

- **Administrative Board.** The next Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday February 10 at 7:00pm** in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to attend.
- **Lenten Bible Study, Wednesdays February 25-April 1 6:00-7:30pm.** Join Pastor Anna and Patty Herflicker for a powerful Lenten Bible Study using Adam Hamilton's new book, "Why did Jesus Have to Die?". Pastor Anna's sermon series for Lent is based on this book, and the study will serve as a continued conversation and in depth study of the scriptures used on Sunday mornings. Materials for the class are \$22 for regular print, \$24 for large print, or \$15 for eBook. You can find the book on Amazon or the Cokesbury website. Please register for the class by February 11, call the church office at 732-349-5367.
- **Meals That Heal.** Please join us **February 25** for our annual soup and chili dinner from 5:00-6:00pm. A nice warm cozy meal for a chilly February evening. There is food for all and all are welcome!
- **Social Action Committee. Save the date Beach Sweep April 11th!** Participate in a beach cleanup as part of statewide effort to stop ocean pollution. The information you collect about debris at your local site will help spread the message about the dangers of litter in the marine environment. Register at link below. See Lynn Koch for more information or visit their website [Clean Ocean Action: Beach Sweeps Volunteer](#).
[Clean Ocean Action Fall 2025 Beach Sweeps!](#)



- **2026 "Mind The Gap" Stewardship Update.** Thank you so much to the 50 persons/families who have submitted commitment cards to the Church since November. This is a number not seen since 2020! Praise God! If you (or your family) have pledged annually or if this is the first time you have done so here at St. Andrew, we thank you so much for your financial stewardship of our Church and its Ministries. If this message reminds you that you intended to do so, but forgot, it is never too late to let us know of your intentions. Cards are available in the Narthex outside of the Sanctuary. And remember we are always looking for new ways to generate income while serving the community through partnerships like Toms River Pickleball, Family Promise, and Meals on Wheels. Share any thoughts you may have with wdrichardson1960@verizon.net and jscottsusich@gmail.com.
- **Trustee News.** Amongst the responsibilities of the Trustees, is the keeping of our Church building and premises safe and in good condition. As there are still several weeks of winter left, we ask our members and friends to be careful when moving around outside in the parking lots and walkways. We will endeavor to keep these areas free of ice and snow, but please be aware of the surfaces and the weather, and if you see areas needing addressing, please let a Trustee or the Church Office know.

A mention to all our members and friends who attend services on Sunday...the doors outside Fellowship Hall (under the "Welcome" awning) are unlocked prior to the start of service. We encourage people to utilize these doors instead of walking up the incline of the driveway, particularly when the weather is not great. Once inside, there is an elevator at the end of the vestibule area to take people to the upper floor or you can turn left and walk down the interior Church hallway to the staircase that will lead to the Sanctuary vestibule. Shortly after service begins, the Security team member assigned to the day will lock these doors.

Starting in late March, the Trustees will turn their attention to our grounds and outdoor environments. If you are interested in being involved in any maintenance of the grounds outside - weeding, planting, mowing, trimming, gardening, etc. - let our Trustees team know. We will likely spend at least one day prior to Easter sprucing up the property. If this interests you, let us know.

In order to meet the need for more bathrooms on the main church floor, the Trustees changed the woman's bathroom at the end of the hall past the music room to a unisex bathroom. Signage has been changed and a slide bolt locking unit has been installed. Occupants are encouraged to lock the door when using the facilities.

Blood Drive Tuesday, February 3 from 1-7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome! For an appointment call 800-933-2566.

- ***United Methodist Men's Breakfast.*** The men's breakfast will be on **Sunday, February 8.** Breakfast will be served at 8:00am and be available till just after 9:00am. All men are welcome and encouraged to come!
- ***United Women in Faith (UWF).*** Save the date! Our annual women's retreat will be on **April 25.** Join us for a full day of growing in faith, friendship and yummy food. More details to follow!
- ***Veterans Ministry.*** Last year, the Veterans Ministry celebrated its 15th anniversary since its founding in 2010. Looking back over the past year, the ministry is grateful to share several meaningful highlights. The Veterans Ministry hosted GEO-VETS at The Gilbert Company/GEODIS and was also represented during a visit to the VFW in Barnegat, New Jersey. Another wonderful highlight was assisting Prime Time Travel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where many veterans were honored. We also had the pleasure of welcoming VA Crisis Representative and Licensed Social Worker, Heather Church-Soto, to our Veterans Day celebration. In addition, members of the ministry attended the Mirage Memorial Day service and the Veterans Day service in Barnegat, New Jersey.

The ministry has connected and networked with many veterans' organizations and looks forward to continuing these partnerships in 2026. Our Veterans Ministry at St. Andrew UMC is also developing a new membership roster. Just a reminder that you do not need to be a veteran to join the Veterans Ministry—only a heart willing to serve and support our veterans and their families.

We remain committed to our mission of honoring all veterans and their families through participation in our Veterans Ministry, where we cultivate good citizenship and always remember that our freedom isn't free. Thank you all for your continued support and prayers.

- ***WOW! Women's Book Club.*** Calling all Women who love to read! Our selection for February is *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis. We will meet via ZOOM on **February 21 at 10:00am.** Happy Reading!