by church, nation by nation.

There is a small church movement. Smaller does not mean weaker; Fewer does not mean not enough; Different does not mean less than. Real ministry begins in the local churches. We need to seek God's will for our congregations. Many times, we want something completely different from God's will. **The mission is God's, not ours.** We become paralyzed when we continue "because that's how we always did it." We need to be willing to learn new ways of doing things, get rid of programs/ways that are no longer working to reach people. Faithfulness is letting go of what no longer works and looks into the future of faithfulness for generation to come.

There was a celebration for the 70th year of Women's Ordination. It was also the 30th year of Deacons in the Susquehanna Conference.

We have 22 Retiring Pastor, 2 Ordained Pastors, 1 Associate Member, and 2 Commissioned Pastors. Retired Bishop Neil Irons participated in the Service.

The work of the Annual Conference consisted of hearing several resolutions brought before the floor.

The one that really impressed me was the building of the African University Women's Dormitory. Many young women have no place to live while attending the university and traveling is unsafe. The young women upon graduating, return to their towns/villages and teach the people ways to better their communities. The NY Conference has agreed to join with Susquehanna Conference to raise \$1.5 million. The following day, we heard a resolution to put the money out now to start the construction sooner than waiting till we raise the money. Prices will go up and time is wasted getting it started. The Susquehanna Conference has the funds to do this and can raise the money to reimburse the funding. It was put to a vote and accepted.

Conference leadership positions were voted on, approximately 10 resolutions accepted, and all went without much discussion or tension.

We have also been blessed these last 4 years with the housing for Dan, Pastor Suzanne and myself. We have not had any hotel expenses! Pastor Suzanne's relative, Eleanor, has graciously provided lodging for Pastor and me. Duane and Terry Bardo have graciously provided lodging for Dan.

Again, I want to express my gratitude for allowing me to represent St. Andrew's at Annual Conference. I have made the decision this was my

last Annual Conference. It is a learning opportunity and inspiring to see what others are doing for the Lord. I pray someone will feel the call to represent our church. It is a life-time commitment to serve our Lord; Annual Conference is not!

God's blessings,
Karen Koppenhaver, Lay Leader
AC Lay Representative



GOD'S CREATION

It's hard to believe that summer is here!
We've had the heat to know it's here!!
The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, the trees are green. On the next page you will find a little hummingbird flying over flowers. God has made nature so exact for each creature. Enjoy the beauty of God's earth and all He blesses each of us with. As you color the picture, remember that you are also a special creation, designed specifically by God.



AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH



Backpacks for Schuylkill County Children and Youth

Children entering an out of home placement can often have a scary experience. Some have no belongings or anything to call their own and if they do, they are often dirty and in garbage bags. Something as little as them having their own **blanket, tooth brush, pajamas or personal care items** in their own bag could make significant difference.

A younger child they may enjoy a small toy, stuffed animal or craft. Older children, a boy or a girl, may like a deodorant or a body spray.

These items will hopefully help a child feel more at home and in their adjustment to their new home.

Children's ages could be from infant to 17 years old.

Please label backpack for appropriate age.



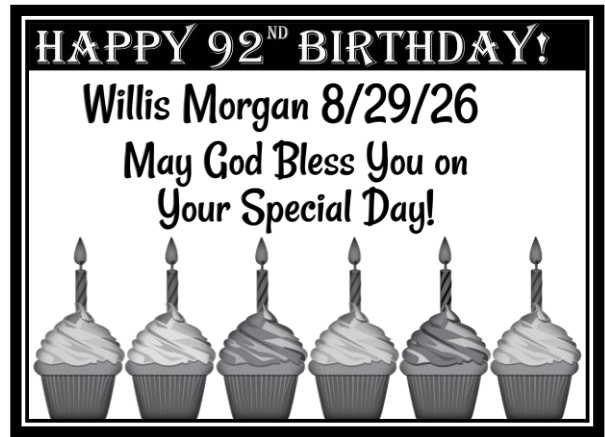
It's time for another fall football season and **5th Quarter!** We offer a safe space for fellowship as well as free pizza, snacks and drinks following the football

game until 11:00pm. See Steve Reitz to donate snacks, drinks, or your time. Regular home games are on the following dates:

August 28 / September 11

October 2 / October 9 / October 23

(any additional home playoff games will be announced later):



A Child's Prayer...

Written by a 12-Year- Old Girl

Now I sit me down in
school

Where praying is against
the rule.

For this great nation
under God,

Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
Anytime my head I bow,
Becomes a federal matter now.

The law is specific; the is precise,
Praying out loud is no longer nice.
Praying aloud in a public hall,
Upsets those who believe in nothing at
all.

In silence alone we can meditate,
And if God should get the credit-great!
They are bringing their guns;
I don't dare bring my Bible,
To do so, might make me liable.

So, now Oh Lord, this plea I make;
Should I be shot in school,
My soul, please take.

*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**

Cedar Haven Healthcare Center

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

Capital Rehabilitation

4000 Linglestown Road
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





JULY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."</i> <i>John 8:36</i>			1	2	3	4 <i>Happy 250th Birthday, USA</i>
5	6 9:30AM - 3:00PM GOOD NEWS DAY CAMP <i>Watch bulletins for Men's Chorus & Chancel Choir</i>	7 9:30AM - 3:00PM GOOD NEWS DAY CAMP	8 9:30AM - 3:00PM GOOD NEWS DAY CAMP	9 9:30AM - 3:00PM GOOD NEWS DAY CAMP 10:00am – Sr. Citizens	10 Secretary Vacation	11 Secretary Vacation
12	13 6:00 – 7:30pm IGNITE	14 6:00 – 7:30pm IGNITE	15 6:00 – 7:30pm IGNITE	16 Bulletin information for the 19 th & 26 th into office today	17 Secretary Vacation	18 Secretary Vacation
19 Secretary Vacation	20 Secretary Vacation	21 Secretary Vacation	22 Secretary Vacation	23 10:00am – Sr. Citizens Secretary Vacation	24 Secretary Vacation	25 Secretary Vacation
26 Secretary Vacation	27	28 2:00pm -7:00pm BLOOD DRIVE	29	30	31	

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





AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."</i> <i>Proverbs 3:5-6</i>						1
2	3 Watch bulletins for Men's Chorus & Chancel Choir	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 10:00am – Sr. Citizens	14	15
16	17	18 12:00pm – UWIF Picnic @ VV Park	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 10:00am – Sr. Citizens	28 5 th Quarter	29
30	31	 God's Blessings for a Great School Year!				

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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."



JULY / AUGUST
2026