

January 2018



O kay, I want to address the Methodist nerds among us.

Grab your United Methodist Hymnal (because I know you have one, if you are indeed, a Methodist nerd) and turn to Charles Wesley's "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine;" #606. In case you aren't a Methodist nerd, see below:

Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord, in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord; give up ourselves, thru Jesus' power, his name to glorify; and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.

This poem of reaffirmation of our faith was used every year by early Methodists at covenant services. These were held annually on New Year's Eve in London and on Methodist Society visits every time John made his way out to the

country. Wesley wrote that worshipers at the three-hour long services experienced fresh manifestations of God's grace, healing for all their backsliding, and they flocked to sign a covenant stating they would be faithful throughout the year.

It's well known that we Methodists sing our theology. In this poem we are immediately struck by the holy call to action, "*Come,*" and "*let us use the grace divine...join ourselves to Christ the Lord.*" Our ability to move at all, from one year to the next, from solitude to community, towards God, is a gift, a grace, bestowed upon us by God. The invitation is always there to join ourselves to the work God is doing through Jesus Christ; again, pure grace.

Methodist emphasis on God's grace moves us from our ego-driven spot at the center of the universe and places God in that rightful place of superiority. The words "*perpetual covenant*" remind us that the work of salvation God did in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus was for

all time for those who agree to enter. Many will recognize the liberation found in humbly submitting to Jesus in those words "*give up ourselves.*" What temptations, hurts, and self-defeating habits have you decided to give up to God for 2018?

Finally, this first verse ends with our promise to live and die for Jesus. What more can we say? There is tremendous hope and promise of God's work in us if we are willing to place our whole life (even our death), our work, relationships, our trials and sufferings, our play and hobbies all before God to sanctify, redeem, and make meaningful.

Instead of New Year's resolutions, Methodists historically made covenants. May 2018 challenge you to find life-giving ways to walk with Jesus in the full knowledge that God will daily meet and guide you.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Biel

JANUARY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 7 Epiphany Sunday

Jan. 13 Winter Warming, 1st UMC, Arlington Heights



Love Came Down at Christmas

"Love came down at Christmas" in the form of the Christ Child. And our congregation responded to this love with lots more love this Christmas season. We brought for Respond Now—

61 toys and gifts
14 gift cards
476 boxes of instant pudding

For the Veterans Home in Manteno we collected a lot of Christmas cards, miscellaneous greeting cards and blank note cards, and 95 first-class stamps.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO MAKE THIS A HAPPIER TIME FOR THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE AS MUCH AS WE!

Winter Warming Jan. 13



No Longer a Stumbling Block— Turning our Lives and Churches into a Catalyst for Change

This year's Winter Warming event of the Reconciling Ministries Network will be held Saturday, January 13, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, 1903 E. Euclid Ave. Registration opens at 10:15 a.m. The event runs from 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

The keynote address, "Trans/Gender, the Sacred, and Troubling Certainty," will be delivered by Rev. M Barclay.

United Methodist Women



We do not have either a program meeting or a Circle meeting in January. But any interested women of the church are encouraged to attend the Winter "Mission U," (formerly called "school of missions") at Camp Reynoldswood in Dixon, Illinois, January 19-22. See Lucy Kokal for details and a registration form. You can choose one of 3 different study topics. The \$150 registration (if postmarked by 1/6) includes programming, lodging, and 7 meals (starting with dinner on Friday night and ending with lunch on Sunday noon.

In February we will resume our monthly meetings of Circle and our first Program meeting will be a **breakfast meeting at the church at 9:30 AM on Saturday, February 10. The entire congregation is invited to this breakfast and program.** The Circle meeting will be on Tuesday, February 20. Our new program booklet will be out shortly after the first of the year.

Coupon Books

Golden Opportunity Coupon books are still 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. New prayer bookmarks are printed at the beginning of each month.

Child Care Volunteers Needed

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking for volunteers to help with child care during the morning service. Volunteers would work with trained, paid child care workers about once a month. You would need to arrive at least 10 minutes before the beginning of the service. Most Sundays child care is not needed, so you would be able to attend most of the service.

Volunteers are needed because we need to reduce the cost of child care at this time. If you think you might be interested, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Contact a SPRC member for more information.



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.

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.



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 two people for the 11 p.m.–3 a.m. shift—one on the second Wednesday and one on the fourth Wednesday. 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. This time they will be made into a bench that will be placed outside Northwestern Memorial Hospital in memory of a child from Bloom Township who was treated there.

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.

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.



January 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| | 1  | 2 | 3 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm- Crafters 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS | 4 9:30 am-TOPS 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 7:00 pm-Choir | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Epiphany Sunday 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Wagon 4:00 pm- Confirmation | 8 10:00 am-Missions &Social Concerns 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:30 pm-Scouts | 9 | 10 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS 7:00 pm-Trustees | 11 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 7:00 pm-Choir | 12 | 13 Winter Warming, First UMC, Arlington Heights |
| 14 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School 4:00 pm- Confirmation | 15 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:30 pm-Scouts | 16 7:00 pm- Church Council | 17 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS | 18 9:30 am-TOPS 6:30 pm-Cub Scouts FH 7:00 pm-Choir | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change 4:00 pm- Confirmation | 22 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:30 pm-Scouts | 23 | 24 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS | 25 9:30 am-TOPS 7:00 pm-Choir | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship 4:00 pm- Confirmation | 29 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:00 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:30 pm-Scouts | 30 | 31 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS | FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship  | | |

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

