

December 2017

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



"We are proud of our giving, and that creates a virtuous cycle that helps people be even better givers: not out of the myth of scarcity but the theology of abundance."

—Molly Baskette

Hurry up and Wait! I use this saying to describe being in hospitals. After making an urgent trip for an appointed time or in the midst of emergency, due to circumstances beyond your control, you find yourself not doing anything. Just waiting.

Waiting for what? Actually, for Advent, it's more a question of why are we waiting? Waiting cultivates patience. Waiting gives us a pause to reflect, allowing us to nourish ourselves in the process. Waiting creates space for observation. Old hurts, subtle habits, and seductive hangups can't hide under the gaze of someone with time on their hands to intentionally wait.

The Christmas Season exemplifies the difference between "Waiting on," as in tending to, versus the time passing that happens when we are "waiting for" something to happen. Advent waiting isn't only, "OMG, when is it Christmas,

already?!?!" Instead, Advent waiting listens to the sighs and groans of our spirit. In a culture constantly telling us to hurry up, Advent waiting invites us to slow the frantic pace and be, just be. In this way we can be present and in the moment. We can be attentive to our hearts.

Advent waiting calls us to an adventure, not outside our door, but towards the landscape within us; over the river of distracting, pesky thoughts (literally demons to the ancient church), through woods of shortsighted, prideful desires, past hills of expectations, down valleys of judgment, even to the brink of oblivion's cliffs (Who doesn't stare down occasionally into the mists of meaninglessness and futility every once in a while? We inhabit finite bodies; it's what we do). Intermingled with visits to these kinds of places that exist within each of us, we may also discover a wellspring of love over here, an oasis of trusting in God over there, peaks that let us view our past with humility and our future with hope, a shelter where Jesus meets us when we've had enough of the world and ourselves.

Waiting means watching! If we are paying close attention this season, we will be delighted to witness the incarnation of God, who wasn't born in the luxury of Herod's palace, but is being born on the margins of the Bethlehems of the world. On the lookout for where Jesus might turn up next, we will see people we thought were the most vulnerable turn out to be powerful. Think about what we've seen this year alone: the takedown of wealthy and powerful sexual predators, the unmasking of sexual harassment and assault on both the political left and right. White people waking up to their privilege and showing up in greater numbers to protest white supremacy. The election of Trans people, women, and people of color into political office.

I hope your waiting for Christmas reveals the holiness of God's new creation in Jesus and in you.

Blessings be upon you,

Pastor Biel



UPCOMING EVENTS

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. 10	Pledge Sunday	
Dec. 16	Dinner and Chatham Choral Ensemble	5:45 p.m.
Dec. 24	Family Christmas Eve Service	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	11:00 p.m.
Dec. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	



Pledge Sunday

Sunday, December 10, is Pledge Sunday. Please bring (or send) the commitment card you received in the mail by then, if possible, so the cards can all be dedicated together.



Christmas Giving for Needy Families Served by Respond Now

1 p.m. on Monday, December 11, is the deadline for bringing our toys and gifts or gift cards for Respond Now, as well as the boxes of pudding for Respond Now. So far, we have collected 384 of the 600 boxes requested. Lucy will load up the pudding boxes and the gifts at that time and take them to Respond Now. Toys and gifts (unwrapped and in the original packaging) may be left under the tree in the narthex. Gift cards may be placed in the offering plate or given to Carolyn or Lucy.



Poinsettia Orders

Sunday, December 10, is the last day to order your poinsettias, which are a great way to honor loved ones and add beauty to our sanctuary.



Cookie Walk and Craft Sale

St. Andrew will host its annual Cookie Walk and Craft Sale this 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 ambiance.



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 are available at \$25 for the dinner and concert and \$15 for the concert alone. You can also purchase tickets online at BrownPaperTickets.com. Please mark your calendar, and plan to invite neighbors, friends, and family to this wonderful community event!



United Methodist Women

The Christmas Program (sponsored by the United Methodist Women) on Monday, December 4, was enjoyed by a nice turnout of St. Andrew folks and their guests. Following refreshments in the narthex, the James Hart Junior High Choir sang for us in the sanctuary followed by a couple of short Christmas stories read by Pastor Biel and Russ. **Thank you to all who helped to make this a wonderful introduction to the Christmas season.**

The DebEst Circle (United Methodist Women) will meet at 12:30 PM on December 12 at the home of Dona. We'll chip in for the pizza. The rest will be provided by our hostesses—Dona and Carol. We'll have a white elephant gift exchange. Devotions will be given by Donna. We won't meet in January, but we'll be back in full swing in February with a program meeting (with all the congregation invited) on Saturday, February 10 (9:30 a.m. breakfast). Then our Circle will meet at 1:30 p.m. on February 20.

The 24 school kits that we assembled at our September Circle meeting have been taken to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, and the baby layette items that we collected at our November Circle meeting were delivered to St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights. We collected the following: 1

package disposable diapers, 1 package

baby wipes, 6 baby sweaters, 15 receiving blankets, 2 "wearable blankets," 14 onesies, 4 footed sleepers, 8 pairs of baby socks, 6 pacifiers, and 4 baby washcloths. We may be small in number, but we are mighty when it comes to our mission to serve disadvantaged women, children, and youth. Our next mission project will be for the Family Shelter of South Suburbia in Tinley Park at our April meeting.

Mark your calendars for the **Salad Luncheon/Fashion Show** (our big fundraiser for UMW missions) on **Saturday, April 29.**

Church Treasurer

Jessie, our church treasurer, will often be away in the next few months for personal reasons and in her roles for the Northern Illinois Conference. She would like to lighten her duties as treasurer by having a volunteer work with her to learn the process in order to take over when she is not available and possibly take on the job permanently. This very important position carries a lot of responsibility, but training using the Quickbooks program on a church-owned laptop will be provided. Anyone who feels this is something they would like to do is asked to contact Jessie, Pastor Biel, or finance chair Juanita.

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.





PADS

Our St. Andrew PADS site for women and their children is up and running. Our volunteer 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 someone for the 3:00 a.m. shift. Each volunteer works just one Wednesday a month (with a couple of exceptions) for seven months (October through April).

Bottle Cap Collection

We are collecting bottle caps again. Plastic caps such as those from peanut butter and mayonnaise jars and milk, juice, water, detergent, and medicine bottles can be used. The collection container is on the counter just inside the office door.

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.



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: pasta, spaghetti sauce (can or jar), canned beef stew, apple juice, canned vegetables. Monetary donations are also accepted.



TOPS

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



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.

December 2017



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



FH = Fellowship Hall
LF = Lower Fellowship

1
4:15 pm-Holiday
Lights

2

3
9:45 am-Choir
10:30 am-Worship
Hanging of the
Greens
Holy Communion

4
9 am-12 noon-
James Hart
2:45 pm-Chair
Yoga, FH
7:00 pm-Dance
7:30 pm-Scouts

5

6
9:00 am-Men's
Coffee, H Panera
1:30 pm- Crafters
2:45 pm-Yoga, FH
3:00 pm-Worship
6:00 pm-PADS

7
9:30 am-TOPS
6:00 pm-Cub Scouts
7:00 pm-Choir

8

9
11 am-2 pm-
**Cookie Walk &
Craft Fair**



10
9:45 am-Choir
10:30 am-Worship
PLEDGE SUNDAY
Sunday School

11
2:45 pm-Yoga, FH
7:00 pm-Int'l
Folk Dance
7:30 pm-Scouts

12
1:30 pm-
DebEst Circle

13
1:30 pm-Caring
Crafters
2:45 pm-Chair
Yoga, FH
6:00 pm-PADS

14
9:30 am-TOPS
6:00 pm-Cub Scouts
7:00 pm-Choir

15

16
5:45 pm-Dinner &
7:30 pm-Concert



17
9:45 am-Choir
10:30 am-Worship
Sunday School
Loose Change
4:00 pm-
Confirmation

18
7:00 pm-Int'l
Folk Dance
7:30 pm-Scouts

19

20
9:00 am-Men's
Coffee, H Panera
1:30 pm-Crafters
6:00 pm-PADS

21
9:30 am-TOPS
6:30 pm-Cub Scouts
FH
7:00 pm-Choir

22

23

24
9:45 am-Choir
10:30 am-Family
Christmas Eve
Service
11:00 pm-Candle-
light Christmas
Eve Service

25
Christmas Day



26

27
1:30 pm-Caring
Crafters
6:00 pm-PADS

28
9:30 am-TOPS
7:00 pm-Choir

29

30

31
9:45 am-Choir
New Year's Eve
10:30 am-Worship



the Voice

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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

