

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

DEC. 2021 — JAN. 2022

VOL. 21, Issue 12

You're Invited to
A Living Christmas!
Sunday, December 5th
Anytime 2–4PM



Crafts for the Kids
Train Display
Cookies and Hot Chocolate
St. Nicholas introducing a
LIVE Presentation of
The Story of Christmas



DECEMBER–JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9AM Sunday School
10AM Worship
11AM Coffee Hour Fellowship

There will be no Sunday school on December 26 or January 2

December 5 – Advent 2, Communion
Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 8:26-39
Monologue “The Man Who Overcame the Wind”
Paul Kilgore
Meditation: Finding Peace

December 12 – Advent 3
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 2:8-14; Luke 5:17-26
Monologue “The Man Who Slipped Through the Roof”
Craig Lowrie
Meditation: Knowing Joy

December 19- Advent 4
Isaiah 7:10-16; Luke 2:15-19; Luke 7:36-50
Monologue “Woman Who Washed His Feet with Tears”
Nell Tice
Meditation: Knowing Love

Christmas Eve – Friday December 24, 7PM
Meditation: Knowing God

December 26 – Christmastide –
Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52
Roz Presby Preaching

January 2 –Epiphany, Communion
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Meditation: Gifts We Carry With Us

January 9—Baptism of the Lord

January 16—2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 23—3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Congregational Meeting, 11AM

January 30—4th Sunday after Epiphany

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

A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Beloved People of God,

This year, I am excited about Christmas, in a new way. I am excited to watch my 3-year-old see and experience the wonder and the mystery of the celebration. It brings back memories of my childhood, decorating cookies on the kitchen floor, walking by the beautiful tree at night, and of course waking up on Christmas morning. So often Christmas feels like the mountain peak and the next 11 days of Christmas can feel like a letdown. And yet, my inquisitive child, keeps reminding me to look around and to not miss the adventure awaiting in each and every day. One of the songs I sing him at night is the chorus to *We Three Kings*. You know how it goes... *'O Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!'*

It is in the season of Christmas, that our calendar turns from one year to the next, and this seems right. For we end the year with a celebration of Christ's birth and begin the new year joining the journey to seek Christ, as Epiphany urges us all to get up and follow that star of wonder that leads to God with us – especially if *God with us* is found in an unexpected form, such as a toddler who delights in unusual gifts.

If 2021 is any indication, our world is changing – fast! We knew that before the pandemic, but I have read again and again how the pandemic was like an accelerant, all around us there is change; is it good, is it bad? I don't know, but it is clear that Christ knows change, Christ is not afraid of change and Christ brought change in unimaginable ways. The wisdom of Ecclesiastes is for us, right now; *'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.'* (Ecc 3:1)

A great deal has changed, and it may keep changing. The season of Christmas prepares us and calls us to adore the Christ child and to follow the light that leads to him, especially if it is in an unexpected place. Lebanon, PA might be just that place, and it might be more similar to Bethlehem than we would ever imagine. Change is coming for us at St. Andrews as well; change can be a great challenge and sometimes a great sorrow. Yet may it be change that leads us closer to God's Epiphany light. May it be change that lets us share this light, this great light of Christ with this community, especially those who have lost hope, who have no peace, too little joy, and know only uncertain love. Christ came that all might have certain hope, peace that passes all understanding, joy in all circumstances, and deep abiding love. There is a time for every purpose under heaven. This year is our time to find our purpose as God's people, right here in Lebanon Country, right now.

May God bless you this Christmas.

May God bless you as 2021 turns to 2022.

And may God lead you to bear the light of Christ, into this changing world.

In the love and hope of Christ,
Pastor Robin



17th Annual



Alternative Gift Fair

Sunday, December 5

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Snyder Hall

Do your Christmas shopping while helping others! Representatives from charitable organizations will have opportunities for you to make a donation in honor of someone on your Christmas list. Instead of purchasing the usual returnable items, alternative gifts are contributions to non –profit organizations that help those in the community and around the world.



Organizations represented will include:
Heifer International, Lifewater International, Lebanon Community Library, The Presbyterian Giving Catalog, Compassion International, Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon High School's Life Skills Group
Fair Trade items will also be available

The Coffee hour will be in Snyder Hall that day in conjunction with the Alternative Gift Fair.

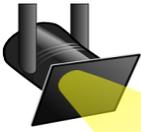


Sign Christmas Cards for Shut-ins

*****Cash and checks accepted by all organizations*****

“Christmas means giving. The Father gave His Son, and the Son gave His life. Without giving there is no true Christmas, and without sacrifice there is no true worship.”

~Gordon B. Hinckley~



December's Mission Spotlight
Canned Soups



FREE LITTLE PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who has been contributing to the Free Little Pantry. It always being used. Just a few notes:

Remember only non-perishables should be put in.

If you are putting in canned goods, all types are welcome. If you are able, those with flip-top lids are good because some folks may not have can openers.

Easily-prepared dishes such as mac & cheese or mashed potatoes are always needed. If you can find mixes that use water as an ingredient rather than milk and/or butter, those may be even better.

Don't forget, things such as toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, Kleenex, and feminine items are also needed.

People who use the pantry may not have the resources or access to prepare foods or buy the other items.

Your gifts to the pantry are greatly appreciated.

SAPC Mission Committee

More Giving Opportunities

THE ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree in the Gathering Area is beautifully decorated with Gold Angels this year. We are seeking to provide Christmas gifts for 30 individuals served by Lebanon County Children and Youth. The tags have the age and gender of the individual along with the item to be purchased. Some items represent needs, like a coat, sneakers, or clothing. Other tags contain educational, recreational, or fun items for the child or youth. Find a tag (or more) that suits your shopping interest.

If you are not attending worship but would like to participate with the Angel Tree, you may call the church office to have us choose an angel for you. We'll help however we can.

Unwrapped gifts are to be returned to the Angel Tree by December 12 at 11AM.



Donations of wrapping paper, bows/ ribbons, gift bags, and transparent tape are also being accepted. These materials will be given to the parents so that they can wrap the gifts for their own children.

OTHER DONATIONS NEEDED

Donations of new and gently used winter coats are being accepted in the gathering area throughout the month of December. New winter coats for middle and high school students are needed for youth who are considered homeless in the Lebanon City school district. (Coats are given to the whole family as needed.)

Gently used coats, especially adult sizes, will be donated to LCCM. LCCM is also in need of adult underwear, pajamas, and socks (all sizes and styles for men and women).

All of these items can be placed in the "Train" collection bin in the Gathering Area throughout the month of December.



Outreach Opportunity

A Living Christmas is coming! This is an incredible opportunity for us as a church to work together and show off some of our amazing gifts and talents as a church! If you would like to help with any part of this upcoming event— and there are many pieces— please get in touch with Rob or Beckie!

Opportunities to help:

- Cookie Bakers
- Actors
- Craft makers and helpers
- Welcomers
- Hosts and Hostesses
- Helpers



**Christmas Luncheon
December 12th -
After Worship -
Snyder Hall
Ham and Fixings
Seated/Served/
Simply Superb**



**Please Plan To Come!
Sign Up Now In The Gathering Area!**



***The Best Way To Spread
Christmas Cheer
Is Singing Loud For All To Hear!***

**Christmas Caroling
Sunday, Dec. 19th 5 – 7PM**

**Join Your Fellow Carolers At The Church For A
5PM Departure.**

**We'll Drive Our Own Cars To Sing Outside The
Homes Of Some Of Our Church Families.
We'll Head Back To St. Andrews At 6PM To Enjoy
A Campfire Complete With
Hotdogs, Marshmallows and Hot Chocolate!**

**Everyone Is Welcome! No Talent Required!
Dress For The Weather!!**

EPYC Expectations

What a year it has been! With 2022 right around the corner it is hard to not reflect on this past year! Of course, I imagine that we all do this in some way, playing out the memories of the past year. A habit that I started several years back was to create a playlist of songs from the year. Gathering the music from moments and memories to play and allow for a reflection of what was that year. This has been a neat reflective practice that has even played out with sharing music with and from the students and their recommendations. Even more so, as we sat during the worst elements of the pandemic!

Out the worst elements of the pandemic, this brought the youth group to a place where we have been studying the minor prophets and what it is to be a people (the church) surrounded by strife but seeking Christ and His peace and grace. These conversations through the fall have been incredible. A majority of that is because the youth hold a unique perspective towards our world because they are looking to how they will grow into and interact with the world! As we move into a new year we will continue these conversations and growing into the Gospels, and studying the book of Matthew.

Additionally, as we continue to navigate the changes that the pandemic has brought, 2022 will continue to offer new ministry opportunities! Just as we sit with the cold and darkness of winter, it is time to also look and hope towards spring and summer. The newness of the season changes and what can be! Christian Education will be exploring the possibilities and opportunities for these new seasons.

Upcoming:

December 5th: 2-4pm A Living Christmas!

December 12th: TrailBlazers 4-5pm Epyc 5-6pm

December 19th: Caroling 5pm Gather at the church, campfire and hot chocolate to follow

December 26th: No Youth Merry Christmas!

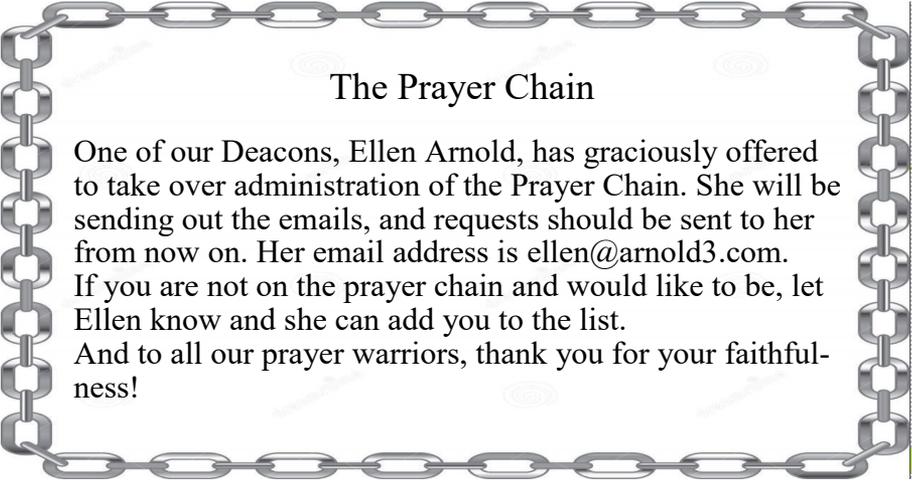
January 2nd: No youth Happy New Year!

January 9th: TrailBlazers 4-5pm. Epyc 5-6pm

January 16th: TrailBlazers 4-5pm. Epyc 5-6pm

January 23rd: TrailBlazers 4-5pm. Epyc 5-6pm

January 30th: TrailBlazers 4-5pm. Epyc 5-6pm



The Prayer Chain

One of our Deacons, Ellen Arnold, has graciously offered to take over administration of the Prayer Chain. She will be sending out the emails, and requests should be sent to her from now on. Her email address is ellen@arnold3.com. If you are not on the prayer chain and would like to be, let Ellen know and she can add you to the list. And to all our prayer warriors, thank you for your faithfulness!

Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

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.

We're looking for a few good staff members

Help Us Find Our Next Contemporary Music Leader

St. Andrews is seeking a new Contemporary Music Leader to continue to enhance meaningful worship through praise music. If you know someone who may be a good candidate, please have them email the search committee for a complete job description and to ask any questions about the role. The search committee email is: standrewslebjobs@gmail.com.

The Contemporary Music Leader will coordinate with the minister and other music staff to select music for worship services. The Leader will practice with the Praise Team (weekly practices), choirs, or other special groups as needed to prepare for services. The Leader will perform and lead contemporary music during worship services (Sunday mornings and at special services).

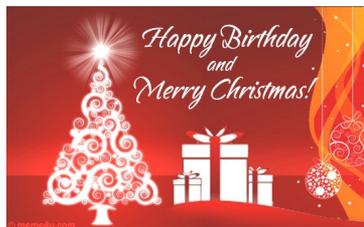
Candidates should be Christ-filled and bring a team player spirit to the role. The person should be a strong vocal leader who is comfortable with a variety of music genres. Candidates with strong skills in playing musical instruments such as piano, guitar, or drums are preferred.

If you know of any talented musicians, please encourage them to contact the search committee.

Nursery .Attendant - Do you know someone who loves children? We are looking for a second nursery attendant . This person would need to be vaccinated and wear a mask while in the nursery. Please pass along this opportunity to anyone who would like a Sunday morning side job.

Media coordinator Streaming and worship slide projections have become essential to our worship. We are looking for someone to work with our volunteers to continue this vital ministry and help us to improve our streaming on online presence. Please email Glenn or Stuart if you have any leads for this position.

Please share with anyone you know who has these ministry gifts and skills



December Birthdays

1 Wilma Miller
Jeannie Tice
2 Shelby Lister
6 Lisa Hamme
10 Steve Schulte

15 John Wissinger
17 Marc Hamme
29 Penny Samuelson
31 Scott Stambaugh



January Birthdays

1 Sally Renda
Robert Lowrie
3 Timothy Sensenig
12 Sharon Schulte
14 Jacob Overholt
John Spicer IV
18 Mary Reitz
19 Grace Hakkinen
21 Karen Fedder

25 Maggie Beatty
Sarah Flowers
Susan Strock
26 Ron Hetrick
Jean Ditzler
Gary Strock
28 Doug Lister
Karen Uhrich
30 Kate Tshudy

SESSION NOTES

The Session met on November 9, 2021, to conduct normal business and to meet jointly with the Trustees to review and approve the annual budget. The following actions were taken:

- In a joint meeting with the Trustees, the 2022 annual budget was approved. Despite the pandemic, the church is blessed with a giving congregation and a significant endowment.
- For Christmas Eve, a motion was passed to hold one service at 7 pm.
- The Mission Committee announced plans to support Habitat for Humanity in January and True Life in February as part of the church's monthly outreach strategy.
- The Session decided to start a thoughtful discernment effort around the mission of St. Andrews in Lebanon with the goal of creating and implementing plans to help better fulfill the mission of Christ in our community. The short-term goal is to evaluate consulting partners who can help guide discussions at the beginning of 2022.

In the life of the church, please note these key announcements:

- For Advent and Christmas, please note that a variety of worship and fellowship activities are planned, including Christmas Caroling and a Christmas luncheon. Please plan to join us for these activities.
- Volunteers are needed to support the Coffee Hour before service. Please contact Carla Dowd or a member of the Congregational Life Committee to learn more.
- Help wanted! The church is seeking a new Contemporary Music Leader and a Media Coordinator. Please see the church web site for details on these positions and share with anyone who may be interested.



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

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

Time does restore to us our quiet joy in the spiritual presence of those we love, so that we learn to remember without pain, and to speak without choking up with tears. But all our lives we will be subject to sudden small reminders which will bring all the old loss back overwhelmingly.

Elizabeth Watson

Particularly at this time of year when families are celebrating the holidays, the “sudden small reminders” – and the large ones, too – come to plague us. We thought we were doing so well, and then there we are, crying as though our loss was yesterday.

We need to take heart. If our loss is recent, the sadness is understandably overwhelming. If it was a while ago and we thought we were over the worst, then perhaps this time it will not take so long for “the quiet joy” to reassert itself, the spiritual presence to return in its quiet and infinitely precious way.

These thoughts apply so appropriately for the members of the St. Andrews Grief Support Group. For some, the loss is quite re-

cent and perhaps this will be the first holiday season to be celebrated without the missing loved one. How can I possibly get through Christmas and try to be “merry” when I still hurt so much? For others, for whom the death was a while ago, the sadness is still present, but not as overwhelming. Some among us have lived through a few holidays and have “survived”, so to speak. We will try to help the newly-grieving ones find the ways to try to enjoy the holiday season without too much sadness. We can let them know that it is OK to be happy in the midst of grieving. It is OK to be laughing as family members repeat old family memories, while creating new memories. And yes, it is OK to shed a few tears when you hear a favorite carol or meaningful scripture and your loved one is in your heart.

The members of the Grief Support Group welcome anyone to come join with us, whether members of St. Andrews or not, no matter how recent or how long ago the passing. The experiences vary, as does the need for help, comfort and love.

Our usual meeting time is the 2nd Thursday of every month at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel. However, for our December meeting we will have our annual Christmas Luncheon at the Lebanon Country Club on Thursday, December 9, at noon. The January meeting will be on Thursday, January 13, in Cassel Chapel.

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

Our life runs in seasons, as does our grief. Some seasons are long, some short. But if we are resolute in our efforts to be present to the moment, even as we know this moment will give away to another, we can be assured at these times of renewed pain, that things will get better.

When I am feeling my most grief-stricken, may I hold in some place in my heart the promise that I will feel better.



**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
600 South 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 272-9933
office@standrewslebanon.org
www.StAndrewsLebanon.org**

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lebanon, PA 17042
Permit No. 252

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED