

ROOTED

An inclusive Community Rooted in God's Incredible Love

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, PERKASIE, PA

615 E. Walnut Street, Perkasie, PA • (215)-257-2880 • standrewsucc.org • Follow us



July 2026



JULY UPCOMING EVENTS



GROW PEACE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 13-17 9AM TO NOON DAILY

Children from out the Pennridge community and beyond will be joining us for our Grow Peace Vacation Bible School. We will learn about the Parable of the Sower, The Weeds, The Mustard Seed, The Lost Sheep, and The Net. We will explore ways of peace making through respect, listening, forgiveness communication, and courage. Children will explore their faith through science, art, games, snacks and mission projects.

We will be meeting to decorate for VBS on Saturday July 11th from 10am to Noon. All Are welcome to join the fun.

If you'd like to donate supplies to VBS visit our amazon wishlist!
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3TFBRGCN6HQT7?ref_=wl_share

More Volunteers are needed! Please see Amanda Duffy.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions about anything VBS please contact Amanda Duffy.



ST. ANDREW'S PIES AT PERKASIE FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST 9AM TO NOON

Join us to sell pies and meet our neighbors or to pick up your delicious pie! If you would like to assist in pie sales, see Lee Metzger. If you are interested in pie making, see Joyce and Ken Barndt. Baking will take place at 9am on Thursday July 30th and Friday July 31st. We can't wait to be back with the Perkasie community this summer at the farmers market!





PASTORS MESSAGE

JESUS' TEACHINGS & DEMOCRACY:

A REFLECTION FOR THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATION



While Jesus did not speak directly about democracy as we understand it today, many of his teachings have influenced democratic ideals throughout history. Living under the rule of the Roman Empire, Jesus proclaimed a vision of God's kingdom that challenged systems built on power, privilege, and exclusion. He taught that every person has value in God's sight and called his followers to love their neighbors, care for the vulnerable, and seek justice.

Historically, these teachings helped shape movements that emphasized human dignity and equality. Early Christians gathered in communities where social status mattered less than faithfulness to Christ and where all things were shared as any had need. Over time, biblical principles such as the worth of every individual, accountability of leaders, and concern for the common good contributed to the development of democratic thought in Western governance.

Democracy depends on the belief that people have both rights and responsibilities. Jesus' teachings remind us that freedom is not simply about individual choice but about serving one another in love. His command to "love your neighbor as yourself" encourages citizens to consider the well being of the entire community, especially those whose voices are often ignored. His Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew and his Sermon on the Plain found in Luke was a subversive declaration that power didn't belong exclusively to rulers and the wealthy. Jesus' insistence that every person bore inherent worth eventually played into the idea that every person should have a voice in their government.

As Christians, our ultimate commitment is to God's reign of love, justice, compassion and peace. Yet, we are also called to participate faithfully in civic life. By listening respectfully, seeking truth, advocating for justice, and caring for our neighbors, we embody values that strengthen both our faith communities and democratic society.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation, we have an opportunity to reflect on both the blessings and challenges of our democratic journey. This milestone invites us to give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy while recommitting ourselves to the work of building a more just and compassionate society where every person is valued.

Jesus' teachings call us beyond partisan divisions and remind us that our neighbors are not opponents to defeat but people to love. By seeing each person as created and loved by God and therefore their voice matters, seeking the common good, and working for justice for all, we honor both our faith and the democratic ideals that continue to shape our nation's future.

Pastor Barb



JUNE MEETING

CONSISTORY REPORT

Summer is in full swing, and we hope you are enjoying the opportunity to spend time outdoors in God's beautiful creation with family and friends. As many travel and vacation during these months, Consistory would like to offer two gentle reminders.

First, we encourage you to continue your faithful financial support of St. Andrew's, even when you are away. Through your generosity, our congregation has remained financially stable throughout the year. As we enter the summer months, however, we traditionally begin to see a decline in regular giving. Your continued gifts, whether you are worshiping with us in person or away for a week or two, help sustain the ministries and mission of our church all year long.

Second, we hope you will join us in worship whenever you are home. The St. Andrew's family truly misses each and every one of our members when they are away. Your presence is a blessing to our congregation, and we look forward to welcoming you back each time you return.

This month, we also celebrate and give thanks to Ken and Joyce Barndt as they officially retire from their roles as our sextons on June 30. Their faithful service over many years has blessed St. Andrew's in countless ways, and we are deeply grateful for all they have done. Thankfully, "retirement" doesn't mean goodbye! Ken and Joyce will continue baking the delicious pies we all enjoy, serving meals, volunteering around the property, and sharing their many gifts with our church family. When you see them, please be sure to congratulate them and thank them for their years of dedicated service.

We are excited to share that our new worship screens have now been physically installed. Work continues behind the scenes to complete the technical installation, and we look forward to introducing them into worship soon as part of creating an even more engaging and sensory-rich worship experience. Thank you to everyone who has generously contributed toward this project. Donations continue to be accepted as we work to complete funding for the screens.

We are also delighted to welcome Anna Marie as the newest member of our staff, serving as our full-time organist beginning June 28. Anna Marie is already a familiar face, having faithfully served as a substitute organist for us on many occasions. We are thrilled to officially welcome her into this new role and look forward to the gifts she will continue to share through music ministry.

June also marked an important milestone in the life of St. Andrew's as our congregation officially affirmed our Open and Affirming Covenant, taking the next step toward becoming an Open and Affirming congregation within the United Church of Christ. We will be submitting the necessary documentation to the national setting of the UCC in the coming weeks to receive our official designation.

While this affirmation is certainly worth celebrating, it is only the beginning of our journey. Our Open and Affirming Exploratory Team has completed its work and has now been formally disbanded. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every member of that team for their dedication, discernment, and faithful leadership over the past several years. In the coming months, a new implementation team will be formed to help us live more fully into our covenant. Watch your email for an upcoming congregational survey where you will have the opportunity to share your hopes and ideas for this next chapter of ministry at St. Andrew's.

Consistory also continues its work on developing a long-range strategic plan for the future of St. Andrew's. This plan will help guide our ministries, strengthen our sustainability, and ensure we continue serving our community faithfully for years to come. We look forward to sharing more with the congregation this fall as the plan continues to take shape.

Finally, we extend our sincere appreciation to our Property Maintenance Team for their ongoing dedication. Recently, they installed a new security light near the shed by the stone parking lot, creating a safer and more welcoming environment for our congregation and for our neighbors at The Perk, who lease parking spaces for their employees. The team also played an essential role in installing our new worship screens, ensuring they were safely and securely anchored within our historic sanctuary. They are currently gathering estimates for sealing the church parking lot, and Consistory will review those proposals in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, generosity, prayers, and service. Together, we continue to grow as a congregation rooted in God's inclusive love and committed to sharing Christ's hope with our community.

Consistory Members 2026:

Elders- , Karen Peterson, Ron Grace, Tara Howell and Doris Lindmeier

Deacons- Erin Rush, Lance Ide, Herb Volk (Vice President) , Amanda Duffy (President), Angela Stofflet (Secretary), Evie Starkey and Cindy Grace.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Greetings from Finance...

Hope you all are enjoying summertime and the wonderful activities that come along with warm sunshine. As promised at our annual congregation meeting in January, below is a summary of where our income and expenses are through the first six months of 2026 as compared to our budget. Through six months, income is at budget, and our expenses are slightly over budget. Our OCWM contributions are just under the six-month mark.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Donations / Income	98,860	98,318	542
Operating Expenses	103,738	101,326	(2,412)
OCWM Contributions	2,620	3,000	(380)

Our Cash Account balances are shown below, with an increase in total of \$,8627 over last year at this time.

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>YTD Balance</u>	<u>Previous Year Balance</u>
Truist Checking Acct (General/Benevolence)	15,045.59	(2,119.78)
Truist Savings Account (Special)	26,142.48	11,334.96
Truist Savings Account (Memorial)	32,575.83	31,199.94
TD Ameritrade Mutual Fund (Investment)	76,007.93	100,182.45
TD Ameritrade Trust Fund (Steeley)	42,199.16	42,770.07
Truist CD (Scholarship)	5,962.72	5,938.38
Total Assets	\$197,933.71	\$189,306.02

Below is an update on some of our activities that have occurred in the first six months of this year and the income to our ministry:

Farmers Market	\$	783
Pork Dinner	\$	1,835
Night at the Perk	\$	835
Lasagna dinner	\$	1,943
Hoagie sale	\$	722
Total	\$	6,118

Our church website has a link to VANCO, our Online giving portal. If you have any questions regarding how to use VANCO, please contact me at finance@standrewsucc.org or 215.896.3134.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Thank you for your continued support of all the ministries here at St. Andrew's and of the many fulfilling activities creating wonderful fellowship and sharing faith with others in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Flexer, Treasurer



MISSION WEEK 2026

Mission Week 2026 is complete, but what we did, what we felt, how we connected to our community and each other and what we learned will remain forever. That is what missions are all about. We gain more than we give. This mission started at a St. Andrew's Mission Trip debriefing many years ago. The team at that time wanted to do mission at home as if we were on a trip. We finally achieved that dream in every sense of the word. Other than sleeping in our own beds at night and keeping up with our lives at our homes, we went on mission.

Each morning, we met for breakfast, thank you to the Nace family and Barb Fritz for making this happen. A mission trip is not just about the work we do; it is about community and fellowship around the table. Breakfast was followed by devotions led by Pastor Barb. This allowed us to move ourselves from our usual routine to the "mission field". In devotion we talked about who we would really "see" during our week and how do we help people feel seen. We learned to open our eyes before we open our hands. We learned how our hands are what we use to serve just as Christ did. We know that the light shines through us and even though our mission week ended, we remember that it doesn't stop here. We continue to be servants and take what we learned to continue our mission.

Monday, we worked with Fostering Hope at St. Paul's and the Clothing Closet at St. Stephen's. We learned about the many foster children in our own area and most of us were not aware of this ministry. Tuesday the rain came so we moved in a variety of directions and flexibility was the word for the day. We had mission people at FISH putting together packs, and people at the church preparing and painting classrooms, and we had people gathering books for the rummage sale book table. We welcomed Pastor Nick Pence to our Vespers service and enjoyed singing to the guitar. Hot Dogs and Smore's were "roasted" in the kitchen instead of an open fire, but we are flexible.

Wednesday, we planted at FISH and we had people back at St. Stephens. We handled the church technical work, received canned goods for FISH, and set up for the rummage sale.

St. Andrews' mission people we have learned from prior missions don't like to leave a job unfinished, so on Thursday, we completed work at FISH, and moved shelves, bins and food from Souderton to St. Paul's, FISH and Blooming Glen Mennonite.

Friday, the rummage sale set up continued, and the classrooms were almost finished. We had a small contingent of people that finished the work on Saturday. Please take a moment to check out the "new" classrooms.

Thank you for making the Mission Week dream a reality. The week felt like a mission trip. Thank you to all the many people who stopped by to encourage us, the many people who did the work, the people who went in search of donations and the places that made donations and the people who prayed for us. Thank you to our great Creator who brought rain at the right time, people to help at the right time and made this week turn out as He meant it to and finally, we remember that God loves us all and we can't do anything about it.



Keystone

CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



SPRING MEETING 2026: JOY AT THE TABLE

The Keystone Conference of the UCC met June 5-7 with a theme of Joy at the Table with over 600 people in attendance in person and virtually from all over the state with 224 churches present. The 4 Historic Conferences of Pennsylvania joined together at one big table for the first time as a new conference. It was and is a joy to be together as one, especially in a state with so many ways of thinking and being. As one speaker said, "it is indeed a miracle when Steeler Fans and Eagles Fans can come together in one place."

We were reminded throughout the celebration that Jesus was always around the table. He used the table as a place to heal and to uplift. The theme emphasized the importance of feeding others but also providing a table for inclusion. The table is a place of fellowship and Joy.

The meeting opened with a very moving moment in the lighting of the Altar with the Christ Candle saved from the fire at Trinity UCC in Dorseyville, a quiet acknowledgement of our connections to one another and to God. This was followed by Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee who led us in music and singing and we felt the Joy of being together.

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson the General Minister and President of the UCC spent time with us, sharing words of support, her poetry and her story. She reminded us that our greatest strength is our diversities (note the plural, we are not just one). Unity does not mean uniformity. As Christians we cannot be silent when people are excluded from the table regardless of our differences. God gives us the strength to love others who are considered unlovable and God is bigger than our petty differences. Rev. Greg Edwards reminded us that the Gospel says, "pull up another chair" and that we have a responsibility to build community and right now we need Joy at the table. Joy is not happiness; it is a choice and an act of resistance. When it gets rough, pull up another chair.

As someone who was raised on a farm, I especially enjoyed hearing from PA. Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding. He talked about the many empty tables in Pennsylvania and helping farmers is a way of helping others. We have a moral responsibility to feed others when we have more than we need, reminding us that we must build a longer table not a higher fence.

Rev. Dr. Mary Luti gave an amazing presentation about communion as our shared table. It is not just spiritual practice, but it is justice. Communion is for everyone and disrupts isolation and separation. Empires want people to feel weak and separate and fearful. At communion we are together, we are strong, we are grateful and we adore God.

At the final worship service, Rev. Freeman Palmer spoke about the table as a joyful place because people show up and make a commitment to be together despite differences. It is not the food at the table that provides the joy, it is the feeling of abundance in God. There is always a chair at the table. The conference was especially significant as St. Andrews's just affirmed our new Covenant to be open and affirming. This is a first step in expanding our table. As we move forward with a deliberate plan to live into our covenant and commune together; we must ask ourselves who sits at our table, who is missing at our table and how do we make our table longer? May we find Joy and inclusion at our St. Andrews's Table.

GATHER WITH US AT THE

PERKASIE FARMERS MARKET

August 1st and September 12th from 9am-Noon



CALLING ALL PIE BAKERS

If you are interested in helping bake Pie's for the farmers market this year please contact Ken and Joyce.

Scheduled Dates:

Thursday July 30th

Friday July 31st

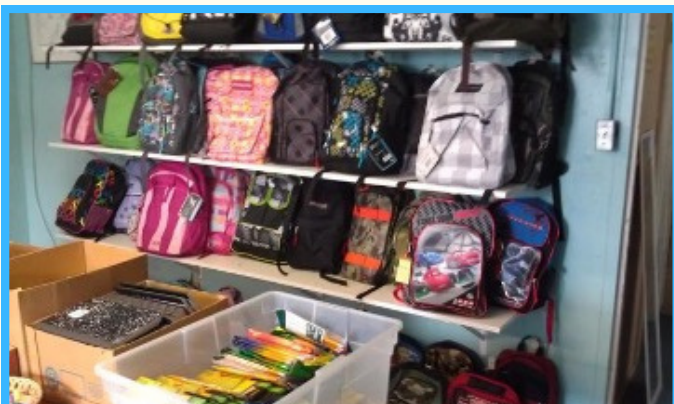
Thursday September 10th

Friday September 11th

Start time is 9am

HELP OUR FISH KIDS GET OFF TO A GREAT YEAR OF SCHOOL!

DONATIONS CAN BE BROUGHT TO CHURCH WITH THE LAST DAY FOR COLLECTION BEING JULY 27TH. THERE IS A BIN IN THE FOYER.



Deadline for items to be dropped off at
FISH is August 5, 2026

Needed supplies (suggested list): School bags with laptop sleeves, Plastic folders with clasp, Plastic folders without clasp, Primary composition books, Headphones, College-ruled composition book, College-ruled notebook paper, Pointed scissors (secondary), Wedge erasers, Pencil top erasers, Index cards, Post-It notes, Dry erase markers (non-toxic), Highlighters, Crayola Markers Broad and Thin, Crayola colored pencils, Glue sticks, Stylus, Flash drive, Earbuds, Dividers, Black Sharpie markers, Pencil sharpeners, Blue, Black, Red pens, Binders, Hand sanitizers (alcohol-free). You can also use this Amazon link to purchase supplies needed
Amazon Wishlist Link: <https://a.co/6Xa52Yx>



CHECK OUT ST. ANDREW'S STORE!

SHOP BY CLICKING BELOW OR
VISITING OUR CHURCH WEBSITE.AND
CLICKING SHOP.

bonfire.com/store/st-andrews-united-church-of-christ/

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

VBS SUPPLY LIST NEEDS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 13-17, 2026

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and we need your help! To make this year's VBS a fun and meaningful experience for our children, we have created an Amazon Wish List of needed supplies. If you would like to support this ministry, please consider purchasing an item from the list. Every donation, big or small, helps us create a wonderful week of faith, learning, and fellowship. Thank you for your generosity and support of this ministry.

Find our wish list at:

[www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3TFBRGCN6HQT7?](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3TFBRGCN6HQT7?ref_=wl_share)
[ref_=wl_share](#)

Volunteers
needed

Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School! Whether you can help with crafts, games, snacks, decorations, registration, or simply lend a helping hand wherever needed, we would love to have you join our team. No matter your skills or experience, there is a place for everyone to serve and help make VBS a memorable experience for our children. Please note that all volunteers are required to complete the church's background check process prior to serving. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please contact Amanda Duffy.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

On June 14th St. Andrew's Affirmed their Open and Affirming Covenant. We will continue to live into God's Call to be an inclusive community rooted in God's Love.



ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ is an inclusive community rooted in God's incredible love. As an Open and Affirming Church, we strive to embrace and seek to preserve the beautiful diversity of God's creation. We are a Christian community of faith who welcomes all people, embracing the diversities of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnic background, immigration status, refugee status, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, addiction/recovery challenges, family structure, relationship status, political affiliation, soul injury, faith backgrounds, doubters, questioners, and welcoming anyone who has been excluded in the past. All are invited to participate fully in the life of the church—in worship, celebrating the sacraments, in fellowship, ministering as lay and ordained persons, in leadership positions and in mission.

We recognize that the Christian Church has historically excluded those who have not fit its preconceived ideas of who is acceptable to God. We acknowledge our silence has contributed to pain and exclusion. We repent and seek to live out God's love, justice and compassion as Jesus taught.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Matthew 22:37-40

We covenant to be a place of inclusion and affirmation that is safe for all people and to meet you where you are on life's journey to share God's love with you. We offer ourselves and our resources to ensure inclusion and justice for all people and offer a place for healing, understanding, hope and love to be manifested. Honoring the diversity of God's children, we make this commitment with the help and grace of God.



GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE

Save
THE
Date



August 1	Perkasie Farmers Market 9am to Noon
August 23	God's Precious Children at Worship
August 30	Worship at Perkasie Park
Sept. 12	Perkasie Farmers Market 9am to Noon
Sept. 12-26	Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence
Sept. 13	Rally Day- Sunday School Begins
Oct. 10	Fall Rummage Sale
Oct. 18	Crazy Sock Sunday
Nov. 7	Annual Bingo Night
Feb. 27	Lasagna Dinner and Charlie Zahm Concert

SERVING SCHEDULES

USHERS

July

Head Ushers:

Amanda Duffy & Karen Peterson

5- Doris Lindmeier & Ethel Dietrich

12- Lee Metzger & Ruth Yothers

19- Robin & Lance Ide

26- Brian & Karen Rush

2- Amy & Jim Smith



LITURGIST

July

5- Lance Ide

12- Denise Mayhew

19- Lee Metzger

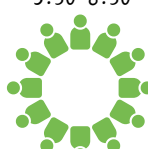
26- Lolly smith

2- Brian Rush

July Communion Servers
Tara Howell and Evie Starkey

July Altar Guild
Ethel Dietrich and Doris Lindmeier



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 8:30am Coffee & Conversations	2 Pastor's Writing Day	3 Pastor's Day off	4 
5 10:15am Worship	6	7 10:15am Bible Study 	8 8:30am Coffee & Conversations	9 Pastor's Writing Day 7pm Elders Meeting	10 Pastor's Day off	11 10am-Noon VBS Decorating Party 
12 10:15am Worship with Communion 	13	14	15 8:30am Coffee & Conversations	16 Pastor's Writing Day	17 Pastor's Day off	18
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL						
19 10:15am Worship	20	21 10:15am Bible Study	22 8:30am Coffee & Conversations 	23 Pastor's Writing Day 6:30pm Consistory	24 Pastor's Day off	25
26 10:15am Worship	27	28 10:15am Bible Study Veterans Circle 5:30-8:30 	29	30 Pastor's Writing Day 9am Pie Baking 	31 Pastor's Day off 9am Pie Baking	