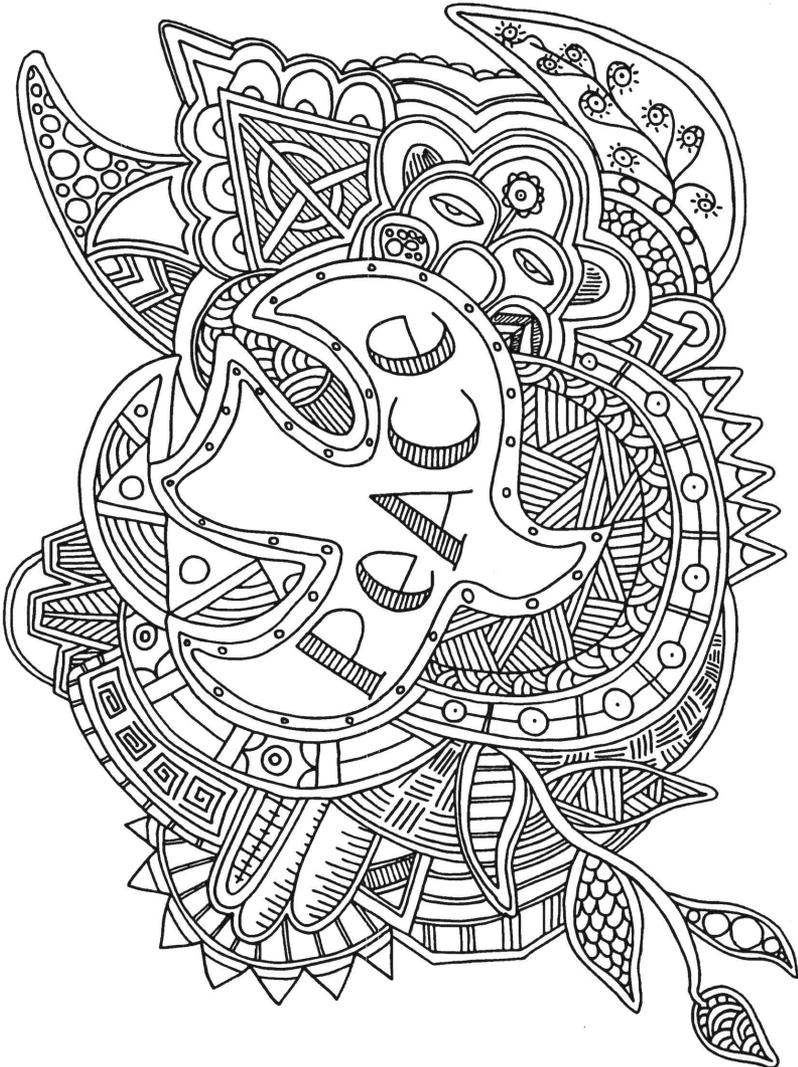


ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MAY 2020

VOL. 20. Issue 4



WORSHIP ONLINE ONLY

Until we can meet again.

Join us for worship online, Sunday at 10AM
<http://www.standrewslebanon.org/watch-live/>

*Watch for the weekly worship email.

**bulletins, words to every song, scriptures and announcements are in the weekly worship email and on the website.

If you are not able to join us live on Sunday, see our YouTube Channel or worship section on the website. The full worship service will be posted later in the week.

(We would love it if you would subscribe to our YouTube Channel!)

In this unusual time, it is my prayer that you find a way to continue worshipping and abiding with God, right where you are. Give yourself grace, to worship as you are led by the Spirit.

Scriptures for May Worship

May 3rd John 21:1-14 Communion Sunday

As you prepare for worship, get a piece of bread or cracker and some juice or wine.

May 10th Luke 24:13-35

Special video Sermon “Back to Normal?”

by Rev. Cheryl Galan, Interim Executive Presbyter
of Carlisle Presbytery

May 17th John 21:15-19

May 24th Acts 1:6-14 Ascension Sunday

May 31st Acts 2:1-21 Pentecost Sunday

“They asked Jesus, ‘Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He replied, ‘It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.’”

Acts 1:6-8

Zoom Fellowship – is happening Sundays 11am – noon, right after online worship. Find a link in the announcements under the “Watch Live Sermons” on the website.

Zoom Sunday School – Sunday school classes have resumed. See class detail on the EPYC page

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 People of God,

What will we say, when we look back on this time? What will we remember? What will we forget? How will the world have changed or not changed? Will we even be able to see what is different? I am living with questions these days; these are only some of them. When will the curve go down? Where are all of you? How are you really? Questions seem to multiply, and the answers are few, or most often – wait. *I hate wait.* And yet, these questions are important. They are opening spaces or urging us into spaces of reflection and imagination and dreams.

Easter is a season for questions, as well as wonder and reflection, yet also a season that is preparing us for the imagination and dreams as the Spirit comes and moves us into spaces that are beyond what we expect or even hope. While personally I am still wrestling with leaving Lent while we are *sheltering in place* or *carefully, so carefully going out to do essential work*, somehow, I feel like I am moving more at the pace that the Bible shows for Easter. Let me explain. The disciples seemed to *not get it, a lot*, and this year for me, it is taking longer for Easter to soak in. It is taking longer to move out of wilderness and into a new life and hope.

This year I need every story of Jesus appearing, as he calls Mary's name, as he meets the travelers on the road, as he comes through the locked doors to offer peace to the fearful disciples, as Jesus comes again so Thomas doesn't miss out, and as Jesus meets the disciples fishing again and asks Peter if he loves him. This year each story leads me closer to Jesus, to God appearing in this long uncertain season shaped by a pandemic.

This year, come with me, from afar and let us go slowly, gently as we move through and even linger in this season of Easter that so defiantly proclaims hope and life – new life. For this year, more than the years before, we need new life; a fresh breath, a refresh, a change and something new that is good – really good. The questions are ancient and ever-present: *How Long?* The presence of God is needed again, behind locked doors and in the open air. How crazy and amazing would it be to find that the answer, the hope we need right now, is Jesus, the hope we already have.

Beloved people of God, be kind to yourselves—and be kind to all you see and speak to.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God stay with us, until we meet again.

In the Hope of Jesus Christ,
Pastor Robin

SOCIAL MEDIA HAS NEVER BEEN MORE VALUABLE

One of the things that has been on my mind recently is my first encounter with a cellphone. I remember standing in the lunch line at my school's cafeteria and my father, who worked at the school, was doing a visit to the cafeteria that day. A traumatizing piece of this visit was that he had a "purse" with him! Seeing this as a kid is slightly horrifying, especially as my buddies in line with me began to rib me about my father having a purse! My dad must have sensed this because he stopped what he was doing, put the purse down and pulled out a phone to take a phone!! I went from embarrassed to having Batman as my father, well at least in the eyes of my friends, because it was a bag phone! I keep thinking back to this moment with a huge degree of thankfulness. One, I missed the age of lugging around a bag phone, and two because of the age we live in with connectivity in this pandemic.

While we are all separated and maintaining safe social distances, we are also able to remain connected to one another through social media. Right now, the church is connecting through the use of Live Streaming of the church service, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Zoom. Each of these platforms is a unique tool that we can each engage with as we share the gospel. I would like to take a moment to share some of the things that are made possible with each of these tools and invite you to join us using these platforms.

For example, Neal has been faithfully serving to stream and upload the church service every Sunday! While Neal may be behind the camera, we would not be able to have transitioned to an all online service without him! In addition to streaming the service on Sunday he also edits the video and uploads it to YouTube. Was there a favorite service or sermon, did you miss Sunday, do you want to share a past service with family or friends? All of these things are possible because of the back catalog of videos going back three years! You can find the YouTube channel by going on to www.youtube.com and in the search bar typing in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Please take a moment also subscribe to the St. Andrews YouTube channel, this helps the church in our reach to the community and to see the engagements from the community.

Facebook is another social media platform that allows each of us to engage as a community and to share our experiences. This is one of the greatest outreach tools that the church is using as we can engage with members of the church and with a greater community. St. Andrews has a Facebook page where you can find information, live streamed prayer with Pastor Robin, and the church community gathering in new ways. Connecting through Facebook has allowed us to gather and share while we practice social distancing. The church has a Facebook page and a group page that everyone is welcome to join to share in the conversations and happenings of the church. The pages can be found through Facebook by Typing in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Zoom has been a huge tool and resource in the age that we live in. As I am writing this article the church has used zoom for Fellowship on Thursday evening and Sunday Mornings, Sunday school for every age group, meetings, staff meetings, Webs, and youth group. Zoom has allowed for face to face digital meetings and interactions. While this is a pale comparison to being together in person, it is a grace to see and interact with others from the safety of your house. Everyone is welcome to join in the zoom fellowship, Sunday school, and bible study information to get into those meetings can be provided to you through the teachers of the classes.

Instagram is a unique platform of picture sharing. The church has used Instagram to share pictures of events and happenings throughout the year. It offers a chance to reflect on what has happened and the moments that we have shared. It also allows for a glimpse at the office happenings as pictures get posted of projects that are in progress with the church. The church Instagram can be found in Instagram by searching St.AndrewsOfLebanon or #StAndrewsLebanonPA.

Of course, the digital foundation of everything is the church webpage. The webpage contains all of the information you will need and is the main platform for Sunday Morning. Everything from streaming the service, getting the bulletin, scriptures, announcements, digital copies of the newsletters, and online giving can be found there.

I started this article sharing my first encounter with a cellphone. Over the course of 30 years, the technology of connection has advanced and quickly. Today we each have the opportunity to connect via cellphones that connect us not just through voice calls, but also through social media and the video calls. This is a grace in the pandemic as we seek to love one another by being distant but remaining connected. Even looking back to 15 years ago, for the most of us this connection would not be possible. The tools of Social media and digital communication only empower the church further and equip all of us towards the great commission!

Matthew 28:19-20 (NRSV) ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In Christ's Peace
Rob

PS: If you need help in anyway with any of the above platforms please feel free to reach out! I am happy to help!



Worship at Home 2nd Edition

We can worship God anywhere, at any time.

If you are not able to join us online, or you just need a break from digital communications, here is a simple service for worship at home.

Prepare: find an uncluttered space to use for worship. Get a bible and if you have one, a candle. Light the candle knowing that you are gathering around the light of Christ.

Opening Prayer

O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.

Sing a Song or Hymn such as

10,000 Reasons or Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

(Use any hymn of praise song that you know.)

Prayer of Confession

We cannot come before God
unless we are first honest with ourselves
about who we are,
and about the mistakes we make.
In this spirit, offer your prayers to God.

Silent Prayers

Assurance

—Isaiah 1:18 NRSV

*‘Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.’*

Know that in Jesus Christ you are forgiven and be at peace.

Passing the Peace

*Take a moment and share the peace of Christ with another, in some way.
Send a text, write a short note to mail later, choose someone to call later on a walk, Or even pick a flower and place it on a neighbors doorstep.*

Prayer for Illumination

—based on John 6:68

**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!
Help us now to hear and obey what you say to us today. Through Christ,
our Lord. Amen.**

Turn to God’s Word and choose a passage to read.

A few suggestions: John 21:1-14, John 21:15-19, Acts 1:6-14, John 17:1-11

Reflect on God’s word considering or discussing these questions:
What is the problem or issue in the passage?

*Where is God in the passage?
How might this relate to you and to our world today?
How does this passage offer hope?*

Song Suggestions: *Come to Jesus (Untitled Hymn), Or Cornerstone,*
Hymn Suggestions: *Be Thou My Vision, Come Thou Fount, Or O Love
That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

Affirm your faith using the Apostle's Creed or Psalm 23

Giving to God: *Consider how you can give to God and how you can serve
Christ.*

*Remember you can mail your offering to the church, or give online or even
text a gift.*

(Text: SAPC § _____ to 73256)

Prayer of Dedication

**God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your good-
ness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all
people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh.
Amen.**

Song Suggestion

Doxology

Prayers of The People and the Lord's Prayer

Lift up your hearts and prayers to God and close with the Lord's Prayer.

*If you are with a few others, go around so each one has a moment
to pray then join your prayers together with the Lord's Prayer.*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as
we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Song Suggestion *Soon and Very Soon* or *Jesus Christ is Risen Today!*

Charge and Benediction

*Let your hope be in Jesus Christ, now and especially now.
Abide in the peace of Christ that passes all understanding.*

May the God of hope, fill you

With all joy and peace in believing.

So that you may abide in the love of Christ,

By the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Amen.



“You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mission Committee Statement: The Mission Committee of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church seeks to promote mission awareness to the members of the church, allocates funds for Strategic (local) Missions, and publicizes opportunities for members of the church to become involved in service to others.

If you think about it, everyone is a member of St. Andrews Mission Committee. Many of you have probably already done acts of service to others in our church community, Lebanon County, and probably across the country and world. The “formal” Mission Committee would like to make you aware of other opportunities to help during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Little Free Pantry – This ministry always needs contributions, as it empties quickly. Anytime you are going to the grocery store and have the chance to pick up some extra for the pantry it will be used. Items can include: cereal, instant oatmeal, pasta, pasta sauce, noodles, ramen, peanut butter, jelly, soups, canned pasta, canned chili, any of the “Hamburger Helper-type” meals (even if they don’t have the meat, they are pretty tasty), canned beans, rice, juices. You can probably come up with some more ideas. Perishable items do not work well. PLEASE PUT THE ITEMS IN THE PANTRY YOURSELF.

Free Noon Meal – Currently they are serving 150-200 people a day. All meals are served at LCCM in take-out containers. They could use volunteers to help prepare the meals throughout the week. Staff actually does the serving. Call LCCM at 717-272-4400. The trustees will be doing the meal the second Saturday in May. Masks and gloves are the order of the day, and except for some work in the kitchen, social distancing is also adhered to. FINANCIAL DONATIONS ARE ALSO NEEDED.

Mission Week, 2020 – August 2 – August 8 – Although plans are on hold for now, there will be service opportunities for the family of St. Andrews. The committee is making tentative plans based on activities we have done previously, but also coming up with PLAN B. This would be activities that we could do while sheltered, and still be of service to others. Meanwhile, “Save” the dates.

PCUSA Mission Co-Workers – Mission Co-workers of the Carlisle Presbytery were given the option of returning to the U.S. or staying in their field location. Our Carlisle Presbytery partner, Dori Hjalmarson, in Honduras has decided to stay there. She needs prayers and financial gifts.

As you can see, just because a building is closed, does not mean St. Andrews is not at work. If you would like to help with any of these missions, please contact Robin Gries, at robingries@aol.com.



GATHERING TOGETHER TO PRAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY

10th Annual National Day of Prayer

LEBANON VALLEY FAMILY YMCA

Join us Live on Facebook! The first Thursday of May is designated as a day of national prayer. Our theme for the 2020 National Day of Prayer on May 7, 2020 is **Pray God's Glory Across The Earth**. The theme comes from the words in Habbakuk 2:14 NIV, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

When: **Thursday, May 7th, 2020**
Where: **Lebanon YMCA Facebook Page**
Time: **9:00 AM**



Staying Home...Staying Strong

Pat Yates, former bell director and helper for years with EVERYTHING in the church office, gave up driving several years ago, because of an ailment that wasn't getting better.

She voluntarily gave up driving, but in doing so, found herself at home, much like we are finding ourselves now, under a stay-at-home order. She had faithful people driving her so she could keep essential appointments, but life narrowed considerably for her.

Since the pandemic, with the wider community at home like she has been for years, life seems mostly the same for her.

Her words of wisdom: she figured out early on that the news triggered heart-pounding anxiety so she stays away from that for the most part. Pat knows she could get very down if she allowed herself, particularly in not seeing her kids and worrying about them. But she stays positive and treats herself to things she enjoys, like the Hallmark Channel. Take a lesson from Pat and stay positive. Find reasons to be grateful; find good things in each day.

ART CAMP

A couple of months ago I announced that this summer we will not be able to participate in the 2020 Krislund Day Camp Due to changes that the camp has made in dates. Shortly after that announcement many of our congregation expressed curiosity as to the plan for our summer outreach to youth and families. I am glad to be able to share the summer plan and I think that this is going to be a great outreach! Art Camp!

This summer St. Andrews will hold an art camp on July 13-17, 2020. Using the arts, we will explore how we praise God. During the week we will have several different art projects, each connecting into scripture and allowing for teaching and reflection on God's word. The desire is that students are able to see that our praise is not limited but can be expressed anywhere.

The Art Camp Task Force is hard at work finalizing and creating the space for the summer outreach. If you are interested in helping, please let us know. In addition, a list will be going out soon of supplies we will need for the art camp; if you are willing to donate please let us know. Art camp will be an incredible opportunity for us to reach out into the community!



EPYC Expectations

I am amazed by the resilience of the students and the pattern to life that is forming in their lives. I share this because right now the students have lost a lot in their lives from the stability of school, to the fellowship of their friends, and finally to the safety of that we all shared before Covid-19 came into our lives. Further this time in their lives will be formative as they grow into shaping the world. I find myself asking what my own children will remember and reflect from this time. Which brings me to a place of reflecting on the formative moments in my life that shattered the allusion of safety.

Each of us has a story of the moments in our lives when the allusion of safety was shattered, and we each have a story of how God brought us through these moments. My request to everyone is to share the story of How God brought us through the moments of challenge in our lives. Call your grandchildren, share through social media, or connect with neighbors with Social Distance practices in mind. Share what is the Grace of God and how we have seen it play out in our lives. Share what is a testament to a God who is bigger than our fears, or as the Veggie Tales put so long ago, our God is bigger than the Bogie man.

In Christ's Hope,
Rob

Schedule:

ZOOM Sunday School

9am Adult Zoom Sunday School, Contact Ken Gries

11am k-2 Zoom Sunday School, Contact Karen Fedder

11am 3-5 Zoom Sunday School, Contact Melynda Cochran

11am High Zoom School Sunday School, Contact Lisa Hamme

Youth Group

Sunday 4pm Youth Zoom Meeting Contact Rob for Login

Tuesday 4pm Youth Zoom Meeting Contact Rob for Login

Thursday 4pm Youth Zoom Meeting Contact Rob for Login

You Are Invited...to be a Prayer Partner

- In this season Congregational Life is inviting you to connect with someone once a week, until we meet again. This is a time we need one another and we need to pray. If you are interested in being connected with a prayer partner please call or email the church office. Prayer partners will be chosen randomly or in the drawings of the Spirit.



Presbyterian Women

In this time of uncertainty, what better way to praise God and honor Him than to live up to his command and help those who lives are in constant uncertainty? Launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the USA, the birthday offering was established to provide caring and compassion throughout the world.

This year the committee of Presbyterian women has chosen four recipients to receive grants for 2020. The grant recipients are:

Center for Social Assistance to the Disabled, Family, and Children

—PREOBRAZHENIYE —Assisted living facility in Russia

With the goal of creating a Christian model of community for the spiritual and emotional needs of its patients

GAP Ministries of Augusta, Georgia

To address the needs of the working poor

Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center in Payson, Arizona

To provide day care and prekindergarten programs for the children of the Tonto Apache Tribe and neighboring communities

Liberty Community Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota

To renovate their historic building and expand programming based on the needs of the community

If possible the birthday offering will be celebrated in worship on a Sunday in May. If that does not take place, please take the opportunity to mail your help to the church any time in May.

Please make checks payable to "Women of the Congregation" with "Birthday Offering" in the memo.

Please be led by the Holy Spirit and give as generously as you have been blessed.

Col. 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him

SESSION NOTES

The Session met virtually on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. We had a discussion on what were the most distressing elements in regards to individuals being semi-quarantined due to the Corona virus and what were the positive elements.

We reviewed the previous two virtual Session meetings held in March, discussing virtual worship services in lieu of formal gatherings and the length of time that they would be utilized. Virtual services will be conducted at least through the end of April unless the social distancing restrictions are relaxed prior to that time. Another meeting will be conducted later this month on whether to continue virtual services past the end of April. Committee meetings will be held virtually.

Planning continues for Mission Week, the Youth Art Camp, and the Church Picnic as scheduled. Changes, if needed, will be announced. Currently all scheduled Free Noon Meals have been moved to LCCM. LCCM is looking for volunteers to prepare the meals, but their staff will do the actual serving.

The Deacons reported that their contacts with congregational members indicate no one is having adverse effects to date from the current health situation. They asked and received Session approval to increase the Deacon Fund to provide assistance to members if needed.

The Session decided to defer (not suspend) discretionary spending until a more definitive timeline of social distancing is determined. Also approved was the continued payment of all wages to church personnel.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Lowrie

WEBS is starting a video study "Who is Jesus" by Louie Giglio. "Who is Jesus" is a journey toward discovering the truth about history's most monumental figure". We will watch a video clip and then discuss.

WEBS online, 7PM Wednesdays, contact Ken Gries for Zoom information

Thank You

St. Andrews Community, We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the wonderful service and luncheon provided by the deacons for the passing of Robert Scholes. All of your hard efforts for the day certainly alleviated much stress for our family at this difficult time. Thank you once again for everything!

Sincerely, The Scholes family



May Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Panka Peelen | 20 | Jean Gigler |
| 3 | Kathy Wissinger | | Julie Ogurcak |
| 4 | Madeleine Overholt | 22 | William Young |
| | Lindsay Burkholder | 25 | Wybie Buckingham |
| 6 | William Andrews | 26 | Avery Dowd |
| | Ted Etter | | Randy Kreiser |
| | Pat Bender | 27 | Valerie Chevalier |
| 12 | Kayla Lowrie | 28 | Marianne Kopp |
| | Reagan Brandt | 29 | Stephen Risko |
| 17 | Lee Moyer | 31 | Virginia Brandt |

Mourning



has Broken

A Grief Support Group of St. Andrews

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

Never forget that you are not alone. The Divine is with you, helping and guiding. He is the companion who never fails, the friend whose love comforts and strengthens.

Have faith and He will do everything for you.

Aurobindo (Hindu)

Loneliness is one of the afflictions of grief. We miss the one who has died, but that's not all. We miss the world the way it used to be, without this loss that shadows our every step. We miss the image of the future with this loved one in it.

We feel alone because so much of our life right now is internal – the agonizing questions, the turmoil. Who can share that with us? We feel separated from the rest of the world. We walk along the street and the people we pass seem carefree and unburdened. Of course our families and friends are close, but even they cannot know the depths of our grief.

To whom do we turn? The St. Andrews Grief Support Group is one place someone who has suffered the loss of a loved one can turn for help. The members of the group have all been in that same place of confusion and turmoil during the course of our grieving and have found the way to overcome those feelings of alone-ness and separation. Because we have had similar experiences, we can try to be of help to those who are newly grieving and feeling so alone. We share ways in which we were able to get past certain milestones, and ways to cope with feelings and emotions that seem to come from “out of the blue”. We even continue to help those of the group for whom the death of the loved one was years ago, but still have moments of great sadness. Talking and sharing stories and situations seems to be wonderful “medicine” in these instances.

Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings, no matter what your situation – we are here to help. We would be glad to see you and help you through this period of sadness and loneliness.

Our regular meeting time is the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel.

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

To whom to turn? It will help immeasurably if we can think of the Divine Presence, alive in us and in all of creation. A presence that stabilizes us, compassionately holds us, rides on our breath, brings us peace.

There is within me a Holy Presence – trustworthy, kind, strong.

Grief Support will follow the church policy and will reconvene when the church has reopened.

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
600 South 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 272-9933 FAX (717) 272-1526
SAPCoffice@verizon.net
Www.StAndrewsLebanon.org**

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