

Saint *Connections*

United Methodist Church

Special Edition November 2020

Here and Not Yet—Thanksgiving and Advent 2020

We are an Advent people in the season of Advent. The here and not yet.

We celebrate the glorious mystery of the God who “moved into the neighborhood” (Eugene Peterson). Immanuel. God with us. The gift of salvation, given why? Because that’s what love does. “And Christ will come again . . .” Here and not yet.

Thanksgiving season 2020. The “duty of delight” (Dorothy Day) and giving **thanks in** (not for) everything meeting the realities of empty chairs and touch-free reunions: social distancing is our life, our continued ache. Yes, we are here and not yet fully where we wish we were.

The vaccine news is exhilarating and hopeful. It’s here! Yet when will it reach and reconnect us to life and others? Not soon enough. Here and not yet.

Issues and distresses of 2020: The unfinished business of racial justice, people on the margins still battling for life



essentials, even the 2020 election... here and not yet.

St. Andrew church. On paper and monitor screen, nine months have passed. We were here and vibrant. Livestream worship. Brilliant children’s messages and a new

generation of puppets. Zoom Sunday school classes.

Generous givers who sustained

us. New website. Fabulous Facebook presence. Worshipful Wednesdays. Thoughtful Thursdays. An exhilarating seminar on



Dismantling Racism crafted and hosted by Pastor Annettra.

Quilters quilted and sent their blessings to the hurting. InTouch cards and meals continued to flow. Meals and children’s programming anchored in the Woods Edge neighborhood endured. We even celebrated a few drive-in worship services.

And yet the photo album since mid-March sits strangely thin: no Easter photos crowded with singers, families and lilies rejoicing in good news of our

Risen Savior; no VBS kids drenched in water, worship, and joy; no mission teams prayed over; no wall of flood buckets or

Mission fair or all-church dinner celebrating connection, community, and belonging; no grand memorial services for the grand souls who left this earth over the last nine months.

St. Andrew: an open community growing in the ways of Jesus, sent out daily to share God’s healing love.

The “here and not yet” is a meantime and we are in it. Sometimes it is a very “mean” time. But, as Scripture reminds us: “In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (I Thess. 5:18)

Read within these pages of our continued vitality. Know that we cherish and need your prayerful support in countless ways to engage the months ahead.

I close with excerpts from a prayer written by Diana Butler-Bass post-election 2016:

“Lord, we struggle to feel grateful. Yet this Thanksgiving we choose gratitude. We do not simply give thanks, we choose it. We will make thanks, with strong hands and courageous hearts. We ask you, God, to strengthen our resolve. Here and now. Around this table such as it is. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth. Amen.”

Chris Danielson

SIGN UP FOR STAYING CONNECTED

Are you feeling a little disconnected from church? Are you getting information through our Facebook pages or Staying Connected emails? If you are not subscribed to our email list, please make it a point to do so now. The Staying Connected emails come out on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Between the website and these emails, it's the best way to get information about everything St. Andrew related.

Sign-up today at andrew-umc.org. Go to the bottom of the homepage and click on the “Weekly News—email address” and subscribe.



The four Sundays of Advent leading to Christmas each have a theme that leads to Christmas Eve. For the health and safety of everyone, all services will be virtual this year and more details are available on our website (andrew-umc.org).

Traditional Advent events will look a little different this year, but will continue. Sounds of the Seasons, an evening of Christmas music, will be virtual on December 6. Jubilee Christmas will take place with modifications on December 12. [InTouch Blessing Boxes](#) will be given to 75 families and you may sign up to help bake, pack, or deliver by volunteering through the link on our website.

Family Ministries has made Advent Kits available to all families and will present a virtual Christmas pageant this year. We hope everyone will join us for the video premier of St. Andrew families in *Do Not Be Afraid* on Sunday, December 20 at 12:30 p.m.

Another traditional opportunity that will look a little different this year is Advent studies, which will take place via Zoom. You can find out how to register on the website or by contacting Barb Jones (barb@andrew-umc.org).

If you or a loved one are experiencing grief this season, we have resources on *Surviving the Holidays When Grieving* available on the website. You are always welcome to reach out the pastoral staff as well. Contact Gina Riendeau (gina@andrew-umc.org) for more information.

Our hope for you is that in the midst of this different and challenging time, one or more of these opportunities will be

ALL SERVICES WILL BE ONLINE ONLY

November 29—First Sunday of Advent—Hope

Online Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

December 5 Prepare and Deliver Blessing Boxes —10 a.m.

*Contact: Gina Riendeau (gina@andrew-umc.org)

December 6—Second Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday—Love

Online Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Blessing of the Afghans for Jubilee Christmas

Sounds of the Season: A virtual Christmas program of St. Andrew talent - online at 6:30 p.m.

*Contact: Stephanie Knight (stephanie.m.knight@gmail.com)

December 12—Jubilee Christmas—1 p.m.

Help create a Christmas for children who might not otherwise have one.

*Contacts: Melissa Martin (cjmmkm@gmail.com)
or Cindy Nycz (cindy@nyczideas.com)

December 13—Third Sunday of Advent—Joy

Online Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

December 20 —Fourth Sunday of Advent—Peace

Online Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

December 20 —Family Ministries

Virtual Christmas Pageant 12:30-1 p.m.

December 24—Christmas Eve Service

7 p.m. Online Christmas Eve Service

December 27

One online Worship Service at 10 a.m.
Preservice music at 9:45 a.m.

January 3—Communion Sunday

Regular schedule resumes with
online services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.



St. Andrew Connections

St. Andrew United Methodist Church
4703 N. 50 W.
West Lafayette, IN 47906
Thursday, November 19, 2020

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Here And Not Yet

***Advent -
living between what was
and what will be.***

St. Andrew UMC andrew-umc.org Phone: 765-497-7755

Office Hours: 9 am-3 pm Monday-Thursday; 9 am—12 p.m. Fridays