The Offertory Invitation

Christ calls us to love our neighbor. Christ teaches us to help those in need. Let us show Christ's love and mercy with the words of our mouths, the work of our hands, and the commitment of our lives. Let us bring before the Lord our tithes and offerings.

As the offering plates are being passed, please sign and pass the Friendship Registers located at the end of your pews. If you are visiting with us this morning, please help us get to know you by filling out the blue card in the pew rack in front of you. Thank you!

The Offertory

***The Congregation Sings in Response** "We Praise You, O God"

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

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

God of hospitable and empowering love, take these gifts and use them through us for the well-being of others. Take all that we have in the vision of peace, shelter, and goodwill to all. Amen.

The Church Goes Forth to Serve

***The Closing Hymn** #724 "Rise Up, O Church of God" *(Sing to the Lord)*

***The Benediction**

***The Postlude**

Welcome to Saint Andrews.
We're glad you're here!

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

September 6, 2026 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 AM

The Church in Preparation

The Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

The Introit and Time of Centering

Saint Augustine, a leader of the Christian Church who lived about sixteen hundred years ago, once prayed in this way to God, "You stir humanity to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." Let us take a few moments as we begin our worship to be still and at rest before we call upon the name of our God.

The Call to Worship Ashley Farrington

Leader: At home in the kindness of God,
People: we come to be restored,
we come to be changed.
Leader: At peace in the welcome of Christ,
People: we come to be restored,
we come to be changed.
Leader: And at one with the Spirit of Love,
People: we come to be restored,
we come to be changed.

The Opening Prayer *(In Unison)*

God of mercy, gather your children close this morning. Draw us away from the demands of the world. Center us and speak to us that we might be renewed in strength and vision to live as your disciples. Remind us in this hour that we belong to you, now and always. Amen.

***The Opening Hymn** #702 "Christ for the World We Sing" *(Sing to the Lord)*

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

*The people will rise in body or spirit

Call to Confession
Sisters and brothers, even our best intentions go awry when we are not at one with God's purpose. Our gracious God journeys with us and provides for us with unending mercy, patience, and kindness so that when we repent, we find ourselves forgiven. Let us confess our sin, confident in God's love for us.

The Prayer of Confession *(Responsively)*

Leader: In and through Christ,
we offer our confession before the God of
undeserving kindness and love:
For a lack of trust in your welcoming love
and lingering doubts about our God-given dignity.

People: We confess our disbelief;
we feel our hardness of heart.

(Time of silent reflection)

Leader: For the high walls we build around ourselves
in the desperate need to protect and defend.

People: We confess our disbelief;
we feel our hardness of heart.

(Time of silent reflection)

Leader: And for the lengths we will go to exclude
yet for the very best of religious reasons.

People: We confess our disbelief;
we feel our hardness of heart.

(Time of silent reflection)

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends in Christ,
the love of God embraces and welcomes us as precious children.
In that love we are renewed in body and soul.
God forgives us unconditionally.
Through this gift of grace
may we have confidence to live, transformed by God.

People: Thanks be to God!
Amen.

The Congregation Sings in Response #9 "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 Readings Ephesians 6:10 - 20 N.T. 195
John 6:56 - 69 N.T. 98
Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

The Anthem

The Sermon "God, Jesus, and Religion" Rev. Francois Lacroix

***The Hymn** #340 "This Is My Song" *(Please See Insert)*

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.

This Week at Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

September 6, 2026
10:30 AM – Worship, Welcome Rev. Francois Lacroix
12:00 PM – Sunday Lunches (Prepared and Distributed by Rich and Lori Love-Franke)

Monday, September 7, 2026
Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8, 2026
6:00 PM – Butler County Genealogical Society
6:30 PM – Session
7:00 PM – Community String Orchestra

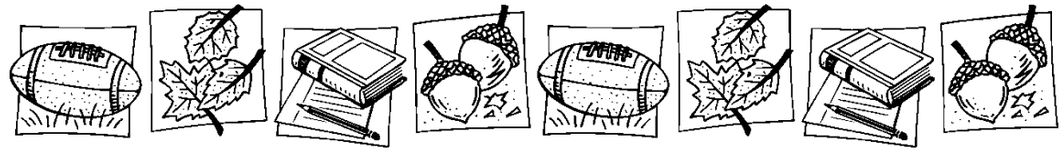
Wednesday, September 9, 2026
5:00 PM – Community Meal – Provided by Hill United Presbyterian Church
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM – Matrona Family Resource Center

Thursday, September 10, 2026
6:15 PM – Canticleer Ringers
7:30 PM – Chancel Choir

Friday, September 11, 2026
6:00 PM – "Dinner with Friends" at the Water Hole

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Next Sunday, September 13, 2026
9:15 AM – Rally Day Breakfast
10:30 AM – Worship with Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers and Communion



Worship Leaders

Ushers: Sharon Johnson	Kevin Moon	Tim Mullen	Maggie Mullen
Next Week: Rick Kelley	Anzie Kelley	Dave Martin	Bonnie Martin

Liturgist: Ashley Farrington — **Next Week:** Denise Hawks
Sound Tech: Jon McKay — **Next Week:** Travis Grossman
Nursery Care: Anzie Kelley — **Next Week:** Mary Ann Hazlett
Flower Delivery: Barb Hutchison — **Next Week:** Dan Hawks
Open the Church: Paul Perry — **Next Week:** Paul Perry
Close the Church: John Minich — **Next Week:** Pastor Merry

The Flowers today are given by Keith and Melany Fogel in celebration of their children, Victoria, YoungHo, and Lucas.

Prayer Requests can be made by using the pink/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.

Pastor Merry Away

Pastor Merry is away for the weekend to spend some time with family. If you have a pastoral care need or concern today or tomorrow, please contact our Clerk of Session, Jon McKay. He

will find a way to reach Merry (who will have iffy cell phone coverage).

Our guest preacher this morning is Rev. Francois Lacroix. Francois has spent more than 40 years in ministry. After serving as a Chaplain in the U.S. Navy, he served as a parish minister for churches in upstate New York, Texas, and the Philadelphia area. Last year, he retired from Wallingford Presbyterian Church where he served as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff for twelve years. We are blessed to have him leading us in worship!

"Dinner with Friends"
This Friday, September 11th
at 6:00 pm

Let's do dinner! Join us for a night out at the Water Hole (169 Hartmann Rd, Harmony) this Friday, September 11, at 6:00 pm. The Water Hole has become a DWF favorite! Please sign up in the Narthex or call Esther Radvinski by Tuesday, September 8, if you plan to come. Also, please let us know if you'd like a ride. Thanks!

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."

We Are Shining with Excitement
About this Fall!

THE RALLY DAY BREAKFAST
is next Sunday, September 13,
at 9:15 a.m.
in the Memorial Room

Join us for great food, fun, fellowship
and the chance to hear about some upcoming opportunities
to grow and glow in the light of Christ's grace!

Rally Day Worship

We will be commissioning Sunday school teachers and celebrating the Lord's Supper during worship on September 13th. Please join us!

Banned Book Study
Monday, Sept. 21, at 6:00 pm

Our next Banned Book Study will focus on George Orwell's *1984.* First published more than 75 years ago, Orwell's novel envisions a future where privacy is lost, independent thought is a crime, and human beings are under the complete control of a totalitarian government. The story raises questions about truth versus propaganda, the use of language, and the power and worth of individuals living under the thumb of an all-powerful state. In today's world where technology becomes ever more intrusive and the most basic facts are subject to debate, these questions remain both relevant and controversial.

We'll be discussing Orwell's classic on Monday, September 21, at 6:00 pm in the Memorial Room. Participants are asked to read the book before we gather. There are still a few copies on the table in the Narthex for folks to sign out.

Chancel Flowers

Would you like to donate the chancel flowers for one or more worship services? The Flower Calendar for 2026 is in the Narthex. Please sign up for a Sunday or two. We still have openings on:

Sept. 20
Oct. 11
All of November

Don't forget to tell us if the flowers are in honor or in memory of someone, or if they are to commemorate an important date. The flowers you donate are yours to take home after the worship service, or you may leave them and a Deacon will take them to one of our homebound members. The cost is $35.

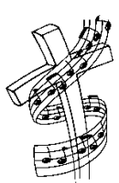
A Note of Thanks

Dear Saint Andrews Family,
We can't thank you enough for the generous gift to our youth group. The kids are already brainstorming what mission they would like to start/support. Your seed money will no doubt grow into something meaningful for them and the lives they will impact. Some lasting memories were made within the walls of Saint Andrews; thanks for one more.

With gratitude,
Dave and Amy White

MUSIC NEWS

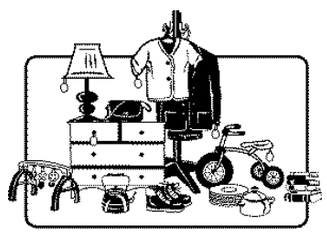
Saint Andrews' Choirs



The Canticleer Ringers and Chancel Choir are starting up! On Thursdays, the handbell choir rehearses from 6:15 to 7:15 pm. The Chancel Choir rehearses from 7:30 to 8:45 pm. If you've ever wanted to give music a try, this is the perfect opportunity. Anyone and everyone is welcome!

Community Band and Orchestra

Did you once play an instrument? Were you part of your high school band or orchestra and miss making music with other instrumentalists? If so, this opportunity is just for you! After a summer break, the Community Band and Community Orchestra are resuming rehearsals on Tuesday evenings in the Bethany Room. All musicians who are 18 years old or older are welcome. The first rehearsal for the Community Orchestra is this Tuesday, September 8, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. To register or for more information, please contact Katie Korff.



Deadline for Indoor Yard Sale Donations is Today!

The Fall Indoor Yard Sale is less than a month away! We will have a "Friends and Family" Sale on Thursday, October 1, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The public sale is scheduled for Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The deadline for donations is today. After this evening, we'll have to stop accepting donations until after the sale.

What items can you donate?

We are happy to accept:

- Gently used, unstained, clean clothing
- Household items
- Small, easy-to-move furniture.

We **cannot** accept:

- Ceiling lights, light fixtures, or anything that requires installation. We're happy to accept lamps.
- Electronics such as televisions, printers, computer equipment, etc. These items don't sell and it costs the church money to recycle them.
- Heavy furniture such as couches, beds, large china cabinets and anything that requires a truck and several strong backs to move.
- Large appliances.
- Textbooks, reference books and encyclopedias.

To get more info, please contact Anzie Kelley. Thanks so much for your contributions and your ongoing support!