

March 2017



ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



**H**ave you ever had to say, "I'm sorry to ask you this, but I'm really sensitive to scents, and I think I'm reacting to something you're wearing. I'd really appreciate it if you could avoid using that perfume at work."

As one who lives with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, it's not just cologne or perfumes that have a negative effect on me. Deodorant, laundry detergent, lotions, and soaps with chemical scents also impact my health adversely. And yes, flowers.

I remember being so nervous the first time I had to ask a worship team to please NOT order Easter lilies because of how their scent affects me. I was relieved that there was no pushback at all. The leaders simply stated that they wanted to make sure that I could be in the sanctuary on Easter! We informed the congregation, explained that we wanted to be welcoming to all, so that the people we love would be able to show up. Being aware of scents is another way of showing our care for each other.

I learned a couple of things from their Christian kindness. First, Speak Up! Share your needs and concerns. People without MCS may not be aware of it, and don't mean any harm, but the use of products with fragrances can be overwhelming for those of us who are sensitive. It was only after bringing this up in a meeting that others privately expressed their sensitivities to me.

Also, I was afraid of embarrassing people. The discussion naturally broadened from flowers to fragrances. I worried that people would be put off when I expressed my need. But what I learned is that most people want to be team players and make church accessible to all, MCS sufferers included. In no time at all, folks helped accommodate me and others like me by not wearing any fragrances in public. They even changed hand soaps in the bathrooms.

So, this will be another Easter devoid of lilies in St. Andrew's sanctuary. Thank you for your understanding!! However, let's keep their meaning in our hearts: purity, innocence, joy, and the victory of Christ's Resurrection.



Yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Biel*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 1	Service of Ashes	7:30 p.m.
March 2	<i>John for Everyone</i> All-Church Study Begins Brookdale, Olympia Fields	3:00 p.m.
March 5	First Sunday in Lent	
March 7	Lenten Lunch Series Begins First Presbyterian Church, Homewood	12:10 p.m.
March 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
March 14	<i>John for Everyone</i> All-Church Study Begins Waterford Estates, Hazel Crest	10:00 a.m.
March 14	Lenten Lunch Series: (1st Presbyterian) Pastor Biel Preaches, St. Andrew Hosts Meal	12:10 p.m.
March 19	SWIFT Forum at St. Andrew	2:30 p.m.
April 9	Palm Sunday Service	10:30 a.m.
April 13	Living Last Supper and Communion	7:30 p.m.
April 14	Good Friday Service	7:30 p.m.
April 16	EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE	10:30 a.m.





## St. Andrew United Methodist Church

18850 Riegel Rd, Homewood IL, 708-798-8904

[HomewoodSaintAndrew.org](http://HomewoodSaintAndrew.org)

<https://m.facebook.com/Standrewhomewood?Rdr>

### 2017 Lenten and Easter Activities

<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>	St. Andrew UMC 18850 Riegel Rd Homewood	March 1	7:30 pm
<b>Lenten Lunch Series</b>	First Presbyterian Church of Homewood 17929 Gottschalk Ave	Tuesdays March 7 – April 4	12:10 pm
<b>John for Everyone All-Church Bible Study</b>	Waterford Estates 17400 Kedzie Ave Hazel Crest	Tuesdays March 14 – April 4	10:00 am
	Brookdale 3633 Breakers Dr. Olympia Fields	Thursdays March 2 – April 6	3:00 pm
<b>John: The Gospel of Light and Life Sermon Series</b>	St. Andrew UMC	Sundays March 12 – April 30	10:30 am
<b>Palm Sunday Service</b>	St. Andrew UMC	April 9	10:30 am
<b>Maundy Thursday Living Last Supper and Communion</b>	St. Andrew UMC	April 13	7:30 pm
<b>Good Friday Service</b>	St. Andrew UMC	April 14	7:30 pm
<b>Easter Sunday Service</b>	St. Andrew UMC	April 16	10:30 am

### THE I AM... SAYINGS OF JESUS

### TUESDAY LENTEN LUNCHES

Worship 12:10 - 12:35

Lunch 12:35 - 1:00

*Cosponsored by the*

*South Suburban Interfaith Ministerial Association*

**at First Presbyterian Church of Homewood**

**17929 Gottschalk Ave., Homewood, IL**

**708/798-0490 [www.FPCHW.org](http://www.FPCHW.org)**

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#### **March 7      John 15:1      I Am the True Vine**

Preacher: Rev. Fred Lyon, Flossmoor Community Church  
Liturgist: Rev. Kristin Orr, St. John the Evangelist, Flossmoor  
Meal Host: First Presbyterian Church of Homewood

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#### **March 14      John 6:35, 41-51      I Am the Bread of Life**

Preacher: Rev. Timothy Biel, Jr., St. Andrew UMC, Homewood  
Liturgist: Rev. Claude King, Olympia Fields United Methodist  
Meal Host: St. Andrew United Methodist, Homewood

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#### **March 21      John 14:6      I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life**

Preacher: Rev. Nancy Jo Dederer, First Presbyterian, Homewood  
Meal Host: St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Glenwood

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#### **March 28      John 10:9      I Am the Door**

Preacher: Rev. Bob Klonowski, Faith Lutheran Church, Homewood  
Meal Host: Tuesday Panera Bread Bible Study, First Presbyterian, Homewood

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#### **April 4      John 11:25      I Am the Resurrection and the Life**

Preacher: Rev. Frank Rodgers, St. Paul Community Church, Homewood  
Meal Host: St. Paul Community Church, Homewood



## **Heifer International**

Loose change on the third Sunday of March (the 19th) will go to Heifer International. Our children in Sunday School are also collecting for Heifer and have selected a goat as their goal (which costs \$120), so let's help them, on the 19<sup>th</sup>, to reach their goal.



## **South Suburban Diversity Dinner**

Save the Date! South Suburban Diversity Dinners' 20th Anniversary will be celebrated on Saturday evening, April 22, at Rich South High School. Everyone will have dinner at Rich South. Dinner will be followed by a play presentation. More details coming soon.



## **Book Club**

On March 18, the Book Club will be discussing *A Wolf Called Romeo* by Nick Jans. This is a true story of an exceptional black wolf who spent seven years interacting with the residents (human and dog) of Juneau, Alaska. This is a book no animal lover should miss. See Lucy or Toni if you would like to participate.



## **Baby Items Collected**

A wide variety of items for babies and children were collected on January 8 as a special way of recognizing Epiphany, when we celebrate the coming of the Magi (or Wise Men, or Kings) and their gifts to the child Jesus. These items have been distributed as follows:

### Kept for our PADS guests:

- 1 pair child's gloves
- 2 pair small child's mittens
- 2 packages baby wipes

### Given to the baby ward at Franciscan Olympia Fields Hospital:

- 3 baby hats
- 1 baby T-shirt
- 3 onesies
- Musical turtle toy for 6-month+
- Baby rattle
- Hooded towel with five washcloths
- Package of 40 disposable diapers (size 1)
- Baby bottle
- 2 packages of pacifiers (2 per package)
- Hooded bath towel
- 2 bottles of baby wash
- 10 receiving blankets
- 2 baby sweaters
- 1 case Enfamil

### Given to Respond Now

- 3 packages baby wipes
- 2 packages disposable diapers (sizes 5 & 6)

Added to other items to make another baby layette for UMCOR

2 sleepers

Given to Respond Now for their Christmas gifts for needy families

1 woman's "spa" gift set

On behalf of the babies and mothers who will benefit from these gifts, we say, "THANK YOU, St. Andrew." We did indeed carry out the spirit of giving begun by the Magi over 2000 years ago.

## **Chicago Southern District 2017 Leadership Training**

Registration is open for the Chicago Southern District 2017 Leadership Training. Entitled *Dancing to New Music: Taking the Old and Doing Something New*, it will be held on Saturday, March 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (registration/check-in between 8:00 and 8:45 a.m.) at the Korean United Methodist Church, 19320 Kedzie Avenue, Flossmoor.

All St. Andrew members are encouraged to attend. Members of church committees, especially new members, *should* attend the training. You can register by going to the conference website at [umcnic.org](http://umcnic.org), clicking on the "News & Events" tab, then the calendar, then on "CSD Leadership Training" listed on March 25, then finding the *Register Online* link toward the bottom of the page. Or simply go to this address: <https://secure.umcnic.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=172>

## **SWIFT Speakers Forum**

St. Andrew is hosting the SWIFT Speakers Forum on Sunday, March 19. The topic, "You Believe in Angels?" will be discussed by a Christian pastor from Faith UMC, a Muslim Imam, and a Jewish speaker. Make plans to come, and invite friends and neighbors to come, also. Everyone is welcome.

Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. and the program runs from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. Around 5:00, there will be a refreshment break, followed by a question and answer session. There is no admission charge, but everyone is encouraged to bring nonperishable food to donate to *Respond Now*.

SWIFT, South West Interfaith Team, is a non-profit, nonpolitical organization made up of synagogues, churches, and mosques located in the South and South West suburbs. The goal of SWIFT, of which St. Andrew is a member, is to have Christians, Muslims, and Jews working together for respect, understanding, and religious harmony.



# SWIFT SPEAKERS FORUM



South West Interfaith Team

## You Believe in ANGELS?

*Christian, Muslim and Jewish Perspectives*

### DATE:

Sunday March 19, 2017

### TIME:

Registration 2:30pm  
Program 3:00pm-6:00pm

### LOCATION:

St. Andrew UMC  
18850 Riegel Rd  
Homewood, IL 60430

**SUNDAY  
MARCH  
19**

### SPEAKERS

**Pastor Caleb Hong**  
*Faith United Methodist Church*

**Shk Amir Toft**  
*Imam*

**Rabbi Michael Stevens**  
*Rabbi emeritus, Temple Beth El*

## Help Feed the Needy Food Drive

**Bring along non-perishable food items to Donate to Respond Now**

Christians, Muslims and Jews Working Together for Respect... Understanding... Religious Harmony

*SWIFT is a Non-Profit Organization made up of synagogues, churches & mosques located in the South & South-West suburbs of Chicago.*

***www.swiftinterfaith.org***

**(708) 253-2834**



**"SWIFT South West  
Interfaith Team"**

## **OUR NEW MEMBERS:** **GIFTS WITH GRACE**

***Anne, Tess, Heather, Don***

Modern-day disciples, like our four new members, are not only committed to service in the religious world, but the secular world as well...and they bring with them impressive talents.

Take, for example, Anne, a retired educator. It's not enough that she has an unforgettably engaging personality, but she speaks three languages (English, French, and Spanish), and she is working on the basics of a fourth, more difficult one, Arabic. In addition, she has found her place in the choir and is co-chairing the newly-formed Communications committee. Her most inspiring skill, though, is the strength that sustains her in caring for her husband, Terry, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

We are twice blessed to have Tess as a member. She is young and she is smart! Tess is a senior at H-F High School and is remarkably capable of exercising the same creativity and concentration in the classroom that she displays when she competes in figure skating. In fact, we can cheer Tess on in May at the Crestwood Ice Rink during competition. Then, within a few months, we can support her as she leaves for Adrian College, a United Methodist school in Adrian, Michigan, where she will major in chemistry.

Such an accomplished young woman doubtless reflects the Christian values of her parents, Heather and Don, who, not surprisingly, are joining St. Andrew with their daughter. We can only imagine how grateful the nursing staff and patients at the University of Chicago Hospitals are to have Heather's service. Don works in sales at Chapel Steel. St. Andrew is benefiting from his time and input on the Development committee.

The collective sentiment of the four members is best summed up in the words of one: *Everybody here [at St. Andrew] is really nice.*

Anne, Tess, Heather, and Don all joined St. Andrew on Sunday, February 5, 2017. If you have not yet had a chance to meet them, please introduce yourself!



## **Human Trafficking Vigil**



Lucy, Juanita and Jessie joined the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women in a Silent Vigil to increase awareness about human trafficking on Friday, February 3, 2017 at Daley Plaza in Chicago. The vigil is held annually the Friday before the Super Bowl. United Methodist Women join interfaith and secular allies in an annual awareness campaign to teach individuals and communities how to prevent trafficking, to identify and protect trafficked persons, and what can be done to aid in the prosecution of the criminals who exploit persons in this way.



## **Valentine Breakfast and Program on February 11**

Our Valentine Breakfast and Program sponsored by the United Methodist Women was attended by 23 people from our congregation. The theme for the day was “Love One Another and Be Happy.” After our breakfast/fellowship time, the documentary film *Happy* was shown. The film was the result of 25 years of study about what makes people happy, done by psychology professors from three universities. After viewing situations with people around the world, a summary told us there are three things that we can choose in our lifestyle that especially contribute to happiness.

One factor is to have some form of recreation, something we enjoy doing, especially if there is some physical activity involved. Physical exertion releases the chemical “dopamine” to our brain and causes us to “feel good.” We can’t all run a marathon or climb a mountain or even play golf, but if we are able, we can at least take a walk, perhaps choosing interesting locations, as variety adds “spice” to life.

Another extremely important factor is to have close, loving relationships with family and/or friends. Loving and caring and receiving love and caring are vital to human existence. And we know Jesus said, “Love, as I have loved you.”

The third important factor, according to this study, is compassion/altruism—love that

reaches out into the community and the world beyond our own immediate family and friends. We can’t all do as one of the characters in the film did, giving up his former life to dedicate his life full-time to caring for the dying in one of Mother Theresa’s homes in India. But we can all do something. Sometimes we are limited to donating money to help others. That is a way to express love. Better yet is hands-on service to others, in which we reap extra benefit from relationship with those whom we serve. Do you remember having served at our homeless shelter? Maybe you taught Sunday School, or helped with a Brownie or Cub Scout group, or helped a neighbor to shovel snow. Maybe you brought a casserole to a neighbor facing a difficult time, or visited someone in the nursing home. Do you remember how good that made you feel? Performing a little act of kindness can give us a real “happiness” boost.

So let’s continue to “love one another and be happy!”



## **Save the Date!**

This year’s UMW Salad Luncheon Fashion Show will be held at noon on Saturday, May 6.

## **United Methodist Women – Saturday, March 11**

Our United Methodist Women will join with women from other United Methodist Churches, as well as AME (African Methodist Episcopal) and CME (Christian Methodist Episcopal) churches in the Chicago area, for the annual meeting of the “World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.” The event will be held this year at Carter Temple CME Church on 79<sup>th</sup> and Wabash in Chicago.

## **Safe Drug Disposal**

Flossmoor is offering the Prescription (and nonprescription) Drug Take-Back Program in partnership with the Cook County Sheriff’s Office Department and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD). The countywide program officially started on Jan. 23. The collection box at the main entrance to the Flossmoor Village Hall was installed in mid-February as part of the comprehensive pharmaceutical drug collection and disposal program. The goal of the program is to get unused drugs into a safe place for disposal and also prevent harmful chemicals from entering the environment. When drugs are flushed down the toilet, those chemicals can enter local waterways. Unused prescription drugs thrown into the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold as well as eventually entering our soil and waterways.



## **PADS Ministry to Homeless Women and Children**

Our PADS Ministry continues to offer food and shelter to our guests in spite of troubles in getting enough volunteers. Thanks to some volunteers doing an extra shift, we have managed to continue.

In March we have five Wednesdays. We have a cook team that generously supplies a catered "soul food" dinner on our two fifth Wednesdays each year. And our own church supplies the food for the breakfast and lunch. We will have a signup sheet out a couple of weeks in advance of that Wednesday for our congregation to sign up to bring those food items.

We have had the joy of having some of our own youth assist with preparation and serving the meal on the first and second Wednesdays of each month. This is a good experience for them and a real help to us.

Lucy Kokal  
St. Andrew PADS Site coordinator  
(798-7953)



## **Respond Now Food Collection**

As always, any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated at *Respond Now*. Possibilities: canned chicken, canned fruit (especially pears and peaches), potato products in a box (scaloped, instant mashed, etc.), peanut butter, jelly, canned soups. 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.

### **Blessed In Aging**

by Esther Mary Walker

*Blessed are they who understand  
My faltering step and shaking hand.  
Blessed, who know my ears today  
Must strain to hear the things they say.*

*Blessed are those who seem to know  
My eyes are dim and my mind is slow.  
Blessed are those who looked away  
When I spilled tea that weary day.*

*Blessed are they who, with cheery smile  
Stop to chat for a little while.  
Blessed are they who know the way  
To bring back memories of yesterday.*



## **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!

# March 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship SC = South Classroom			<b>1</b> 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-C Crafters 6:00 pm-PADS 7:30 pm-Service of Ashes	<b>2</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm-Brookdale Bible Study 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon 12:00 pm- Development Committee meeting	<b>6</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	<b>7</b> 12:10 pm-Lenten Lunches, First Presbyterian	<b>8</b> 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS 7:00 pm- <i>John</i> Study	<b>9</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 3:00 pm-Brookdale 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> UMW at Carter Temple CME
<b>12</b> 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School Girl Scouts 5:00 pm-Youth	<b>13</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	<b>14</b> 10:00 am- Waterford Bible Study 12:10 pm-Lenten Lunches (Pastor B/St. A)	<b>15</b> 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-C Crafters 2:30 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS 7:00 pm- <i>John</i> Study	<b>16</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm-Brookdale Bible Study 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	<b>17</b> Voice Deadline	<b>18</b> 10:00 am-Book Club, Wesley Room
<b>19</b> 9:00 am-Commun- ications/Outreach 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	<b>20</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	<b>21</b> 10:00 am- Waterford Study 12:10 pm-Lenten Lunches 2:00 pm-DebEst 7:00 pm-Church Council	<b>22</b> 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS 7:00 pm- <i>John</i> Study	<b>23</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm-Brookdale Bible Study 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9am-3pm-Chicago Southern District Leadership Training
<b>26</b> 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Children's Sunday School 5:00 pm-Youth	<b>27</b> 2:30 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Boy Scouts, FH	<b>28</b> 10:00 am- Waterford Study 12:10 pm-Lenten Lunches	<b>29</b> 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:30 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS 7:00 pm- <i>John</i> Study	<b>30</b> 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm-Brookdale Bible Study 6:30 pm-Bell Choir 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir	<b>31</b>	

## **the Voice**

Is published monthly by

**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**

