

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2020

VOL. 20, Issue 1



Ash Wednesday Agape Supper February 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

We begin Lent with a Soup Supper in Snyder Hall on Ash Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to attend. Let's enter this season together with soup and worship, including the imposition of ashes.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area and let us know if you can provide a hot soup (ready to serve). Drinks and bread will be provided.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Regular Sunday schedule

8:45 AM Praise Service

10:AM Sunday school for all

11 AM Traditional worship

Schedule Addition:

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 26

6 PM Snyder Hall, Agape Supper

February 2nd Communion/

Rob Preaching

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15

Matthew 5:1-12

Chasing the Dream

February 9th

Isaiah 58:1-12; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

Lent is Coming

February 16th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:21-37

Choosing Your Path

February 23rd Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 99; Matthew 17:1-9

Climbing Up... and Back Down

February 26th Ash Wednesday

6PM Snyder Hall



THE HERALD is published ten times per year at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here we are after Christmas and before Lent. In the church calendar, it is this short season of 'ordinary time.' Most of us have put away the Christmas decorations. (But certainly not all...*maybe I'll get to it before Valentine's day?*) And then there are these cold days that make it hard to get out.. This year, I am actually longing for some snow without this 'wintery mix mess.' The grey days come one after another, in this season that is in between.

Yet, maybe this is really Lent *pre-season*. In recent years I have heard more and more about 'dry January.' A month to fast from alcohol. This post-holiday time is also the season when the gyms around the country are crazy crowded. And it is a good season to remember that our faith is not just about our souls, but also the body that God has given to us. Jesus Christ was God with us, in the flesh. Jesus was fully human, body and soul. And we are people of God formed with body and soul. I think this time of year, it is easy to let the body be and focus on the soul. Yet, this in-between time may be the right time to ask, how is it with my soul? How is it with my body? How would I like the state of my body and soul to be? What is within my power? What is in God's power?

In the middle of this month the lectionary brings us these words "*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free and to break every yoke?*" (Isaiah 58:6) In these days when the weather is uninspiring, what if scripture inspired us to make the most of even these grey days? What fast will we choose? How will we care for ourselves and others? What will we choose, as we prepare for the fast of Lent?

Lent is coming. And so is Easter. Maybe now is the time to plan for a season of fasting and a season of living into the newness of Christ's kingdom. What if we started even now, choosing to start something new? What if we choose now, a fast – to limit our plastic footprint; to stop buying lunch and put the money in a jar for a food pantry; to clean out a closet and find meaningful ways to re-purpose the excess; to ignore the mirrors that ask us to see ourselves and find those around us who are desperate to be seen; or to find the gaps of food or shelter for those at the lowest point. Where is the Spirit of God nudging you even now?

Don't let February get you down.

Lent is coming, and so is Easter. Choose to make these days matter.

In God's Grace,
Pastor Robin

Weather, Winter and Sunday Worship @ St. Andrews

Winter is upon us again and while we hope all worship services will move forward as scheduled, it seems wise to have a plan for adjusting, if the weather requires. (And if we have a plan, we won't need it. Right?)

If a delay or cancelation of worship is necessary, it will be on the website, on the church phone message, and on Facebook. WGAL channel 8, has told us they will no longer be putting church closings on their TV banner, but online only. We will try to put a notice on the website, on the front page in the blue worship box.

Thus, if you are wondering if there is a change or cancellation due to weather, you can:

- 1- Call the church office: 717-272-9933 and listen to the message.
- 2- Go to the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church – Facebook page
- 3 -- Go to the church website: standrewslebanon.org and scroll down to the blue box that says: *Sunday Morning Schedule*.

Above all, take care and be safe, in all weather and in each day.
In any emergency, you can call Robin on her cell phone 717-525-1736

THE WILDERNESS IS A PLACE WHERE WE ARE BRAVE
by Sarah Are

First, we have to name it—
The heartbreak,
The addiction,
The shame,
The grief.

Whatever your wilderness is,
First we have to name it.

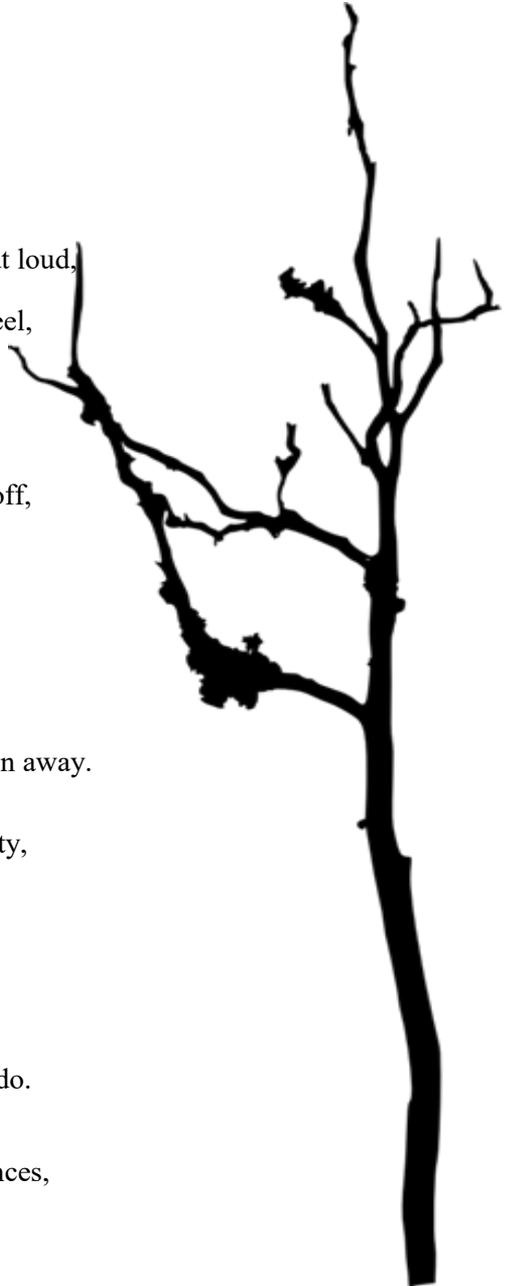
And once we've said those words out loud,
We let that truth hang in the air.
And we let ourselves feel what we feel,
For in this moment,
we are close to the surface.

And after a few deep breaths,
We begin the removing.
Piece by piece, we take our armour off,
For truth-telling days are
Soft skin kind of days.

And once we are armour-free,
Hearts on our sleeves
And tears in our throats,
We stand toe-to-toe
With the very hurt that wrecked us.
And we don't try to swallow that pain away.

And there,
In all our beautiful God-given honesty,
We say to that monster,
"I have love on my side,
And her name is God,
And no wilderness can separate me
From that north star."

And I believe
It will be the bravest thing you ever do.
And your knees might shake,
And you might lose your way,
But our God is a God of second chances,
So take my hand.
You are close to the surface.
Let's be brave together.



A NEW WAY TO GIVE

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church is always looking for ways to continue our mission within our communities. This season, we are introducing a new way to **GIVE** using text messaging from your cell phone. Please consider texting a dollar amount that your family would like to contribute to St. Andrews.

Text: **SAPC \$_____ to 73256**
(Please enter the dollar amount you wish to donate in place of the _____)



Like us on
Facebook

**Check out our St. Andrews
Facebook PAGE (which is different than the
GROUP).**

LIKE our page AND the posts to help us be seen
online by our community.

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

St Andrews is a registered charity with Amazon Smile. If you purchase products on Amazon Smile you will have the same shopping features as on Amazon.com. Amazon will donate .5% of your purchases to St Andrews. When you first visit smile.amazon.com you are prompted to select a charitable organization. Use the full name of St Andrews Presbyterian Church Lebanon, Pa. There is no cost to the church.



Blanket Sunday February 16

February 16th will be Church World Service Blanket Sunday. Each \$5.00 donation provides a blanket for victims of disasters, disease, and poverty throughout the world. Your gift will bring warmth and comfort to many in need.

Envelopes will be available in the pew racks and included in a PW mailing. Please make all checks payable to "Women of the Congregation." They may also be mailed to the church.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is beginning a build in Lebanon on East Cumberland Street where multiple homes were destroyed by fire.. It has been some years since there has been a build happening in Lebanon, so their volunteer base here is small. If you are interested in participating with this project, which will be ongoing for some time, please contact someone on the Mission Committee.



EPYC Expectations

While February is right in the middle of winter, it is our opportunity to start looking forward towards warmer weather! Spring will be here before we know it! Of course, warmer weather brings to mind...Creation. The deadline for Creation sign up for 2020 is February 21, with a deposit of \$100 before we can order tickets. If you are interested in Creation Please see either Lisa Hamme or Me (Rob). Everyone is welcome to join in the adventure and celebration of Creation!

St. Andrews has a tradition of sending out care packages to our young adults. This year we will be sending out care packages that tie into the journey we as a congregation will go through with Lent. Please reach out to me with any updated information for any young adult.

Epyc and TrailBlazers! February 29, it only happens every four years. So, we are going to have a party to celebrate a once in four-year opportunity! On Saturday, February 29 from 7-9pm students are invited to bring friends and come out for an evening of fun and fellowship. We will have games and challenges throughout the time.

Schedule:

Feb 2 No Epyc or TrailBlazers (Super Bowl)

Feb 9 Epyc and TrailBlazers 4-6pm

Feb 16 Epyc and TrailBlazers 4-6pm

Feb 23 Epyc and TrailBlazers 4-6pm

Feb 26 Ash Wednesday Soup & Worship 6pm

Feb 29, 4 year party 7-9pm

March 1 Epyc and TrailBlazers 4-6pm

SESSION NOTES

—The Clerk of Session reported that St. Andrews had received a letter from Cheryl Galan, Interim Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Carlisle, thanking us for paying our 2019 Per Capita in full and for contributions to our “many mission funds.”

—There will be no Officers’ Retreat in February 2020. Presbytery will be meeting on Saturday, 22 February, the date originally scheduled for that event.

—The Trustees’ report noted that as of February 1 the access codes to unlock the church doors to the building will be changed.

—The Worship Committee has planned for Ash Wednesday to include a Meager Meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship with Communion.

—The Christian Education Committee reviewed the revised Safe Sanctuaries Policy, which has since been approved by the Session. C.E. also established a Task Force to study possible ways in which we may replace the Camp Krislund summer program with our own outreach program since Krislund has a new director and is establishing new programs which do not allow us to continue our participation.

—The Treasurer’s year-end financial report showed that the church’s income and revenue for the year 2019 exceeded expenses by a significant margin. This marks the first time in several years that we have had a surplus of revenue.

Respectfully submitted by
Fredrick A. Borger

Deacon Doings:

“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.”

1 Peter 5:2-3

The Deacons of St. Andrews join with the Pastor to help meet the ministry needs of our church. To that end, each of our deacons have “flocks” of our own to help ensure that the needs of our church families are being met in a more personal way. With the beginning of a new year, we thank those deacons who are exiting the board and welcome those who are coming on to begin their term with us. With this turnover you may notice that **your deacon may change**. In February we will be contacting the members of our flocks to introduce ourselves to you. We encourage everyone in the congregation to get to know their deacon. Don’t wait until there is a need. You will feel more comfortable asking for assistance from someone with whom you have a relationship. At the very least you may make a new friend! If you do not know who your deacon is, please contact Ken Gries, Moderator, or the church office and they will give you the information. The deacons are here for you in good times and in bad. Remember that at St. Andrews our deacons are as near as your telephone. Please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Happy New Year from the Deacons!

Submitted: Ken Gries

IN MEMORY



Anita Sauerwein

Anita Sauerwein joined St Andrews along with her husband Lewis and their four children on February 2, 1981, on transfer from 1st Congregational Church Crystal Lakes, IL. Anita was active at St Andrews serving as a youth advisor and Sunday school teacher as her children grew up in the church. She was an active member of the chancel choir and bell choir. Anita will be remembered for the great courage and grace she exhibited in recent years as she faced the challenge of her health issues. Anita entered the church triumphant on December 29, 2019.

Dear Saint Andrews Family,

Words cannot begin to express my thanks and appreciation for the outpouring of love, sympathy, kind words of support and encouragement rendered to me and my family as we grieved the loss of Anita.

The many meals provided were so timely, helpful and needed. Thanks to all who prepared them.

What a wonderful demonstration of the Body of Christ helping to bear our burden and manifesting the love of Jesus as you ministered to us. You are the people of God.

Renewed by your love,
Lew Sauerwein and Family

Monday Morning Bible Study From Feb. 3rd through Lent

Join our Bible study of the ten commandments before and during Lent for ten Monday mornings at 11:00 in the Cassel Chapel from February 3rd through April 6th. Gayle Reilly will be our discussion leader. Since she will be using several sources, there's no need to purchase any materials. You may wish to bring a bag lunch for after class. Contact person, Judy Borger 717-769-2813. All are welcome.

SOMETHING NEW!

Our St Andrews library is amazing - with books and some videos for all ages, easy to sign out, and no late fees! It is located as you exit the front of the sanctuary, on the right, just before the elevator.

PW has added *something new*, something wonderful for anyone who would like to enhance their Biblical knowledge without even leaving their home. It's all about **HORIZONS**, a bi-monthly magazine and an annual Bible study published by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Inc., both of which are timeless in their content. **MAGAZINE:** Wide range of articles both current and historical concerning God's action in the world, along with a short Bible study within each. Do you, or an adult child, have a literary flare? Horizons accepts manuscripts for publishing consideration. **ANNUAL BIBLE STUDY:** Topic decided and author, illustrator, and "teacher's aids" resource persons commissioned **THREE YEARS** in advance! Finished publication used in hundreds of Presbyterian (USA) churches each year. The 2020 study is on the 10 Commandments (see PW article for more information). Past studies currently available to you starting this month are:

"Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes"

"Dispatches to God's Household – The General Epistles"

"Journeys Through Revelation – Apocalyptic Hope for Today"

"Jubilee! - Luke's Gospel for the Poor"

"No Longer Strangers – A Study of the Letter to the Ephesians"

Take advantage of these wonderful timeless publications located on the shelves to your right as you enter the Library.



Presbyterian Women

Thanks to all who contributed to our craft table and the layette items displayed at the annual Christmas dinner.

We are looking forward to another year with plans to continue our mission projects. The True Life children's lunch takes place the first Thursday of each month.

Help is always welcome.

The Horizon Bible Study on the TEN COMMANDMENTS will begin February 3. See more information to the left.

All St. Andrews women are urged to participate in our activities. The Sewing Group continues to meet every Tuesday morning at 9AM. Join us—we will find a job for you.

May God's Blessings fall on our activities.

The PW Planning team.

PW NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Presbyterian Women are committed to providing lunch for the True Life (formerly Youth for Christ) program on the first Thursday of every month.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area where you can pick a month to serve. If you have questions please contact Sue Mechura.



FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS

2 Richard Hofman
3 Benta Samuelson
10 Barbara Hains
11 Jill Kreiser
John Butler
15 Nansi Alexander
21 Sarah Hamme

24 Louise Rahalewich
26 Chuck Mackey
Rick Borger
27 Kaitlyn Mulligan
28 Carol Smith-Kilgore
Ken Gries



Mourning **has Broken**
A Grief Support Group of St. Andrews

**A Grief Support Group
of
St. Andrews Church**

*Love...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
endures all things. Love never ends.*

I Corinthians 13: 7-8

I have chosen this meditation based on I Corinthians 13 for the February article because it speaks so eloquently of love and is one of my most favorite scriptures.

What a truckload of responsibility and potential for pain we take on when we love another human being: all the dangers of misunderstanding, of betrayal, or indifference, and ultimately, of loss.

To more than balance those dangers, we feel the possibility of life made rich through sharing experiences with another – of physical and spiritual warmth and communion, of enriched understanding and common achievement, of a stay against loneliness and isolation.

Most of us have no trouble opting for love.

But then, to have invested so much of our life's energy in the life of a loved one – and then to find that loved one gone! Is it any wonder we are, for a time, laid low?

This is where the St. Andrews Grief Support Group can be of help. The people who come to these meetings have all loved and have all experienced death, some more than once, and have experienced these feelings of extreme sadness and loneliness. Yes, we have all been “laid low” by our intense grieving for a period of time. We help each other work through these feelings by sharing our stories and our experiences, by offering ideas and suggestions, and expressions of hope to those who are feeling especially low. We learn through sharing that these feelings are “normal” – whatever “normal” is! – and learn that we are not alone with what we are experiencing.

No matter how recent or how long ago the passing occurred, if you or someone you know could benefit from meeting with our group, please do not hesitate to join us or to invite your friend to come join us. We welcome anyone, whether members of St. Andrews or not. At the present time, we have a number of people who are not St. Andrews members meeting with us. They have told us we have been a big help to them during their grieving process, and so they continue to come again month after month!

Our meetings are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel. The meeting in February will be on February 13, and we will go to lunch at noon-time, at the Franklin House in Schaefferstown as a group to celebrate Valentine's Day, which has become our February tradition. Then in March we will be back to our usual meeting time of 2:00, on March 12. Please feel free to come join us – to share, to learn, to listen, to cry, to laugh – we will be happy to see you!

If you have any questions, please contact our Advisor, Diane Pomeroy, at 717-454-0756; Pat Yates at 717-273-9297; or call the church office, 717-272-9933.

The love we have shared helps form the strength to deal with loss. The hope and joy we have known helps us believe in the possibility of help and joy again. And the intensity of grief (which *will* moderate, though we may find that hard to believe), mirrors the intensity of shared love, which will continue to beam through our life, to illuminate and nourish all that we do and are.

Love never ends. Never

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