

## READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER

In 2017, St. Andrew's is reading the Bible together. Bible Study meetings have concluded for 2017. Daily readings are listed below for this last week of the year:

### Bible Reading for the Week of December 24 – December 30

Sunday – Revelation 3:1-5:14      Thursday – Revelation 15:1-17:18  
Monday – Revelation 6:1-8:5      Friday – Revelation 18:1-20:15  
Tuesday – Revelation 8:6-11:19      Saturday – Revelation 21:1-22:21  
Wednesday – Revelation 12:1-14:20

Do you have a question about something you read this week? Email your questions to the church office ([saumcch@gmail.com](mailto:saumcch@gmail.com)) or Pastor Richard ([richrdwork@msn.com](mailto:richrdwork@msn.com)) or text your question to Pastor Richard at 304-692-7175.



## GREETERS FOR SUNDAY MORNING

There's nothing better than a warm "hello" when you arrive at church. We are looking for greeters for the new year who would arrive around 10am and greet at the front entrance until the service begins. This is a great way for families, individuals (anyone!) to get to know the congregation. You will find a sign-up sheet in the lobby. We appreciate your help.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the lobby. You will find them on the table in front of the Graf Room. If you used envelopes last year, we prepared a box for 2018. If you would like us to prepare a box of envelopes for you, please contact the church office and we will be happy to do so.



## KEENAGERS



Our next meeting is Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at noon in Wesley Hall. The main course is bean soup. You can bring a dish to share and the cost is \$5 or \$10 without a dish. Our speaker is Bob DelSordo, a AAA driving course instructor and former judge of traffic court. He will speak on subjects of interest to seniors. Join us!!

## CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Today, the children will gather in Room 304 today for Christmas activities and a birthday party for Jesus. This will be held during the regular Sunday School time. Children can be picked up in Room 304.

### Season's Greetings

St. Andrew's Nursery School would like to extend warm wishes for a blessed Christmas to you and yours!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

9am – Study Class for Adults – Graf Room  
10:30am Worship – Nursery Care for infants to 2-year olds – room 201  
10:45am – 3-year olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to Room 304 for activities  
6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade remain in the worship service.

(Please see one of our ushers for location/directions.)

## ACTIVITIES FOR THIS WEEK

|         |         |                                      |
|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday  | 6:30pm  | Special Holiday Music                |
|         | 7pm     | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service    |
|         | 10:30pm | Special Holiday Music                |
|         | 11pm    | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service    |
| Monday  |         | Christmas Day – Church Office Closed |
| Tuesday |         | Church office Closed                 |

## ACTIVITIES WEEK OF DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>

|           |         |                                       |
|-----------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | 10:30am | Worship Service                       |
| Monday    |         | New Year's Day – Church Office Closed |
| Tuesday   | 10am    | Anna Circle – Lounge                  |
| Wednesday | 10am    | Little Hands Little Feet – Room 307   |
|           | 3pm     | Cathedral Kitchen                     |
| Thursday  | Noon    | Keenagers – Wesley Hall               |
|           | 6:30pm  | Bell Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary      |



The staff at St. Andrew's is very grateful to the congregation for the generous staff gift. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## ST. ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

327 Marlton Pike West, (Route 70), Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Email: [saumcch@gmail.com](mailto:saumcch@gmail.com) Website [www.saumcni.org](http://www.saumcni.org)

Telephone: 856-429-4469

Rev. Richard Work, Jr., Pastor

Colleen McQuade, Office Administrator

Katharine Baer, Director of Music

Ellen Barton, Bell Choir Director

Ellen Youssefian and Lauren Aloia, Pianists

Megan Falcone, Director, St. Andrew's Nursery School and Kindergarten

# St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

December 24, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30am

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Christmas Eve is a joyous time for all who open their hearts and minds to our loving Creator. Let us allow the true meaning of Christmas to stir up love within us.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP AND WELCOME TO VISITORS

*(Prepare Prayer Request: You may write a prayer concern or joy on the cards found in each pew. Ushers will collect the prayer cards in the center aisle as the children come forward for the Children's Message.)*

## INTROIT

HYMN (see insert)

"Welcome our World"

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

The Christmas Spirit

**is that hope**

which tenaciously clings

**to the hearts of the faithful**

and announces

**in the face**

of any Herod the world can produce

**and all the inn doors slammed in our faces**

and all the dark nights of our souls

**that with God all things are possible,**

that even now, unto us

**a child is born!**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

Oh, come, desire of nations, bind,

in one the hearts of all mankind,

Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,

**and be yourself our King of Peace.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to you, O Israel!

## ADVENT PRAYER (Prayed together)

Loving God, we thank you for the joy

you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift.

Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word.

We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S TIME

## CHILDREN MAY LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

## CALL TO PRAYER

## MORNING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## SHARING OUR RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

### OFFERTORY

#### \* RESPONSE NO. 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SCRIPTURE READING** Revelation 3:14-22 NT page 247

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE** "Are We Ready?" Rev. Work

\* **HYMN NO. 240** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#### \* BENEDICTION

#### \* POSTLUDE

*\*Those who are able, please stand.*

### Serving our church this morning...

**Greeters:** Joe and Marcia Schmid

**Acolyte:** James Spangler

**Liturgist:** Mike, Lauren, Noah and Eve Mallow

**Ushers:** Barbara Hansen, Karen Bianco, Saad Nazir, Tim Griffis and Tom Bianco III

**Audio:** Tom Bianco III, Mark Corcoran, Dale Osterman



We have a special place for our little ones. Children age 2 and under are invited to explore our nursery! (room 201) (Please see one of our ushers for location/directions.) It is professionally staffed by Jennie Armour, a lovely young woman who has been caring for children for many years.

***In addition, there is a rocking chair available in the back of the sanctuary so you can comfort your child and remain in the worship service.***



We are glad you are here. Please help us get to know you by filling out the "Welcome Visitor" brochure found in the pew rack. Place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please ask one of our ushers. Welcome to St. Andrew's.

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Connie Visconti, 1919 Olney Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002; Vince Anderer, 130 Whistler Green Court, Marlton, NJ 08053; Barbara Brown, 324 Society Hill, Cherry Hill, NJ 08053; Mary Ann Edgerton, 107 Chelton Parkway, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034; Dorothy Lauer, 19 Snapdragon Lane, Marlton, NJ 08053; Susan Kruse, 1022 Chelton Parkway, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002; Kathryn Phillips, 460 Haddon Ave, Collingswood, NJ 08108.

**We also lift up a shut-in member each week.**

**Marilyn and Harry Schellack, 2150 Route 38 Apt 358, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002**  
We hope you will pray for them, give them a call, send a card or drop in and visit them. If you know anyone who could be on our list, please contact the church office.

## URGENT REQUEST FROM LITTLE HANDS LITTLE FEET

Little Hands Little Feet, the ministry that provides clothing to children under the care of social services, has completely run out of the following:

- Boy tops and pants in sizes 3, 8 and 16
- Boys winter coats in sizes 7 through 16

Donations can be placed in the bin near the stairs on the far side of the lobby. The team of volunteers greatly appreciates the support from our congregation. Each week, they are able to fill orders for children who are in great need of clothing, and they include a toy and a book as well!

Volunteers are welcome to help sort clothing and fill orders on Wednesday mornings at 10am in Room 307 (above the gym). Thank you for your continued support of this mission.



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tonight 7:00pm and 11:00pm

*As is our tradition, each service will be preceded by a special music presentation. This year will feature selected music from the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah".*

*The choir will be accompanied by a string quartet (you will also have an opportunity to sing along!). The music will begin at 6:30pm and 10:30pm.*

*The music will be followed by our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, culminating with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to join us for this Christmas celebration!*



Get your New Year's Resolution started here at St. Andrew's! We offer a variety of exercise classes with the next session starting the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>. There is something for everyone: Pilates, Interval Training, Yoga, Tai Chi, and Dance/Kick/Punch. No contracts, low prices, great instructors, lots of fun and all proceeds benefit the ministries of St. Andrew's. For more information, contact Barbara Hansen at [Barbara.Hansen3428@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.Hansen3428@gmail.com) or [609-706-3552](tel:609-706-3552).



St. Andrew's volunteers at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden on the first Wednesday of the month. Email [staloey@aol.com](mailto:staloey@aol.com) or call Lois Stawicki at [\(856\) 758-3011](tel:856-758-3011) to find out what is involved. We meet in St. Andrew's parking lot at 3:00pm and return by 6:00pm. Next date to volunteer: Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In January, we will collect juice boxes, which can be placed "Cathedral Kitchen Shopping Cart" located in the lobby. Thank you for your support!!