

THE VOICE



ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The birth and mission of Jesus revealed our greatest human need. Our greatest human need is forgiveness. Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Never forget, you can't earn your salvation. Our only hope of salvation is Jesus!

Someone once wrote these memorable words:

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator;

If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist;

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist;

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer;

But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

That means you can't save yourself by taking in your neighbor's trash can. That means you can't save yourself by preparing a casserole for a sick friend. That means you can't save yourself by putting your loose change in the bucket by the bell ringer. You can't earn your salvation by attending a Christmas Eve service. Your only hope of salvation is Jesus. Let me ask you this all-important question for this Christmas season. Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? I hope your answer is yes!

We have a special opportunity this year with Christmas Day being a Sunday, to honor Jesus with our church family in worship. Christmas Eve will feature a relaxing Candlelight Service at 11:00 p.m.

There are 365 days each year, but Christmas Day is special. What is there not to love? Our favorite Christmas cookies tempt us for weeks. Our community is illuminated with Christmas lights. Our Christmas trees are decorated with ornaments that remind us of the past. Our calendars are filled with Christmas parties, and our Christmas wish list contains our perfect gift. Christmas is a time of family and friends. It is easy to forget that Christmas is a time to remember the birth of Jesus.

This year's Advent/Christmas sermon series is called *Christmas is Not Your Birthday*. It was originally created by Mike Slaughter of the Ginghamburg Church (a United Methodist congregation) in Tipp City, Ohio. He is afraid we have lost the real meaning of Christmas in American commercialism. He has a point. Did you know that the average American home will spend \$749.51 on Christmas this year? Did you know the average American child will receive \$271.00 in gifts this year? How can the church compete?

How easy it is for our secular world to forget the sacred meaning of Christmas. This sermon series challenges us to look beyond ourselves to a world that is filled with need. God blessed us on Christmas by sending us his Son, so we should be a blessing to others.

To underscore the importance of this sermon series, we will have the opportunity to study the book in small groups. Look for the book and sign up sheets in the lobby.

Have a Blessed Advent waiting,

Pastor Biel

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 20	Hanging of the Greens	After Worship
November 23	Thanksgiving Service St. Joseph's Parish, Homewood	7:30 p.m.
November 29	Church Conference	7:00 p.m.
December 8	Christmas Program & Breakfast <i>Featuring James Hart Panther Choir</i>	9:15 a.m.
December 10	Cookie Walk	11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	11:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Worship	10:30 a.m.



Hanging of the Greens

Hanging of the Greens will be this Sunday, November 20, after the church service. Come help decorate the narthex and sanctuary for the Advent season. When we are done, soups, including a vegan option, and desserts will be served. Plan on staying for this fun family event!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at the traditional time, 11:00 p.m. If anyone needs a ride to the service, please call the church office and we will make sure you have a ride.

A family-oriented service will be held during the regular worship time at 10:30 Sunday morning, Christmas Day.

Thinking about Joining St. Andrew UMC?

Find out more about our local and global ministries and what makes Methodists unique at "Pirogi with the Pastor," Sunday, December 11, after church at 12:15 p.m.



Save the Date

The entire congregation is Invited to a special Christmas party on Thursday morning, December 8.

9:15 a.m.: Light breakfast served in the Chapel/meeting room

10:00 a.m.: Holiday Concert by the 85-member Panther Choir from James Hart Junior High School in Homewood

Followed by a Christmas story told by one of our members

10:45 a.m.: Refreshments/fellowship time in the narthex

The public is being invited to come at 10:00 a.m. for the concert, etc., so invite a friend!

Cookie Walk

The St. Andrew Cookie Walk and Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, December 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Get your mixing bowls out and put on your apron and sign up to bake four dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies. This year the event will be held on the first floor, in the narthex. We will also feature a Christmas Café where you can stop and have a cup of coffee, tea, or hot apple cider and some baked goods.

Crafters are welcome and can call the church office to reserve a table for \$10.00. Tell all of your crafty friends to sign up and join the fun. The crafts will be set up in the chapel.

If possible, please drop off your cookies and candies on Saturday morning, December 10, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Chloe will be able to take drop-offs in the morning at the Montessori Preschool (south entrance) on Friday morning.

Hope you will all come and buy a box of assorted Christmas cookies for \$10.00 a pound. This is a fundraiser for the church and an easy way to have cookies for the holiday for family and friends without having to do all the baking yourself.



St. Andrew Youth

St. Andrew Youth meets in the narthex at 5:00 p.m. on Sundays (except for first Sundays). It is for junior high and high school age youth looking for faith, fun, and friends. We broaden perspectives, we play, we create, and we compete. Our dates for December are December 11 and 18.

Attention Book Lovers

The next book club meeting will be held on Saturday, December 17, at 10:00 a.m. in the Wesley Room. The book for December is *Noah's Wife*, by Lindsay Starck. This is a story of a community battered by a relentless downpour from heaven. Its members have learned to endure with remarkable fortitude. When Noah's wife and her minister husband arrive in town, she is determined to revive the congregation, but has little success. The rain intensifies and soon the river floods the streets and drives scores of wild animals out of the once-renowned zoo. *Noah's Wife* explores what it means to be a community, examines the remarkable strength of the human spirit, and asks whether hope can exist even when faith has failed.



13th Month Giving

To help ease the 2016 budget shortfall, the Finance Committee is "adding" a 13th month to the year. If you are able to give an additional month's offering or any portion of it over and above your usual giving, it would be very much appreciated. Please use a separate envelope with your name and "13th month" indicated on it. Thank you.

Spaghetti Dinner Report

Total proceeds:

From donations	552.65
From ticket sales	791.35
From sale of leftovers	48.00
	<hr/>
	\$1392.00

Total expenses:

\$ - 335.65

Total profit:

\$1,056.35



Fundraising

Anyone with fundraising skills is invited to share their talents with the Finance Committee. The next all-church fundraising event will take place in the spring.

Wanted: Communications Committee Members

The Church Council has been prioritizing action items which were identified last spring in our visioning gatherings. Among the top items is to find individuals who are interested and willing to add to the membership of the Communications Committee. Already we have members who maintain our website and Facebook page. But we would like to reach out to the community through other channels and media on a more regular basis. If you would be willing to be a part of this essential effort that can let our neighbors know all of the wonderful things happening at St. Andrew, this committee is for you! Email your interest to Mary Lee.

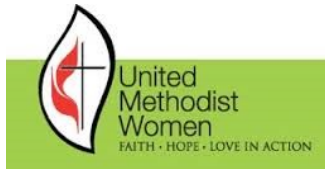


Winter Warming

The Northern Illinois Conference Reconciling Task Force annually hosts *Winter Warming* the Saturday of MLK weekend, gathering Reconciling United Methodists who are dedicated to social justice. 2017's upcoming event features as preacher Bishop Karen Oliveto. Saturday, January 14, 2017, at First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, 1903 E. Euclid Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Call Karen in the church office at 798-8904 if you wish to carpool.

United Methodist Women in December

The December program meeting is a breakfast on Thursday, December 8, at 9:15, followed by our Christmas program featuring the 85-member choir from James Hart Junior High.



Respond Now Food Collection

As always, any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: canned chicken, salmon, tuna; juices: cranberry, apple, grapefruit, grape; canned vegetables, beef ravioli, baked beans. The food wagon collection is the first Sunday of the month, but you can place your donations in the shopping cart by the front door at any time.



PADS at St. Andrew— High Attendance and a Need for More Volunteers



So far this season, we have had quite a lot of women and children benefitting from our PADS hospitality on Wednesday nights. The most we had was the night we fed 36. Five of those did not stay overnight. We have managed to cover our shifts, though a little short. **We desperately need a couple of people to fill an 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. shift**—one for the 2nd Wednesday and one for the 4th Wednesday. This one should be a woman and is a critical need. I have a student intern from the PADS office temporarily filling the 3:00 a.m. slot with me on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of November.

We also have a 5th Wednesday in November. This means we need extra people. Also, when we have a 5th Wednesday, our congregation brings the food for the breakfast and lunch bags. A sign-up sheet is on the refreshment table. Items can be brought in on the 5th Wednesday, or they can be brought on the Sunday before and put in the refrigerator.

There is good news from PADS. There is now a place for the men to go on Wednesday nights. St. Lawrence O'Toole will take men on Wednesdays. This church is already a site for men, women and children on Friday nights. There is also a new site for women and children on Monday nights, at the Salvation Army facility in Blue Island.

Respond Now Christmas Distribution to Needy Families with Children

This year our congregation has been asked to collect **600 boxes of instant pudding mix** for the Christmas food boxes for *Respond Now* to give to needy families with children. Our collection will be picked up on December 12, so we have the whole month of November and up to the 12th of December to purchase pudding. A collection box is in the narthex. Aldi's always has instant pudding for \$.49 a box. Jewel also has their own (Signature or Essential brand) pudding mix, but it costs a little more. But both are considerably cheaper than "Jello" brand. Of course, the flavors are more limited—I believe only chocolate and vanilla, the two most popular flavors.

We are also invited to bring **gifts for Respond Now's Christmas gift tables**, where parents pick out gifts for their family. Toys and games (preferably not requiring batteries) are needed, as are \$10 gift cards from places like Target, Walmart, or another store where teens are likely to find something they want. Depending on how many cards are received, teens may be given one or two gift cards. Gifts for adults are also welcome. All items should be new in their original packaging and unwrapped. Children's coats, gloves, and hats are also needed. **Collection boxes for pudding and for gifts will be in the narthex.**



SWIFT Interfaith Dinner

Six St. Andrew members attended the SWIFT interfaith dinner on Sunday, November 13, where more than 100 Christian, Muslim, and Jewish attendees had a chance to fellowship with each other. The event was, by all reports, a great success.



Caring Crafters



Crocheters and knitters are welcome, and so are other crafters. We'd love to have you come and share your projects and ideas with the group. We are making prayer shawls as well as other handcrafted items. Caring Crafters meets in the narthex on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Come, join us!

Chair Yoga Classes



Yoga is a great way to reduce stress, increase endurance, and feel better overall. Even better, participating in yoga can help you burn calories, increase core strength, and improve posture and balance.



A gentle form of yoga in which students do not get onto the floor is offered in Fellowship Hall on Monday and Wednesday afternoons at 2:30. The class is taught by Jeffrey Lippert, certified instructor. It is free for Silver Sneakers members and available at a nominal fee to others. So come, join the fun!

TOPS



TOPS invites you to check out the local chapter that meets here in the Wesley Room every Thursday morning between 9:30 and 11:00. Take Off Pounds Sensibly!

November 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera 1:30 pm-Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	3 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	4	5 10 am-CPR Training
6 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon	7 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH 7:00 pm-SPRC	8 1:30 pm-Worship	9 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	10 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	11	12
13 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth Group	14 2:30 pm-Yoga 3:00 pm- Nominations 6:30 pm-Munch & Help 7:00 pm-SPRC 7:30 pm-Scouts	15 1:30 pm-Deb-Est Circle 7:00 pm-Church Council	16 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	17 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	18	19 10:00 am- Book Club, Wesley Room
20 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change Sunday School HANGING OF THE GREENS 5:00 pm-Youth	21 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	22	23 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga 6:00 pm-PADS 7:30 pm- Thanksgiving Ser vice, St. Joseph	24  <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	25	26
27 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth Group	28 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	29 CHURCH CONFERENCE	30 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom		

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 <p>FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom</p>				1 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	2	3
4 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon	5 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	6 1:30 pm-Worship	7 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera, Homewood 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	8 9:15 am- BREAKFAST & CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Choir	9	10 11 am-2 pm- COOKIE WALK
11 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth Group	12 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-SPRC 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH 7:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance	13	14 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	15 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	16	17 10:00 am-Book Club, Wesley Room 2-4:00 pm PRHeSS Christmas Program
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25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30 am-Worship 	26 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 

the Voice

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St. Andrew United

Methodist Church

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Mission Statement

St. Andrew seeks to be
a community of faith
that is

Christ-centered
compassionate
and inclusive,
sharing gifts and resources
while spreading the gospel
and serving others
locally and globally

Worship with us at 10:30 am

Child care provided

Welcoming Statement

***Jesus said, “This is My commandment,
that you love one another, just as I
have loved you.” John 15:12***

St Andrew UMC prayerfully strives to be a faith community of open hearts, open minds and open doors. We believe all people are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God’s creation and as demonstrated by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. As God’s love extends to all, we therefore welcome everyone into participation and membership regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, socio-economic status, marital status, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, faith history, or life experience. We acknowledge that no two of us are alike, except in God’s love for us. We believe that our differences make us a stronger community of faith as we worship together and as we grow in our relationship with God and one another.

***Jesus said, “Whoever welcomes you
welcomes me, and whoever welcomes
me welcomes the one who sent me.”***

—Matthew 10:40



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK