

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

- *The Hymn #57 "The Snow Lay on the Ground" (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



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PASTORAL MINISTRY
The Rev. Merry Hope Meloy

EDUCATION MINISTRY
Stephanie Slezak, Youth Ministry

MUSIC MINISTRY
Deanna Golden, Director
Chuck Davey, Organist
Susan Moon, Bell Choirs

OFFICE MINISTRY
Danielle Smith
Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Office Hours:
Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Office Closed on Fridays

Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church
December 22, 2019 4th Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

- The Prelude** Organist Chuck Davey
Welcome and Announcements
Exchange of Greetings
- Introit** "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" Chancel Choir
- The Call to Worship** Kevin Moon
Leader: This is a season of watching and waiting.
We watch for the light that shines in the darkness.
People: Open our eyes, O Lord, so we may behold your glory.
Leader: We wait to welcome our Redeemer and Savior.
People: Open our hearts, O God, so we may receive your Son.
Leader: We rejoice in the One who claims the lost and lifts up the lowly.
People: Open our lives, O Lord, so we may embody your grace and bear your healing love to our hurting world.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Love Candle

As we gather around the Advent wreath this morning, we light four candles: a purple candle in hope, a purple candle for peace, a pink candle in joy, and a purple candle with love. In Christ, God comes to us in love and fills us with God's love for all people. Scripture tells us that "God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."

The Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for showing us the depth of your love for all people—for young and old, rich and poor, sick and strong, saint and sinner. Join us in this hour of worship and empower us to open our hearts to you and to one another, through the grace of Christ. Amen.

***The Opening Hymn #34** “In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born” *(Presby Hymnal)*

(Ushers will collect prayer requests. Please pass them to the center aisle.)

*The people will rise in body or spirit

The Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, you are the source of all creation—from the stars in their distant grandeur to the tiniest microbe in its wondrous detail. Forgive us when we fail to marvel at the mysteries of life—when we put people and you in boxes like the presents under our Christmas trees. Fill us with a spirit of wonder so that we may receive the gift of your Son with joyous hearts. Help us to welcome the one who accepts us without conditions and loves us without limit. 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

TBA

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Carol Sing

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

In this season of gift giving, we give thanks for the greatest gift of all—the gift of God's Son, our Savior. Christ came into the world so that we might know the depth of God's love for each of us. We express our love and thankfulness by giving ourselves to God. Let us bring before the Lord our gifts and offerings. Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers located near the center aisle. Thank you!

The Offertory

“Advent Song”

Chancel Choir

***Musical Response #53**

“What Child Is This”

(Presby Hymnal)

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, on and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Refrain

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

Loving God, we give you thanks for your many blessings—for the grace you give and the new life you share. Accept these gifts, we pray, as a token of our deep gratitude and love. Empower us to serve you and your church with faithful hearts, energetic hands, and joyful spirits. Amen.

This Week at Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 22, 2019
4th Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM – Brass Ensemble Rehearsal
10:30 AM – Worship
11:30 AM – Joy Ringers Rehearsal
12:00 PM – Chancel Choir Rehearsal



Monday, December 23, 2019

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous
6:30 PM – Special Music
7:00 PM – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



Wednesday, December 25, 2019
Office Closed

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous
No Community Dinner
8:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous



Thursday, December 26, 2019
Office Closed

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous
6:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous Book Study

Friday, December 27, 2019

12:00 PM – Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 28, 2019

Next Sunday, December 29, 2019

11:00 AM – Joint Worship and "A Christmas Carol" at Covenant

Worship Attendance for December 8, 2019: 57

Worship Leadership

Ushers: Dave Landis Scott O' Day Mary Ann Hazlett Scott Hazlett
Liturgist: Kevin Moon
Micro Message: None
Flower Delivery: Mary Ann Hazlett
Open the Church: Paul Perry
Close the Church: Bonnie Martin

Next Week: None
Next Week: None
Next Week: None
Next Week: None

The Flowers today are given by Pastor Merry and Danielle in thanksgiving for Saint Andrews. Wishing all of you a joyous and peace-filled Christmas!

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

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.



Join Us for Worship on Christmas Eve

Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service begins at 7:00 pm this Tuesday, December 24th. Bring the family and come early! Special music begins at 6:30 pm.

If you are unable to attend the service in person, please join us electronically. We'll be streaming the service live on Facebook. To watch, log on to our website at www.standrewsupc.org. Scroll to the bottom of our homepage and click on the Facebook icon. (The top one of two icons located there.) This should take you to our Facebook page, where you can watch and listen to the service that evening or later in the week. The bulletin will also be posted on the website.

Please share this information with friends or family who may be interested.



Joint Worship and “A Christmas Carol” Next Sunday at 11:00 am at Covenant Presbyterian Church

Next Sunday, December 29, Saint Andrews will be joining with Covenant for worship and a presentation of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.” The service begins at 11:00 am at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 East Jefferson Street. After worship, we’ll have time to visit over pastries, cocoa, and mulled cider. Please plan on staying.

Parking is available in the lot on Jefferson Street across from Covenant. If you have mobility issues, feel free to park in the alley behind the church and use the ramp entrance. There’s an elevator to take you to the sanctuary on the second floor.

To make sure your gifts and offerings are received by Saint Andrews, just make out your check to Saint Andrews UPC or use one of the envelopes in your booklet of giving envelopes. Thank you!



New Worship Helper Schedules

Our January through June 2020 schedules for worship helpers are now available. If you volunteer as a liturgist or usher, please pick up your copy. They’re on the table in the Narthex.

2020 Giving Envelopes Now Available

To save on postage, we are asking you to pick up your giving envelopes for the new year. They are displayed alphabetically on the pew in the Narthex. Please be sure to use the new envelopes starting January 1, 2020. If you use 2019 envelopes in 2020, your giving could be credited to someone else’s account.

Pledge of Giving



It’s not too late to hand in your pledge of giving for 2020. Just put it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you lost your pledge card, there are extras in the Narthex. Thank you.



Happy Birthday to:

December 23	Karen Pressler
December 23	Stephanie Arienzo
December 28	Gary Gregson
December 28	Thalia McGrady
December 29	Deanna Golden
December 31	Dave Landis

A Note of Thanks

We wish to thank Pastor Merry and our church family for their outpouring of love and support during the difficult birth and ultimate death of our precious great-grandson, Waylon Ries Phillips (October 1, 2019 - October 7, 2019).

Barb and Russ Thomas

Christmas Cookie Walk Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with this year’s Christmas Cookie Walk! Nearly 300 dozen cookies were sold, bringing our total earnings to \$1,725.00.

Special thanks to everyone who baked. We had an amazing variety of mouth-watering goodies! Thanks also to everyone who cheerfully served customers, restocked trays, and helped set up and clean up. The money you all helped raise will go to Saint Andrews’ General Fund. Again, thank you!!





13th Annual Chili Cook-Off

Join us for a Mid-Winter Warm Up
in the Bethany Room

Saturday, January 25, 2020
5 pm —7 pm

*Vote for your favorite chili made by
various local restaurants and chefs*

Tickets are Now Available
\$7 Presale or \$10 at the Door

Please note: Tickets must be paid for when purchased



Basket Auction



Great Fellowship



Bake Sale

*Benefits: Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church
and Operation Spay Neuter of Butler County*



January First Sunday Mission Offering

Saint Andrews' First Sunday Mission Offering in January will go to the McKee Memorial Fund to help support the work of Jim and Jodi McGill. A geological engineer, Jim is working with the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Niger (EERN) and the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan to provide clean water and sanitation to communities in rural Niger and South Sudan. Jim's wife Jodi is a nurse and public health educator. She is helping the EERN develop church-run health clinics and train students in its new nursing school.

Located south of Libya and west of Chad, Niger is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Fewer than 50% of its children are enrolled in school and its annual per capita GDP is around \$800. Farming is limited by frequent draughts and the country's vast desert regions are growing due to lack of rain, excessive cultivation, overgrazing and deforestation. While most Nigerians are Muslim, the government is secular and there is an openness to the gospel.

The circumstances in South Sudan are even more challenging. Though the region has abundant natural resources, decades of civil war have left the country's infrastructure in ruins and its people traumatized. In 2015, a fragile peace was established. A year later, new waves of violence erupted. The conflict has caused widespread famine and displaced more than 3 million people. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has been involved in Sudan for more than 100 years and has longstanding relationships with several partner churches there.

To help support the McGills' work, simply use the envelope marked "McKee Missions Offering" in the January section of the Saint Andrews giving envelope booklet, use a "First Sunday Mission Offering" envelope from the pew racks, or write "McKee Missions Offering" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!



Communion Sunday, January 5th



We'll start the new year by celebrating the Lord's Supper together on Sunday, January 5th. Please join us!

Annual Report Deadline

Monday, January 6th

All teams and committees must have their Annual Reports to the church office by Monday, January 6, so they can be printed by Sunday, January 19, 2020. Thank you in advance for keeping this deadline.

