

# St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

December 25, 2016

10:30am

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### 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

\* **OPENING HYMN NO. 224** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

We who dwelled in the shadows have seen great light.  
**Glory from heaven embraces the earth, like a mother's arms around a newborn child,**  
Tucking the earth in folds of peace, like a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes,  
**Laying the earth in the cradle of truth, like a baby entrusted to a manger.**  
As the cry of a baby splits the air, uniting the songs of shepherds and angels,  
**Let us give thanks for the birth of a child, through whose young life salvation shines!**

### OPENING PRAYER

**The celebration of Christmas has just begun. Even though many of us have gone through the gift giving and receiving, have feasted with family and friends, there is yet another gift which has been given. You, O Loving God, have wrapped the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ around our lives. The light of your love through him is shining brightly. It is not a harsh light, but a multitude of bright colors that remind us of the wondrous ways you love us. Open our hearts and spirits as we celebrate the gift of your love. Bring us to you with such joy that it will seem as though our feet aren't even touching the ground. Amen.**

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Advent lights have gone and are now replaced by these brilliant Christmas Lights. Each light, offering its own colors, is a brilliant reminder of God's love for us incarnate in Jesus Christ. We have kept our Christ Candle on our worship center so that you may understand the power of the One who came to us to teach us anew of God's love and to draw us to God once more.

The true light is shining in the world. It is the Light of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. We light this Christ Candle and remember how much God loves us.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

10:30am Worship – Nursery Care for infants to 2 year olds – room 201  
10:45am – Children remain in the Sanctuary during worship service

### ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

#### ACTIVITIES WEEK OF DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>

Sunday 10:30am Christmas Sunday Worship Service  
Monday CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
\*\*Church office hours will be staggered this week. Please call before you come by to be sure we are in the office

#### ACTIVITIES WEEK OF JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>

Sunday 10:30am COMMUNION SUNDAY/FOOD COLLECTION  
Monday CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
Tuesday 10am Anna Circle – Lounge  
Wednesday 10am Little Hands Little Feet – Room 307  
Thursday Noon Keenagers – Wesley Hall  
6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
7pm Choir Rehearsal – Room 101

## TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Our Christmas Family Worship today will feature the last first-person presentation. Luke, the carpenter will finish the story that began on November 27<sup>th</sup>

There will be no Sunday School today, so children and parents can enjoy worshipping together. The Nursery is open for infants to 2-year-olds.

## READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER

In 2017, St. Andrew's is reading the Bible together. If you would like to have a Bible that is laid out with the daily readings, they are available in the lobby for \$20 (it's a good practice to start a project like this with a new Bible, but not required). You are able to take part in this project using your own Bible.

Daily readings will be listed in the bulletin each week. You can join the conversation by attending Bible Study in the lounge on Monday at 7pm or Wednesday at 9:30am beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Richard.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup>

|                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday – Genesis 1:1-3:24      | Thursday – 12:1-14:24         |
| Monday – Genesis 4:1-5:32      | Friday – Genesis 15:1-17:27   |
| Tuesday – Genesis 6:1-9:27     | Saturday – Genesis 18:1-20:18 |
| Wednesday – Genesis 9:18-11:32 |                               |

## NURSERY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Our Nursery School began registration for the 2017-18 school year, and as a special gesture to our church families, you may register now.

The School has been voted a winner fifteen times in **The Best Nursery School of South Jersey** contest. SANS began as an outreach of the church in 1966 and continues to provide for children a warm and nurturing environment in which to explore and be creative. St. Andrew's Nursery School & Kindergarten offers six different programs for children ages 18 months through 6 years of age. In addition, we also offer three enrichment programs: The Literacy Lab for 3 year-olds, the Science & Math Academy for 4 year-olds and Kindergarten Enrichment for children enrolled in an outside kindergarten class. Our dedicated and loving teachers ensure that the children enjoy a well-rounded, play based learning environment.

Brochures and registration cards can be found on the table in the Narthex. Details of each program can also be found on the school's website, [www.staNurserySchool.com](http://www.staNurserySchool.com). Please feel free to call the school office (856-429-4470) with any questions.

*Season's Greetings*

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



## 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.saumcnj.org](http://www.saumcnj.org)

Telephone: 856-429-4469

Rev. Richard Work, Jr., Pastor

Meredith Blanchard and Colleen McQuade, Office Administrators

Katharine Baer, Director of Music

Ellen Barton, Bell Choir Director

Ellen Youssefian and Lauren Aloia, Pianists

## PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS LIGHT

Gracious God, you have sent your Son to us to show us the way. Even when we have turned our backs, followed our own paths, you offer us Light. Remind us again that Jesus witnessed to us the Light of Love that serves, guides and heals. Thank you for loving us so much that you would give this most precious gift. Pour the Light into our lives once more, that finally, we will fully understand the power and depth of your love for us. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** Isaiah 52:7-10 OT page 983  
This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God.

## 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** "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"  
Barbara Brown - soloist

### \* RESPONSE

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

### \* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 2:1-7 NT page 58

\* **HYMN NO. 234** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**SERMON** "Come to the Manger: The Carpenter"

\* **CLOSING HYMN NO. 246** "Joy to the World"

### \* BENEDICTION

### \* POSTLUDE

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

#### Serving our church this morning...

**Greeter:** Meredith Blanchard

**Liturgist:** Karen Bianco

**Acolyte:** Madeleine Griffis

**Ushers:** Barbara Hansen, Jim and Susan Badaracco,  
Karen Bianco and Tim Griffis

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

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Are given by Bill and Donna Widerman with love for all of their parents.



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 and placing it in the offering plate. If you have any questions, please ask one of our ushers. Thank you.  
Welcome to St. Andrew's.

## NURSERY CARE

For those of you with children age 2 and under, we have a nursery in 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.***

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Darrell Ernst, 43 Harvard Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043; Ina Jeronimus, 99 East Main Street, Marlton, NJ 08053; Eustace Kangaju, 17 Snyder Court, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002; Rose DeGuzman, 1005 Edgemoor Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034; Mary Ann Edgerton, 107 Chelton Parkway, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034; Donna Shoaf, 712 Grove Street, Haddonfield, NJ 08033

## SHUT-IN IN OUR PRAYERS:

Martha Seaney  
114 Garfield Avenue, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

We will lift up a shut-in member each week. 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.

## ENJOY THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING

St. Andrew's wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct Debit Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. Credit & Debit Card Giving lets you make offerings automatically on a predetermined schedule using a credit or debit card.

Electronic Giving lets you go to [www.saumcnj.org](http://www.saumcnj.org) at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and information are available from the church office at [saumcch@verizon.net](mailto:saumcch@verizon.net) or 856-429-4469.

## KEENAGERS ~ CALLING EVERYONE YOUNG AT HEART!

For those of you who don't know what a "Keenager" is - it's anyone who is old enough to be an AARP member! Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in Wesley Hall. *For those who received a postcard, please note the corrected date.* Bring a side dish to share, and be ready to enjoy the special entertainment following the meal. To help cover costs, there is a \$5.00 cover charge if you bring a covered dish - \$10.00 if you don't. Hope to see you there!

## BOOKS NEEDED!!

The Gateway South Poverty Task Force is collecting new and gently used books for a "Pop-up Library" that will be on site at food distribution centers and other locations. Donate books of all genres for all ages. This library will make books accessible to folks who may not otherwise have quality literature available and books are free.

Books will be tagged and sorted at the Pine Hill UMC starting at 9am on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> (MLK Day). Feel free to help out!! Look for the donation barrel in the lobby and place your book donations there. Thank you for your support!



"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone" - Ronald Reagan  
In short, taking the time, putting forth the effort, spending the money, helps you as well as the other person.

One of the "little things that will make a difference" . . .  
. **volunteering at Cathedral Kitchen** any first Wednesday of the month. Email or call Lois Stawicki at [856\) 758-3011](tel:8567583011) or [staloey@aol.com](mailto:staloey@aol.com) to find out what is involved. We meet in St. Andrew's parking lot at 3:00 P. M., and return by 6:00 P. M. Upcoming dates to volunteer: Wednesday, January 4 and Wednesday, February 1.

Another difference . . . **donating Paper Towels and Paper Napkins** during January and February and placing them in the "Cathedral Kitchen Shopping Cart" located in the Narthex.

## A FUTURE WITH HOPE UPDATE

AFWH is one of the last organizations on the ground helping with Superstorm Sandy recovery. There are 4000 people still unable to return to their homes 4 years after the storm.

In an October, 2016 letter, commemorating the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the storm, Governor Chris Christie made the following statement. "The United Methodist Church and A Future With Hope have contributed to the Garden State's recovery by helping with the construction of 247 homes for elderly, disabled and low income residents. As Governor, I applaud your tireless efforts in making strides in the recovery process for your respective communities and commend those that will continue to rebuild—stronger and better than ever."

In a recent E-mail, our District Superintendent, Myrna Bethe, thanked St. Andrew's for our contribution of \$13,456.26. This contribution has been given over the last 4 years. GNJ continues working toward fulfilling its commitment to rebuild more than 300 homes. If you would like to help the Church continue toward reaching this goal, you can make checks payable to St. Andrew's marked AFWH.



St. Andrew's offers a variety of exercise classes with the next session starting the week of January 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is something for everyone: Pilates, Interval Training, Yoga, Tai Chi, and Dance/Kick/Punch. No contracts, low prices, lots of fun and all proceeds benefit the ministries of St. Andrew's. **A win-win.** For more information, contact Barbara Hansen at [609-706-3552](tel:6097063552) or [Barbara.Hansen3428@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.Hansen3428@gmail.com).