



SAINT ANDREW
United Methodist Church
DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

- **Campfire and Carols.** Join our church family for an old-fashioned carol sing around a campfire from 6:00-7:30pm on Friday, December 15. We will have coffee, hot chocolate, and tea. All are encouraged to bring cookies to share!
- **Longest Night Service.** On December 21 at 7:00pm we will have a very special service for anybody who would like to quietly celebrate our Lord's birth. Maybe you are ill, grieving, lonely, or just feeling like holiday cheer is too overwhelming this year. Our longest night service allows us to embrace the Prince of Peace and light a candle as we sing of a silent night that changed the world.
- **Christmas Eve Worship Services Sunday, December 24.**
10:00am Advent week 4, a combined worship in the sanctuary celebrating the love of Christ.
5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service.
7:00pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.
- **New Years Eve Worship Service.** We will have a combined service at 10:00am on Sunday, December 31. The service will be in the Sanctuary.
- **Children's Musical Pageant.** Our December 10, 10:00am combined worship in Fellowship Hall will feature the St. Andrew children's musical production of "Angels We Have Heard." Our children have been working and studying hard to tell the story of some heavenly angels that discover the true meaning of Christmas. It will be the second week of Advent, a service of Peace, including an Advent message and some Carol singing. Why not invite a friend, a neighbor, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members? A potluck will follow along with time to congratulate the children and celebrate the Birth of Our Savior.
- **Poinsettia Dedications.** Last day to order Christmas poinsettia is Sunday December 10. Poinsettia selection is red, white or a mix of red & white. Pots approximately 7 1/2" with 8 or more blooms \$20 each. Checks made payable to St. Andrew UMC.
- **Church Envelopes 2024.** Envelopes will be available December 10 outside of each service. If you don't have envelopes and would like them please contact the church office.
- **The Church Office** will not be running on normal hours the weeks of December 25 through January 10. Voice mail messages will be checked intermittently and handled. For Food pantry requests please contact Dave Richardson, cell: 732-779-1869, wdrichardson1960@verizon.net or building maintenance issues contact Dave or any Trustee member. Prayer Chain requests call or email Gertrude Carroll, 848-223-7100, gerque3@yahoo.com. If it is an emergency situation contact Pastor Anna, 325-669-4380, anna@standrewtr.org.
- **Library News.** Books in large print: "**Stories for the Heart**" by Alice Gray. Short stories by Max Lucado, Tony Evans, Ruth Bell Graham, Tony Campolo, Philip Yancey and many more. They are some of the favorite authors a lot of us know. "**Brush of an Angel's Wing**" by Charlie W. Shedd, vividly chronicles angelic sightings, stories from his own life. Shedd gives a glimpse of what a brush with an angel looks like, describing nick of time feats of strength, supernatural perceptions and divinely orchestrated situations. Happy reading! Any questions contact Joan Sola 732-240-7516.

- **Meals That Heal.** Our Thanksgiving feast was a wonderful success! Our Christmas Meals That Heal will be held on Wednesday, December 13 at 5:00pm. Join us for this special holiday meal, fellowship and fun. Meals That Heal would like to present our guests this special evening with a little holiday cheer. Please consider baking cookies and bringing them to church on Sunday December 10 or Tuesday December 12. Your kindness will help spread joy this Christmas season! Thank you!
- **Missions News.** We will continue our Christmas Gift Card Ministry for low-income families in our community. We are asking for \$20 Gift Cards from Wal-Mart or Target. Deadline for collection is December 10.
- **Musical Opportunities.** We always welcome new members. Our musical groups are a way to worship and fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Contact Jim Gilbert at jim@standrewtr.org.
Adult Choir – Rehearsals Wednesdays at **4:00pm**.
Bell Choir – Wednesdays at **3:00pm**.
Praise Band – Thursdays at 7:30pm singers and musicians welcome to join.
- **United Women of Faith (UWF)** For those who have purchased tickets, our annual **Christmas Tea** is on Saturday, December 2 at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy this special holiday celebration with special music and fun with Jim Gilbert and Al Spino.
- **United Methodist Men (UMM)** The next UMM breakfast meeting will be held December 9 at our new time, **8:00 - 10:00am**. This month we will be in Memorial Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!
- **Veteran's Ministry.** This past November, the Veterans Ministry attended Prime Time Travel's Gala honoring our Veterans and First Responders - Tunnel to Tower Project. The Gala was held at the Resort Casino Hotel in Atlantic City. Many thanks to The Gilbert Company and the congregation of St. Andrew for their generous donations to our Veterans Ministry that support Operation Jersey Cares, US Wars Dogs and the Community of Hope. Our heartfelt thank you goes to Jim Gilbert's mother Mary Lou, for making postcards decorated with each branch of service, people just love them! To all our Veterans and families, this is the reason we do what we do, to help our Veterans know, Gods loves them! God bless Pastor Anna and our congregation for giving us an opportunity to do what we love, support our Veterans. May you all have a blessed and the happiest of holidays! Sgt. David Nordt.
- **WOW (Women's Book Club)** Calling all women who love to read! Our next book club meeting will be on December 16. We will be discussing "**The Christmas Candle**" by Max Lucado. All women are invited every third Saturday 10-11:00am. Contact Pat Lewis 732-674-5538 for zoom information.