

WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED IN MY NAME



Lent 2026

MESSENGER

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Connecting Hearts | Renewing Lives

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

2 INVITING ST. ANDREW TO 'REST IN THE DIVINE' DURING LENT

I really enjoyed journeying through the book of Jonah with you. I appreciated the real-life application, especially how the book ends with Jonah sitting with his feelings and no clear resolution. Sometimes things don't get neatly tied up with a bow.

I imagine Jonah stewing in his anger and am reminded of a quote attributed to C.S. Lewis: "I sat with my anger long enough until she told me her real name was grief." The transformative power of sitting with something often brings revelation.

One of my favorite transitions as a pastor is moving from the large, sweeping movement through entire chapters of the Bible into an intentionally slower pace with a specific passage. I believe that by taking our time with the same words, we allow ourselves to access deeper truth. We let the unique spice of the passage flavor our experience.

This season of Lent, I invite you to rest in the Divine. Spend time giving the words of this specific passage (Philippians 2:1–11) intentional attention. Reflect on where the Spirit leads, and notice what these prompts stir within you.

May your Lenten journey lead you deeper into love of God, self, and others.

Carl



LENT & EASTER 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City



The Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson

Transitional Pastor

Email: pastorcarl@saintandrew-ic.org

Cell: 319-333-0126

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil (April 4)

St. Andrew's Worship Team invites members and friends of St. Andrew to take part in a self-led prayer vigil from **8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Holy Saturday April 4**. The vigil will be held in the Prayer Room at the rear of the Sanctuary.

Our hope is to keep prayer present throughout the day, with individuals or small groups signing up for set time slots of 20 or 30 minutes. Only one group will be in the prayer room at a time, allowing space for quiet reflection and appropriate distancing. You are invited to use your time in whatever way is most meaningful to you; no specific prayers or themes are prescribed. You can sign up at the link below.

- <https://tinyurl.com/prayer-vigil-2026>

If you have a prayer you would like to share with others participating in the vigil, you are welcome to pass it along, and it will be included among the materials available in the room. You can submit your prayer requests online at the form below.

- <https://tinyurl.com/sapc-prayer>

Life is often busy and noisy. This Holy Saturday vigil offers a simple way to plan for stillness, reflection, and shared prayer as we wait together at the threshold of Easter.

— *St. Andrew's Worship Team*

ANNOUNCING THE CANDIDATE FOR ST. ANDREW'S NEXT PASTOR³

My name is **the Rev. Jordan Warntjes**, and I am truly honored and excited to join you as your next **Pastor and Head of Staff**. I come to you from New Hope Presbyterian Church in Castle Rock, Colorado, where I have served as Associate Pastor and, for a season, as Temporary Head of Staff during a time of transition.

I come to you as someone who loves the Church, not because it is perfect, but because it is a place where grace meets real life.

My ministry has been shaped by preaching that connects scripture to everyday experience, leadership that is collaborative and steady, and pastoral care that makes room for honest questions. I believe faith is not about having all the answers, but about learning how to stay rooted in love, especially when life is complicated.

My wife, **Michelle**, is a licensed therapist, and her vocation has deeply influenced my own ministry. Living alongside someone trained to listen well, sit with pain, and honor people's stories has strengthened my commitment to being a pastor who leads with emotional awareness, curiosity, and compassion. It has reinforced my belief that healing and growth often begin not with fixing, but with presence.

Michelle and I are high school sweethearts, meeting while growing up in Sioux County, Iowa. We have been married for 15 years. At home, our lives are joyfully shared with our two dogs, Tucker and Finn, who make sure we take long walks, laugh often, and never take ourselves too seriously.

What drew us to St. Andrew was the spirit of the people and the tangible ways your faith is lived out in the community. Your **Food Ministry**, in particular, deeply moved both of us. It reflects a congregation that doesn't simply talk about compassion, but practices it. Our time with the **Pastor Nominating Committee** confirmed that impression. If the PNC is any indication of the broader congregation, we sense a church marked by warmth, thoughtfulness, and a genuine desire to follow where the Spirit is leading. We feel a strong alignment, not only that St. Andrew is a good fit for us, but that together we can faithfully step into what God has next for this community.

Michelle and I are grateful for the opportunity to join you in this next chapter. I look forward to listening, learning, and discerning together how God is calling St. Andrew to live out hope in this season. I am excited to get to know all of you and for me to share more of myself with you.

Jordan

With deep gratitude and joyful anticipation, St. Andrew's **Pastor Nominating Committee** is thrilled to introduce to you our candidate for Pastor and Head of Staff: **The Rev. Jordan Warntjes** (*pronounced WARN-jess; it rhymes with oranges*).

After months of prayer, listening, interviews, planning, and discernment, we believe the Holy Spirit has faithfully guided us to this holy moment.

Jordan currently serves as Associate Pastor at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Castle Rock, Colorado, where he also stepped into the role of Temporary Head of Staff during a season of transition. His ministry is rooted in preaching that connects Scripture to everyday life, leadership that is both steady and collaborative, and pastoral care that places people before dogma.

He will be preaching at St. Andrew on **Sunday, March 8, 2026**. Following worship, Session has called a **Congregational Meeting** where members will be asked to vote on whether to finalize his call. We hope you will join us for both worship and this important moment in our shared life. (*Join the meeting via Zoom at <https://tinyurl.com/march-8-meeting>.*)

You entrusted us with the sacred task of finding St. Andrew's next pastor, and we could not be more confident or excited to present Jordan to you. Months of prayerful work have brought us to this place, and we are grateful for your trust. If the congregation approves Jordan's call on March 8, he would likely begin his ministry early to mid May.

We invite you to continue praying for Jordan and his wife, **Michelle**, and for the Spirit's guidance as we take this next faithful step together.

— *St. Andrew's Pastor Nominating Committee*



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | MARCH 8, 2026
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING THE REV. JORDAN WARNTJES AS ST. ANDREW'S PASTOR

CONNECTING HEARTS | RENEWING LIVES

4 LENT AS A SEASON FOR PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION

Recently I gave a message on the Transfiguration and spent a lot of time talking about mountains. When preparing a message, there is often far more that could be said than ever makes it into a sermon. Things get cut for time, relevance, or because I didn't yet understand them and needed to read more.

There are interesting nuggets that get stuck in my head but never get shared. This is one of those times when I want to take the chance to share one now.

While reading about Moses and the Israelites wandering in the desert for forty years after the events on Mount Sinai and the debacle with the golden calf, the story often reads as punishment for their actions. They were unfaithful to God, and now a whole generation would pass before entering the promised land. The focus is usually on the immediate situation, the people, and the choices they made.

But what did they spend forty years doing out there in the desert? Certainly, we have some accounts, but life went on for that generation. They didn't spend the entire time lamenting or feeling sorry for themselves. Instead, perhaps God was giving them time to prepare to enter the promised land—time to prepare the next generation so they might learn from past mistakes.

This preparation may not have been punishment at all, but an opportunity to do better and make positive change.

There are many connections we might make to our current time and place. Maybe you feel that God is punishing us. Maybe you feel like you are wandering in the wilderness. Or maybe you feel like Aaron explaining to Moses, "You know how prone these people are to evil" (Exodus 32:22).

What if, instead, we thought of this time—this Lent—as a season of preparation? A chance to help shape the next generation and leave things better than we found them.

In Student Ministry, we are always thinking about the future and the next generation. I don't have all the answers or the best way to do things. There are many times when we try something new and it falls flat on its face. What matters more is that we keep showing up, keep trying, and keep caring.

This Lent, God is still preparing me to serve the next generation and to help them live out the faith that has been passed down to us.

What is God preparing you for this Lent?

What is God preparing us for this Lent?

What if time in the wilderness is a blessing?

Matt



Transfiguration

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Hand-carved block printed with oil-based ink on paper.



Matt Moore

Director of Student Ministries

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FINDING REST (AND SLEEP) WITH CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRY 5

Psalm 4:8 says, "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

In Matthew 11:28, Jesus welcomes us into his presence by saying, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Isaiah 30:15 states, "In repentance and rest is your salvation; in quietness and trust is your strength."

Hmm... it seems like God is trying to tell us something..

While springtime doesn't seem like the intuitive time to *rest* or *sleep*—trees are budding, grass is getting ready to turn green and need a trim, schedules are filling up with end-of-the-year events, and so on—Lent, however, does offer us (and even encourages us) to take time to reflect on what it means to be a Christian and to rest in God's presence and promise.

Throughout March, the Children & Family Ministry will be focusing on just that... *Rest. Sleep.*

What better way to do that than by partnering with **Houses into Homes** for a **Pillow Drive**? This wonderful organization provides pillows, as well as furniture and other household items, to those exiting homelessness, domestic violence, and other crisis situations. During the month of March, please bring your brand-new, queen- or full-sized pillows to the Atrium and place them in the corner by Room 103. There will be signs and instructions showing how to arrange them into our very own Pillow Tree—let's see how tall we can make it!

Also, stay tuned for two episodes of **25Live@Home**, in which we tour the Houses into Homes facility and speak with their director, Ian, about everything they do and how anyone—ages 4 to 97—can volunteer and serve our community in this way.

When you wake up refreshed and well rested, don't forget to join us for our **Strike Up Some Fellowship** bowling event at 2 p.m. Sunday March 8 at BowlDogs (1355 Hayes Lane #3) in North Liberty. Lanes and shoes will be provided by the Children & Family Ministry, and all ages are invited. Space is limited, so please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/sapc-bowling-2026>.

Thomas Hartley and Austen Wilson are hard at work planning, and the children are starting to warm up their voices for this year's **Child-Led Service** on Sunday April 26. We can't wait to see what they've cooked up this year!

Finally, don't forget that **Vacation Bible School** is just around the corner—June 15-19, from 8:30 a.m. to noon each day. This year's theme is **Faith Under Construction**, so get ready to don your hard hats, lace up your work boots, and learn about building our faith together. We'll enjoy storytelling, fun games, snacks, service projects, science experiments, nature exploration, art and architecture, and more! Children entering kindergarten in fall 2027 through rising fifth graders are welcome.

We also need volunteers to help shepherd children through their classes or to help lead a class. Please reach out to Thomas Hartley, Nichole Hoffman, or me if you're interested.

Until next time, rest well—both in your body and in God's presence.

Sara



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY'S

PILLOW DRIVE

We are collecting **BRAND NEW FULL/QUEEN-SIZED PILLOWS*** for **Houses into Homes**

*Please leave new, wrapped pillows in Atrium. Follow instructions for "Pillow Tree" outside Room 103, March 1- 31



Sara Penn

Family Ministries Event Coordinator

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6 LENTEN THEME FOR MUSIC MINISTRIES: 'LORD, HAVE MERCY'

During Lent, we have some meaningful and creative elements that will help attune us to the season. The response to the Confession is a fusion of traditional Christian liturgy in Greek with Ghanaian musical expression. The *Kyrie eleison* (kee-ree-eh eh-leh-ee-sawn), or "Lord, have mercy," is one of the oldest prayers we have as a church. Accompanied by drums and sung mostly a cappella, it will be a powerful way to musically connect with the global church throughout the ages.

On March 8, a soulful soprano/alto anthem setting of the *Kyrie eleison*, using a different melody, will be interspersed throughout the confession and help us reflect more deeply on the season. Featuring soloist Taylor Dengler, it will give us an opportunity to process emotions connected with the heaviness of current events. As usual, we'll have a mix of vocal, handbell, and instrumental ensembles, including adults, children, and students.

Handbell Choir Festival

From March 27-28, St. Andrew will host the **Iowa City Handbell Choir Festival**, featuring ringers from eastern Iowa and western Illinois. This year's clinician is Martha Matthews from Kalamazoo, Michigan.

A 34-year veteran of handbells, Martha is the current conductor of the longest consistently running community handbell ensemble in the country, the Kalamazoo Ringers. Most recently, She served as one of the clinicians at the Worship and Music Conference at Montreat, North Carolina, during the summer of 2025. Her musicality, positive energy, sense of humor, enthusiasm for bells, and care for the ringers were highlights of the conference.

The final concert will be at 3:30 p.m. on March 28 and is free and open to the public.

St. Andrew Handbells Unplugged

Join us for an afternoon of handbell music in a way you might not have seen before! At 3 p.m. on Saturday April 18, all four of the bell choirs at St. Andrew—**Resound, Matins, Agape Ringers, and Middle School Bells and Friends**—will present a concert celebrating the handbell ministry at St. Andrew.

Each ensemble will ring as an individual group, performing music from diverse genres including ABBA, Coldplay, James Bond, *Encanto*, and much, much more. Costumes, drums, and guitars will add a creative flair to the program, which will finish with a grand finale featuring all bell choirs. The concert will also be a fundraiser to refurbish the five-octave set of handbells this summer. If you appreciate what the handbells add to worship, you'll have opportunities to adopt a bell—anywhere from \$5 to \$100.

St. Andrew to Host Choirs from Nebraska Wesleyan and City High in an Inspiring Concert

A 7 p.m. Friday May 15, we have the privilege of hosting choirs from Nebraska Wesleyan University in concert at St. Andrew. Entitled *Only Light...Only Love*, the university's Choir and Gold Standard Singers will travel from Lincoln to Iowa City to share compelling music that encourages us to be a light in the darkness of our world. The City High Concert Choir will be featured as well.

We will be responsible for feeding the singers' dinner and for hosting them overnight. Hosts will pick up singers after the concert and return them to the church on Saturday morning, May 16. If you can help with dinner and/or hosting students, please let me know.



St. Andrew's Resound! Handbell Choir prepares for their upcoming St. Andrew Handbells Unplugged concert at 3 p.m. Saturday April 18. The concert will serve as a fundraiser to refurbish the congregation's five-octave set of handbells.



Austen Wilson

Director of Music Ministries

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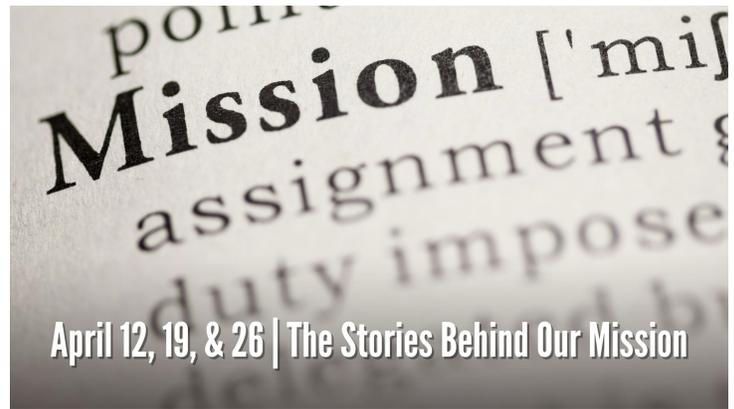
Austen

VARIETY OF CLASSES AHEAD FOR SUNDAY LEARNING ACADEMY 7

In the weeks following our Congregational Meeting on March 8, St. Andrew's **Learning Academy** has a number of interesting classes scheduled:

- **March 15, 22 & 29: Passion Plays: Music and the Mystery of Faith** | David Timmer explores how music and art inspired by the Passion narratives deepen theological understanding and spiritual imagination.
 - **April 12: The Stories Behind Our Mission: Food Ministry** | Leaders share how St. Andrew's food ministries embody compassion, justice, and care for neighbors near and far.
 - **April 19: The Stories Behind Our Mission: Guatemala & Impacto Ministries** | Participants reflect on partnership, mutuality, and faith through our ongoing relationship with communities in Guatemala.
 - **April 26: The Stories Behind Our Mission: Mental Health** | This class highlights St. Andrew's separate **Minds Matter** and **Mental Health Initiatives**, focusing on the congregation's growing commitment to healing, awareness, and support.
 - **May 3 & 10: The Anxious Generation: Parenting in Today's World** | Matt and Marissa Moore explore research on rising anxiety among youth and consider how faith, community, and intentional parenting practices foster resilience and hope.
- May 17: Returning to the "Real" World** | Representatives from Inside/Out Ministries discuss reentry, restoration, and the challenges of rebuilding life after incarceration.

For information about the Learning Academy, contact *Paul Penn*.



PONDERING THE GREATEST LOCKED-ROOM MYSTERY OF ALL TIME

At 7 p.m. Thursday March 26, join Pastor Carl Anderson and me in the Sanctuary for a provocative conversation around *Wake Up, Dead Man*, the latest mystery from filmmaker Rian Johnson.

More than a whodunit, the film deliberately echoes the rhythms of Christian liturgy—moving from moral rupture to confession, from chaos toward restoration.

Johnson has spoken openly about shaping the story around questions of sin and grace, truth and power, and the tension between an "us vs. them" mindset and the radical call to love one's enemy.

Drawing inspiration from G.K. Chesterton's Father Brown stories, the film places a priest in crisis alongside a brilliant detective, offering two complementary ways of seeking truth in a fractured world.

Because there is so much to discuss, we suggest that you watch *Wake Up, Dead Man* in advance. Short clips will be shown during the evening, but the conversation itself will be *spoiler-filled*. The film is currently streaming on Netflix.

Whether you're a film lover, a theology nerd, or someone wrestling with faith in a complicated time, this promises to be a rich and engaging Lenten gathering.

— *Jeff Charis-Carlson*



CONNECTING HEARTS ...

8 PREPARING FOR SPRING CLEANING AND SPRING GIVING

As the Lenten season is upon us, I was reminded at last month's Senior Moments, during our walk through the labyrinth, that God is always with us. As one enters the labyrinth, we are invited to think about what we want to let go of and what we want to invite in. As we walk—or trace the labyrinth with a finger—and then exit, we release what we no longer need and remind ourselves that God is with us always.

Growing up, much of what I heard about Lent focused on what foods to give up, rather than on letting go of internal turmoil, guilt, worries, and fears. Whether you are walking a labyrinth, walking the prayer path around the church (starting at the pillars and finishing at the garden, or vice versa), or simply tracing a labyrinth on paper, I invite you to pause when you reach the center. Pray about what is on your heart. Ask God for guidance, insight, and peace. As you exit, exhale a breath of concern and inhale the assurance that God is with you—then and always.

As people shaped by mission, we often give of ourselves by serving others: volunteering our time with in-house ministries like Food Market or Sewing for Others, and serving beyond our walls through Free Lunch, food pantries, the bike library, or Crowded Closet. During Lent, I encourage us to continue those serving hearts by doing something that not only serves others, but also tends to our own lives as we do spring cleaning.



Amy Schmidt-Rundell
Mission & Outreach Coordinator
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During the 40 days of Lent, I try to challenge myself not just to get rid of things, but to take the extra time to pack them up and donate gently used items—shoes, clothes, furniture—so they can be a blessing to someone else.

This Lent, St. Andrew is making that easier by partnering with several local organizations.

Last month, **Alexis Kurth** from the **Iowa City Antelope Lending Library** spoke about the organization's **Car Seat Share Program**, which helps families safely access inspected, unexpired car seats. St. Andrew will be collecting car seats over the next few weeks, with clear guidelines on what can be donated. This is a simple way to turn something you no longer need into real safety and support for another family.

At the same time, we will be collecting children's clothing and men's clothing for the **North Liberty Community Pantry**. As you clean out closets, please consider setting aside items that are clean, usable, and ready for their next chapter. If you have questions about donating car seats or clothing, please feel free to ask me—or speak with a deacon about clothing donations.

In March, we will also collect gently used flat sheets for a project with the **Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County**. These sheets will be cut and sewn into fitted cot covers for their daycare, which serves more than 75 children. If you have sewing skills and would like to help with cutting or stitching, please speak with **Diane Norris**.

Joshua 1:9, from The Voice translation, reminds us: *"This is My command: be strong and courageous. Never be afraid or discouraged because I am your God, the Eternal One, and I will remain with you wherever you go."*

May this Lent be a season where we release what weighs us down, make room for what gives life, and trust that God walks with us in every step.

Amy

ACCEPTING CAR SEAT DONATIONS
SEAT SHARE PROGRAM



Bring your gently used car seat to donate

A certified technician will inspect each car seat

Car seats will go to local families in need

Bring your used car seats to the WIC office
855 S Dubuque St, Ste 113, Iowa City

North Liberty Community Pantry Home About Get Help Donate Volunteer Events Garden New Building **DONATE**



Gently Used Bed Sheets Needed

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY
NGC



As part of the Feb. 17 Senior Moments Coffee, **Pastor Colette Soult**s led a conversation on the history of labyrinths as a meditative Christian practice and shared the story of St. Andrew's own painted labyrinth, which she helped create more than a decade ago. The labyrinth was then laid out in the Atrium for use on Ash Wednesday and throughout the following week.

10 TRACING ST. ANDREW'S MISSION MINDSET REGIONALLY, GLOBALLY



St. Andrew member **Terry Robinson** traveled to Minneapolis last month to volunteer in the response following the federal surge there. Arriving with a willingness to help in whatever ways were needed, Terry quickly learned that the work didn't always look like what people might expect.

Much of his time was spent behind the scenes, helping operate a box crusher and working on a large assembly line. Together, the team packed boxes and loaded pallets of supplies that were then delivered to DHH Church (*Dios Habla Hoy*), where they could be distributed to people in need.

Terry's experience is a reminder that meaningful service often happens in ordinary, practical tasks — showing up, working alongside others, and helping make sure resources get where they are needed. We give thanks for his steady and faithful example.



With joyful hearts, we share good news made possible by the generosity of the St. Andrew community. Thanks to gifts totaling \$300, **Nyagiet Gatkuoth Thiwat**, niece of St. Andrew member **Nyamouch Miak**, has received a new, adjustable wheelchair from Insol Orthotics Ltd.

After surviving meningitis, Nyagiet has lived with paralysis and significant physical challenges for the past seven years. Until now, mobility and daily care have been a constant struggle for her and her family.

This new wheelchair has already made a difference. Nyagiet can now sit upright safely and comfortably, bringing greater ease, dignity, and peace to daily life. Her mother is better able to care for their home, knowing Nyagiet is supported and secure.

Gatkuoth Thiwat Jangjuol—Nyagiet's father and Nyamouch's brother—sent us a message expressing deep gratitude on behalf of the entire family. He shared how this gift has transformed Nyagiet's life.

We give thanks for the "Good Samaritans" of St. Andrew whose compassion and generosity helped make this possible. It's an important reminder that all gifts, when offered with love, can **Renew Hearts and Change Lives**.

General Fund	Actual 2026 Year to Date	Budget 2026 Full Year	Actual 2025 Year to Date	Actual 2025 Full Year	
Income	139,215	900,000	87,362	872,797	To keep it brief, we're off to a strong start in 2026, with income outpacing expenses. This is expected, as many people tend to contribute a larger portion of their giving early in the year. Thank You!!
Expenses	-83,095	-923,563	-80,189	-890,648	
Net Positive	56,119	-23,563	7,172	-17,851	
Breakdown of Expense Categories:					
Personnel	42,645	535,677	43,701	519,456	P.S. Our required loan payment is \$13,777/month but we now pay \$25,000. It comes out of the building (capital campaign) fund.
Mission	8,072	96,869	12,231	122,203	
Premises	21,021	0	21,450	170,163	
Ministries	1,679	41,815	710	37,857	
Other	9,677	81,672	2,098	40,969	
Expenses	83,095	923,563	80,189	890,648	

Capital Campaign History		Total Pledged	Total Received	Avg Pledged Per Year	Required Loan Payment Per Year
2025-2028	Finish the Race	1,726,800	150,793		165,324
2022-2025	Rooted in Faith	1,045,760	1,145,224	348,587	
2019-2022	Connecting Hearts	1,365,868	1,573,550	455,289	
2016-2019	With Our Eyes on Christ	1,390,008	1,476,830	463,336	Unpaid
2013-2016	Our Journey With Christ	2,307,254	2,206,847	769,085	Loan Balance
2008-2011	Our Place to Grow	1,553,382	1,501,118	517,794	1,706,868

Unpaid Loan Balances-as of:

6/15/18	5,115,000	12/31/22	3,420,886	1/31/26	1,706,868
12/31/18	5,045,792	12/31/23	2,385,476		
12/31/19	4,500,000	6/30/24	2,202,611		
12/31/20	3,925,142	12/31/24	2,062,918		
12/31/21	3,566,394	12/31/25	1,727,221		

How to Automate Your Giving - Please give in the manner most meaningful to you. If you like convenience, then here are a couple good ways to automate your giving:

- 1: Let us set it up:** Send Finance Administrator Walter Sparks a voided check (slip in black box outside the office) and email desired monthly amount to Walter at finance@saintandrew-ic.org (or call 319-333-0203). To change amounts later, just call or email him.
- 2: You set it up:** You can set up (or change) your giving by going to <https://bit.ly/sapc-stewardship-2026>.

Special Planned Giving Note #1: If you donate stock (can be tax-advantageous to do so) please alert Walter Sparks ahead of time.

'FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS': AN ACT JUSTLY BOOK REVIEW

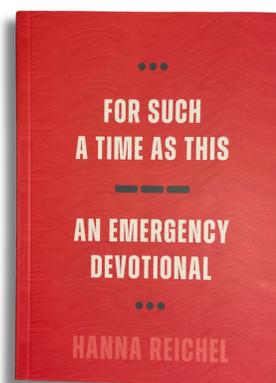
Have you ever left worship feeling inspired — yet unsure how to live that inspiration once the week's national and international news sets in? I often find myself asking how to respond to the world around me in ways that reflect the life and teaching of Jesus.

Especially during Lent, I am drawn to reflect on the final days of Jesus' ministry: his faithful witness under an authoritarian government, and his embodiment of love, mercy, and justice in the face of fear and power. In this season, I have found *For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional*, by Hanna Reichel, to be a meaningful companion as I wrestle with difficult questions about how to speak and act faithfully in our current moment.

The book is well suited for individual daily prayer or group discussion. It is organized around four themes, each with seven reflections, calling us to: reflect and refocus; listen and respond with both affirmation and challenge; ground ourselves in worship and communion; and finally, go out into the world equipped for the work to which Jesus calls us.

For Such a Time as This: An Emergency Devotional is available in the St. Andrew church library.

— Mary Beth Ross



MESSENGER

Lent 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

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Phone: 319-338-7523

Worship Schedule:

- **Weekly Worship** | 9:30 a.m. Sundays
- **At the Table** | 7 p.m. First Thursdays

Connecting Hearts | Renewing Lives

If you would like to start/stop receiving the Messenger electronically, please email office@saintandrew-ic.org

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Lent & Holy Week @ St. Andrew 2026

- **Thursday March 5**
 - 6 p.m., *Lenten Potluck*, The Atrium
 - 7 p.m., *At the Table*, The Hub
- **Thursday March 26 | Lenten Film Discussion**
 - 7 p.m., The Sanctuary,
- **Thursday April 2 | Maundy Thursday**
 - 6 p.m., *Lenten Potluck*, The Atrium;
 - 7 p.m., *Worship Service*, The Atrium
- **Friday April 3 | Good Friday**
 - *Worship Service*, 7 p.m., The Sanctuary.
- **Saturday April 4 | Holy Saturday**
 - 9 a.m.-5 p.m., *Prayer Vigil*
 - The Sanctuary & Prayer Room
- **Sunday April 5 |**
 - 7 a.m., *Easter Sunrise Service*, The Hub
 - 8-11 a.m., *Easter Brunch*, The MPR
 - 9 & 11 a.m., *Worship*, The Sanctuary

Pastoral, Ministry, and Administrative Staff

Pastors

The Rev. Dr. Carl Anderson, *Transitional Pastor*
The Rev. Colette Soultz, *Pastoral Care Associate*

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