



Annual Report 2025

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Connecting Hearts | Renewing Lives

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | 140 Gathering Place Lane
Iowa City, Iowa 52246 | www.saintandrew-ic.org | 319-338-7523



Cover: Drone footage of St. Andrew's building taken by **Leif Charis-Carlson** in June 2025.

Left: Pastor Colette Soult worked with the **Worship Team** and **Children's and Family Ministries** to organize a star-filled art project to decorate the Sanctuary through Advent and the darkest times of the winter season.

Below: Leaders from **BASIC** (Brothers and Sisters in Christ), St. Andrew's middle school ministry, prepare for the annual Mario Kart Party.

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'NOT ALL WHO WANDER ARE LOST': A YEAR IN THE WILDERNESS 3

I am almost embarrassed to admit this, but for a good portion of my life I believed that when the Bible says the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years, it meant they were lost. Confused. Disoriented. For some reason, that was easier for me to understand.

Only later did I realize something far more meaningful: they were not lost at all. They were waiting on the Lord. For a whole generation, they lived faithfully in the tension between where they were and what God was still preparing.

This year, I have seen that same kind of faith-filled patience at work at St. Andrew.

As a congregation, you have been living in a season of waiting—waiting for your next pastor, waiting for clarity about what comes next—yet you have not stopped growing, serving, or loving. You have persevered with grace and with purpose. Transition has not slowed your ministry; instead, it has revealed the depth of your faith. In worship, in learning, in mission, and in daily acts of care, you have continued to live out your calling in Jesus Christ. This year's ministries and stories bear witness to a church that is very much alive.

Throughout the year, I watched you remain present while longing for what is still to come. You asked thoughtful questions. You engaged one another with honesty and generosity. You listened for the Spirit's leading and responded with courage. Again and again, I saw a congregation choosing trust over anxiety and hope over fear.

For me, this season has been a gift.

It has been an honor to serve as your transitional pastor. Your kind words encouraged me. Your challenging questions pushed me to think more deeply. Your invitations to examine my own assumptions reminded me that growth is always part of faithful ministry. Most of all, your love for God and for one another leaves me deeply optimistic about the future of this church.

My hope for St. Andrew remains steadfast. I truly believe you are uniquely positioned to be at the forefront of what the church can and must become in the days ahead. Continue to listen carefully for the Spirit. Continue to respond with courage. Continue to love in ways that are generous, faithful, and even a little revolutionary.

As this portion of the journey nears its end, I return to the words of the Apostle Paul: "I am confident that the Creator, who has begun such a great work among you, will not stop in mid-design, but will keep perfecting you until the day Jesus the Anointed, our Liberating King, returns to redeem the world" (Philippians 1:6, *The Voice*).

You are not lost.

You are waiting faithfully.

And God is very much at work among you.

Pastor Carl



Left: Pastor Carl Anderson prepares for an interview with the Children's Family and Ministry Team as part of their 25Live@Home video series. Right: Pastor Carl explains the story and symbolism behind the tattoos on his fingers.



The Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson

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4 PASTORAL CARE: A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE, PRAYER, AND QUIET FAITHFULNESS

Throughout this past year, the Pastoral Care ministry has offered support to members and friends across all of life's seasons—both joyful and difficult. Through the work of Caring Friends, Deacons, Hospitality, and Prayer Ministry, we have been able to provide care in many forms and in many settings.

Often, care has come from more than one team, offering multiple expressions of love through flowers, cards, prayers, visits, and phone calls. Together, these ministries form a wide and compassionate network of support within our congregation.

One of the ongoing challenges of pastoral care remains the need for volunteers who are available during daytime hours. Even so, St. Andrew has been richly blessed by many faithful individuals who have given generously of their time.

This year, volunteers offered one-on-one visits, delivered flowers and prayer shawls, and served at numerous funerals and Celebrations of Life. Through these ministries, pastoral care has remained consistently available to those experiencing crisis, grief, illness, or significant life transitions.

St. Andrew is also blessed with a strong foundation of trained caregivers, formed through years of Stephen Ministry and a long tradition of elder and deacon leadership. This year, these volunteers shared communion in residential care facilities, at hospital bedsides, and in individual homes as requested. If you or a loved one would like to receive communion, please know that the pastoral care ministry is always only a phone call or email away.

Looking ahead, one of the hopes for this ministry is to continue expanding care beyond our membership, offering love, service, and Christian witness to those outside the walls of the church. My prayer for St. Andrew is that we remain a congregation committed to shepherding one another with compassion, attentiveness, and grace—welcoming long-time members, new friends, and all who come with special needs or concerns.

Pastor Colette



Partnering with elders and musicians within the congregation, **Pastor Colette Soult** brought her portable communion kit (pictured above) to offer the sacrament to many home-bound members or those in retirement communities.



The Rev. Colette Soult

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Clockwise from Upper Left: On Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025, the ETC Band leads worship during the Sunrise Service in the Hub; the Logos Choir and Brass Ensemble lead the congregation in song during the 9 a.m. service in the Sanctuary; Pastor Carl Anderson delivers a message; and the friends of St. Andrew's Student Ministries fill The Hub, ready to celebrate the risen Christ. (Photos by Jan Waterhouse and Nichole Hoffman)

IN 2025, ST. ANDREW MOVED THROUGH TRANSITION AND BEYOND



As you read this **2025 Annual Report**, you'll see a familiar pattern in St. Andrew's story: we remain very much a church in transition—and yet, once again, God has been busy moving us *through* transition and *beyond* it.

On the pastoral front, 2025 was our first full year with **the Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson** as *transitional pastor*. Pastor Carl continued what he began in late 2024: listening well, preaching honestly, and helping St. Andrew prepare for what comes next. Throughout the spring, he met with Session, staff, ministry teams, and small groups as he led more than a dozen formal listening sessions. These conversations, along with an online survey, helped clarify the congregation's longings and hopes for our next installed pastor.

By late spring, those hopes began to take concrete shape. The Presbytery's **Commission on Ministry & Vitality** granted permission to form a **Pastor Nominating Committee** (PNC), and St. Andrew's Nominating Team went to work. Session approved a congregational meeting to elect the PNC, and in June the committee was officially called into being. Throughout the summer and fall, the PNC began the deep work of prayer, discernment, and drafting the **Ministry Discernment Profile** that serves as our pastoral "job description." While the search will continue into 2026, 2025 was the year our listening turned into formal, hopeful action.

This same pattern (*through transition and beyond*) also marked our life together financially. Building on the "**Rooted in Faith | Growing to Serve**" (2022-25) Capital Campaign, we entered the year with a clear goal: collect enough pledges to pay off the mortgage at 140 Gathering Place Lane and free up future

resources for mission. In a remarkable act of grace, we received a \$1 million legacy gift from the estate of long-time friend and member, Don Heineking. Don's generosity, combined with the congregation's pledges to the "**Finish the Race | Owe Nothing But Love**" campaign, placed the end of our building debt in sight.

By mid-September, St. Andrew members pledged more than the remaining \$1.8 million goal. The **Home Stretch Check-Ins**, hosted in members' homes and at church, celebrated stories of belonging, remembered the long road of construction, and asked what new possibilities might open once a mortgage no longer claims such a large share of our budget.

Through it all, St. Andrew remained what it has long been: a **Matthew 25** congregation committed to building vitality, dismantling structural racism, and addressing systemic poverty. In 2025 our mission life continued to expand, not contract. The monthly **Food Market** provides around 500 families every month. The Summer Lunch Bunch served weekday meals to about 100 children a day at **Pheasant Ridge Neighborhood Center**. Our **Lettuce Feed Others Garden** and Orchard for All ministry provided fresh produce. St. Andrew members volunteered regularly at the **Free Lunch Program** and with community partners such as **Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County**, **Habitat for Humanity**, and **IC Compassion**.

New and renewed partnerships deepened this witness. We welcomed **The Arc of Southeast Iowa** into our building as a summer camp partner, hosting teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities for seven weeks of safe, joyful programming. The Bike Drive with the **Iowa City Bike Library** collected dozens of bicycles, while the **Big Table** dinners (before the closure of the Center for Worker Justice) gathered neighbors around shared meals. Later in the year, **Minds Matter: Mental Health Resource Fair** returned alongside the **Homemade with Heart Craft Sale**, drawing local organizations, speakers, and vendors into a day focused on healing, resilience, and community connection.

Faith formation and education also flourished. In addition to St. Andrew's **Sunday**



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School classes from Pre-K to Middle School, the **Learning Academy** offered a robust slate of Sunday morning classes, welcoming guest speakers and drawing on deep scholarship and lived experience. Topics ranged from “Non-Dualistic Thinking,” to “Finding Hope in the Cancer Journey,” to “Reckoning with History,” to theological discussions of “Why Is Evil Allowed?,” to an engaging, millennia-long history of Jerusalem as a city. Some sessions sparked ongoing conversations that will continue into 2026.

Children’s and Family Ministries continued to embody our calling to nurture faith across generations. Our teams strengthened child safety and protection practices, implemented training through Safe Gatherings, and updated policies and emergency procedures. At the same time, they leaned into delight: **VBS**, hayrack rides at the Dane Farm, **Trunk-or-Treat**, and the ongoing **25Live@Home video series**, which focused this year on mental health, neighbor-love, and practical ways families can serve together. The ministry year kicked off with **School Year’s Eve** celebrations, backpack blessings, field-day-style Sunday School launches, and a Ministry Fair that invited people of all ages to find their place in St. Andrew’s life.

Student Ministry also crossed important thresholds. Middle schoolers returned to **Camp Stronghold** for what many still call “the best week of your life,” while high school students traveled to the **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** in Louisville under the theme “As if we were dreaming.” **Confirmation** resumed with a fall retreat at Stronghold and local gatherings on Presbyterian history, Christian community, and personal discipleship.

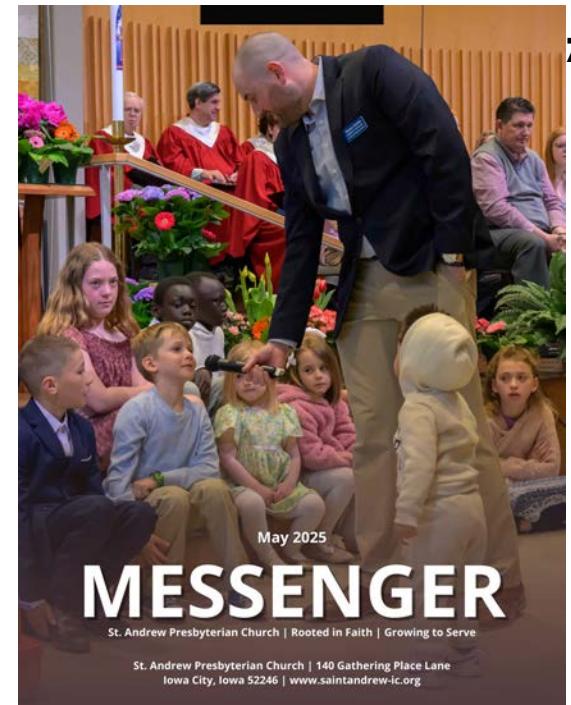
In Worship and Music, 2025 was another year of creative adaptation rooted in deep continuity. Under the leadership of our music staff and committed volunteers, our services continued to be built around cohesive themes that wove together sermon, liturgy, music, and prayer. Summer emphasized communal language and ensemble music, reinforcing the idea that worship is something we do together. The **Melodious Harmony** series welcomed guest ensembles including the Wesley Ringers, St. Olaf Band, and Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir, while concerts and recitals celebrated the story of St. Andrew’s **Krapf Organ** and raised funds for its ongoing care.

We also navigated transition in the music staff with gratitude and hope. The congregation bid a heartfelt farewell to organist and accompanist **Dr. Abby Chen**, whose final Sunday fell on All Saints’ Sunday and whose farewell recital drew both tears and thanksgiving. We also said farewell to **Will Fecko**, who took a ministry job at First Presbyterian, and welcomed our new organist, **Julia Van Den Top**, who stepped into the role in time for Advent. Lessons and Carols focused on Isaiah’s vision of peace—“when the wolf will live peacefully beside the wobbly-kneed lamb”—and featured a newly commissioned anthem by composer Marques L. A. Garrett. The season also brought a child-led Christmas Pageant, Cocoa and Carols in the Atrium, an Orchestra Iowa Brass concert, and an intergenerational star art project that filled the Sanctuary with signs of hope.

The year also brought significant transitions in Building and Grounds. In the spring, we said farewell to **Tim Patrick** as he moved to Connecticut, leaving behind not only his role as Building and Grounds Coordinator, but an unmistakable legacy of care, craftsmanship, and deep knowledge of our facility. His position has remained unfilled, a reminder of just how irreplaceable Tim was to the daily life of our congregation. To ensure essential functions continued smoothly, the responsibilities most connected to building use—managing the church calendar, coordinating space requests, and helping ministries make the most effective use of our facility—were transferred to Mission & Outreach Coordinator **Amy Schmidt-Rundell**. With her trademark steadiness and hospitality, Amy has helped maintain clarity and connection during a year when our building remained a place of constant ministry, community partnerships, and seven-days-a-week activity.

By year’s end, our church’s tagline shifted from “Rooted in Faith | Growing to Serve” and back to “**Connecting Hearts | Renewing Lives**,” capturing how the year had unfolded. We remained rooted in worship, scripture, and prayer. We continued to grow in mission, generosity, and learning. And in the midst of ongoing change—pastoral search, staff transitions, capital campaign, and a world that feels increasingly uncertain—St. Andrew kept discovering what lies beyond: deeper connection, renewed imagination, and a widening sense of God’s call.

Jeff



MESSENGER

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Rooted in Faith | Growing to Serve

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CONNECTING HEARTS ...

BUILDING & GROUNDS: OFFERING OUR BUILDING AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

The following list reflects the many ways 140 Gathering Place Lane served as a community resource in 2025:

Sports

- Pickleball | Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

St. Andrew Special Events

- Women's Retreat & Come to the Table Retreat
- Fundraiser Meals & Trivia Nights
- Vacation Bible School
- Documentary Screenings
- Summer Jazz Brunch
- Ministry, Craft, & Gift Fairs
- Trunk-or-Treat
- All-Nighters
- Graduate, Anniversary, & Birthday Parties
- Family Reunions & Farewell Receptions
- Weddings & Showers
- Funerals & Celebrations of Life

Presbytery Events

- Camp Bear Creek Campaign Event
- Leadership Summit
- Triennium Team Building
- Session Records Review

Bible Study Groups

- St. Andrew Sisters
- Westside Small Group
- Monday Night Bible Study
- Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study
- Lydia's Circle
- Ecumenical Women's Bible Study
- Sweet Saturdays
- Splendeur de L'evangile Bible Study
- Sunday Learning Academy classes

Children's, Family, and Student Ministries

- Sunday School & 25Live programming
- BASIC (Wednesdays)
- ETC (Sundays)
- Flipping Tables (Thursdays)

Fellowship Groups

- Senior Moments Coffee

Food Security

- St. Andrew Food Market (food distribution)
- Iowa City Free Lunch (food prep)
- Summer Lunch Bunch (food prep)
- Lettuce Feed Others (salsa making)
- Healthy Kids Iowa (summer food distribution)
- Orchard for All

Mental Health & Wellness

- Minds Matter: A Mental Health Resource Fair
- Mental Health Initiatives



St. Andrew hosting the Gala for Iowa City Sober Living on Dec. 6, 2025

Community Groups

- The Arc (Summer Camps)
- Bike Drive (with Iowa City Bike Library)
- Cardinal Point South Homeowners Association
- Compeer (Sound of Friendship Concert)
- DAR (Pilgrim Chapter)
- DeGowin Blood Center (Pie for a Pint Blood Drive)
- HACAP (Hawkeye Area Community Action Program)
- Hills Bank (Lights of Remembrance)
- Impacto Ministries (Guatemala)
- Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Program
- Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County
- PEO Founders' Day
- Pilot Club Breakfast & Bazaar
- Sober Living (Gala)
- Swedish Club of Iowa City
- Women with Hammers
- Young People's Group

Scouts

- Cub Scout Pack 206
- Scout Troop 211
- BSA Jamboree Planning
- Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
- Girl Scout Cookie Rally
- Daisy Girl Scout Troop 3739
- BSA Hawkeye Area Council Roundtable

Music & Theatre Groups

- St. Andrew Music Ministries
- Iowa City Community Theatre rehearsals
- Girls Rock!
- Melodious Harmony Concert Series
- Iowa City Flute Choir Rehearsals
- Iowa City Handbell Festival

SPRING CLEANING AROUND ST. ANDREW'S GROUNDS AND GARDEN ,



... RENEWING LIVES

10 CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES: A YEAR OF FUN, FRIENDS, AND FAITH

The 2025 **Children & Family Ministry** year was a wonderful, busy, and deeply intergenerational one. Our trio —me, Sara Penn, and Nichole Hoffman—were incredibly greatful for the steady support of this congregation throughout the year. As a team, we served together with me as director, Sara as family ministries coordinator, and Nichole as community outreach coordinator. What follows are highlights from a year filled with learning, creativity, service, and joy.

Vacation Bible School was a major highlight and a true team effort. We welcomed 50 children for a fun and faith-filled week. **Myrna Farraj** led Bible stories each morning for the final time before her move to Minnesota, and **Dave Duys** brought music that was joyful, energetic, and delightfully memorable. Children explored Scripture through hands-on learning in nature, art, and science, led by **Cathy Kruse** and **Lily Hoffman**; **Taylor Dengler Schlicher** and **Sara Penn**; and **Michelle and Isaac DeGroot** along with **Jamie Tanas**. We are deeply thankful for every volunteer who made the week such a success and are already looking ahead to **VBS 2026: Faith Under Construction**.

This year also marked continued growth for **25Live@Home**. We completed Season 1 and launched Season 2 of this weekly 25–30 minute program designed to engage children and families in faith formation at home. In each episode, I offer Bible teaching, while Sara and Nichole interview guests who help families grow in faith, learn healthy habits, and discover ways to serve in the community. We concluded the year with an Advent series and look forward to exploring themes such as anti-bullying and health and wellness in early 2026. **Video Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/videos-25live>.

Sunday School kicked off Sept. 8 with a field day and ministry fair featuring games, a bounce house, breakfast burritos, an ice cream truck, and plenty of opportunities for fun and connection. Throughout the year, more than 35 children participated across four classes, from 2- and 3-year-olds through fifth grade, along with a strong middle school class. These classes were made possible by dedicated teachers and volunteers who faithfully support our children week after week.

Between Sunday School and **25Live@Home**, children and families packed more than 200 **Gift of the Heart** kits for children around the world who are displaced or in need of school supplies. In addition, 237 kits were delivered to Boone, Iowa, to be shipped internationally in October.

Children also helped lead the congregation in worship through the Christmas Pageant on December 14, *The First Christmas*, under the leadership of Austen Wilson. It was a joyful morning and a meaningful reminder of the gifts our children bring to the life of the church.

Throughout 2025, Children & Family Ministry hosted many opportunities for fellowship and fun, including the Danes' annual hayrack ride, our fourth annual Trunk or Treat in partnership with ETC, Gift of the Heart packing in November, and Bingo and Game Night in January. Each event offered meaningful opportunities for families to gather and build relationships.

This year, our team placed a strong emphasis on safety. We updated policies around classroom door security during Sunday School, improved exit route signage, and more clearly marked shelter rooms throughout the building. You may have also noticed changes to the **Time for Young Disciples** during worship, made out of an abundance of caution following guidance on livestream safety.

Living out St. Andrew's Matthew 25 commitment, children in VBS, **25Live@Home**, and Sunday School assembled more than 50 **Birthday in a Bag** kits to support families through local food banks and neighborhood centers. They also hosted a **No Grinch Here food drive** for the St. Andrew Food Market, collecting 217 food items for neighbors in need.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited for what's to come and grateful for all who make this ministry possible. Please consider how you might serve alongside us—as a **25Live@Home** volunteer, VBS helper, Sunday School teacher, or family event host—as we continue growing God's children together.

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CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES: A YEAR OF FUN, FRIENDS, AND FAITH

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CONNECTING HEARTS ...

12A YEAR OF EXPLORATION: STUDENTS GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

The year 2025 in **St. Andrew's Student Ministries** was all about exploration. Student ministry is a place of almost constant change, because students themselves are always changing—and this year was no different. Throughout the year, students were invited to identify what matters most to them about their faith, to name their questions and doubts, and to talk honestly about how to navigate an often challenging and complicated world.

At BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ), students discussed teens in the Bible, practiced finding passages in Scripture, and worked to identify motifs and themes throughout the biblical story. This helped students recognize common ideas and see themselves as part of God's ongoing work in the world. Many middle school students also participated in Confirmation this year as they prepare to join the church on Easter morning in 2026. And, of course, middle schoolers attended Camp Stronghold over the summer alongside First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City and United Church of Christ Iowa City for an awesomely *Wicked* week! Middle school programming this year focused on growing in faith while forming new connections with Scripture and with one another.

ETC (Eternally Trusting Christ) was full of exploration as well. Students spent the summer preparing for Triennium, our denomination's high school conference held every three years. They traveled with the East Iowa Presbytery delegation to Louisville to experience Triennium for the first time. It was an eye-opening encounter with the wider church and with brothers and sisters in faith from across the country. Upon returning to Iowa City, students shared, "We have to go back next time," and are already planning three years ahead. That energy carried into the fall as students explored how to respond faithfully to the current social and cultural climate. Together, they identified ways to make a difference locally, ultimately creating and selling stickers to help reduce lunch debt for fellow students and provide classroom supplies. ETC truly lived out faith in action this year.

Flipping Tables, our post-high school ministry, continues to gather and explore what it means to live as adults in faith while asking challenging questions together. While reading *Circle of Hope* by Eliza Griswold, conversations focused on what it means to be an inclusive church and how leadership is shared within the community. That exploration continued through the study of 1 Kings, reflecting on both the gifts and temptations of power. *At the Table*, a monthly worship service centered on storytelling and song, meets during the first week of each month and offers meaningful connection across our unique faith journeys.

Student Ministries at St. Andrew is vibrant and alive. There are many opportunities to connect and participate across all three ministries. I am deeply proud of our students, leaders, and young adults for the curiosity, joy, and passion they bring each week. All are invited to explore and connect with us.

Matt



Above & upper right: In July 2026, St. Andrew's high school ministry, **ETC (Eternally Trusting Christ)**, traveled with the Presbytery of East Iowa delegation to Louisville for their first experience of the **Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Youth Triennium**.

Lower right: In June 2025, students in St. Andrew's middle school ministry, **BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ)**, attended **Camp Stronghold** with **First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City** and **United Church of Christ Iowa City** for an awesomely *Wicked* week.



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... RENEWING LIVES

14 MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT: A YEAR OF EXPANSION AND GROWTH

2025 was a year of significant transition in St. Andrew's Music Ministry. In August, **Will Fecko** stepped down as our director of instrumental ministries to accept a position across town at First Presbyterian. In November, we said a fond farewell to **Dr. Abby Chen** and her family as they returned to Taiwan. Shortly thereafter, we welcomed **Julia Van Den Top** as our new organist and accompanist. Looking ahead, interviews for the director of instrumental ministries will take place in January.

Even amid these transitions, the year was filled with rich and meaningful musical offerings. While not an exhaustive list, the following highlights reflect the breadth of music shared in worship and community life:

- **March 8:** *Melodious Harmony* concert featuring Logos Choir, Resound!, and instrumental ensembles.
- **March 9:** Child-led worship service.
- **March 9:** Resound! performed at an American Guild of Organists event honoring area church musicians.
- **March 28–29:** Iowa City Handbell Choir Festival at St. Andrew, welcoming 60 ringers from Iowa and Illinois, including the **Resound! Handbell Choir**.
- **April 26:** *Unruly Harmonies: Composers Who Challenged Convention*.
- **Summer worship:** Musical offerings included small vocal ensembles, a handbell choir, a trombone quartet, the Miak family, and other guest musicians.
- **June 10:** The **Wesley Bell Ringers** from Salt Lake City.
- **June 22–27:** Music and Worship Conference in western North Carolina, sponsored by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, attended by **Pat Penn** and **Austen Wilson**.
- **July 20:** Sunday Jazz Brunch featuring **Dick Watson**.
- **Aug. 11:** Documentary screening, *Choral Singing in America*.
- **Oct. 17–18:** Des Moines Handbell Choir Festival, with six ringers from St. Andrew.
- **Oct. 27:** *Grace Will Lead Me Home — Abby Chen's farewell recital*.
- **Nov. 2:** All Saints Sunday.
- **Nov. 8:** *Come Hell or High Water: Stories of Hope and Perseverance*.
- **Dec. 7:** Lessons and Carols.
- **Dec. 14:** Christmas Pageant.
- **Dec. 14:** Brass from Orchestra Iowa performed at St. Andrew.



Austen Wilson

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St. Andrew's Music Ministries remain in a strong and hopeful place. If you know someone who might enjoy participating in a vocal choir, handbell choir, or instrumental ensemble, please contact me at awilson@saintandrew-ic.org. There is a place here for people of all ages and experience levels.

Thank you for your continued support of the Music Ministry.

Austen

MUSIC MINISTRIES REPORT: A YEAR OF EXPANSION AND GROWTH

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CONNECTING HEARTS ...

16 MISSION, OUTREACH, AND SERVICE: DISPLAYING THE CHURCH IN ACTION

For the past several years, leaders at St. Andrew have been asking a shared question: How do we make visible the breadth and depth of the mission and ministry happening through this congregation? In 2025, one answer took physical shape in the **Church in Action** display on the blue wall above the **Mission Collection Bins**. The twelve 11"x17" panels offer a visual witness to the many ways hearts are being connected and lives are being renewed through the life of St. Andrew.

What that wall shows in photographs, our **Mission, Outreach, and Service** ministries live out every day—reminding us that church is not only something that happens inside these walls, but something we carry into the community and the world.

Much of that church in action begins close to home. Our in-house food and mental health ministries continued to grow in 2025, responding to real needs with compassion and care. **The Food Market** served an average of 520 households and 1,934 individuals each month, while **Lunch Bunch** provided more than 375 lunches per week throughout the summer. New partnerships, including work with **Fields of Faith**, allowed volunteers to harvest fresh produce that was then shared through the Food Market with others in our community. These ministries depend on faithful volunteers who show up week after week, and we are deeply grateful for their time, energy, and commitment.

We also witnessed church in action through mental health ministry. Our **Minds Matter: Mental Health Resource Fair** welcomed more visitors than in the past two years and filled the building with conversation, connection, and support. The event included three guest speakers, organizations offering mental health resources, and 34 vendors in the craft show. Additional engagement took place through participation in the **Corridor Community Action Network**, a community screening of *No One Cares About Crazy People* at FilmScene, and our annual **Say Something Nice** event, which focused on spreading kindness and joy throughout the community. Our **Mental Health Initiatives** also raised thousands of dollars to purchase needed clothing for patients in the psychiatry department at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Church in action also reaches far beyond Iowa City. One of our long-standing international partnerships came to life in a new way this year with a visit from Pastor Luis of **Impacto Ministries**. Hearing his story and learning more about programs such as Stitches of Blessings, Happy Tummies, and Abuelitos offered a deeper understanding of how nutritious meals, medical care, and spiritual formation are supporting both young and old in Guatemala.

Closer to home, St. Andrew continued its commitment to trusted local partners such as the **Iowa City Free Medical Clinic**, whose work remains especially vital during times of change. We also celebrated a new partnership with **Iowa City Sober Living**, a safe haven for women in early recovery. Their first Gala, held in the atrium this December, was a wonderful success, thanks to the many volunteers who supported the event both behind the scenes and on the day itself.

Church in action is not only about programs—it is also about relationships, learning, and shared joy. **Senior Moments** offered monthly gatherings along with special programs throughout the year, including music, storytelling, quilting, and history. **Act Justly** continued its work educating the congregation about injustice through meetings, films, and letter-writing, including a session with Leslie Carpenter on effective advocacy.

Hands-on service remained a strong expression of church in action. **Lettuce Feed Others** donated 4,000 pounds of produce to local food pantries and the St. Andrew Food Market. The garden supplied the majority of the produce for our annual salsa-making weekend, yielding more than 200 jars of salsa. During the **Alternative Gift Market**, salsa sales raised over \$300 in support of mission. **Orchard for All** continued caring for cherry trees and is exploring the addition of apple trees in 2026.

The Church in Action wall tells these stories in images. This report tells them in words. Together, they point to the same truth: St. Andrew is a church that lives its faith—within these walls, throughout the community, and around the globe.

Amy



In 2025, St. Andrew's Interiors and Mission, Outreach & Service teams worked together to install a "Church in Action" display above the collection bins off the Atrium.



Amy Schmidt-Rundell

Mission & Outreach Coordinator

Email: amysr@saintandrew-ic.org

Cell: 319-331-4287

A BUSY SUMMER OF STRENGTHENING LOCAL FOOD SECURITY

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St. Andrew members help strengthen local food security through (from upper left clockwise) partnerships with Health Kids Iowa and HACAP, the Summer Lunch Bunch, harvesting with Fields of Faith, and monthly hosting at the Iowa City Free Lunch program.

... RENEWING LIVES

REPORT ON GIVING FOR MISSION 2025

NOTE: This report captures financial figures, but it cannot measure the deeper impact of ministries like Sewing for Others, Prayer Shawls, Minds Matter, Stephen Ministry, Lettuce Feed Others, or the life-changing effects of our food and youth programs. All of this mission—both within our walls and beyond them—is made possible by Capital Campaign and General Fund giving, which allows St. Andrew's facility to serve as a springboard for ministry in the world.

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Funded by General Fund giving

	Per Capita	Mission
Presbytery of East Iowa	\$ 16,214	\$ 18,587
Synod of Lakes and Prairies	\$ 3,040	\$ 3,525
General Assembly	\$ 6,080	\$ 6,949
Subtotals:	\$ 25,334	\$ 29,061
Total:		\$ 54,395 (Per Capita plus denominational missions)

Locally Determined Benevolence Disbursements

All distributions are recommended by the Mission, Outreach, and Service Team and approved by St. Andrew's Session.

Act Justly	\$ 1,000
Agape Café	\$ 1,000
Assistance with Wheelchair (for church member relative)	\$ 300
Bird House Hospice	\$ 1,250
Camp Bear Creek	\$ 2,500
Center for Worker Justice	\$ 1,500
Christar (Andy/Nichole Stewart)	\$ 2,000
Christ Church Presbyterian, Kerrville, Texas (flood assistance)	\$ 2,500
Church in Action Display Wall	\$ 1,025
CommUnity	\$ 4,000
Compeer	\$ 2,000
Common Fund (Consultation of Religious Communities)	\$ 1,000
Chaplaincy, Eldora State Training School	\$ 2,250
Coralville Community Food Pantry	\$ 2,250
Domestic Violence Intervention Program of Johnson County	\$ 1,500
First Presbyterian Church, Kerrville, Texas (flood assistance)	\$ 2,500
Food Security: St. Andrew Food Market and Lunch Bunch	\$ 8,500
Free Lunch Program	\$ 1,500
Friends of Presbyterian Education Board of Pakistan	\$ 2,400
Guatemala - Impacto Ministry	\$ 1,000
Guatemala - Impacto Ministry (specific to Pastor Luis' ministry)	\$ 1,000
Habitat for Humanity (Iowa Valley)	\$ 2,000
Houses Into Homes	\$ 1,000
Indonesia Mission (Drs. Adeney-Risakotta)	\$ 750
Inside Out Re-entry Community	\$ 1,500
Iowa City Compassion	\$ 1,250
Iowa City Free Medical Clinic	\$ 5,000
Johnson County Interfaith Coalition	\$ 800
Kenya (God's Grace for All Nations)	\$ 1,620
Liberian Mission (Life of Christ)	\$ 1,750
MCC-Senéad Short Legacy Project	\$ 2,500
Medical Benevolence Fund (Dr. Freddy Elbaidy)	\$ 2,250
Mental Health Initiatives (MHI)	\$ 1,250
Mind Matters: Mental Health Ministry	\$ 1,000
Mission Society (TMS Global) (Sharon and Lynn Fogleman)	\$ 2,500
National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI)	\$ 750

Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County	\$ 2,500
Kosovo (Frey Family Mission)	\$ 1,250
North Liberty Food Pantry	\$ 2,250
Open Heartland	\$ 1,000
Our Daily Bread Ministries	\$ 750
Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church (fire damage relief)	\$ 5,000
Roberts Family Mission with Wycliffe Aviation	\$ 1,000
The Salvation Army	\$ 750
Shelter House	\$ 3,500
Table-to-Table	\$ 2,250
Unfolding Word (Perry and Beth Oakes)	\$ 2,500
UIA Graduate Student Ministries	\$ 2,000
United Action for Youth	\$ 1,500
United Presbyterian Home, Washington, Iowa	\$ 1,000

2025 Locally Determined Benevolence: \$ 96,145

2025 Giving through the Mission, Outreach, & Service Team: \$125,206 (denominational and locally determined)

Other Direct Donations and Support

From other distributions/donations outside of those approved through Session and MOS (including gifts passed through)

Act Justly Ministry	\$ 785
Alternative Gift Market	\$ 2,000
Etre Family Mission in Lebanon	\$ 2,600
St. Andrew Food Market & Lunch Bunch	\$ 5,472
Guatemala (Healing Hands/Happy Tummies/Stiches 4 Blessings)	\$ 614
Lettuce Feed Others (Salsa Sales & Donations)	\$ 4,116
Mental Health Initiatives (MHI)	\$ 757
Mental Health Initiatives (direct psychiatric clothing donations)	\$ 4,123
Mind Matters (donation to Iowa City Sober Living)	\$ 600
Mind Matters (direct donations)	\$ 2,039
Orchard for All	\$ 100
Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church (fire damage relief)	\$ 1,000
Prayer Shawl Ministries	\$ 100
Sewing for Others (donated supplies)	\$ 880

2025 Additional Giving through Direct & Pass-Through Donations: \$ 25,186

Presbyterian Supported Special Offerings

Funded by congregational offerings, with all donations passing through to the denomination.

Christmas Joy	\$ 2,417
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 915
Peace and Global Witness	\$ 1,035
Pentecost	\$ 330
Total for Special Offerings: \$ 4,697	

St. Andrew Deacons' Fund

Funded by congregational offerings and distributed to individuals for rent, utility, transport, and shelter assistance.

Deacons' Fund: \$ 8,989

Total Church-Wide Mission Giving for 2025: \$164,078
(including Per Capita) (\$189,412)

20 FINANCE TEAM REPORT: FINISHING 2025, BALANCING BUDGET FOR 2026

St. Andrew's Finance Team is responsible for tracking, reporting, and advising on the financial affairs of the church. We have several items to share with the congregation for the year ending December 31, 2025.

St. Andrew received **\$872,797** in total general fund income in 2025, comprised of giving of **\$853,288** and other income (interest income and building use donations) totaling **\$19,509**. This is a decrease of **\$60,870 (-6.5%)** from **\$933,667** in 2024, when giving was **\$909,933** and other income was **\$23,734**.

Total general fund expenses for 2025 were **\$890,648**, down from **\$928,141** in 2024. General fund expenses include land and building maintenance, utilities, program expenses (children and family ministries, education, music, youth, and worship), mission giving, and personnel.

As a result of total income of **\$872,797** and total expenses of **\$890,648**, we ended 2025 with a net loss of **\$17,851**. We are grateful for the generosity of this year and prior years, which allowed us to cover expenses despite this shortfall.

The Finance Team, with input from staff and other teams, brought forward the proposed 2026 budget in mid-January. We arrived at a budget that is close to breakeven, with specifically identified supplemental funding to cover any potential shortfall. This was done after evaluating giving trends and projecting expenses. The budget assumes that a new permanent pastor will be hired and that part-time pastoral care will be provided by Pastor Colette Soultz.

An abbreviated version of the 2026 budget is included in this Annual Report. A full budget is available at <https://tinyurl.com/sapc-budget-2026>.

We also wish to share an update on our mortgage debt. Year-end mortgage loan balances have been as follows:

• \$5,045,792 end of 2018	\$4,500,000 end of 2019	\$3,925,142 end of 2020
• \$3,566,394 end of 2021	\$3,420,886 end of 2022	\$2,385,476 end of 2023
• \$2,062,918 end of 2024	\$1,727,221 end of 2025	

We currently have one land parcel for sale—the “south triangle”—listed for **\$1,000,000**. That parcel has been rezoned to a more marketable zoning designation. With continued generosity and a successful land sale, our goal is to fully repay the remaining debt in the next few years. We thank all who donated toward the **Finish the Race** capital campaign that commenced in October 2025. (See the next page.)

We are deeply grateful to all who give of their time, talent, and treasure to further the missions and ministries of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Thank you.

St. Andrew Finance Team

Emily Neddermeyer, treasurer; Michelle DeGroot, assistant treasurer; Walter Sparks, finance administrator; Aaron Gibson, Jon Swearingen, and Gregs Thomopoulos Session members; John Benson, Tim Benson, Dan Fick, Howard Haeker, Jason Schuchert, and Toni Van Voorhis, congregation members

2025 Year End & 2026 Approved Budget (Abbreviated)

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church 2026 Budget Year	2026 Budget	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2024 Actual
BUDGETED INCOME				
Pledges & Identified Gifts	870,200	842,063	908,000	899,395
Loose Offering	11,000	11,225	10,000	10,538
Building Use	11,500	11,460	7,000	5,520
Interest	7,000	7,747	15,000	17,785
Miscellaneous Income	300	302	-	429
TOTAL INCOME	900,000	872,797	940,000	933,667
BUDGETED EXPENSES				
Land	20,500	20,138	18,000	17,852
Building	100,830	103,716	104,500	87,371
Utilities	46,200	46,309	44,460	45,368
Equipment/AV	2,500	1,835	2,500	2,605
Vehicles	-	120	-	-
Children's & Family Ministries	10,000	7,752	10,000	7,082
Christian Education	2,450	2,230	2,300	2,087
Ministries & Membership	2,100	1,408	2,100	2,475
Mission	96,869	96,869	106,266	102,174
Per Capita	27,652	25,334	25,334	28,202
Music	11,065	11,076	10,605	9,186
Office	16,420	14,073	16,525	14,360
Operating	35,100	24,942	35,070	25,193
Worship Resources	3,300	3,372	3,900	2,514
Youth Ministries	12,900	12,020	12,900	12,434
Personnel	535,677	519,454	545,540	569,239
TOTAL EXPENSES	923,563	890,648	940,000	928,141
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(23,563)	(17,851)	0	5,526
Additional Funding:				
Session Discretionary Fund 3	8,000			
Session Discretionary Fund 4		15,563		
ADJUSTED INCOME/LOSS		0		

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: A YEAR OF GENEROSITY AND VISIONARY GIVING

21

The life of St. Andrew in 2025 was marked by a familiar and faithful pattern: People showing up, pitching in, and doing together what none of us could do alone.

One image that captured this spirit for us this year came from an unlikely place: early Sunday mornings at Kinnick Stadium. After a Hawkeye home game, volunteers arrive armed with gloves, bags, and whatever tools are needed to clean up a mess that would take days for one person to handle. There's no requirement to be there, no checklist to complete. People come because they've been asked, because it helps their team, and because many hands make light work.

That same spirit shaped stewardship at St. Andrew in 2025. Members gave their time, talent, and treasure not because they had to, but because they were invited—and they responded. Together, the congregation stepped into work that takes more than an hour on a Sunday morning and lasts far longer than a season.

This year marked the completion of the active phase of our three-year capital campaign **Rooted in Faith | Growing to Serve (2022-2025)** and began our final campaign for retiring our building debt, **Finish the Race | Owe Nothing But Love**. Through extraordinary generosity, St. Andrew made significant progress in paying down its mortgage, strengthening its financial footing, and positioning the church to serve with greater freedom in the years ahead. The impact of that shared commitment continues to shape our ministry and our confidence in God's future for this place.

Alongside that effort, annual stewardship giving remained healthy, sustaining force behind congregational life. Yearly pledges supported worship, teaching, care, facilities, and mission—keeping the lights on, supporting staff, and extending Christ's love locally and globally. Because of that faithfulness, church leaders were able to plan wisely, respond to needs, and sustain the ministries that form the daily life of St. Andrew.

For 2026, we've chosen the theme **Freely Received, Freely Given**. As Jesus reminds us, "You received these gifts freely, so you should give them to others freely" (Matthew 10:8). Last year, your generosity showed up not only in financial commitments, but also in expertise shared, hours volunteered, and a collective willingness to help clean up whatever mess was at hand.

St. Andrew's Stewardship Team gives thanks for every gift offered this year—large and small, planned and spontaneous. Like the crew that leaves Kinnick shining each Sunday morning, together we continue to help St. Andrew shine with God's love and grace, ready for the work God sets before us next.

Thank you!

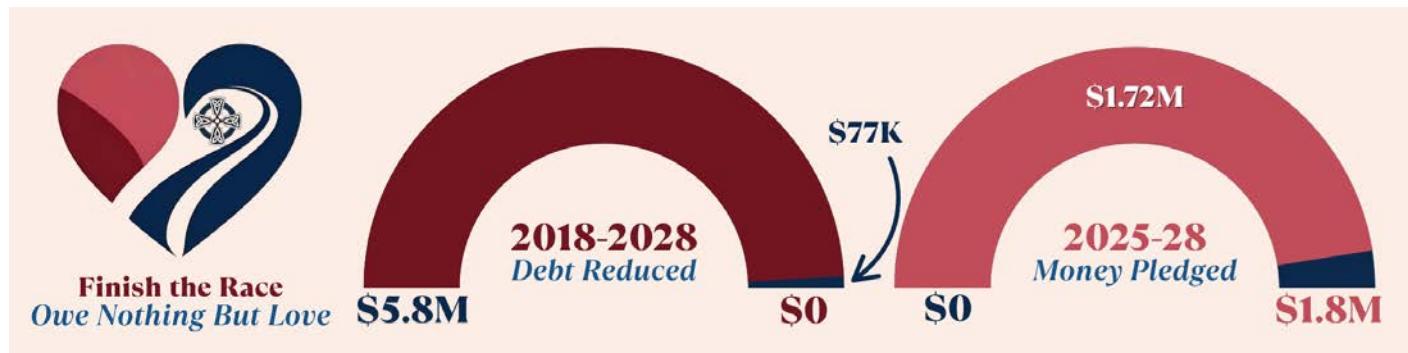
St. Andrew Stewardship Team

Becky Benson and Jon Swearingen, Session members; Jeff Charis-Carlson and Walter Sparks, staff members; John Benson, Tim Benson, Eric Goers, and Bruce Walker, congregation members

To view St. Andrew's full budget for 2026, visit:
tinyurl.com/sapc-budget-2026



To Pledge for 2026
tinyurl.com/sapc-pledge-2026



... RENEWING LIVES

22CLERK'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP GAINS

- New Adult Members via Transfer: 2
- Members Reinstated: 5
- Total Gains: 7

MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

- Transfers: 5
- Deaths: 9
- Deleted from Active Roll: 6
- Total Losses: 20

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

- 2025: 580
- 2024: 593

BAPTISMS

- Infant & Youth: 6
- Adult: 9

DEATH OF MEMBERS

- Paul David Meyer, 86, February 26, 2025
- Suzanne Hill, 91, March 24, 2025
- Mary Higgins Mixdorf, 89, April 27, 2025
- Margie Loomer, 92, May 8, 2025
- Don Heineking, 90, May 13, 2025
- Gloria Jacobson, 94, June 16, 2025
- Vi Darsee, 91, September 20, 2025
- Woody Murphy, 93, October 11, 2025
- Pat Dustin Wood, 89, October 20, 2025

SESSION MEMBERSHIP 2024-25

- **Clerk:** Patricia Benson
- **Pastor:** Carl Anderson
- **Outgoing Elders:** Eric Goers (served two terms), Bruce Walker, (served two terms) and Gretchen Van Iddekinge (one year).
- **New Elders:** Helen Bryce (second term), Don Burch (served out two years of a vacant term, now serving a full 3-year term), Paula McCue, Judy Swafford, Jon Swearingen (second term), and Chloe Goers (one year).
- **Continuing Elders:** Becky Benson, Scott Fisher, Aaron Gibson, Mary Hausler, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Austin Kannegeiter, Emily Neddermeyer, Josh Schilling, Gregs Thomopoulos, and Munir Tanas.

— Patti Benson, Clerk of Session

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS TEAM REPORT



Since 2019, designated gifts from **Mark and Lisa Moser** have supported a long-planned landscaping at St. Andrew's main entrance. With the entrance canopy complete and an additional gift from **Nancy and Jack Prall**, the project was able to get underway in Fall 2025, with more plantings to be completed in Spring 2026.

St. Andrew's **Gifts and Memorials Team** has completed work on a backlog of gifts and memorials dating back to our move to 140 Gathering Place Lane in 2017. The full list is posted online at tinyurl.com/sapc-gifts-and-memorials, with a printed copy available in the church office.

— **Graham Dameron**, on behalf of the Gifts and Memorials Team

KICKING OFF THE PROGRAM YEAR WITH ART, MINISTRY, AND JOY 23



Above. In August, a bright new welcome appeared in the lower level entryway: *Birthday Cake*, an original pastel by local artist Loret Mast. The Interiors Team first spotted it at Artifacts, the antiques and consignment shop in Iowa City that has supplied many of St. Andrew bulletin cover images in 2025.

The art calls to mind words once spoken by the Rev. Fred "Mister" Rogers: "You always make it a special day for me. Cakes or no cakes. I like you just the way you are."

Left: On Sept. 7, 2025, St. Andrew kicked off the 2025-26 program year with a Ministry Fair, Sunday School Field Day, and the Celebrating All Abilities Art Exhibition.



CONNECTING HEARTS ...

24 ST. ANDREW LEADERSHIP: SESSION LEADING THROUGH TRANSITION PERIOD



St. Andrew Session | 2025-26



Patti Benson
Session Clerk



Aaron Gibson
Class of 2026



Chloe Goers
Class of 2026



Mary Hausler
Class of 2026



Virginia Ibrahim-Olin
Class of 2026



Josh Schilling
Class of 2026



Gregs Thomopoulos
Class of 2026



Becky Benson
Class of 2027



Scott Fisher
Class of 2027



Austin Kannegieter
Class of 2027



Emily Neddermeyer
Class of 2027



Munir Tanas
Class of 2027



Don Burch
Class of 2028



Helen Bryce
Class of 2025



Paula McCue
Class of 2028



Jon Swearingen
Class of 2028



Judy Swafford
Class of 2028

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONTINUES SEARCH FOR NEXT PASTOR

St. Andrew's **Pastor Nominating Committee** was formed in June 2025 and charged with the prayerful work of discerning God's call for the congregation's next pastoral leadership. Since then, the committee has engaged in careful listening, study, and conversation—seeking to honor the candidates, the congregation, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

During 2025, the committee reviewed 54 pastoral profiles. From this pool, six candidates were invited into first-round interviews, followed by three second-round conversations. Through continued discernment, the committee has identified two candidates for deeper exploration.

The committee continues its work in close partnership with the **Presbytery's Commission on Ministry & Vitality**. While much of the process necessarily takes place confidentially, the committee is grateful for the congregation's trust and prayers and will share updates as they are able.

— St. Andrew's Pastor Nominating Committee



St. Andrew's **Pastor Nominating Committee** includes (back row) Paul Penn, Kathy Duys, Twila Finkelstein, Jason Schuchert; and (front row) Allison Bernard, Ted Potter, and Peggy Hausler.

DEACONS FOCUS ON CONGREGATIONAL CARE AND DIRECT MINISTRIES

25



St. Andrew Deacons | 2025-26



Jim Halverson
Class of 2026



Scott Hoffman
Class of 2026



Emmitt Schmidt-Rundell
Class of 2026



Jamie Tanas
Class of 2026



Mettie Thomopoulos
Class of 2026



David Weitzel
Class of 2026



Jordan Barrett
Class of 2027



Dave Duys
Class of 2027



Kathy Duys
Class of 2027



Cody Neddermeyer
Class of 2027



Lynne Ginsberg
Class of 2027



Jenni Stacy-Adams
Class of 2027



Laurel Crusinberry
Class of 2028



Vern Dengler
Class of 2028



Rick Graf
Class of 2028



Cindy Seyfer
Class of 2028



Allison Van Iddekinge
Class of 2028

St. Andrew's Deacons aim to discover, understand, and provide for physical care to all with needs in our spiritual community and beyond.

Their ministries include:

Bereavement: In collaboration with our pastors and church staff, bereavement ministry is responsible for contacting members of the St. Andrew community who have lost loved ones.

Blood Drive: In 2025, St. Andrew's deacons again worked with the University of Iowa's DeGowin Blood Center for the Pie for a Pint Blood Drive. Since 2009, the drive has collected more than 500 units of blood, and helped save more than 1,100 lives.

Casseroles-on-Call: This program provides meals to someone in need who might appreciate it. Additionally, any member may deliver a meal.

Deacons' Fund: This money is collected through congregational offerings and distributed to individuals for rent, utility, transport, shelter, and other special needs. In 2025, the **Deacons' Fund** helped dozens of people for a total of \$8,989.

Flower Ministry: Each week, the flowers on the chancel are delivered to a church member in need of cheering.

Lost & Found Clothing Drive and Winter Clothing Drive: The winter clothing distribution is a collaborative effort of the Consultation of Religious Communities to provide winter outerwear and clothing to those in need in Johnson County. The Deacons collect unclaimed lost clothing from the area elementary schools and St. Andrew members launder it for giving to others.

Neighborhood Ministry: St. Andrew's congregation is divided into eight geographic neighborhood, with two deacons assigned to each area. Throughout the year, the neighborhood deacons will be reaching out to say hello, check in about any ministry needs or points of celebration, and begin planning for in-person neighborhood gathering.

New Baby Ministry: The new baby ministry allows Deacons to welcome the new arrivals to our church family and gives us an opportunity to offer our support and encouragement to families.

... RENEWING LIVES

26 PASTORAL, MINISTRY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson, Transitional Pastor
Rev. Colette Souls, Pastoral Care Associate
(2025) **Rev. Mark Wilson Martin**, Pastor Emeritus

Office, Finance & Communications

Walter Sparks, Finance Administrator
(2025) **John Benson**, Finance Administrator
Jeff Charis-Carlson, Director of Communications and Media Ministries
Amy Schmidt-Rundell, Mission Outreach Coordinator
(2025) **Tim Patrick**, Building & Grounds Coordinator



Children, Family & Student Ministries

Matt Moore, Director of Student Ministries
Thomas Hartley, Director of Children's and Family Ministries
Nichole Hoffman, Children's Ministries Outreach Coordinator
Sara Penn, Children's Ministries Activities Coordinator



Music Ministries

Austen Wilson, Director of Music Ministries
Julia Van Den Top, Organist & Accompanist
(2025) **Dr. Abby Chen**, Organist & Accompanist
Laura Kastens, Assistant Director of Handbell Ministries
(2025) **Will Fecko**, Assistant Director of Instrumental Ministries

Upper: Matt Moore, St. Andrew's director of Student Ministries, moves from Inquirer to Candidate in terms of his ordination status during the September 2025 meeting of the Presbytery of East Iowa.

Upper Center: The Rev. Colette Souls, St. Andrew's pastoral care associate, is elected to serve on the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry and Vitality during the same meeting.

Lower Center: In November 2025, St. Andrew's former lead pastor, **the Rev. W. Robert Martin III**—surrounded by members of the staff and congregation—rings the bell at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, marking the completion of his cancer treatment.

Lower: in September 2025, the St. Andrew community throws a party for **the Rev. Mark Wilson Martin**, who was named pastor emeritus of the congregation in 2018. Pastor Mark, who died four months later, celebrated his 80th birthday and the 55th anniversary of his ordination.



MODERATORS OF ST. ANDREW'S MANY TEAMS, GROUPS, AND TASK FORCES 27

For an updated list of leaders, visit:

- tinyurl.com/sapc-team-roster-2026

Access & Inclusive Mission

- Kathi Anderson

Act Justly

- Twila Finkelstein

Building & Grounds Team

- Josh Schilling

Caring Friends/Stephen Ministry

- Sharon Fogelman
- Ted Potter
- Mary Beth Ross

Child Protection & Policy Team

- Mary Hausler Ruhlow

Children's & Family Ministries Team

- Thomas Hartley
- Sara Penn
- Nichole Hoffman

Deacons

- Cody Neddermeyer

Finance Team

- Emily Neddermeyer

Food Market

- Helen Bryce, Susan Cook, Becka Simpson, Chelsey Stetzel, and Sue Swearingen

Summer Lunch Team

- Amy Schmidt-Rundell
- Molly Schintler (2025)

Free Lunch

- Shirley Maxey & Rosemary Plapp

Gifts & Memorials Team

- Graham Dameron

Guatemala Team

- Becky Benson & Kathi Anderson

Hospitality & Connection Team

- Kathi Anderson

Interiors Team

- Deb Fick

Kitchen Team

- Kathy Duys

Land Sales Team

- John Benson

Learning Academy Team

- Paul Penn

Lettuce Feed Others

- Judy Swafford

Library Team

- Ted Potter
- Katherine Habley

Men's Ministries

- Graham Dameron

Mental Health Initiatives

- Marcia Murphy

Minds Matter Task Force

- Amy Schmidt-Rundell
- Nichole Hoffman

Mission, Outreach & Service Team

- Kent Short

Nominating Team

- Helen Bryce

Prayer Ministry Team

- Nancy Perkins
- Kerri Goers

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

- Diane Norris (2026)
- Myrna Farraj (2025)

Personnel Team

- Kent Short (2026)
- Austin Kannegietter (2025)

Session

- Patti Benson, clerk

Sewing for Others Group

- Joellen Roffman

Soles 4 Souls

- Kathi Anderson

Stewardship & Capital Campaign Team

- Bruce Walker (2025)

Student Ministries

- Matt Moore

Sunshine Greeters

- Jeff Charis-Carlson

Technology Team

- Jeff Charis-Carlson

Wedding Coordinators

- Kathy Duys

Women's Ministries

- Amy Schmidt-Rundell
- Nichole Hoffman

Worship Team

- Virginia Ibrahim-Olin

28 A BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, IOWA CITY

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) committed to living out the principles outlined in Matthew 25:40: *“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.”* Like our namesake disciple, we strive to introduce others to the living Christ and to help them find opportunities to use their own gifts (musical, organizational, verbal, financial, constructional) for the nourishment of others.

For more than a century, Iowa City's **First Presbyterian Church** worshiped in a downtown building now known as "Old Brick." Because of overcrowding in the mid-20th century, a second church was authorized and approved by the **Presbytery of East Iowa**. Land was purchased in September 1957 on Melrose Avenue, near Iowa City's western edge. An old white farmhouse on the property hosted two informational meetings in early 1958, with the name selected after the apostle who was a "Fisher of Men." Three months later, 142 people were received as members, with groundbreaking on the church building being held later that year.

For the next half-century, St. Andrew's building at **1300 Melrose Ave.** was nicknamed "Handy Andy" by the surrounding **University Heights** community. During the week, it served as the polling place for elections, the meeting place for the city council, the monitoring site for the city's lone police officer, as well as the home of an active daycare center and a thriving English as a Second Language Program. A new Sanctuary was added in the 1980s, converting the old Sanctuary into a large Fellowship Hall, and the faith community developed a thriving youth ministry, small group ministry, active music program, and growing mission outreach.

Shortly after St. Andrew's 50th anniversary, the congregation purchased 40 acres of land on Camp Cardinal Boulevard and began a years-long discernment process on whether to relocate or expand on their current site. In 2016, the congregation vacated the Melrose building, and after 18 months in a transitional location, moved into **140 Gathering Place Lane** shortly before Christmas 2017. The new building—complete with a refurbished Casavant organ salvaged from the University of Iowa's flood-damaged music building—was dedicated in Fall 2018, along with a celebration of the congregation's 60th anniversary.

To pay for its building on Gathering Place Lane, St. Andrew has hosted several capital campaigns since 2008, each with a theme that resonates with the congregation's sense of mission and vision.

- *Our Place to Grow* (2008-11)
- *Our Journey with Christ* (2013-16)
- *With Our Eyes on Christ* (2016-2019)
- *Connecting Hearts | Renewing Lives* (2019-22)
- *Rooted in Faith | Growing to Serve* (2022-25)
- *Finish the Race | Owe Nothing But Love* (2025-28)

Since the pandemic of the early 2020s, St. Andrew's building has again become a community hub—hosting tutoring programs, ecumenical Bible studies, pickleball and basketball, training sessions for local nonprofits, practice space for theater and musical groups, as well as weddings, funerals, and other milestone celebrations. Alongside the congregation's recent mission focus on Food Security and Mental Health, St. Andrew has developed a monthly **Food Market** that regularly provides needed monthly support for more than 500 families from throughout the area, and our **Lettuce Feed Others** garden provides thousands of pounds of produce each year for families in need. Over the past decade, St. Andrew has sent more than 100 friends and members on short-term mission trips with **Impacto Ministries** in Guatemala.

After more than 18 months of transitional pastoral ministry, St. Andrew is entering the next chapter of its history. Its members and friends stand ready to live into the congregation's purpose statement: *"To be the body of Christ, living in Christ's love, and serving as Christ served."*

