

# ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

SEPTEMBER 2020

VOL. 20, Issue 8

## PEDALS 4 PROGRESS



August 29, 2020

# NEW WORSHIP OPTIONS!

*Let us open our hearts and lift them up to the Lord!*

Thank you all for taking the all-church survey and helping us to plan!

Beginning Sunday, September 13, we will have two worship options:

1 -in-person worship at 10AM each Sunday. This service will also be streamed online. As we gather in person we will follow all of the safety precautions as outlined by our Task Force, you will find these on page the next page.

2- A pre-recorded worship service available by 8AM Sunday and available all day. The style of this service will alternate weekly. On September 13, the style will be Traditional, September 20 will be a Praise style service, etc.

This plan comes together after a great deal of discussion and discernment. We know it is not perfect, and yet we are called to worship God, not perfectly but with *open hearts*.

People of God, thank you for your faithfulness. The table below gives the options for each date.

|          |   |  |  |
|----------|---|--|--|
| Sept 13  | 1 Kings 17:1-16<br>Matthew 25:14-30<br><i>How Do We Invest?</i>             | <b>8AM and All day<br/>Online</b> Traditional<br>Service | <b>10AM In-<br/>person</b> Worship<br>(in sanctuary w/<br>masks) |
| Sept. 20 | Genesis 1<br>Genesis 32:22-32<br><i>Wrestling for a Blessing</i>            | <b>8AM and All day<br/>Online</b> Praise<br>Service      | <b>10AM In-<br/>person</b> Worship<br>(in sanctuary w/<br>masks) |
| Sept. 27 | Genesis 16<br>Psalm 63:1-8<br>Matthew 22:37-40<br><i>Love is the Escape</i> | <b>8AM and All day<br/>Online</b> Traditional<br>Service | <b>10AM In-<br/>person</b> Worship<br>(in sanctuary w/<br>masks) |

**THE HERALD** is published ten times per year at St. Andrews  
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**ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
COMMUNITY SAFETY STANDARDS for IN PERSON WORSHIP**

Formed by the Task Force

Approved by Session on July 7, 2020

*If you will be coming to worship, in person, please read and follow all the safety standards. We need every person to take great care, in order to make in-person worship safe.*

***Your actions and decisions do make a difference.***

*If you have a known exposure to Covid; if you are not feeling well, if you have a fever or have recently had a fever; if you cannot wear a mask over your nose and mouth for the whole time;*

*OR If you have recently traveled out of state; **Please worship online.***

In-person worship will include social distancing in the pews and throughout the sanctuary, with some capacity limitations. These services will begin on **September 13, 2020.**

•**The sanctuary will be the only part of the church open.** If you need something in another part of the building please ask a staff member to get it for you.

•**Everyone will enter through the front door of the Narthex.** The door would be opened by an usher. Ushers will have hand sanitizer at entrance to the sanctuary and after the service.

•Narthex greeters will maintain social distance and verbally greet people. An attendant will hand out name tags which should be taken home.

•Every other pew will be open, and social distance will be maintained in the pews. **Face masks will be required, over both nose and mouth at all times.** *If you are unable to wear a face mask over your nose and mouth please continue to worship online.*

• All lyrics and liturgy will be on the screens, as well as announcements. Hymnals will be available to take home for future use in worship. **Please bring your own Bible and Hymnal, as well as your nametag.** We will not use printed bulletins at this time. Songs and Hymns will be well known and led by instrumental music.

•Offerings will be received when exiting in plates located at the doors of the sanctuary.

• Rest rooms if needed will be available only at the rear of the sanctuary. Sanitary wipes will be available to use before and after using the rest rooms.

\*At the end of worship, ushers will dismiss pews starting from the back. **As you exit, please continue through the narthex and be sure you are outside before greeting or beginning a conversation with someone.**

## *A Note from Pastor Robin*

Dear People of God,

What could we do in eight weeks?

What if in the next eight weeks, we could connect to one another in meaningful conversations, that do not focus on Covid or the election? What if in the next eight weeks we could gather as those who are Bible beginners and those who have studied the Bible all their lives, not teaching one another, but sharing our questions and seeking new insights? What if we could deepen our faith, while facing the questions we are hesitant to ask about the Bible? All of this is possible, and we can do it together as we worship, in person or online, and as we connect throughout the week.

The last several months have been difficult and heavy, as so much of my time and energy has been focused on the difficult task of planning and moving through this season. I am rebelling against this onslaught and choosing to put more time into something life giving! Come and join me!

I came across a book recently called *Inspired ~ Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. As I started reading, it was like a breath of fresh air swept across my soul. This is what we are meant to do: to dive into the scriptures, in a way that leads us to connect scripture to our own lives. The other thing I love about this book is it goes straight for some of the difficult questions, the hard passages, and offers an example of how to read with your mind and your heart. And even more, Rachel writes as a storyteller backed by rich scholarship, it is beautiful to read. This will be good for me, and the more I read this book the more I am convinced it will be good for us together.

*“When you stop trying to force the Bible to be something it’s not – static, perspicacious, certain, absolute – then you’re free to revel in what it is: living, breathing, confounding, surprising, and yes, perhaps even magical. The ancient rabbis likened Scripture to a palace, alive and bustling, full of grand halls, banquet*

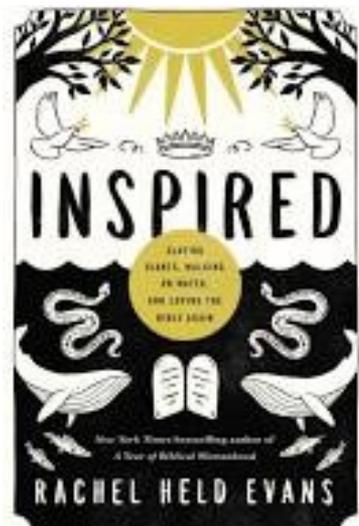
*rooms, secret passages, and locked doors....Our job is to ready the sails and gather the embers, to discuss and debate, and like the biblical character Jacob, to wrestle with the mystery until God gives us a blessing.” (Inspired, xx and xxiv).*

Let’s take this eight-week adventure!

I will be leading an online study on Thursdays at noon. I would love for you to join me for a ‘spiritual lunch hour.’ Or I would love for you to form a group with those you have been missing from church. Or if you are bold, invite others who you would like to get to know, and form a group. You could read it with just one friend or several or bring together a group of couples. You could meet online or in person, depending on your situation. I will also be holding an occasional open gathering online for anyone reading who would like to have an occasional conversation. **Please call or email the office and let us know if you are reading or forming a group, we would love to stay connected. If you would like the church to put you in a group, please let us know.** We are happy to help and we have a lovely study guide to offer. Usually, we would spend months organizing this, but let’s just do it!

I am longing to dive into the beauty, complexity, wonder, and questions of scripture. I am longing to connect and to talk with you about things that are deeper, more meaningful and will really bring us closer to one another and to God. Come and join me.

In the hope of and fulness of Christ,  
*Pastor Robin*



# EPYC Expectations

In the past month my family has gone back and forth on what the “adventure” of this school year would look like for us as a family. The conversation and struggle of what will be best for our kids, as school will look incredible different this year, has been a conversation filled with grief. We have mourned that our children’s friendships built in school will look incredibly different for them, as they have to social distance. We have sat with fear as the schools have laid out plans and practices to help stop the spread of COVID-19. We have argued about how to even begin to prepare ourselves, and the kids for school. The whole experience of preparing for this year has been an emotional roller coaster of possibility.

I share this because this experience is not limited to me and my family. Families in our community and across our country have been divided and struggling with what is best for their kids, and how to keep their families safe. My ask for each of us then is to take a moment and add to your daily prayer, a prayer for students and families in this moment if time with this load of stressors.

Fall we normally look towards the resumption of Sunday school. CE is working towards a time when we will resume in person Sunday school, but this moment offers us an opportunity to look to new ways of doing Sunday school! Soon Sunday School boxes will be shipped out to our Sunday School kids! These boxes will be filled with fun interactive activities that relate into the bible lessons! This is a great chance to try something new and look towards new avenues of ministry to support existing one!

## Upcoming

Sept 6 No Epyc or TrailBlazers

Sept 12 Free Noon Meal at LCCM 10:30 AM

Sept 13 Trailblazers 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm

Sept 20 Trailblazers 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm

Sept 27 Trailblazers 4-5pm, Epyc 5-6pm



# MISSION WEEK REVIEW

Mission Week 2020 provided challenges to the Mission Committee as we sought to provide opportunities for SAPC members to serve without compromising the health and safety of the participants. We created "At Home Kits" that included the materials needed to complete the particular projects. A few other group projects to benefit the community were also supported. Here is a summary of the accomplishments:

14 no-sew blankets were completed

Over 100 cards were written to shut-ins and friends in SAPC

50 face masks were sewn

Nearly 300 crossword puzzle boards were made

3 people worked on Habitat for Humanity houses in Lebanon

8 people cleaned up the Lebanon Rails to Trail

More than 20 Blessings Bags were distributed

Free Noon Meal was prepared by 6 people

The short visits during pick-up and drop-off at the beginning and end of the week were appreciated by all. The total number of participants in Mission Week is not able to be counted as there were many hands involved in the homes to complete these projects.

As part of Mission Week 2020, a book discussion was held on "*Toxic Charity*" by Robert Lupton. In the book, the author does not question the motives of givers, particularly if we are motivated by Jesus who said to feed, clothe, and show compassion. Lupton does point to some unintended consequences on those we help: dependency, a why-try outlook, and blows to dignity and self-esteem. The group had a lively discussion on several topics brought up in the book. The book talk was closed with several questions that will be covered in future Mission meetings.

How can we support/strengthen the church's ministry? Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of our current programs.

How can we become more relationally involved with those we serve?

Can we explore new options that will make SAPC even a stronger part of the community?

The book goes into a lot more information and ways to not be "toxic." If anyone would like to read the book, let the Mission Committee know, and we will make sure you get a copy.

Thank you to everyone who had a hand in Mission Week 2020. You helped to turn the **Impossible** into something **Possible**. May God continue to bless the efforts of SAPC to be a vital resource in our community and beyond.

# SESSION NOTES

The regular meeting of Session was held at 7 PM on Tuesday, August 4 via Zoom. Prayer and devotions (Matt 13: 51-53) were led by Pastor Morgan. The Session was asked to consider how we can help people grow in faith in this season.

After much discussion and review of the current information, where we have been and where we are going, the Session approved the addition of an in-person 8:30 AM Sunday morning worship service to be held outdoors beginning August 16, 2020 and moving forward, weather permitting. The 10 AM Sunday morning service will continue on-line only at this time.

The Session also voted to open the building for church committee meetings and small groups (up to 16 participants) in designated rooms/areas. All usage must be scheduled through Cliffy. Participants must wear masks and clean areas used with supplies provided.

Correspondence from Christ Presbyterian Church, Lebanon informed SAPC that on Aug 2, 2020 the congregation held their last worship service. They are closing their doors permanently.

Session approved a continuing education course for Pastor Morgan. It is entitled "Surviving and Thriving: Adaptive Leadership Learning Community".

Trustees reported that there are still water issues that need to be investigated in the lower level of the church.

An Outdoor Movie Night will be held Aug 21 (CE and Cong Life Committees)

Zoom Trivia Night will be held Aug 28 at 7 PM (Cong Life Committee).

Mission Week Aug 2 -8. Book Discussion on Toxic Charity via Zoom 8/12 at 7 PM (Mission Committee).

We were reminded about the new directory and encouraged to submit pictures.

Revenues were reported to be where we usually are this time of year.

Next Session meeting scheduled for September 1, 2020 at 7 PM.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|    |                   |    |                      |
|----|-------------------|----|----------------------|
| 3  | Tim Chevalier     |    | Carol Hockenbury     |
| 4  | Fay Peterson      | 17 | Annette Chevalier    |
|    | Ken Tice          | 18 | Danielle Chevalier   |
| 5  | Joanne Fairlamb   |    | Caitlyn Gelgot       |
|    | Margi Hearson     |    | Barry Kohr           |
|    | Charles Jones III |    | John K. Goetze (dad) |
|    | Lois Bomberger    | 19 | Cynthia Condrack     |
| 6  | Dan Dowhower      | 20 | Nicholas Chevalier   |
|    | Bill Long         |    | Gayle Reilly         |
| 7  | Louise Kreiser    | 23 | Claude Miller        |
| 11 | Alexamarie Lowrie | 25 | Bonnie Tenney        |
| 13 | Jim Reilly        | 26 | Lewis Sauerwein      |
| 16 | Nadine Jones      |    | Summer Hakkinen      |



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

*Give sorrow words; the grief that does not speak  
Whispers the o'er fraught heart and bids it break.*

William Shakespeare

The pressure of unspoken grief is like that inside a pressure cooker – it builds and builds until one feels as though another tiny increment of pain will drive one mad.

Speak. Tell a friend. Tell another friend, or the same friend again. A wise friend will know one must tell this tale again and again.

One way to begin – particularly if death has been unexpected and hard to believe – is to recount to this understanding friend, in as much detail as you can remember, the events of the day on which death occurred.

Telling the story is an important part of what happens within the St. Andrews Grief Support Group. Especially when someone new comes for the first time, it is so important to let them tell their story, if they are able to tell it at first. We find that many are more than

ready to share their story with others who have had the same type of experiences. Often they might say, “It’s just such a strange feeling,” or “I have the strangest thoughts,” or something along that line. And those of us who have been there for a while can try to reassure that person that the feelings and thoughts are not “strange” – they are quite normal when you are grieving. It is so very helpful to be able to tell your story to others who understand and who care about what you are experiencing. The people in the group are great listeners, but we also have comforting and helpful suggestions and ideas to share as well.

If you or someone you know could benefit from being part of our group, please don’t hesitate to join us. Our regular meeting time is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel.

**The September meeting will be our annual Covered Dish Picnic at Bob Bross’ home, (535 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St.), on September 9, at 2:00 PM**

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 717-272-9933; our Advisor, Diane Pomeroy at 717-454-0756

The kind of retelling of the day grounds the event in the real world and helps us begin to believe the terrible thing we can put in a bubble and hold away from the rest of our life. It took place in real time, on a real day, and while it will be terribly sad to recount, the recounting will help release the pressure inside and activate the flow of healing – friend to friend.

*I have a strength within myself that sometimes surprises me.*

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*Thank you to everyone who remembered me in prayer and with cards during my recent eye problem. My eye is 85% well and getting better every day.*

*Jean Gigler*



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