



St. Andrew's United Methodist Church  
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This month I took 203 pounds of food to the Food Bank for a total of 2402 pounds so far this year. Thanks to all those who are so faithful in serving this ministry of the church. We are running a bit behind for our goal this year and the demand has grown so much. Please consider making this a regular part of your Christian service by bringing two cans a week and putting them in the donation box located in the narthex.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW is busy! December brings our annual banquet on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We will be enjoying a delicious BBQ meal. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from Becky Hunt, Michelle Trudo, Sherry Morgan or in the office from Judy Linville. Everyone is invited to join us in the fun and games, music and find out who our Martha Award winner is this year. I can promise that she is someone extra deserving! We ask that everyone who attends please bring a small wrapped gift worth \$5 to \$10 for the white elephant game. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Mark your calendars and everyone get out your baking supplies! In December we will once again be supporting the Cookies for Troops ministry sponsored by the conference. If you wish to participate you will need to bake your cookies (NO Nuts or nut spreads, not in the dough or fillings), package them 1 dozen to a gallon zip lock bag, labeled with the kind of cookie. Also remember that anything that needs to be refrigerated is NOT a good choice and please no icing! Then bring them to the church on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We will then pack them and deliver them on Monday to the district drop off points where they will then deliver the cookies to the conference drop-off spots to be delivered to the troops in time for Christmas. Last year we delivered 32 dozen cookies – I would like to deliver way more than that this year, but we need your help! If you are interested in helping, please let me know!

One of the reunion groups has volunteered to deliver Christmas cards for you! The collection box will be in the narthex the Sunday after Thanksgiving. However -There are some rules!



1. No cards to be delivered outside of the church. (this includes no nursing homes, personal residences, etc.)
2. Nothing will be mailed to anyone, anywhere.
3. Must be in box before Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> or they will not be delivered!

We hope you enjoy our gift to you and have a blessed Christmas!

Becky

# The Beacon

Come home to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church ...  
 There's a Place for You Here!!



## December 2019

St. Andrews is a diverse family  
 sharing God's transforming love  
 with our neighbors

### Hospitality

When we think of Christmas, hospitality is usually an important part of it. Welcoming family and guests into our homes during this celebration is part of our experience. Hospitality is crucial for the religious meaning of Christmas too. Christmas is the celebration of the coming of Jesus, not just 2000 years ago, but in our own lives and world today.

Welcoming Jesus into our life requires hospitality. In welcoming a guest, we must make space for them by getting our stuff out of the way. To welcome Jesus, we must make space in our lives for him to dwell and flourish. True hospitality requires that we give the guest/Jesus control in the space we have made for them. Hospitality does not see the guest/Jesus as a means to meet our needs or agenda but gives them space to be and become who they are.

Being a gracious host is difficult but necessary if we want to enjoy and be blessed by the one we have welcomed. This Christmas join us at St. Andrews as we welcome the Christ child, and give him space to grow to maturity within us.

Christmas Blessings,

Pastor David

### Bring a Friend Sunday—December 8th

Every person in the church will be striving to bring a friend with them to worship on Sunday, December 8th, for our Bring a Friend Sunday. Begin now to prepare by making a list of friends, neighbors, and family you might be able to bring. Pray about your list and add the names of anyone God brings to your mind. Pray daily for the people on your list starting now, and ask God to prepare them to receive your invitation.

1. Pray just before you invite them that God will use your invitation and guide you. 2. When you invite them tell them you will pick them up and what time to expect you. 3. Prior to Bring a Friend Sunday, prepare enough food for yourself and your guest for our fellowship meal after worship. 4. At worship and the meal, introduce your friend to other people in the church (everyone will wear a name tag). Most important on Bring a Friend Sunday make every guest feel welcome...as you always do!

Pastor David

*Anniversaries*

- Bud & Cindy Parrett 13th
- Larry & Arlene Aldrich 14th
- Michael & Danielle Whitehead 16th
- Gary & Becky Hunt 29th



*Happy Birthday!*

- Janie Trudo 1st
- John Leach 4th
- Kassandra Gamble Marquez 6th
- Rosa None 11th
- Lance Gamble 13th
- Judah Hershberger 13th
- Kaleb Dinsmore 15th
- Jean Morgan 21st
- Klara Radford 24th
- John Marley 25th
- Tim Young 27th
- Sherry Morgan 28th



# December 2019

**New Year's Eve Game Night**

*Come enjoy your evening out at St. Andrews, Fowler Hall from 6 to 9 pm, December 31st (weather permitting). Bring some snacks to munch on while we enjoy a good time of playing cards, dominoes and just visiting. Also feel free to bring your favorite game. Everyone is welcome!*

**The Meaning of the Advent Wreath**



This is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Advent means "coming" and during the season, Christians prepare for Jesus' coming. The four Sundays preceding Christmas, which is when Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, are recognized for four virtues. Traditionally the candles on the Advent wreath symbolize hope, love, joy and peace.

The colors can vary from all red, in the Catholic tradition, which symbolize redemption, to three blue candles and the fourth being pink, or three purple candles and one pink. The colors blue and purple symbolizing kingship and royalty. As the fourth candle is the last Sunday of Advent, the color fades to a light color or pink leading to the fifth candle, which is the Christ candle which is always white and is lit at Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. In some homes with Advent wreaths, the four candles may all be white symbolizing the purity and light of Christ.



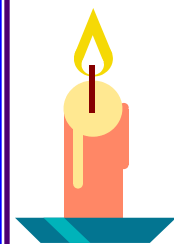
**Bring a Friend to Church Sunday, December 8th & your favorite covered dish. Come enjoy good food and good company. Potluck after Service, Fowler Hall. EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**Rainbow Emmaus Gathering**

The Rainbow Emmaus Group will meet **Thursday, December 12th with covered dish and business starting at 6:30 pm and worship to follow. Remember to bring your worship book, cross and name tag. The gathering will be held at First UMC.**



The communion offering for December 1st & 24th is for "Methodist Children's Home" If you wish to donate to this mission, place your donation in the envelope provided, make your checks payable to St. Andrew's UMC and make note on the check for communion. Thank you.



**Candlelight Services and Communion December 24th—6 pm Please join us.**



We welcome Kathy Stan. Kathy recently transferred her membership to St. Andrews. She was baptized here as a child.



**The Christmas Story**

On December 1st, which is also the beginning of advent, start reading in the book of Luke beginning with chapter one. Read a chapter each day, and by December 24th you will be reading the Christmas Story!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1 Communion:</b> Methodist Children's Home                      Sunday School 9 am                      Worship 10 am                      Worship Team Meeting after service</p>	<p><b>2 Domino Station 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>3 Joy Bible Study 9 am</b>                      Emmaus Reunion 11 am                      Girls Scouts, Cohee 5:30-6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>4 Upper Room Bible Study 9 am</b>                      Our Centering Time women 2:00</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6 Fowler Hall in use all day by UMW</b></p>	<p><b>7 UMW Christmas Banquet 6 pm Fowler Hall</b></p>
<p><b>8</b>                      Sunday School 9 am                      Worship 10 am                      Covered dish lunch after service  <i>Bring a Friend to Church!</i></p>	<p><b>9 Domino Station 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>10 Joy Bible Study 9 am</b>                      Emmaus Reunion 11 am                      Girls Scouts, Cohee 5:30-6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>11 Upper Room Bible Study 9 am</b></p>	<p><b>12 Rainbow Emmaus 6:30 First UMC</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b>                      Sunday School 9 am                      Worship 10 am                      Baptism Axel-Kai Marquez                      Cookie Deadline for Cookies for Troops!</p>	<p><b>16 Domino Station 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>17 Joy Bible Study 9 am</b>                      Emmaus Reunion 11 am                      Girls Scouts, Cohee 5:30-6:30 pm</p>	<p><b>18 Upper Room Bible Study 9 am</b>                      Our Centering Time women 2:00</p>	<p><b>19 Deadline Christmas Cards</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b>                      Sunday School 9 am                      Worship 10 am</p>	<p><b>23 Domino Station 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>24 Christmas Eve service 6 pm Family &amp; Friends welcome</b>  </p>	<p><b>25 Christmas Day</b>                        Office Closed</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b>                      Sunday School 9 am                      Worship 10 am</p>	<p><b>30 Domino Station 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>31 Game Night 6-9 pm. Bring snacks—all Welcome</b>                      Girls Scouts, Cohee 5:30-6:30 pm</p>				