



SAINT ANDREW
United Methodist Church
MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

- **Holy Week Schedule.** **March 29** Palm Sunday 10:00am Worship / **April 2** Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm / **April 3** Good Friday Service 7:00pm / **April 5** Sunrise Service at 6:00am & 10:00am Easter Worship.
- **Administrative Board.** The next Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 10 at 7:00pm**, location to be announced with the chance of possible video conference. Call church office (732-349-5367) if you are not a board member and would like to attend. All are welcome!
- **Acolyte Opportunity.** We are looking for 1 or 2 students to be acolytes during our Good Friday Tenebrae Service. Acolytes light and dim candles during the service. Good Friday service is Friday April 3 @ 7:00 pm. If interested, please speak to Pastor Anna or Jim Gilbert.
- **Lenten Bible Study, Wednesdays 6:00-7:30pm**, the class started February 25 and will be running through April 1. Join Pastor Anna and Patty Herflicker for a powerful Lenten Bible Study using Adam Hamilton's new book, "Why did Jesus Have to Die?" 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.
- **Library News.** Seeking one or two new library volunteers. The time is usually following the women's bible study on Tuesday's at noon. We work for about one hour and are flexible with skills. If interested contact Joan Sola at 732-240-7516.
- **Meals That Heal.** Please join us on **March 18** for our traditional St Patrick's meal featuring corned beef and cabbage! There is food for all and all are welcome!
- **Music Opportunities.** The season of Lent and Holy Week allow for many new opportunities to use your gifts musically. Please see flyers on bulletin board and tables around the church for the schedule of rehearsals.
- **Sight & Sound Trip. Save the Date, July 23. JOSHUA.** From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, *JOSHUA* is a *miraculous* adventure for the whole family. Journey alongside the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. When Joshua is called to replace Moses as their faithful leader, tensions mount in the midst of dwindling supplies and approaching armies. With one last fortified city standing between the Israelites and the Promised Land, unexpected help emerges from behind enemy lines and Joshua's trust in God's plan is put to the ultimate test. Experience one of the most redemptive stories of the Bible as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres. The price is \$178pp including round trip bus, lunch and show. Please let Mary Garreau know if interested.
- **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!](#)
- **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser sponsored by Troop 36. Saturday, March 14** with 2 seating's 4pm-5:30pm or 6-7:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Come and spend an evening with Troop 36 and enjoy spaghetti & meatballs, salad, rolls and dessert. All proceeds will benefit Troop 36 scouting activities. Single ticket: \$18.00/Couple: \$30.00. Tickets can be purchased through this link: <https://troop-36-spaghetti-dinner-fundraiser-2026.cheddarup.com>. Feel free to email troop36trnj@gmail.com with any questions.

- **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.

Life Line Screening Event Monday March 23, 2026. Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings. Call 888-814-0466 and use promo code HSCA001 to book an appointment. Look for flyers around the church.

Blood Drive. The next blood drive is Monday, April 6 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, March 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**. The topic will be "Beautiful Feet"! 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 March is *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. We will meet via ZOOM on **March 21 at 10:00am**. Happy Reading!