

***The Prayer of Dedication** *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, we give our best to you with deep gratitude. You are our support in times of need. You are the fount of all goodness, the source of life itself. With praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings, we dedicate these offerings and our lives to your service. Amen.

Communion Hymn #5 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" *(Presby Hymnal)*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Communion Prayer

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

(Please wait until all have been served so that we may share the bread and cup together)

Prayer

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

***The Hymn #432** "Song of Hope" *Presby Hymnal)*

***The Benediction**

***The Benediction Response** "Amen" Chancel Choir

***The Postlude** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

~Welcome to Saint Andrews~

The Church Nursery is available for children through kindergarten age

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

201 E. Jefferson Street, Butler, PA 16001 Phone: (724) 287-4777

Website: www.standrewsupc.org Email: office@standrewsupc.org

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2017

1st Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

The Lighting of the Candles

Kevin Golden

Announcements

Exchange of Greetings

Introit

"With Open Hearts"

Chancel Choir

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Hope Candle

Leader: Advent is a season of watching and waiting.

People: We wait for Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth.

Leader: We wait for the day when Christ will come again and God's reign will be complete,

People: The prophet Isaiah tells us, "For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples;

Leader: But the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will appear over you."

People: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of God's light into the world;

Leader: for in this light, there is hope.

The Congregation Sings in Response "The Candle of Hope"
(Sung to the tune of "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above")

The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.

The Call to Worship

Bonnie Martin

Leader: Gracious God, shake us awake, for we await you.

People: We wait for signs of hope.

Leader: Renewing God, awaken the earth and come, for we await you.

People: We wait for signs of peace.

Leader: Surprising God, tear open the heavens and come, for we await you.

People: We wait for signs of joy.

Leader: Mysterious God, enliven our hearts as we worship you in wonder.

People: We wait for signs of love, on this day and in this season.

The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

Ever-present God, Christ taught us that he would return suddenly and unexpectedly. Empower us to wait with patient anticipation for the coming of your Son. Guide us into true readiness. Wake us up; shake off the cobwebs of our complacency. Plant your hope within us so that we may live in faithful expectation, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***The Opening Hymn #11** “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” *(Presby Hymnal)*

(Ushers will collect prayer requests. Please pass them to the side aisles.)

The Prayer of Confession

God who is with us, and God who is on the way, we confess that we do not wait or watch for you. Our energies and attention are focused on other things—on too crowded schedules, on the demands of work and family, on fulfilling the desires of our often selfish hearts. Sometimes, we forget that you are with us. Often, we forget that you will come again. Forgive us, Lord. Awaken us to your will and fit us for your coming, so that we may watch for you with confidence and hope, through the grace of Christ. Amen.

A Time of Silent Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Congregation Sings in Response “Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Church in Proclamation

The Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9

O.T. p. 694

Mark 13: 24 – 37

N.T. p. 50

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

The Sermon

“A Plea to Heaven”

Rev. Merry Meloy

The Hymn #8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

(Presby Hymnal)

*The people will rise in body or spirit

The Church Responds

***The Affirmation of Faith** - Apostles' Creed *(In Unison)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offertory Invitation

We have been enriched and strengthened in so many ways by the gifts of God. Now we have the privilege of sharing God’s Word with the world. Our offerings enable our church’s witness in this community and a caring outreach around the globe. Let us give as we have been blessed.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers located near the center aisle.

Thank you!

The Offertory

“Is Your Heart Prepared for a King”

Chancel Choir

***The Congregation Sings in Response** #7 “Praise God,…”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

This Week at Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 3, 2017
1st Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM – Sunday School
10:30 AM – Worship with Communion
11:30 AM – Sunday Lunches (provided by the Ripper Family)

Monday, December 4, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous
6:30 PM – Deacons

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous
5:00 PM – Community Dinner – Saint Andrews Manna Team
5:15 PM – Youth Program
8:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday, December 7, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous
6:15 PM – Canticle Ringers
7:30 PM – Chancel Choir

Friday, December 8, 2017

11:00 AM – Narcotics Anonymous
6:00 PM – Christmas Cookie Walk Set Up

Saturday, December 9, 2017

8:00 AM – Christmas Cookie Walk Set Up
9:00 AM – Christmas Cookie Walk and Alternative Gift Fair

Next Sunday, December 10, 2017
2nd Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM – Sunday School
10:30 AM – Worship

Worship Attendance for November 26, 2017: 61

Worship Leadership

Ushers: Jon McKay Natalie McKay Paul Perry Peggy Douthett
Acolyte: Kevin Golden
Liturgist: Bonnie Martin
Micro Message: None
Flower Delivery: Barb Hutchison
Open the Church: Paul Perry
Close the Church : Jon McKay

Next Week: Ben Grossman
Next Week: Carol Israel
Next Week: Susan Race
Next Week: Shari Manos
Next Week: Paul Perry
Next Week: Dan Mulneix

The Flowers today are given by Bonnie and David Martin in honor of Isabell Bacher's birthday and in memory of Clifford Bacher.

Prayer Requests can be made by using the purple prayer request cards found in the pew racks. Pass your requests to the center aisle during the Opening Hymn. They will be distributed to our Prayer Team to be included in this week's prayers.

Restrooms: From the front of the sanctuary, use the left entrance (by the piano) and follow the hallway to the right. The restrooms are down the hall on the left. From the rear of the sanctuary, turn left and go downstairs. The restrooms are at the end of the hallway.

Child Care: The Church Nursery is available for children through kindergarten age. To find the nursery, please go to the left front entrance of the sanctuary and follow the hallway to the right. The nursery is on the left. If your child would like to be rocked during worship, a rocking chair is available on the left side of the sanctuary.



Happy Birthday

December 3 David Fleeger
December 4 Isabell Bacher

New Church Directories



Updated Church Directories are now available. To pick up your copy, just see our volunteers in the Narthex before or after worship. Thanks!

Calling All Carolers and Choristers

Do you like to sing? Have you ever thought about joining the choir, but can't make a full year commitment? Then this opportunity is just for you! Please consider joining the Chancel Choir for the Christmas Eve service. **NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.** We are not looking for soloists, just more voices to fill out the sound. We'll have 3 evening rehearsals. They'll be on:



Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 pm



We also have a rehearsal tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning, December 23rd.

Rehearsal recordings will be available.

Questions? Please contact Deanna at 724-504-9853. Come and join the fun!

Upcoming Music Events



The Pittsburgh Symphony and Mendelssohn Choir (and Deanna Golden) are currently preparing several performances that may be of interest. The Promo Code PSOMCP will grant you a 20% discount on tickets at heinzhall.com.

Haydn's Creation: This afternoon at 2:30 pm
Musicians, actors, and projected images will bring to life the conversation about evolution and creation.

Holiday Pops: Fridays, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, at 8:00 pm
Saturdays, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, at 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm
Sundays, Dec. 10 and Dec. 17, at 2:30 pm

The Trinity Music Group Big Band (and Kyle Golden) will be performing on:
Saturday, Dec. 9, at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople at 7:00 pm
Monday, Dec. 11, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Butler at 7:00 pm

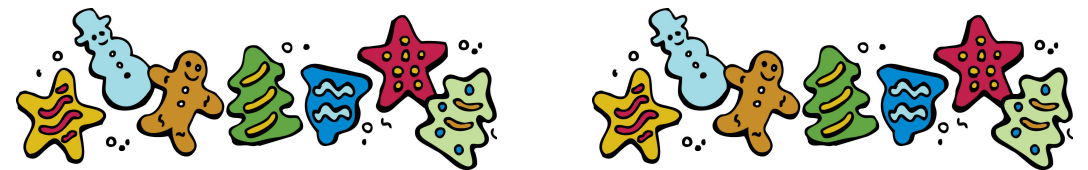
The concerts are free but there will be a free-will offering. Everyone is invited!

Christmas Cookie Walk This Saturday, December 9, 2017

Mark your calendars, find your favorite recipes, and warm up your ovens! Saint Andrews' Christmas Cookie Walk is this Saturday, December 9, from 9:00 am to noon. We'll have a wonderful assortment of cookies for sale on tables in the Bethany Room. Each customer will be able to walk from table to table to select their own unique combination of holiday goodies.

For the event to be successful, we need your help! We're asking for volunteers to make cookies (lots and lots of cookies!) and volunteers for December 9, the day of the walk. We'll need helpers to put cookies in boxes for customers, restock trays, and help set up and clean up. We'll be setting up in the Bethany Room on Friday, December 8, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Cookies can be dropped off then or on Saturday, December 9, from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

If you can lend a hand, please sign up in the Narthex, see Kendra Mulneix, or call the church office (724-287-4777). And then spread the word so we have lots of customers!



Alternative Gift Fair



Attention all Christmas shoppers! Are you struggling to find the perfect gift for someone special? Are you looking for a unique present for someone who seems to have everything? Saint Andrews Youth Group has a great solution. Come to our Alternative Gift Fair at the Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9th. We'll have all kinds of cool gifts that benefit those in need!

“Peace on Earth, Good Will to All!”

Do you chew on more than turkey at your family holiday gatherings? Does a large helping of frustration get dished out sometime between the mashed potatoes and the pie? Do differences in daily experiences, politics, or lifestyles rob you of the joy of being together? Are you missing the “Peace on Earth” part?

This month, Samaritan Counselor Ellen Knox will lead a three part series on how to have difficult conversations. In our polarized world, it’s often hard to have opposing views without sparking personal opposition. Join us as we explore ways to remain connected even in our differences.

Ellen holds a Masters Degree in Counseling from Geneva College and provides individual, family, and couples counseling through the Samaritan Counseling Center. She and her husband live in Butler and serve as foster/adoptive parents.

The series will run through December 17th. We meet at 9:15 in the church library. There’s a seat waiting for you!

Toys for Tots Box



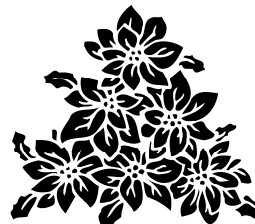
Every year, U.S. Marines collect and distribute Christmas gifts to needy children through the Toys for Tots Program. To date, the marines have given over 500 million toys to 237 million children. If you’d like to help families in our community, just bring a new toy (unwrapped) to church. A Toys for Tots Collection Box is in the Narthex until next Sunday, December 10th. Together, we can make Christmas a little brighter for children in Butler.

2018 Pledge Cards



If you forgot to hand in your pledge card, it’s not too late. Just drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you lost your card, there are extras in the Narthex.

Poinsettia Order For Christmas 2017



If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, please complete this order form and return it with payment to the church office (201 E. Jefferson St., Butler, PA 16001) no later than Monday, **December 11th**. It is important for us to have your information by this date so that we can include your poinsettias in our order and your information in the bulletin. Thank you!

(Note: Poinsettias will be red, 6 ½” pot).

The poinsettias you order are yours to take with you following the Christmas Eve worship service. The Deacons will take any poinsettias left after the service to our homebound members. Please note which option you prefer:

- I will be taking my Poinsettia(s) home.
- The Deacons may deliver my Poinsettia(s) to a Homebound Member

Number of Poinsettias _____ x \$8.50 per plant

Amount of payment \$_____

For the Bulletin: *Please print*

Given in:

“ memory” _____

“honor of” _____

“celebration, thanksgiving, appreciation, etc.” _____

“other” _____

Given by: _____

Phone: _____

Reminder: Payment must accompany order.