

December, 2018

THE VOICE

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Words from the Pastor...

“As people around us experience God in new and different ways, our curiosity is piqued, but perhaps we have reservations. As the excitement grows, God invites us to come and see what God has for us; to see if there is more to God than what we have experienced to this point. God wants to heal our brokenness (Luke 4:18-19), restore our joy (John 15:11), cause us to overcome (Matthew 16:33), give us His peace (John 14:27).

—Rev. Dr. Audrea F. Nanabray



Love Lunch

**Thursday, December 20, 11:30 a.m.
Asian Harbor**

Everyone is invited to join Pastor Audrea December 20 at Asian Harbor Restaurant, 1930 Ridge Road in Homewood, for a holiday celebration lunch and a time of Christian fellowship. Wear your St. Andrew T-shirt to this time of renewal, reflection, and delicious food!

Please RSVP to the church office or to your small group leader by Sunday, December 16, so that we can give the restaurant a firm number for our group. We will have a “shared meal fund” for anyone who needs assistance in paying for lunch. Contact Tommy for shared meal information.

2019 Pledges

Many thanks to the members of St. Andrew who turned in their pledges for 2019. Overall, pledges were up approximately \$9000 from 2018, something to be proud of, given a somewhat smaller number of members pledging. It certainly is not too late to turn in your pledge card. You may place it in the Sunday offering plate (in an envelope for privacy and mark “2019 pledge” on the outside) or give it to Karen in the office to pass on to Ric, our financial secretary. The more individuals who give an estimated pledge, the better our budgeting for the coming year can be.



DECEMBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 8	Cookie Walk and Craft Fair	11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Dec. 16	Caroling	after worship
Dec. 19	UMW Breakfast & Program Featuring James Hart 6th Grade Choir	9:15 a.m.
Dec. 21	Family Movie Night: <i>The Nativity Story</i>	7:30 p.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	11:00 p.m.



Cookie Walk and Craft Fair

St. Andrew's annual cookie walk and craft fair will be held on Saturday, December 8, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A variety of cookies and candies will be available for \$10 a pound. Handmade crafts will also be available for sale. And, to complete your shopping experience, our café will offer coffee, tea, cider, and a variety of baked goods.

Annual Christmas Breakfast and Program

On Wednesday, December 19, the entire congregation is invited to our annual Christmas Program sponsored by the United Methodist Women. The breakfast will be at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel meeting room. The program, to which the public has also been invited, begins at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. We'll begin with the 6th grade choir from James Hart Middle School in Homewood singing their holiday repertoire. Then we'll have a Christmas story or two and sing a Christmas carol to close. A fellowship time for all, with hot spiced apple cider and cookies, will follow in the narthex.

Family Movie Night

Is held every third Friday at 7:30 p.m. The movie on December 21 will be *The Nativity Story*. Join Mary and Joseph on an incredible journey of hope and discovery in this timeless and visually magnificent story. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.



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.



All of our Neighborhood Impact groups are joining together on Sunday, December 16, after church. We'll celebrate the Christmas season by caroling with our shut-in members, and then we will conclude our afternoon with a time of fellowship and refreshments at Lucy's home. All are invited!

Disaster Relief

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center is helping in conjunction with UMCOR in the disaster relief effort for all those affected by the tornadoes in the central Illinois area. If you want to help financially, you can do so online by going to their website at midwestmission.org. Or you can mail your contribution to Midwest Mission Distribution Center at 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee, IL 62558.

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.

Respond Now Christmas Baskets

St. Andrew's assignment for the Respond Now Christmas baskets this year is to get 400 boxes of macaroni and cheese. So far, we have 288 boxes. We will be collecting them until Sunday, December 9. Lucy will take them to Respond Now on Monday, December 10.

We are also collecting toys and gift cards for Respond Now. Toys can be placed under the tree in the narthex; gift cards can be dropped into the offering plate.

PADS Homeless Shelter on Wednesday Nights

Our PADS shelter season, where we offer shelter, food, and hospitality to women and their children on Wednesday nights from October through April, is now in full swing. We have four shifts of volunteers:

6:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
10:45 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.
2:45 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.
5:00 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.

Each volunteer serves on their shift one Wednesday per month. Call Lucy (799-7953) if you would like to give this opportunity a try.



United Methodist Women



The DebEst Circle met at the church, hosted by Carolyn, on November 20. Our devotions highlighted our annual World Thank Offering, designated exclusively to UMW mission institutions. Our program was to assemble five baby layettes for Ingalls Hospital. Each kit had two receiving blankets, 10 disposable diapers, two cloth diapers, two sleepers, two onesies, two washcloths, one sweater, and two pacifiers. Our December meeting will be a pizza lunch at Dona's home at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11. Carol is co-hostess. We will exchange white elephant gifts and have a Christmas devotion.

Calling All Youth

Youth Group is meeting every second and fourth Sunday at 3:30 p.m. See you there—and bring your friends!

Play It Again (or for the first time)

We can now access our church services online through a link on our church website. Go to homewoodsaintandrew.org and click on the link, "Listen to our worship services."

News on the Environment

The Sierra Club writes of how our country is now going backward on protecting the environment:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) now proposes weakening federal pollution standards for cars and trucks and taking away California's ability to enforce its own, stricter, rules.

The EPA will now allow the use of asbestos in U.S. manufacturing. The Russian company Uralasbest puts Trump's face on bags of its product: "Donald is on our side!" says a company Facebook post.

Despite earlier assurances from acting EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler that he did not "think it was appropriate" to meet with clients on whose behalf he had lobbied, he has done so on at least three occasions.

The Bureau of Land Management will no longer require oil and gas companies, mine operators, and other industries to pay compensation for the damage their activities do to public lands.

Government funding for research on climate change is being held up by a review process overseen by a former high school football teammate of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

President Trump is attempting to roll back the Obama-era Clean Power Plan. The EPA admits that the move will increase air pollution and kill 1,400 people each year.

(Environment—cont.)

On the positive side:

Environmental groups have achieved a raft of legal victories. These include moving back the approval of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, ending the EPA's delay of safety regulations at dangerous chemical plants, stopping the delay of the Clean Water Rule, and requiring safeguards for coal-ash dumps. And a federal judge has ordered the EPA to ban the heavily used chemical, chlorpyrifos.

Bloomberg Philanthropies has announced the American Cities Climate Challenge. The 100 largest metropolitan areas in the United States were invited to apply for the challenge. The 20 cities with the best track records of achievement so far and a deep ambition to ramp up progress over the next two years will receive technical assistance and support valued at more than \$2.5 million. All told, the largest cities in the U.S. have the potential to deliver 20 percent of our nation's Paris target, cutting more than 200 million megatons of carbon pollution by 2025, the equivalent of closing 48 dirty coal-fired power plants.





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:00 am-Worship Hanging of the Greens Holy Communion Food Collection	3 7:30 pm-Scouts	4 7:00 pm-Trustees	5 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 6:00 pm-PADS	6 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Dance 5:00 pm-Choir 6:30 pm-Bells	7	1 12:00 noon-Corporate Prayer 11 am- 2 pm- Cookie Walk 8
9 9:00 am-Worship Sunday School 3:30 pm-Youth Group	10 7:30 pm-Scouts	11 12:30 pm-Debest Circle, home of Dona	12 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 6:00 pm-PADS	13 9:30 am-TOPS 2:30 pm-Int'l Dance 5:00 pm-Choir 6:30 pm-Bells	14	15
16 9:00 am-Worship Loose Change Sunday School After Worship-Caroling	17 7:30 pm-Scouts	18 7:00 pm-Church Council	19 9:00 am-Men's Coffee, Panera Homewood 9:15 am-Breakfast and Program 1:30 pm-Caring Crafters 6:00 pm-PADS	20 9:30 am-TOPS 11:30 am- 2:00 pm-SPRC 2:30 pm-Int'l Dance 5:00 pm-Choir 6:30 pm-Bells	21 7:30 p.m.-Family Movie Night—The Nativity Story	22
23 9:00 am-Worship Sunday School No Youth Group	24 11:00 p.m.-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 	25 Christmas Day 	26 6:00 pm-PADS	27 9:30 am-TOPS	28	29
30 9:00 am-Worship No Sunday School	31 New Year's Eve 					

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 9:00 a.m.

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

