

MESSENGER



October/November 2026

Connecting Hearts | Renewing Lives

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

2 MORE THAN WE IMAGINED! MORE NEIGHBORS. MORE STORIES.

Hey, St. Andrew,

When we look back (and when I hear the stories) on St. Andrew's journey over the past **nine** years on our current property, one truth stands out above all others: we built the space, but God keeps writing the story.

As we prepare for our upcoming fall stewardship campaign, we are pausing to give thanks for all that God has accomplished in our midst. When this congregation took a step of faith over a decade ago, you prayed for a space that would allow ministry to flourish. What God has done through your generosity, service, and presence since then has truly been *More Than We Imagined*.

In Ephesians 3:20-21, Paul reminds us:

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

This fall, our stewardship theme is *More Than We Imagined*. Together, we will focus on what God has done, and is still doing, through the life and outreach of Saint Andrew. Rather than centering our focus on buildings or balance sheets, we want to focus on the heart of stewardship: transformed lives, deepened relationships, and meaningful service to our community.

Throughout October and November, you will hear stories that show how our shared commitment translates into More Neighbors, More Stories, and More Grace:

- **More Neighbors:** How our church welcomes new friends and partners into the community around us.
- **More Stories:** The personal ways God's grace has met individuals and families in times of joy and need.
- **More Grace:** How our outreach expands Christ's love beyond our doors.

Stewardship isn't just about funding a church budget; it is our joyful participation in God's ongoing work. Every gift, every volunteer hour, and every story contributes to the vibrant life of this congregation.

Starting **Sunday Oct. 11**, we will begin a special six-week series featuring stories from across our church family. We invite you to join us in worship, reflect on how God has blessed your own life through St. Andrew, and pray about how God is calling you to participate in our shared future.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your energy, and your dedication to this community. I am deeply honored to serve alongside you as we discover what God will do next.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jordan

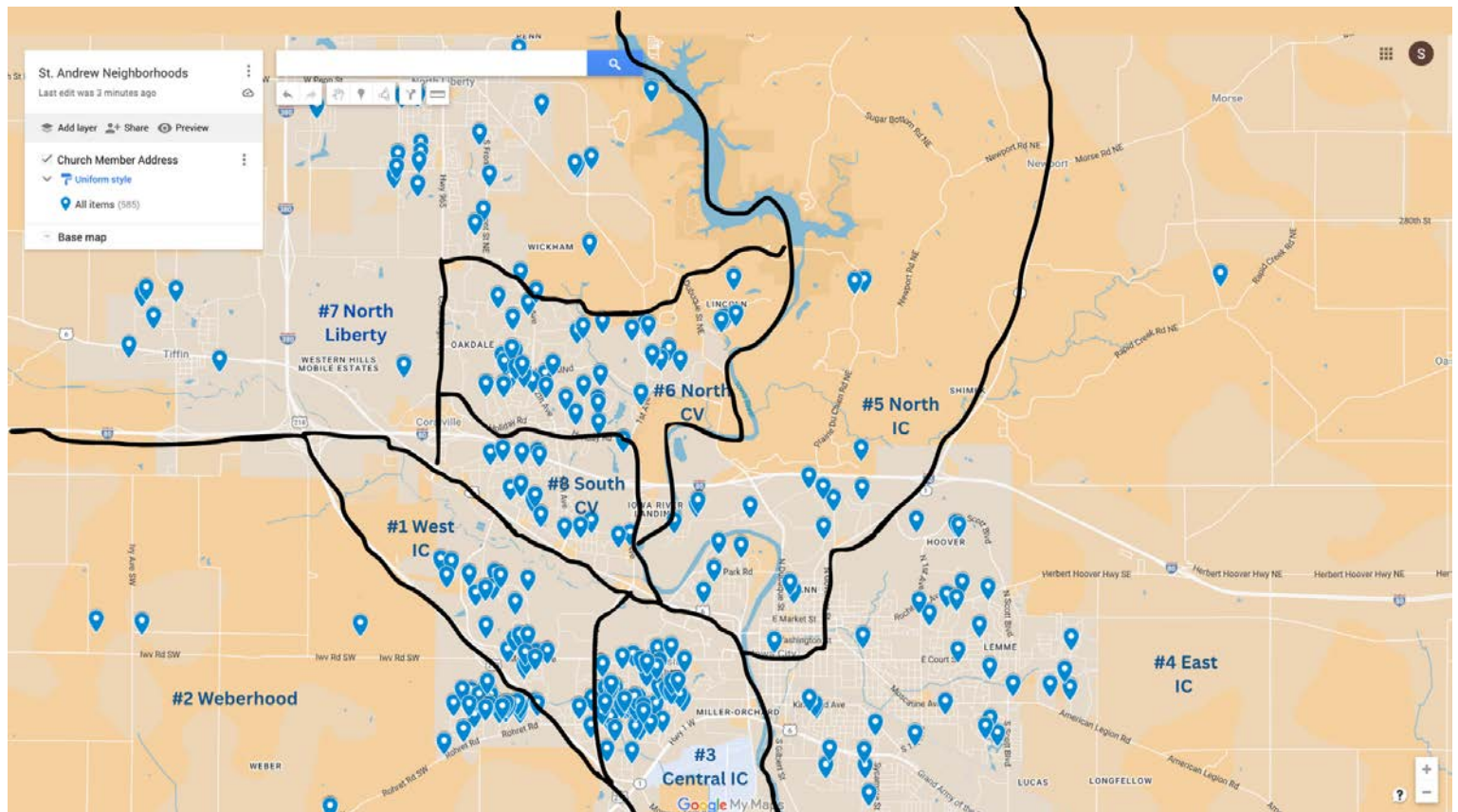


The Rev. Jordan Warntjes
Pastor and Head of Staff

Email: pastorjordan@saintandrew-ic.org

Cell: 319-333-0126

MORE NEIGHBORS: MEET THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD³



St. Andrew's **Neighborhood Ministry** divides our congregation into eight geographic areas, with Deacons helping each neighborhood stay connected and cared for.

Here are the Neighborhood Deacon assignments for the 2026-27 program year:

- **#1 West IC** | Jean Barth & Jamie Tanas | South of I-80 & Highway 6, East of Highway 218, West of Mormon Trek Boulevard.
- **#2 Weberhood** | Laurel Crusinberry & Jenni Stacy-Adams | South of I-80, South and West of Highway 218.
- **#3 Central IC** | Rick Graf & LuAnn Robinson | South of Hwy 6, East of Mormon Trek & Highway 218, West of the Iowa River.
- **#4 East IC** | Vern Dengler & Cody Neddermeyer | East of Gilbert St, South & East of Highway 1.
- **#5 North IC** | Kathy Duys & David Weitzel | North & East of Hwy 6 & Iowa River, North & West of Highway 1.
- **#6 North CV** | Eli Benson, Metti Thomopoulos & Allison Van Iddekinge | East of Highway 965, South of Forevergreen Road (if extended), West of the Iowa River and First Avenue.
- **#7 North Liberty** | Jordan Barrett & David Duys | North of I-80, West of Highway 965, North of Forevergreen Road, and West of the Iowa River,
- **#8 South CV** | Lynne Ginsberg & Cindy Seyfer | East of Highway 965, North of Highway 6, South of Holiday Road, West of First Avenue.



Find yourself on the map, meet your Deacons, and help us make St. Andrew a little smaller by knowing and caring for our neighbors.

For more information, contact office@saintandrew-ic.org or deacons@saintandrew-ic.org.

— Jeff Charis-Carlson

CONNECTING HEARTS | RENEWING LIVES

4 MORE GRACE: MISSION TAKES MORE THAN ONE FORM AT ST. ANDREW

Mission does not always look the same.

Sometimes it means getting your hands dirty in a field. Sometimes it means listening carefully to someone else's story. Sometimes it means helping create a space where people can find resources, ask questions, and know where to turn next.

This fall, St. Andrew has several opportunities to do exactly that.

On **Saturday Oct. 10, 8-10 a.m.**, volunteers will return to **Fields of Faith** for the final harvest workday of the season. St. Andrew has already served there twice this year, joining others in the simple but meaningful work of harvesting food for our community. Fields of Faith has distributed 36,000 pounds of food so far this year and expects to reach 40,000 pounds by the end of the harvest season.



St. Andrew volunteers harvested 3,500 pounds of food for **Fields of Faith** on August 15. Our third and final harvest of the season is **8-10 a.m. Saturday October 10**.

The next day, **Sunday Oct. 11 at 2:30 p.m.**, St. Andrew's **Act Justly** will host a screening of *Evicting the American Dream*, a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance documentary that received an Award of Excellence from the IMPACT DOCS Awards in August 2026. The film shares stories of children and families confronting eviction and homelessness while also asking us to look beyond individual circumstances to the larger systems surrounding them. A panel discussion will follow the screening.

Another important mission partnership this fall has been the return of **The Big Table**. On the first Fridays of August, September, and October, St. Andrew has worked with the **Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County** to bring people together around meals prepared by immigrant chefs. The network helps chefs share their cultures, build their businesses, and earn income, while the meals give the rest of us a chance to practice hospitality, hear one another's stories, and make new connections.

The response has been remarkable. More than 100 people came each month, including many who were not already connected with St. Andrew. With this three-month series concluded, we will be talking with the network about where this collaboration might begin again next year.

And on **Saturday Nov. 7, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**, St. Andrew will host the fourth annual **Mind Matters Mental Health Resource Fair**. This year's speakers include podcaster **Foster Huggins** at 10 a.m. and a 1 p.m. author panel featuring **Venise Berry, Tammy Nygen, and Renee Zukin**. Resource tables, lunch, a bake sale, and the **Homemade with Heart Craft Sale** will also be part of the day.

These events are very different from one another, but they share something important. Each grows out of people offering what they have: time, attention, space, expertise, compassion, and financial support. And when those gifts are put to work, they make room for *more stories, more people, and more grace*.

That is part of what stewardship looks like at St. Andrew. It is not only about sustaining what already exists. It is about helping create the conditions for relationships, service, and ministry we may not be able to imagine in advance.

Sometimes that begins with a harvest. Sometimes with a difficult conversation. Sometimes with a shared meal. Sometimes by opening the doors and making room for people to find one another.

Amy



Amy Schmidt-Rundell

Mission & Outreach Coordinator

Email: amysr@saintandrew-ic.org

Cell: 319-331-4287

MORE PEOPLE: SENIOR MOMENTS HELP CREATE CONNECTIONS 5

One of the things we like best about Senior Moments is that it has never really been just one thing.

Over the years, we have heard from **Doris Montag** and local author **Lori Erickson**, learned from folks connected with the **Heritage Area Agency on Aging**, and spent time getting to know St. Andrew's pastoral staff a little better. **Ernie Found** has taken us on several memorable detours, including presentation about touring in a Checker car and a dramatic reading of "Casey at the Bat."

We have also gotten out of the building for things like a **Cedar Rapids Kernels** game, and this fall we are heading out again.

On **Tuesday October 20 at 10:30 a.m.**, Senior Moments will visit the newly remodeled Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch. If you need a ride, contact Amy Schmidt-Rundell.

On **Tuesday November 17 at 10:30 a.m.**, we will be back at St. Andrew for a practical conversation about local scams and what we can do about them. There always seems to be a new one making the rounds, so this should be useful.

Then, on **Tuesday December 15**, St. Andrew's organist, **Julia Van Den Top**, will lead "Let's Sing & Eat," an opportunity to spend part of the morning singing favorite Christmas songs together. We will also share a luncheon that day.

That mix is really the point. Senior Moments gives us a reason to get together, learn something we probably did not know before, go somewhere we might not have gone on our own, and enjoy one another's company along the way.

Come to one. Come to all three. Bring a friend.



St. Andrew's **Senior Moments** meets at 10:30 a.m. on the Third Tuesday of nearly every month. Activities range from casual conversation, to elaborate programs, to meals, to outings. For more information, contact office@saintandrew-ic.org.



CONNECTING HEARTS ...

6 A THREE-YEAR SUMMER RHYTHM FOR HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

When it comes to imagining, I'm always a big dreamer. I ask, "What is the biggest, wildest idea we can come up with?" Only after we have put all of our hopes and dreams on the board do we ask what is possible or realistic. Sometimes our dreams can be small, and God might want to show us something much bigger.

One place where Student Ministry has been dreaming big is our high school summer trip. It has been a few years of experimentation since COVID, following many years of attending The Pittsburgh Project. Students and leaders have been praying and talking about what they want from a summer trip, and we have been dreaming together.

What we have come up with has me very excited. It is not what I expected, and I hope God continues to surprise us all.

We have landed on a three-year rotation of trips for high school students. Next summer, in the first year of the rotation, we will host a service trip out of our building in partnership with other churches. This will allow our students to meet, work with, and serve alongside other students right here in eastern Iowa. There are many needs close to home, and we are excited to see how this develops together.

The second year of the cycle will take us to Triennium, the denomination's conference for high school students held every three years. Our students had a blast last time and were clear that they wanted to return. We will travel with others from the Presbytery of East Iowa and continue to build friendships with students from around the country.

The third year of the cycle will take us beyond the country as we plan to partner with St. Andrew's Guatemala team in serving with Impacto Ministries. An international trip offers another opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons and deepen their faith through service. Having not been on the trip myself, I trust those who have gone before, including students, leaders, and many of you, and I look forward to experiencing it myself.

Change can be scary, and sometimes we seek the comfort of what we already know. But there is a lot to look forward to in Student Ministry. God is doing something new, and we get to dream with God.

I am excited about this three-part approach to high school summers and hope the combination of local, national, and international experiences will be fulfilling, enlivening, and meaningful. Each trip will bring new stories, new people, and new opportunities to experience God's grace.

I pray God has big things in store for our students and for St. Andrew, and that a life of faith will be more than they imagined.

Matt



Upper: St. Andrew students and leaders at the 2025 PC(USA) Youth Triennium, now part of a three-year summer rhythm of mission, gathering, and service. **Lower Center:** St. Andrew students serving in Guatemala's Lake Atitlán region. **Lower Right and Left:** Milestone stones mark a student's first mission trip and high school gathering. "TPP" honors The Pittsburgh Project, a longtime St. Andrew tradition.



Matt Moore

Director of Student Ministries

Cell: 319-530-6805

Email: mmoore@saintandrew-ic.org



On Sept. 27, St. Andrew wore orange for **Orange Shirt Day**, honoring Indigenous children taken from their families through residential schools, remembering those who never returned home, and demonstrating that **Every Child Matters**.

8 COME, IMAGINE ALONG WITH US: CHILDREN'S & FAMILY MINISTRIES

For nearly three decades, MercyMe's "I Can Only Imagine" has carried me through hardship and waiting more times than I can count.

*"Surrounded by your glory,
What will my heart feel?"*

As a military couple, Scott and I never imagined living in Italy or Iowa. Through those and our many other moves, I clung to my faith that God's plan was better than anything we could imagine for ourselves. Before each move, I prayed God would place us exactly where we were meant to serve and find community.

*"Will I dance for you, Jesus
Or in awe of you be still?"*

This song also lifted us through two failed IVF treatments and two long periods of waiting for our daughters to join our family through adoption. We couldn't see God's plan while we were in the middle of the waiting and pain. Looking back, we see a life richer than what we had wished or prayed for. Open adoption made our family bigger, with even more people to love and pray for our children.

*"Will I stand in your presence,
Or to my knees will I fall?"*

Moving to Iowa City was our hardest move. We left our families and everything our girls had ever known, stepping out in faith that God had plans for us here. And here at St. Andrew, we found the church community we had been longing for.

*"Will I sing hallelujah?
Will I be able to speak at all?"*

Ephesians 3:20 reminds us that God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine. I think that is true of St. Andrew, too. Since moving from Melrose Avenue in 2016, could any of us have imagined all the ways this church would grow, change, and be challenged?

Four years ago, when former **Pastor Rob Martin** asked **Thomas Hartley**, **Sara Penn**, and me to become The Trio for Children and Family Ministries, plenty of people wondered how it would work. Four years later, our trio remains strong, now with **Wendy Lindberg** at the helm, and Thomas a proud new father.

"I can only imagine. I can only imagine."

As we move into another year together, I'm excited for what's ahead. We'll pray for your children and the things they care about. We'll look for ways to share more grace in our community, invite new friends to join us, and become better neighbors at church and at home.

I can only imagine what God has in store as we keep sharing the good news of God's love.

Nichole



St. Andrew Children's and Family Ministry staff members Nichole Hoffman, Sara Penn, and Wendy Lindberg get ready for the 2026-27 program year.



Nichole Hoffman

Family Ministry Outreach Coordinator

Email: nhoffman@saintandrew-ic.org

Cell: 702-378-5662

MINDS MATTER: CONTINUING OUR FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH 9

Mental health touches every family, every congregation, and every community. Sometimes we know exactly where to turn for help. Sometimes we don't even know where to begin.

That is why St. Andrew will once again host **Minds Matter: Mental Health Resource Fair** from **9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday Nov. 7.**

Minds Matter is designed to make those first steps a little easier. The event brings mental-health organizations, advocates, speakers, authors, and neighbors together in one relaxed, welcoming place where people can ask questions, learn what resources are available, and make connections before a crisis forces the conversation.

The entire event is *free and open to the public*. We expect hundreds of people to come through our doors throughout the day.

This year's keynote speaker is Foster Huggins, who will speak at 10 a.m. After losing his best friend to suicide, Foster turned his grief into advocacy. His presentation, *Your Life Is Worth Living*, focuses on honest conversations about mental health, resilience, connection, and hope.

At 1 p.m., local authors **Venise T. Berry, Renee Zukin, and Tammy Nyden** will join us for a conversation about their work and the many ways mental health intersects with our families and communities.

Throughout the day, local nonprofit organizations and service providers will have tables in the Atrium, giving visitors an opportunity to learn about everything from counseling and crisis support to family resources, recovery, youth services, and community-based care.

And Minds Matter would not be Minds Matter without **Homemade with Heart**.

The MPR will again be filled with handmade crafts, artwork, baked goods, and other creations from local makers. Proceeds from Homemade with Heart help support local mental-health work. Lunch will also be available for purchase.

There are plenty of ways for St. Andrew members to be part of the day, too. We will need people to greet visitors, help vendors and presenters find their way, assist with setup and cleanup, provide baked goods, and handle the dozens of little jobs that help a large community event feel warm and easy.

Over the years, Minds Matter has become one of St. Andrew's largest community-facing events. We love seeing hundreds of people in the building, but attendance isn't really the measure that matters.

The goal is simple: Make help easier to find, make mental health easier to talk about, and remind people that they do not have to navigate difficult seasons alone.

Come for a speaker. Meet some of the people doing this work in our community. Shop Homemade with Heart. Bring a friend. Start a conversation.

Sometimes that conversation is the first step.

— Nichole Hoffman & Amy Schmidt-Rundell



CONNECTING HEARTS ...

10 MORE PARTNERSHIPS: ST. ANDREW & THE UI SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Typically, when we think of neighbors, we think of people who live nearby. But when Jesus asks us to consider, "Who is my neighbor?" he encourages us to look beyond the boundaries of our immediate neighborhood.

St. Andrew is also a neighbor of the **University of Iowa**. Over the years, connections between the university's music department and the music ministry at St. Andrew have brought more stories, more people, and more grace into the life of our congregation. Those relationships have given us musical opportunities we probably could not have imagined on our own.

Perhaps the most visible sign of that relationship is the **Krapf Organ**. **Gerhard Krapf** founded the UI organ program in 1961 and, while also serving as an elder at St. Andrew, helped design the instrument for the former Voxman Music Building. After the 2008 flood left the building unusable, St. Andrew eventually became the organ's new home, preserving both the instrument and its connection to Iowa City's musical history.

Over the years, St. Andrew has hosted organists who first played this instrument as University of Iowa students in the former Voxman Music Building. We have also welcomed substitute organists with that same connection. Current and former St. Andrew organists who graduated from the University of Iowa organ program include **Julia Van Den Top, Abby Chen, Edward Alan Moore, Shelly Moorman-Stahlman**, and others.

The Krapf Organ is well known within Iowa's church music community. By the grace of God, and through your support, we are able to be faithful stewards of an instrument that continues to lead our worship so well.

The relationships extend well beyond the organ.

David Meyer, professor of music at the University of Iowa, has performed at St. Andrew in the past and will be featured as a soloist with Logos Choir on November 1. Through my working relationship with him, I was invited to participate in a study involving voice professionals and the effectiveness of two types of MRI machines in Iowa City. Participants were then invited to perform at Hancher as part of a gala connected with an MRI convention. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to sing a solo in such a storied venue.

For many years, UI students have also served as interns and musicians at St. Andrew. Most



Upper: Former St. Andrew music director **Matthew Penning** oversaw the harvesting of the University of Iowa's Casavant Frères organ from the flood damaged Clapp Recital Hall and the reassembly of the instrument as St. Andrew's **Krapf Organ**. Former St. Andrew music director **Edward Alan Moore** poses with current music director **Austen Wilson** and former organist **Abby Chen** for his 2023 concert with pianist **Nathan Carterette**.

Austen Wilson

Director of Music Ministries

Email: awilson@saintandrew-ic.org

Cell: 719-684-4205





recently, **Ethan Elsbernd** sang with Logos Choir. St. Andrew was able to nurture his gifts and provide opportunities for him before he continued his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Ethan was the only baritone accepted from hundreds of applicants. We have stayed in touch, and while he is enjoying Philadelphia, he has told us he misses St. Andrew greatly.

Those relationships keep multiplying. This season, seven musicians active at St. Andrew will sing with Chamber Singers of Iowa City: **Kai Bouma, Becky Benson, Laura Kastens, Ama Mothershed, Mike Mothershed, Julia Van Den Top**, and me. A subset of the choir will offer a Halloween concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday October 30 at the Masonic Lodge, (312 E. College St.). The full choir will perform Carmina Burana at 3 p.m. Sunday November 22 in the Voxman Music Building on the UI campus.

And the connections go both ways. University musicians have served as guest pianists and organists during St. Andrew worship services, including **Alex Koppel**, associate director of UI choirs, and **Gregory Hand**, director of the UI organ program.

None of these relationships exists simply because St. Andrew has a music program. They grow because people here support music ministry, welcome students and musicians, care for instruments, create opportunities, and share their own gifts.

That is part of what stewardship makes possible. We offer what we have, and God keeps connecting those gifts with more people, more stories, and more possibilities than we could have imagined.

Every time we raise our voices together as the body of Christ, we glorify God, minister to one another, and share God's grace through music. Thank you for helping make those relationships possible. And if you know someone who might find a home in one of St. Andrew's many ensembles, I would love to hear from you.

Austen



Upper Left: Abby Chen served as St. Andrew's organist and accompanist during her doctoral studies.

Upper Center: Former music director **Shelly Moorman-Stahlman** and longtime congregation member **David Meyer** prepare for the 2018 dedicatory concert for the newly renamed **Krapf Organ**.

Upper Right: Julia Van Den Top, St. Andrew's current organist, poses after the 2026 concert to complete her masters degree at UI.

Lower: **Gerhardt Krapf** (1924–2008) served as an elder at St. Andrew while he oversaw the installation of UI's main performance organ in the early 1970s. Once that instrument was moved to St. Andrew, it was renamed in his honor.

MESSENGER

October/November 2026

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

140 Gathering Place Lane
Iowa City, IA 52246

Website: www.saintandrew-ic.org

YouTube: tinyurl.com/sapc-youtube

Email: office@saintandrew-ic.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/saintandrewic.org

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

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit Number
66

Address Service Requested

SAVE THE DATE

Connection & Renewal:

A ST. ANDREW WEEKEND @ BEAR CREEK

APRIL 23-25, 2027

Connection & Renewal:

A St. Andrew Weekend @ Bear Creek
April 23–25, 2027

Mark your calendars for St. Andrew's 2027 all-church weekend at Camp Bear Creek. This will be a chance to step away together for a weekend of worship, conversation, laughter, recreation, and renewal.

- tinyurl.com/connection-renewal-2027

With cabins, trails, creek beds, and gathering spaces tucked into the hills of eastern Iowa, Camp Bear Creek offers space to reconnect with one another and renew our life together.

We're still shaping the details for the weekend, and more information will be shared as the new program year begins in September. For now, we invite you to hold the date and begin imagining what it might mean for St. Andrew to come away together.

Pastoral, Ministry, and Administrative Staff

Pastors

The Rev. Jordan Warntjes, *Pastor and Head of Staff*

pastorjordan@saintandrew-ic.org

The Rev. Colette Soultis, *Pastoral Care Associate*

pastoralcare@saintandrew-ic.org

Finance, Communications, & Mission

Walter Sparks, *Finance Administrator*

finance@saintandrew-ic.org

Jeff Charis-Carlson, *Director of Communications
& Media Ministries*

jcharisc@saintandrew-ic.org

Amy Schmidt-Rundell, *Mission, Outreach
& Building Use Coordinator*

amysr@saintandrew-ic.org

Children, Family & Student Ministries

Matt Moore, *Director of Student Ministries*

mmoore@saintandrew-ic.org

Wendy Lindberg, *Director of Children's
& Family Ministries*

wendy@saintandrew-ic.org

Nichole Hoffman, *Family Ministries Outreach Coordinator*

nhoffman@saintandrew-ic.org

Sara Penn, *Family Ministries Activities Coordinator*

spenn@saintandrew-ic.org

Music Ministries

Austen Wilson, *Director of Music Ministries*

awilson@saintandrew-ic.org

Julia Van Den Top, *Organist, Accompanist,
& Director of Orchestral Ministries*

jvandentop@saintandrew-ic.org

Laura Kastens, *Director of Handbell Ministries*

lkastens@saintandrew-ic.org