

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Perkasie, Pennsylvania

Rev. Barbara Pence

Phone (215) 257-2880

Website: www.standrewsucc.org

9:00 am Faith Formation

10:15 am Worship Service

March 22, 2026

Liturgist: Karen Peterson

Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

GREETING

If able, please rise in body or spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

Hymn #68

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

Please be seated.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus once said to a crowd, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone." Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time. None of us can get by without God's grace. Let us acknowledge this truth, putting down our stones and turning to God for forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray.

Prayer Response #490

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: **Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:23

John 8:2-11

The word of the Lord.

Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

If able, please rise in body or spirit.

Hymn #61

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Please be seated.

Koinonia Time (community; communion; fellowship; intimacy)
(Please date, sign, and pass the pew pad to your neighbors)

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayers of Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Our Creator/Mother/Father/Spirit, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Friends, we gather today in the presence of a God whose mercy knows no limits. Mercy has met us in our weakness, lifted us in our struggles, and embraced us in our failures. As we give our offerings, we are not paying a debt—we are responding to grace. This is our chance to reflect God's mercy into the world. Let us give with hearts that remember how deeply we have been loved.

OFFERTORY

Please stand in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host.
Praise Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We come before you today, O God, humbled by the depth of your mercy. When we were undeserving, you poured out grace upon grace. Take these offerings and use them to extend the reach of your compassion. As you have been merciful to us, teach us to be

merciful to others—to forgive freely, to give generously, and to love without condition. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Hymn #426 Blessed Assurance

BENEDICTION

Jesus says, "Go and sin no more." Be grace-givers like Jesus, practicing justice and mercy. Go in the peace of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Portions of today's liturgy are reprinted from Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*, Copyright 2015 and Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Copyright and streaming One License #A-720020

Filming Disclosure: Our services are filmed and recorded for online viewers. As congregant's faces may be captured, your entry into the Sanctuary constitutes your consent to be photographed, filmed and/or otherwise recorded for streaming or social purposes.

~~~~~

**Head Ushers for March are Angela Stofflet and Herb Volk**

**Today's Ushers are Brian and Karen Rush**

**Altar Guild the month of March are Karen Gossard and Lois-Ann Barndt**

-----  
**Pastor Barb's contact information: Email – [pastorbarb90@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbarb90@gmail.com); Cell 267-374-5692**

**2026 Consistory**

Elders: Ron Grace, Tara Howell, Doris Lindmeier, Karen Peterson

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

Jen Flexer (Treasurer)



**Tree of Life Lenten Series**

St. Andrew's UCC, St. Stephen's UCC, Perkasio and St. Paul's UCC, Sellersville are joining together for the Lenten season. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and each Wednesday until Holy Week we'll be meeting twice a day to eat together and share in a Lenten experience. Then we'll come together for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Choose the time of day that works best for you:

Midday Gatherings: 11:30 AM- 1 PM Bring a brown bag lunch.

Evening Gatherings: 5:30-7 PM Soup and sandwich meal provided by host church.

**Ash Wednesday with the Imposition of Ashes**

February 18 Midday and Evening Gathering St. Stephen's UCC

**Midweek Gatherings**

|             |                              |                   |
|-------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| February 25 | Midday and Evening Gathering | St. Andrew's UCC  |
| March 4     | Midday and Evening Gathering | St. Paul's UCC    |
| March 11    | Midday and Evening Gathering | St. Andrew's      |
| March 18    | Midday and Evening Gathering | St. Paul's UCC    |
| March 25    | Midday and Evening Gathering | St. Stephen's UCC |

**Holy Week - Evening Gatherings Only**

|         |                 |                  |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| April 2 | Maundy Thursday | St. Paul's UCC   |
| April 3 | Good Friday     | St. Andrew's UCC |

**Locations**

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| St. Andrew's UCC  | 615 E. Walnut St. Perkasio          |
| St. Paul's UCC    | 104 Green St. Sellersville          |
| St. Stephen's UCC | 110 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> St. Perkasio |

GOD OF LOVE & MERCY

**68 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise to thee an al-tar, hith-er by thy help I've come;  
 3 O to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.  
 Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee;

Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
 Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, wan-dering from the fold of God;  
 prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise his name- I'm fixed up-on it- name of God's re-deem-ing love.  
 he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, bought me with his pre-cious blood.  
 here's my heart, O, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson (1735-1790)  
 MUSIC: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

NETTLETON  
 8.7.8.7.D.

490 Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Musical score for 'Hear Our Prayer, O Lord' in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.'

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 61

Musical score for 'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy' in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: '1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea; 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good; 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind; 4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word, there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty. there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood. and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind. and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.'

## Blessed Assurance

426

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,  
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove  
 hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

*Refrain*

born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,  
 filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my

sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

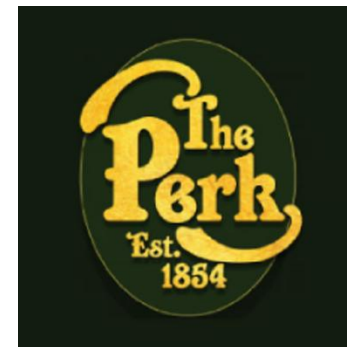
WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)  
 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908)

ASSURANCE  
 9.10.9.9.Ref.

# A Night at the Perk!

## March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5-9PM

Join us on March 23 for a night at the Perk!  
 Have some delicious dinner with a percentage  
 of proceeds from meals and drinks donated  
 back to St. Andrew's. We will also have some  
 raffle baskets and enjoy time of fellowship  
 with one another and our local community.





**APRIL 4TH**

# EASTER FAIR & EGG HUNT

PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE  
SCAVENGER HUNT | CRAFTS | FOOD | AND FUN

10 am - Noon | St. Andrew's UCC  
615 E. Walnut Street, Perkasie

Egg Hunts occurring every half hour.  
Bring a can good or non-perishable item for Pennridge FISH

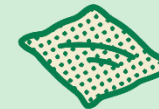


**RamPacks**

**FOOD FEST &**

**CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**

APRIL 19TH, 2026



**BAKE SALE**



**ITEMS NEEDED!**

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

PENNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL | 1228 N 5TH ST, PERKASIE

REACH OUT TO YOUR CHURCH  
CONTACT PERSON FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

