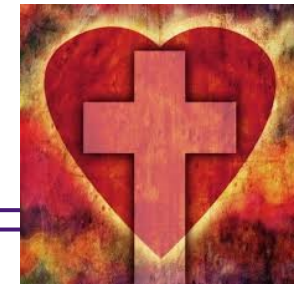


March 2018

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



“At the end of the day, I’d rather be excluded for who I include, than included for who I exclude.” —Rev Eston Williams,
Aley United Methodist Church

Imagine my surprise at how often church members have said to me, “I think I would understand Jesus better if I’d met him during his earthly life.” Such sentiment confounds me because when I read the Gospels, NOBODY understood Jesus’ earthly ministry. As I inquire why Jesus-in-the-flesh would be easier to believe in, the answers vary. Some say it’s his healings, others it’s his stories, his prayers, the calming of the sea, and even something as simple as just being in his presence.

Confronted with so many who express a “longing for the past,” I typically react by pointing people to the present and our accountability for seeing Jesus, now. For loving and being his beloved in this present moment. But how can we see an earthly Jesus now?

I take seriously Jesus’ statement (in Matthew) that we *will* meet him, over and over, in the hungry, the imprisoned, the sick, and the naked. As the proclamation goes, Christ is alive, and he will come again (and perhaps again and again for those with eyes of the heart to see).***Spoiler Alert!!! Skip to the next paragraph if you haven’t seen the film Dr.Strange; you’ve been warned*** What if Jesus keeps coming to us with the resilience of Doctor Strange, armed with the Eye of Agamotto, when he fought and defeated Dormammu in a time loop of continuous dying and reappearing? If that’s the case, then evil has been trapped into a losing battle with our victorious Lord. Stuck in bodies confined to time, we may never see the victory with human eyes. But Jesus indicates that if we are paying attention we will see him.

It’s scary to think that we might not recognize Jesus when we see him. Mary thought he was the gardener. The disciples on the Road to Emmaus thought he was a fellow traveler. The eleven, who in their grief returned to fishing, failed to recognize Jesus calling to them from the

shoreline. Time after time, Jesus was a stranger to the disciples: every incident where he challenged their assumptions about who’s in and who’s out, who’s blessed and who’s suffering the consequences of sin. Walking with the peripatetic school of Jesus meant encountering people the first disciples thought were ugly, unclean, and outside the love of God.

Here’s the good news; the disciples finally got it, and so can we. The church’s foundation is love; our job is loving people. Like Jesus, the disciples started really seeing the people they baptized and taught and healed. In their loving and seeing those around them (including enemies!) as children formed in the image of God, the presence of Jesus was available to them. Every moment they acted in love and made space at the table for someone to fall in love with Jesus, eternity was present.

The challenge to continue the church’s work of unconditional love is ours.

In Christ,

Pastor Biel



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6, 13, 20	Community Lenten Luncheon Series	12:10 p.m.
March 6, 13, 20, 27	Lenten Book Study, Lucy's Home	3:00 p.m.
March 6, 13, 20	Lenten Book Study, Parsonage	7:00 p.m.
March 10	UMW Program at Southlawn UMC	
March 29	Living Last Supper & Communion	7:30 p.m.
March 30	Good Friday Service	7:30 p.m.



Living Last Supper 2017

UMCOR Sunday



UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. In the wake of disasters, UMCOR is present among the devastation to provide relief and hope. UMCOR's Mission is to provide

- relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when disasters overwhelm a community's resources and ability to recover on their own, and
- technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

The work is done in the spirit of Jesus Christ, preserving the dignity of persons without regard to religion, race, nationality, or gender. UMCOR seeks to enhance the quality of life in the human community.

UMCOR Sunday in March is a special offering to underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100 percent of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. When you give generously on UMCOR Sunday, you make a difference in the lives of people who are hurting.

(UMCOR—cont.)

St. Andrew will be participating in UMCOR Sunday (a week late) through our regular third Sunday loose change offering. All that our children collect in their buckets for missions on March 18 will go toward the UMCOR Sunday offering. Don't forget that we accept bills and checks as well as all your loose change.

Exodus World Service Dinner



Exodus World Service is celebrating 30 years of the Christian community welcoming refugees with a dinner and program on Friday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. The dinner is complimentary but registration is required. An opportunity to make a gift in support of this ministry will be available at the end of the evening. Three members from St. Andrew attended last year, and they do encourage you to attend if you are interested in the work being done by Exodus. In order to sit together at a table we need to send in our registration together. If you are interested, contact Carolyn or call the church office (708-798-8904) and let Karen know no later than March 18. For further information, go to the Exodus website at exodusworldservice.org.

SWIFT Speakers Forum

The next Swift Forum will be Sunday afternoon, March 18, beginning with registration at 2:30 p.m. It will be held at the Orland Park Prayer Center QA Banquet Hall, 16550 S. 104th Avenue, Orland Park. The topic is "Social Justice in Our Faith." Members and friends of St. Andrew who have attended previous forums have found them very worthwhile. If you want to participate in a carpool, call the church office (708-798-8904) to let Karen know.

The Christian speaker is Gregory Gross, a United Methodist deacon who works with The Night Ministry of Chicago. Abdul Malik Ryan will be the speaker to give the Muslim perspective on social justice and Rabbi Gary Gerson will give the Jewish perspective. Bring along a nonperishable food item to donate to Respond Now.

SWIFT ("South West Interfaith Team") is a nonprofit organization made up of synagogues, churches, and mosques located in the south and southwest suburbs of Chicago: Christians, Muslims, and Jews working together for Respect... Understanding... and Religious Harmony.

St. Andrew is a current member of SWIFT, and our annual membership dues have been paid.



2018 South Suburban Diversity Dinners Scheduled

St. Andrew members are encouraged to consider attending the South Suburban 2018 Diversity Dinner: "The State of Diversity in the South Suburbs: Have We Progressed?"

This year's featured speaker will be Troy Cicero, President of MulticultuReal Communications, whose unique presentation style ensures that the audience will be motivated to seek "real" change by engaging in "real" conversation. After his presentation, trained facilitators will lead guests in exercises that will promote open communication in an inclusive environment. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. This year the dinner, unlike some years when dinners were held in private homes, will be hosted at the Rich South High School Campus in Richton Park. The date and time are Saturday, April 21, at 5:30 pm. To make reservations, go to the website at <http://www.diversitydinners.com/>



Living Last Supper Maundy Thursday Service

Once again, St. Andrew, in conjunction with St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Glenwood, will host a Holy Thursday service reenacting The Last Supper through a dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting of that name. The service will take place at 7:30 p.m. on March 29.

The congregation of St. Andrew has hosted this service for the South Suburban Community for several years. Those who attend are invited to be a part of a living portrayal of Jesus' last night spent with his Apostles, at the moment in which he spoke the words, "One of you will betray me." As each Apostle steps from his frozen position in the painting, he examines his own relation to Jesus and his doubts about his ability to follow faithfully. Each must ask himself the penetrating question, "Is it I?" The service concludes with all in attendance being invited to the Communion Table, at which the communion elements are distributed by actors portraying Jesus, Peter and John.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to be part of one of the most solemn worship services of the Christian year and to introduce them to the love of our church community.



Easter Plants

We invite you to remember your loved ones and friends this Easter by purchasing an Easter plant. Daffodils and white, pink, and purple tulips will be available at the cost of \$10 per plant or three for \$25.

This is a meaningful, visible sign of our love for those we remember and honor and a way of adding beauty to our sanctuary on Easter. An order form is included in your bulletin. March 18 is the last day for ordering.



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.

2018 Laity Convocation

On Saturday, February 17, a group from St. Andrew attended the 2018 Laity Convocation at Sycamore United Methodist Church. Pastor Biel, Anne, Jessie, Lucy, Waneta, and Jackie spent several hours that day learning about how local churches can carry out the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We were inspired by the keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Junius Dotson, General Secretary of Discipleship Ministries, who challenged us with the idea of "missional engagement" and how important it is to "See All the People," shifting the conversation from "fixing churches" to building relationships with those in our surrounding communities.

After the keynote presentation, our St. Andrew representatives each attended a different breakout session. We learned practical strategies for sharing our faith, reaching out to our communities, and using data to target our outreach. Other sessions provided updates on The Way Forward and more information on the UMC initiative spearheaded by Dr. Dotson, "See All the People".

Future editions of The Voice will have more in-depth summaries of the sessions that we attended, along with ideas on how the entire St. Andrew church body can get involved in "See All the People." Stay tuned!

United Methodist Women



The UMW program meeting on March 10, to which all women are invited, will not be at our church. We will be joining women from other Chicago-area United Methodist Churches and from several Methodist related denominations: AME, AMEZ, CME, UM. We are all part of the "World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women." This year's meeting will be hosted by the United Methodist Women at Southlawn United Methodist Church, 8605 South Cregier Avenue in Chicago. We'll meet at church to carpool to the event, which begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be followed by lunch. The cost (which includes breakfast and lunch) is \$15 per person. The deadline to register is March 2. See Lucy for a registration form and be sure to send it in by March 2. The theme this year is "Climate Change; Caring for the Environment: Reuse, Recycle, Reduce."

The **March Circle meeting** will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 19, at the church and will be hosted by Toni. Waneta will lead the pledge service. We'll each sign up for items to provide for the 30 "Personal Care Bags" we will fill and give to the residence for abused women in Tinley Park. The bags will be filled at our April Circle meeting at the church, hosted by Donna.

(United Methodist Women—cont.)

It was decided at the Feb. 19 Circle meeting that we will go ahead with our **Spring Salad Luncheon on April 28**, even though Dress Barn has had to cancel on doing the fashion show. We will have a committee working on an alternative to Dress Barn for the luncheon program. Sign-up sheets for bringing salads will be out at the beginning of April for persons from the congregation to support this event with salads and cookies. The first \$1500 of proceeds go to pay our unit's pledge to the Chicago Southern District, a large portion of which goes, ultimately, to support mission projects of the United Methodist Women, worldwide and in our own country. The rest of the proceeds will go to support the budget of our own congregation. Last year UMW was able to contribute \$500 of the luncheon proceeds to St. Andrew.

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: peanut butter, jelly, potato products in a box (scalloped, instant mashed, etc.), canned fruit (especially pears and peaches), canned chicken, canned soups. Monetary donations are also accepted.

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. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact a SPRC member for more information.

Bottle Cap Collection

Bloom Township is collecting bottle caps for a new bench project, so we are happy to accept them and pass them on. 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.

January 25

Dear Reverend Biel,

Greetings from frigid Ohio!

I would like to express my thanks to you and your congregation for including me in your Sunday service prayers. My sister, Betsy, sent me a note telling me what a thoughtful and moving prayer you offered, including me and my medical situation. The results of my PET scan were much better this time than in November. I am convinced that the prayers offered by my family, my friends, and acquaintances I have yet to meet, are the reason my scan results showed that the spots on the two areas of concern have decreased in size and in activity. Our Lord is the greatest physician of all. He is in control of all situations, including mine! I thank God for putting you and St. Andrew Church into my life.

Please share my thankfulness with your congregation for their prayers and encouraging support for me.

May God continue to bless you in the new year.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kapustar



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.

March 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 7:00 pm-Choir	2	3 1:00 pm-Living Last Supper Rehearsal
	FH = Fellowship Hall LF = Lower Fellowship					
4 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Holy Communion Food Collection 4:00 pm-Confirmation	5 10:00 am-Missions and Social Concerns 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Scouts	6 12:10 pm-Lenten Luncheon— Pastor Biel, St. Andrew host 3:00 pm-L Study 7:00 pm-L Study	7 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm- Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	8 9:30 am-TOPS 2:00 pm-Finance 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 6:00 pm-Cub Scouts 7:00 pm-Choir	9	10 UMW Program at Southlawn UMC 1:00 pm-Living Last Supper Rehearsal
11 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Sunday School 2pm-LLS Rehearsal 4:00 pm-Confirmation	12 2:45 pm-Chair Yoga, FH 7:30 pm-Scouts 7:00 pm-Church Council	13 12:10 pm-Lenten Luncheon 3:00 pm-Lenten Study, Lucy's 7:00 pm-Lenten Study,Parsonage	14 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 2:45 pm-Yoga, FH 6:00 pm-PADS	15 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:00 pm-Choir	16	17
18 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship Loose Change 2pm-LLS Rehearsal 2:30 pm-SWIFT 4:00 pm-Confirmation	19 No Chair Yoga 7:30 pm-Scouts 1:30 pm-UMW Circle meeting at Lucy's home	20 12:10 pm-Lenten Luncheon 3:00 pm-Lenten Study, Lucy's 7:00 pm-Lenten Study,Parsonage	21 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, H Panera 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters No Chair Yoga 6:00 pm-PADS 7pm-LLS Rehearse	22 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:00 pm-Choir	23	24
25 PALM SUNDAY 9:45 am-Choir 10:30 am-Worship 4:00 pm-Confirmation 7pm-LLS Rehearsal	26 No Chair Yoga 7:30 pm-Scouts	27	28 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters No Chair Yoga 6:00 pm-PADS 7:30 pm-Living Last Supper Dress	29 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Folk Dance, LF 7:30 pm-Living Last Supper and Communion (6:00 Call)	30 7:30 pm- Good Friday Service	31

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 demonstrat-
ed by the life and ministry of Jesus
Christ. As God’s love extends to all, we
therefore welcome everyone into partici-
pation and membership regardless of age,
race, ethnicity, gender, family structure,
socio-economic status, marital status, ed-
ucational 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