



SAINT ANDREW

United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

- **SAUMC Annual Church Conference.** Members and friends, you are all welcome to join our annual church conference **Saturday, November 1 at 1:00pm in classrooms 4-6.**
- **Administrative Board.** The next Administrative Board meeting is **November 11 at 7:00pm** in the Sanctuary, all are welcome to attend.
- **Christmas Cantata.** *This is Christmas* by Mary MacDonald. Singers, young and old are invited to join our festival choir. Recordings of individual parts (SATB) are available as well. We are hoping we can restore this yearly tradition to our church.

Sat, Nov 1	8:00-9:30 am	Choir-Men
Sat, Nov 8	8:00-9:30 am	Choir - Women
Sun, Nov 23	11:15-12:30 pm	Choir ALL
Sun, Dec 7	11:15-12:30 pm	Choir ALL
Sat, Dec 13	8:00-9:30 am	Choir ALL
Sun, Dec 14	3:00 PM	Concert

- **Church Women United.** Meeting **Friday, November 7 at 1:00pm** at St. Andrew UMC classrooms 4-6. Dessert will be served. Our Guest Speaker is Elizabeth Golla from Family Promise. Any questions contact Joan Sola 732-240-7516.
- **Christmas Shoe Box Project.** We will be supporting the Native American Children in the Dakotas. Standard items: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, hats, gloves, mittens, new toys and age appropriate books. No clothing, only what is requested. Washcloth, soap and comb. If using a regular shoe box we request that you wrap the bottom separate from the top in festive paper, and then place a rubber band around it. Place a piece of paper on the outside of the box identifying the age range and gender. Age groups are infant, toddler 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13 and up. **Last day for the boxes is November 16.** Any questions contact Joan Sola 732-240-7516. Other items outside Shoe Boxes: deodorants, shampoos, feminine hygiene products, wash cloths, razors, and shaving cream. If you would like to add a box for the Franklin Graham Shoe Box project we will be happy to drop it off at the official drop off location. We will supply the boxes. Any questions contact Joan Sola, Missions Commission. 732-240-7516.
- **Meals That Heal.** Please join us for our traditional Thanksgiving feast on **November 19.** The menu will include turkey, gravy, dressing and all the trimmings with pumpkin pie for dessert! There is food for all and all are welcome!



- Hello Church! It's **Stewardship time**...and for the first time in many years I say that with a heart full of joy. God's grace and mercy has surrounded St. Andrew this past year in amazing ways! Your giving, your faith, your sacrifice, your joy, your presence, your talents have all been multiplied to put this church on a new path. In 2023, we withdrew over \$150,000 from our reserves to stay afloat. At that rate our reserves and church would have been gone by 2027. Through much sacrifice, we sought alternative sources of revenue and have narrowed the gap in our budget. We took risks and met the test God put in front of us, stepping forward in faith while never ceasing to serve our community and neighbors. In 2025 we withdrew only \$40,000 from reserves. Seeing that, I realize we are in striking distance of balancing our budget. Maybe not in 2026, but perhaps within the next few years. With that said we are embarking on a three year journey to close that gap! The theme of our giving will be to "Mind the Gap" as they say in the London underground. The most direct way you can Mind the Gap is through your giving. You have been a generous congregation through our struggles and I know you will continue challenging yourselves to give more. But what if you are at the end of your rope financially...God's not done with you! Invite your friends, neighbors, and families to church! St. Andrew is growing and new visitors become new members. How about coming up with our next alternative revenue stream? It was during a group conversation about our struggles at the end of a Disciple bible study that Frank Hager uttered the magic words, "what about pickleball." Then came Family Promise. Then came Meals on Wheels. You may have an even bigger idea swirling in your mind! How can we use all of our land to better serve God's church? He has shown us His majesty and I firmly believe this is just the beginning of the next chapter at St. Andrew. Join me as we look forward to embracing and celebrating stewardship in the coming month!
- J. Scott Susich, Finance Chair

- **Thanksgiving Baskets.** The 2025 Thanksgiving Basket project is here. Yes, we will be handing out Thanksgiving dinners and pantry items to families in need again this year. We thank all of you who have so faithfully supported this project in the past and look forward to working with you all again to assist the families who so thankfully appreciate the help we extend. This year's details are as follows:

Turkeys, turkeys, turkeys...we can use as much help as possible in accumulating the 50 or so turkeys we will need. Please let us (Sue or Dave Richardson) know if you can donate a turkey and also if you can store the turkey(s) until Saturday morning, November 22.

Food items...because we have accumulated an abundance of Thanksgiving style food items that we normally ask for, it would be more helpful to give financially in lieu of food items. Our shoppers will get what we need. If you feel strongly about donating food items, please reach out to Sue or Dave for suggestions.

Volunteer opportunities...we plan to pack food sets on Friday, November 21st at 10am and distribute the baskets on Saturday, November 22nd starting at 10 am. Also, if anyone wants to help with shopping that would be appreciated. Please see Sue or Dave if you would like to help with any of these tasks.

Look for sign-up sheets for volunteering and providing turkeys in the Narthex starting on Sunday November 2.

Contact Information:

Dave and Sue Richardson

Sue - 732-779-2011

sasrichardson@yahoo.com

- **Trustee News. Blood Drive Friday, November 28 from 1-7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.** Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome! For an appointment call 800-933-2566.
- **United Methodist Men (UMM).** The next breakfast meeting will be held Saturday **November 8, from 8:00-10:00am rooms 4-6.** We hope to see you there!
- **United Women of Faith (UWF).** **Save the date for our annual Christmas Tea on December 6.** Tickets \$25 on sale starting November 2. Food by Katie!
- **Veterans Ministry.** The Veterans Ministry is looking forward to an exciting November. Plans are being made for a special presentation aptly named **"Pastries for our Patriots" Sunday, November 2**, immediately after service. Mel (David) Russen from Wreaths Across America will give a very interesting presentation about the origins of the organization, including their present-day mission across the country. You will also learn about the meaning behind each of the ten bouquets that make a single wreath. Just fascinating! Pastries and coffee will be enjoyed by all attendees. We hope you will join us.
Sunday, November 9, the Veterans Ministry will honor veterans at a special Veterans Day service. Please bring artifacts (photos, medals) from military service to share with the congregation. We also welcome all veterans to join us at this special service. Heather Church-Soto, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will be on hand with information about the services she provides to veterans.
MILITARY SUPPORT ALLIANCE - FOOD WARRIORS – FOOD DRIVE FOR THE TROOPS. A donation jar will be available in the narthex before and after services each Sunday in November. Your donation will support the Red Cross food pantry in assisting service members and their families at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. Checks may be made payable to: *MSA-Food Warriors*. Donations to St. Andrew Veterans Ministry are accepted and appreciated at any time.
- **WOW! Women's Book Club.** Calling all Women who love to read! Our selection for November is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. We will meet via ZOOM on **November 22 at 10:00am**. Happy Reading!