

S t . A n d r e w U M C

Newsletter, December 2022

Dear Church,

A few weeks ago I shared some difficult news with you about my family as well as my upcoming departure as your pastor at St Andrew UMC. You have shown great kindness, respect, and love in response. Thank you!



As we navigate this time of transition, I have been praying about how to lead you as a congregation in the upcoming months. I believe that more than anything we need to come together and be united as a church, and I need your help to do it.

In light of the holiday season, as well as some time I will be taking off at the beginning of the year, Staff Parish Relations Committee and Church Council believe it makes the most sense to have combined services for a few weeks. Although it will help functionally, the hope is that one service will allow us to come together and be united as the Body of Christ.

The plan is to meet in the sanctuary each Sunday at 10:30am December 18th-January 8th. Each week we will have both traditional and contemporary music from Megan, the choir, and the praise band. The plan is to also stream the service through our FM transmitter for those who choose to continue participating in worship from the parking lot. We will also continue broadcasting The Vine, our pre-recorded online service. The following is a break down of what you can expect:

- On December 18th, the United Methodist Men will be hosting a Christmas Dinner in Friendship Hall immediately following the combined worship service. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.
- On December 25th, our combined worship service will consist of lessons and carols brought to you by our many talented musicians and members of the congregation sharing in word and music.
- On January 1st, our Minister of Congregational Care, Sheila Radochio, will be bringing the message as we celebrate Epiphany.
- January 8th, our District Superintendent, Rev. Joe Hill will be joining us for worship.

- In addition to these special worship opportunities, we will also have three different ways to worship on Christmas Eve: 1) An online pre-recorded service; 2) our second annual Christmas Eve service at The Loop at 6pm; and 3) a traditional Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary at 9pm. Both in-person services will include communion and candlelight.

I hope that you will join us for in-person worship if you are able during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Your presence makes a difference! I hope you will also give attention to the other opportunities to grow and serve during this important season of the year found in the remaining pages of this month's edition of the newsletter.

As an ordained elder in the WV Conference, I am entitled to four weeks of personal time each year from July 1-June 30. I will be using some of this time January 1-14 to settle into my new home and spend time with my children. During that time Sheila Radochio will be caring for congregational needs. In the event of an emergency she and Melanie will be in touch with me.

May God richly bless you as we celebrate Christ being born anew in each of our lives.
I love and appreciate you all.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jonathan



Sheila's Page

Dear Church,

It seems like just yesterday that I was bringing the message on Epiphany Sunday and here we are celebrating Advent, the beginning of the Christian Year!

Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the Nativity Christ at Christmas and for the coming of Jesus Christ in all ways, from His birth in the past to His Second Coming in the future as the Messiah!

It is the perfect time to ponder how you can focus and improve your Christian life in the new year; spend more time in His word, give more of your time and gifts to the Church, show Grace to others, and leave all the hurt and pain of 2022 in the past.

I have comprised a list of things you can do in the month of December to celebrate the giving

spirit of this season. I am challenging myself and you to do at least five of these items!

- ✚ Pay someone a compliment
- ✚ Tape a \$1 bill to a vending machine
- ✚ Let someone ahead of you in traffic
- ✚ Hold the door open for someone
- ✚ Drop your extra change in the Salvation Army (or Heart & Hand) kettle
- ✚ Sing your favorite Christmas carol
- ✚ Invite someone to the Christmas Eve service
- ✚ Take dinner to your widowed neighbor
- ✚ Leave a treat for your mail carrier or delivery driver
- ✚ Call your Minister of Congregational Care and share your favorite Christmas memory 😊(her contact info is below)
- ✚ Pray for those who are having their first Christmas without a loved one
- ✚ Offer to help an older neighbor wrap their gifts
- ✚ Pray for our military personnel away from home
- ✚ Help with a meal at Christ Kitchen
- ✚ Ask a teacher if you can read a Christmas book to his/her class
- ✚ Smile at someone, or two or twenty 😊
- ✚ Return someone's shopping cart at the grocery store
- ✚ Tell someone or 50 or 100 people that Jesus loves them
- ✚ Donate your previously read books to our Little Library
- ✚ Put away the neighbor's trash cans on garbage day
- ✚ Donate food to the local food pantry
- ✚ Donate old towels to the local animal shelter
- ✚ Take a treat to your police or fire station
- ✚ Be patient with others
- ✚ Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus

I know that this time of year is busy, can be stressful and even hard, because you are missing loved ones, are struggling financially or just because it gets dark so early. But please know that I am always here for you; to listen to you, to laugh with you, to cry with you or anything else you need, and it will always stay between you and me and God!

I leave you with my scripture for the month of December, *"May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit"* (Roman 15:13)

In Christian Love,

Sheila Radochio, Minister of Congregational Care

sheilaradochio.clm.ccm@gmail.com

304-744-6086 (home)

304-415-0863 (cell)

Melanie's Page

Food Donations for the St. Albans Food Pantry

On the first Sunday of each month, items are collected for the St. Albans Food Pantry. For Dec. 4 any non-perishable food items are always welcome! However, the most needed items at this time are: Jelly, Ketchup, Mustard, Cooking oil, Syrup, Oatmeal, and Jiffy cornbread mix. Your support for this ministry in our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Christmas Baskets – Thank you to all those adopting families by providing Christmas Baskets this year. Your participation in this ministry is a strong witness of your compassion for others.



Christ's Kitchen Spaghetti Dinner – Fri. Dec. 2 from 5-7 p.m.

Christmas Parade – The Christmas Parade is Saturday, Dec. 3 at 3:00. St. Andrew plans to participate advertising our Christmas Eve Service at the Loop.

If you would like to join in, line up is at 2:30 on Washington Ave. near St. Francis Church. Look for Rich Ingram's white Chevy truck. Bring candy to share with those attending the parade. (We will not be meeting if it is raining)

Christmas Caroling & Hot Chocolate – Sun. Dec. 11 at 2:00 p.m. at The Villager Apartments
The youth group and Compassion Camp kids and their families will be participating in this gathering.

Special Notice from the Kitchen Crew!!!

In the summer we gave you a present called the 4th of July breakfast! Now in December we are giving you a present called Christmas Luncheon!

On December 18th after the one joint service, you are invited to come to the friendship hall for a meal with all the trimmings (desserts) Ham, Mashed potatoes, green beans, Hot Rolls, Coffee, Milk and did I say Dessert. Due to the anticipated attendants, there will not be any carryout and



any leftovers will be taken to Christ Kitchen so that they can enjoy also.

The Table

Join us for The Table at the Hansford Center Parking Lot Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4:44pm. We will be meeting rain or shine!

In December we will have chicken tenders, mac n' cheese, and dessert. We will be set up under the shelter, and we invite you to bring a lawn chair, or prepare to tune-in to our FM

transmitter. It is an opportunity to help others in our community feel a sense of community and love.

Outreach Opportunities

Opportunities are available to meet and connect with our neighbors during the month of December. Is God calling you to participate in any of the following? All are welcome. You may call the church office at 304-727-7114 for further contact information.

Walking Group - Mon. Dec. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 4:15 p.m. at St. Albans City Park

Toni Fitzwater's Small Group

Christmas Caroling & Hot Chocolate – Sun. Dec. 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Villager Apartments

Tim Priddy/ Diana Taylor's Small Group

St. Andrew Piecemakers

To request a Prayer Pillow made by St. Andrew Piecemakers, please call Melanie Ogu, 304-724-7114, option 5.

SNAP Update

SNAP is back! Unfortunately, it's only one or two days a week until we find a full time teacher, but we make the most of those days. On Halloween we enjoyed a costume party, and the next day we traveled to the Clay Center to see *The Music Man*. We've also been on a tour of Morgan's Kitchen and the St. Albans Historical Society.

Coming up we look forward to crafts with Renee Ellis and seeing *The Nutcracker*. In lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts with one another this year, we'll be taking winter wear (hats, scarfs, gloves, socks) to the less fortunate at Christ's Kitchen.

We are still seeking a full-time teacher. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please contact the church office. Take good care, Feel the blessings, Love Always, Ms. Ruth, Ms. Rene, Ms. Linda and our SNAP family

Ministry Cards

Thank you to all of those who have already turned in your Ministry Cards in financial support of the ministries of St. Andrew for the year 2023. If you have not done so yet, it is not too late.

Church Officers 2023

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Susan Danford

District Conference Lay Member: Susan Danford

District Conference Alternate: Kathy Stalnaker

Church Council Chair: Kathy Talley

Church Treasurer: Robert Stalnaker

Finance Committee Chair: Ernie Downey

Financial Secretary: Carol Hutchison

Lay Leader: Sheila Radochio

Membership Secretary: Carol Hutchison

Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator: Susan Danford

Children's Coordinator: Melanie Ogu

Youth Coordinators: Roy and Kathy Smith

Mission Committee Chair: Ernie Downey

Staff Parish Relations Committee: Randy Robinson, Rae Lawson, Ruth Frame, Kathy Stalnaker, Susan Danford, Sheila Radochio, Rev. Jonathan Dierdorff

Trustees: Oscar Hutchison, Steve Perry, Rich Ingram, David Duncan, Betty More, James Lawson, Jim Bowles, Robert Stalnaker

Nominations Committee: Becky Lily, Randi Robinson, Amy Loftis, John Radochio, Susan Danford, Rev. Jonathan Dierdorff

Finance: Walter Wood, Kim Wood, Steve Brucker, Beth Lucas, Roger Rasmussen, Norma King, Ernie Downey, Carol Hutchison, Robert Stalnaker

Meeting Dates 2023

Church Council

Feb. 16

Apr. 20

June 15

Aug. 17

Oct. 19

Dec. 21

Finance

Jan. 10

Apr. 11

July 11

Oct. 12

Oct. 23 – Budget only tentative

Trustees

Jan. 3

Feb. 14

Mar. 14

May 9

Sept. 12

Oct. 10

Nov. 14

Dec. 12

SPRC

Feb. 20

May 1

Aug. 28

Nov. 13

Nominations

Mar. 20

Sept. 18

Small Group Leaders

TBA

Connect, Grow, and Serve

- Sun. Dec. 4 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
 Choir Rehearsal – 10:00 a.m. in the choir room
 The Well: Non-traditional – 9:45 a.m.
 The Sanctuary: Traditional – 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
 The Table – 4:44 p.m. at The Hansford Center
- Mon. Dec. 5 **Walking Small Group Outreach** – 4:15 p.m. at St. Albans City Park
 Church Council - 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Wed. Dec. 7 **Small Groups** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Thurs. Dec. 8 **Fishermen Small Group** – at 11:00 a.m. in Rm. 103
- Sun. Dec. 11 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
 Choir Rehearsal – 10:00 a.m. in the choir room
 The Well: Non-traditional – 9:45 a.m.
 The Sanctuary: In Person Worship – 11:00 a.m.
 Christmas Caroling & Hot Chocolate at 2:00 p.m.
 at The Villager Apartments
 Karen Bradley's Small Group – 9:00 p.m. by Zoom
- Mon. Dec. 12 **Brenda Parsons' Small Group** – 11:00 a.m. in the parlor
 Walking Small Group Outreach – 4:15 p.m. at St. Albans City Park
- Tues. Dec. 13 **Trustees** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Wed. Dec. 14 **Weekly Small Groups** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
 Kathy Talley's Small Group – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Sun. Dec. 18 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**

Withrow; Bill Hensley; John Hensley; Melissa Henrich; Mike Cook; Vicki Kiner; the family of Kyle Esh; Angela; the family of Dennis Kanfield; Teresa Davis; Emma Lou Swain and family in the passing of her husband, Charlie Swain; the family of Charles "Chucky" Yeager in his passing; Jim Joseph; the family of Dean Kincaid; The family of Alyssa Randolph in her passing; Michael Long; the family of Bill Riggs in his passing; David Kesler