

SAINT ANDREW
United Methodist Church
DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

- **Administrative Board.** There is no Administrative Board meeting in December.
- **Longest Night Service.** On **Sunday, December 21 at 4:00pm** we will have a very special service for anybody who would like to quietly celebrate our Lord's birth. Maybe you are ill, grieving, lonely, or just feeling like holiday cheer is too overwhelming this year. Our longest night service allows us to embrace the Prince of Peace and light a candle as we sing of a silent night that changed the world.
- **Carols and Campfire.** Join us for an evening of Carols and Campfire on **December 21, 5:30-7:00pm**. Bring a treat to share, and join us as we cozy around a campfire and ring out praise through the night air!
- **Christmas Eve Worship Services Wednesday, December 24.**
5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service.
7:30pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.
- **Church Envelopes 2026.** Envelopes will be available December 1 in the Narthex. If you don't have envelopes and would like them please contact the church office at 732-349-5367 or email Lee at standrew.umctr@gmail.com. If you give online, please pick up your envelopes as there are special giving opportunities within the box.
- **The Church Office** will not be running on normal hours Friday, December 26, and the week of December 29 through January 6. Voice mail messages will be checked intermittently and handled. For food pantry requests please contact Dave Richardson, cell: 732-779-1869, wdrichardson1960@verizon.net for building maintenance issues contact Dave or any Trustee member. Prayer Chain requests email Sue Herflicker, flikerfarm96@gmail.com. Emergency situations contact Pastor Anna, 325-669-4380, anna@standrewtr.org.
- **Christmas Cantata. This is Christmas, Sunday December 14 at 3:00pm.** Come and enjoy the sounds and music of Christmas. Cantata sung by our Celebration Choir and narrated by Maggie and David Nordt. Special Christmas selections played by the St. Andrew Handbell choir and sung by our youth. What a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor or coworker to hear the Christmas story through music. Save the date!!
Christmas Cantata Remaining Rehearsal Schedule:

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
- **Knit Wits and Crafts Sale.** The Knit Wits yarn creations and Lisa's holiday crafts will be on sale prior to the Christmas tea on **December 6 from 10:00am - 1:00pm**. The sale will continue on Sunday after church service with a bake sale included to entice your sweet tooth. Hope to see you there!
- **Library News.** A selection of Christmas books both fiction and non-fiction are available on the rack in the Sanctuary after Thanksgiving. Books may be taken out by signing the card in the book and placing it in the box next to the rack. There is a return bag to return the books. The Library is always open, open the door and turn on the light to the right of the door. The library is on the lower level of the church, there is an elevator or the stairs. Any questions contact Joan 732-240-7516, happy reading as the evenings are long and a book is just the thing to keep you comfortable.
- **Meals That Heal.** Our annual Christmas celebration is on **Wednesday, December 17**. The menu includes baked ham, scalloped potatoes etc! As a holiday treat for our guests, we would like to present everyone with a bag of homemade cookies. **We need cookies!** When doing your holiday baking, please make an extra batch to share with our friends. As you walk in on Sunday leave the cookies on the credenza in Fellowship Hall Lobby so we have time to bag them! Thank you so much for your help in supporting this mission. Come and join us for dinner from 5:00-6:00pm! There is food for all and all are welcome.

- **Missions. A Light of Hope This Christmas. Buy a Net. Save a Life!** The Mission Committee is once again selling Christmas cards this year. Cards can be purchased for special people on your Christmas list. Proceeds from each card will be 100% donated to the *Against Malaria Foundation* to be used for the purchase a mosquito net to prevent malaria. 76% of the people worldwide who die from malaria are children under five. THESE NETS SAVE LIVES!! Each card sells for \$10.00. We will be selling them until Christmas. Checks made payable to St. Andrew UMC with *Malaria Net* in the memo. Questions can be referred to Sam Jones. God Bless You and the children of the lives you save.
- **Poinsettia Dedications.** Order forms will be emailed the week of December 1 and will be on the tables and in the bulletins.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets Thank You!** Once again St. Andrew blessed almost 50 families with a Thanksgiving Turkey dinner and a pantry supply this year! Special thanks to all the Church members and friends who donated turkeys and our weary but incredible shoppers, packers and distributors!!
- **Trustee News. Blood Drive Friday, December 26 from 1-7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.** Appointments are encouraged. Walk-ins are welcome! For an appointment call 800-933-2566.
- **United Methodist Men's Breakfast - BIG NEWS!** We are going to move the December Men's breakfast to Sunday, December 14 - yes, Sunday morning instead of Saturday. Hoping this will fit better into our men's weekend schedules. We'll start serving at 8:00am (to catch our Choir friends) and we'll have everything available through 9:15am. Hope to see you then!
- **United Women of Faith (UWF). Save the date! Our Annual White Elephant General Meeting is Saturday, January 31 from 10:00am - 12:00pm classrooms 4-6.** Join us for a continental breakfast and a fun filled shopping event to help support Salt Bridge Farm!
- ***Urgent Help Needed for a Church Family Affected by Hurricane Melissa (Last Day to Donate is December 21)***
As many of us are aware, the recent Hurricane Melissa has brought significant hardship and devastation. One of our own families, the Gooden family have relatives in Jamaica. They have tragically lost everything they own. Their home was destroyed, and they are now faced with the daunting task of rebuilding their lives from scratch.
How We Can Help:
The immediate needs are for basic necessities We are asking the congregation to help in the following ways:
 - **Any non perishable item i.e., beans, sardines, corned beef, cooking oil, rice, condensed milk, evaporated milk, farina, oatmeal, sugar, flour, cornmeal, also bathing soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes. We are also collecting summer clothes and sanitary pads.**
 - **Please bring your donations to SAUMC during Sunday's service.**
 Please join us in fervent prayer for the family's strength, courage, and peace during this time of uncertainty and grief. Thank you for your kindness.
- **Veterans Ministry.** It is with a heart full of gratitude that the Veterans Ministry extends the sincerest thank you to every member of the congregation for your unwavering support. We are proud to share that through your generosity monetary donations this year were made to: Wreaths Across America, Operation Jersey Cares, MSA-Food Warriors, St. Andrew Food Pantry, Barnegat VFW (school supplies for needy children), US War Dogs, and PROC Foundation (for a disabled veteran's son). Additionally, the Veterans Ministry in collaboration with Linda Croker and the Knit Wits created special holiday cards utilizing the beautiful green wreath pin/ornament on an American flag backdrop. These cards are being distributed to our heroes at VFW Post 10092 in Barnegat, NJ, a location that is blessed to have a 101-year-old veteran in their membership. The cards will also be sent to Lisa Lockwood's son who is in active military duty. He will share them with all members of his unit. God bless all of you, our service members past and present, and this great country.
- **WOW! Women's Book Club.** Calling all Women who love to read! Our selection for December is *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. We will meet via ZOOM on **December 20 at 10:00am**. Happy Reading!