



**SAINT ANDREW**  
United Methodist Church  
**DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER**

- **Longest Night Service.** On Saturday, December 21 at 4:00pm 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.
- **Carols, Cocoa, and Cookie Party for the whole family!** This is going to be a wonderful gathering filled with joy, laughter, and love. It will be a great place to bring your out-of-town guests and neighbors. Bring cookies to share and warm clothes. Weather permitting we will sing outside around a fire before going in to enjoy refreshments. Come on over to enjoy the fun on December 22, 5:00-6:30pm Memorial Garden.
- **Christmas Eve Worship Services Tuesday, December 24 in the Sanctuary.**  
5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service.  
7:30pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.
- **Church Envelopes 2025.** Envelopes will be available December 1 in the Narthex. If you don't have envelopes and would like them please contact the church office. If you give online, please pick up your envelopes as there are special giving opportunities within the box.
- **The Church Office** will not be running on normal hours the week of December 30 through January 7. Voice mail messages will be checked intermittently and handled. For food pantry requests please contact Dave Richardson, cell: 732-779-1869, [wdrichardson1960@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:gerque3@yahoo.com). Emergency situations contact Pastor Anna, 325-669-4380, [anna@standrewtr.org](mailto:anna@standrewtr.org).
- **Family Promise of the Jersey Shore.** Improvements to the bathrooms and kitchen of the Memorial Hall wing are now complete as we await the arrival of Family Promise of the Jersey Shore over the next 30 days. FPJS will be leasing the space to provide a day center for their staff and the families they serve. Similar to our long history with IFS, FPJS operates a rotational network of churches providing overnight accommodation to families experiencing homelessness in Ocean County. Those families need a space to call home when they are not at a host church, and St. Andrew has stepped forward to fill the need. We will also be joining the FPJS rotational network to continue hosting families overnight on a periodic basis as IFS has changed their model seeking to establish a full-time shelter at their existing facility. Be sure to give FPJS staff and families a warm St. Andrew welcome when you see them!

- **Library News.** We have many Christmas books on the book rack outside of Fellowship Hall. Some of our favorite authors like Max Lucado author of *The Christmas Candle*, very enjoyable and an easy read. There are also a number of children's books to choose from. The library door is always open. When taking a book, please sign the card with your name and phone number and place it in the box. Any questions call Joan Sola 732-240-7516. Happy reading!
- **Meals That Heal.** Please join us for our annual Christmas celebration on **December 18**. Our menu will feature baked ham and other seasonal foods. Please bring cookies for goodie bags for our friends and leave them on the credenza in the Fellowship Hall lobby. There is food for all and all are welcome. Join us from 5-6:00pm.
- **Missions Reminder.** We are collecting trims and rick rack for children's dresses being made by a friend of the congregation for Spirit Lake Ministry Project. No lace or fabric is needed. You may leave items in the Narthex. Thank you.
- **Poinsettia Dedications.** Order forms will be emailed the week of December 1 and will be on the tables and in the bulletins.
- **Trustee News. Blood Drive Friday, December 27** from 1-7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Appointments recommended walk-ins welcome if drive capacity permits. For an appointment call 800-933-2566.
- **United Methodist Men (UMM).** The next UMM breakfast meeting will be held Saturday, **December 14** at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall.
- **United Women of Faith (UWF/UMW).** Calling ALL women! **Save the Date Saturday, December 7** for our annual **Christmas Tea** at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall. **Last day to purchase tickets is Sunday, December 1 after worship the price is \$25.**
- **WOW! (Women's Book Club)** all women are invited! Please join us for our next meeting on December 14. We will discuss *Comfort and Joy* (a modern-day fairytale) by Kristin Hannah. We will meet in-house in our choir room, and also via ZOOM Please bring a goodie to share for an impromptu Christmas happening. Contact Pat Lewis for details at [patricialewis722@aol.com](mailto:patricialewis722@aol.com). Happy Reading!