

November 2017

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



It's All Saints Day as I write this month's Pastor's Letter. This Holy Day turns my mind toward those people in my life and throughout history who lived faithful lives. I remember their love, comfort, challenge, and stubbornness. Their willingness to be led by God to reveal our blind spots illuminates me. Their witness to the redemptive story of grace reminds me that all are drawn into the circle of God's love.

We may not think of ourselves as saints. The scene of Jesus' crucifixion holds characters that are would-be saints; not just the mother and the unmovable friends, but also the condemned, the executioner, the deserters, the accusers. This human cast lives in each of us. Their voices tell us in cowardly tones that we cannot be saints.

As a music lover, I grieve as mortality silences so many great artists year after year. But their songs live on. And even when those tunes are stilled, the creative force behind the music continues to draw breath from new artists. In my eyes, saints are people who bring creativity and focus to the table, who make room for others by questioning norms and

opinions, who love another even when life has made that person hard to love. Leonard Cohen had this to say (forgive the male-centric language of the 20th Century):

"What is a saint? A saint is someone who has achieved a remote human possibility. It is impossible to say what that possibility is. I think it has something to do with the energy of love. Contact with this energy results in the exercise of a kind of balance in the chaos of existence. A saint does not dissolve the chaos; if he did, the world would have changed long ago. I do not think that a saint dissolves the chaos even for himself, for there is something arrogant and warlike in the notion of a man setting the universe in order. It is a kind of balance that is his glory. He rides the drifts like an escaped ski. His course is a caress of the hill. His track is a drawing of the snow in a moment of its particular arrangement with wind and rock. Something in him so loves the world that he gives himself to the laws of gravity and chance. Far from flying with the angels, he traces with the fidelity of a seismograph needle the state of the solid bloody landscape. His house is dangerous and finite, but he is at home in

the world. He can love the shapes of human beings, the fine and twisted shapes of the heart. It is good to have among us such men, such balancing monsters of love." -Leonard Cohen, *Beautiful Losers* (1966).

So, the Christian New Year, Advent, is just around the corner. Christians don't start the new year with partying and resolute goal setting, but with waiting. Together, we sing, tell stories, decorate, and hope for the incarnation of our God in history and in our lives. It's counter-cultural to cultivate hope and expectation instead of instant gratification. It's against the grain to practice listening, stilling the rebuttals and clichés in order to hear more of God's story. Balancing silence with speaking and song gives us the focus needed to seize the opportunities before us, to observe and offer Christ in our midst.

As you go through the pages of this Voice, I pray God's spirit will guide you to the events and gatherings that will manifest Jesus' presence in your life.

In Christ,

Pastor Biel



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----------|
| Nov. 4 | <i>Drawing Closer to God</i> Spiritual Formation
Barrington UMC | 9 am—3 pm |
| Nov. 12 | SWIFT Interfaith Dinner | 5:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 13 | Munch & Help | 6:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 22 | Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Pastor Biel preaching
Infant Jesus of Prague, Flossmoor | 7:30 p.m. |
| Nov. 23 | THANKSGIVING DAY | |

LOOKING AHEAD:

- | | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dec. 3 | Hanging of the Greens | During Worship |
| Dec. 4 | James Hart Choir Concert | 10:15 a.m. |
| Dec. 9 | Cookie Walk and Craft Sale | 11 a.m.—2:00 p.m. |
| Dec. 16 | Dinner and Chatham Choral Ensemble | 5:45 p.m. |



Munch and Help

Monday, November 13, at 6:30 pm.

Come and help make lap blankets for veterans in the home in Manteno. Absolutely NO sewing required. Just cutting fringe and/or tying simple knots is required, so everyone can participate. Please bring sharp scissors that can cut fabric, if you have any. Your help is definitely needed; everyone is welcome. A soup supper, with a vegan option, will be served. Please let us know that you are coming so we know how much food to prepare. A signup sheet is in the narthex. Or you can call Karen in the church office at [\(708\) 798-8904](tel:7087988904) or send an email to Carolyn at stellasillydog@yahoo.com. There will be a freewill offering for expenses, with all extra donations going toward purchasing small items for the veterans in the home.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

On Wednesday evening, November 22, local congregations will come together once again for an annual Thanksgiving service at Infant Jesus of Prague Parish, and our own **Pastor Biel** will deliver the sermon. Also featured will be the Homewood-Flossmoor High School Viking Choir. Everyone is welcome! The service begins at 7:30 p.m. at Infant Jesus of Prague, 1131 Douglas Avenue, Flossmoor.

Hanging of the Greens

Save the date: Hanging of the Greens will be on Sunday, December 3. We will have a special service centered around the event, followed by a soup luncheon. Watch the announcements for further details.



Respond Now Christmas Distribution

This year our congregation has been asked to collect **600 boxes of instant pudding mix** for the Christmas food boxes that Respond Now will give to needy families with children. Our collection will be picked up on December 12, so we have some time to purchase pudding and reach our goal. Aldi's always has instant pudding for \$.49 a box, and Jewel's Signature or Essential brand is available for a little more. You can watch for sales on Jello brand, as well.

We are also invited to bring **gifts for the Christmas gift tables**, where parents pick out gifts for their families. Toys and games (preferably not ones that require batteries) are needed, as are \$10 gift cards from places like Target or 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.



United Methodist Women Faith, Hope and Love in Action

Two of our United Methodist Women attended the annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Conference of United Methodist Women in Naperville on Oct. 28. A truck from the Midwest Mission Service Center was there to pick up items to go there for use by UMCOR in places where there have been natural or man-made disasters. ____ lbs. of flood buckets, baby layettes and items to make layettes and school kits were loaded onto the truck. **Our St. Andrew UMW unit contributed 24 complete school kits, 4 complete baby layettes, and a few additional items for layettes--2 baby sweaters, 2 receiving blankets, 3 onesies, and a package of diaper pins.** We are small but mighty.

The Deb-Est Circle meeting will be on Tuesday, November 21, hosted by Carolyn Funk and Dee Calkins at the church. We will be packing up more donations of baby supplies for the Franciscan Olympia Fields Hospital birthing center. We will also elect officers for 2018 and have our World Thank Offering program and offering. Circle members, please remember to get baby supplies and bring something for that special offering, if you can. All World Thank Offering funds go directly to missions.



No More Bottle Caps Needed at this Time

The bottle caps that we have been collecting were brought to the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women's meeting on Oct. 28 and given to someone from the New Lenox Church who is collecting them for a project there. That collection will end soon. If we hear of another group collecting bottle caps, we will notify our congregation, but until then, you can always put them in your recycling bin.

Coupon Books

Golden Opportunity Coupon books are on sale for \$25.00. St. Andrew United Methodist Women get \$7.00 for each book sold, so your purchase helps women and children locally and worldwide. Take a look at a book on the hospitality table after worship to see how much you can save by using just a few of the coupons. There are Northwest Indiana books available as well as books for our south suburbs.

Prayer Bookmark

If you have a prayer request which you would like to have added to the prayer bookmark, please let us know. You can write your request on the back of your attendance sheet, email standrewspeaks@gmail.com, or call the church office at 798-8904.

Signup Sheets

Please notice the signup sheets on the counter in front of the office and sign up. You can sign up to 1) be a liturgist, 2) bring snacks for coffee/fellowship time, 3) be a helper for the Sunday School class, 4) be a greeter, or 5) be a helper in the nursery.

UMCOR

If you wish to contribute to our United Methodist Church UMCOR Emergency Relief Fund because of the hurricanes, simply include the gift with your offering and designate that amount as "UMCOR." Everything you donate to UMCOR goes directly to their work in the affected areas, not to administrative costs.



James Hart Choir Concert

The James Hart Panther Choir (about 85 members, including our own Masila Whorton) will sing at the United Methodist Women's special December program meeting on Monday, December 4. The entire congregation is invited.

We will begin with a fellowship/refreshment time in the narthex at 10:15 a.m. At 11:00 a.m., the choir will present their holiday concert for us. This will be followed by a couple of short Christmas stories and concluded with a Christmas carol sung by all. This choir always gives an outstanding performance, so do come if you can. Bring a friend! We would like to have at least as many in the audience as in the choir.



Cookie Walk and Craft Sale

St. Andrew will host its annual Cookie Walk and Craft Sale on Saturday, December 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Homemade cookies and candy will be offered for sale for \$10 per pound. In addition, craft items made by our own Caring Crafters will be available for sale along with items hand made by other local artisans. There will also be a café area, where shoppers can purchase dessert and a beverage and enjoy the cheerful Christmas-themed ambiance.

Local crafters are invited to rent a table for \$10. Please call the church office at 798-8904 for more information.



Welcome in the Holidays Dinner and Concert



We are looking forward to our Christmas community event, "Welcome in the Holidays with St. Andrew," on Saturday, December 16. The evening will begin at 5:45 with light refreshments and the opportunity to browse our silent auction, just in time to fill some of your Christmas gift needs. A delicious buffet dinner will be served at 6:15, and then at 7:30 the Chatham Choral Ensemble will present their "Christmas Through the Ages" concert. This group of musical professionals, under the direction of Mr. Charles T. Hayes, is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. In addition to serving as Artists in Residence at University Church in Hyde Park, the Chatham Choral Ensemble regularly performs at a variety of Chicago area venues. We are delighted to welcome them to St. Andrew!

Tickets will soon be available at \$25 for the dinner and concert and \$15 for the concert alone. Please mark your calendar, and plan to invite neighbors, friends, and family to this wonderful community event!



PADS

Our St. Andrew PADS site for women and their children is up and running. Our roster is almost filled, thanks to many returning and a couple of new volunteers. But we still have a couple of blank spots on our list. We particularly need a man or woman for the 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. shift. Each volunteer works just one Wednesday a month (with a couple of exceptions) for seven months (October through April).

November has a fifth Wednesday. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex to bring breakfast and lunch items, which St. Andrew is responsible for providing. We also need volunteers to serve during this extra time. Call Lucy to volunteer.

Respond Now

Our regular monthly food collection for Respond Now is taken on the first Sunday of each month, but donations can be left in the shopping cart near the front door at any time. Any nonperishable food items are accepted and appreciated. Possibilities: canned salmon, cold cereal, cake mix, cookies, grapefruit juice, canned baked beans. Because Respond Now is still very much in need of the larger size (4, 5, and 6) diapers, we will continue to collect diapers as well. Monetary donations are also accepted.



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 Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Chair Yoga Classes






A gentle form of yoga in which students do not get onto the floor is offered at St. Andrew 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.

TOPS



TOPS invites you to check out the local chapter that meets here in the Wesley Room every Thursday morning, 9:30—11:00.

November 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship</p>			1 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 3:00 pm-Worship Committee 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH	2 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm- <i>The Call</i> , St. Andrew 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells 7:30 pm-Choir	3 7:00 pm- <i>The Call</i> , St. Andrew	4 9am-3pm-Drawing Closer to God, Barrington UMC
5 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Collection 4:00 pm- Confirmation	6 3:00 pm- <i>The Call</i> , Brookdale 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance 7:30 pm-Scouts	7 10:00 am-Fund- Raising Meeting 6:00 pm-Adult English	8 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	9 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 3:00 pm- <i>The Call</i> , St. Andrew 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Bells 7:30 pm-Choir	10	11 VETERANS DAY
12 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School Youth Hospitality, after worship SWIFT Dinner	13 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH 6:30 pm-Munch & Help 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance 7:30 pm-Scouts	14 1:30 pm- DebEst Circle	15 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH	16 9:30 am-TOPS 3:00 pm- <i>The Call</i> , St. Andrew 6:30 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 pm- <i>The Call</i> , St. Andrew	18 10:00 am- Book Club
19 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School Loose Change 4:00 pm- Confirmation	20 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance 7:30 pm-Scouts	21 7:00 pm-Church Council	22 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm- Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Interfaith Thanksgiving, IJP	23 THANKSGIVING DAY 	24	25
26 10:00 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School 4:00 pm- Confirmation	27 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance 7:30 pm-Scouts	28	29 1:30 pm-Staging of the Greens 2:45 pm- Chair Yoga, FH	30 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal		

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

