

ROOTED

An inclusive Community Rooted in God's Incredible Love

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, PERKASIE, PA

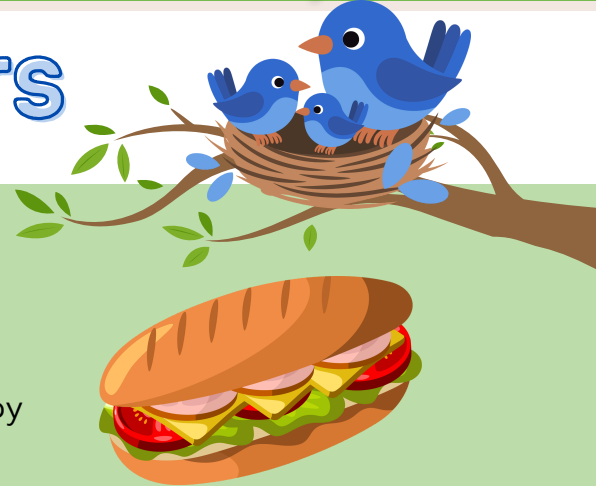


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May 2026

MAY UPCOMING EVENTS



HOAGIE SALE SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10-11:30AM

Italian or Turkey AVAILABLE
All Proceeds go to Mission Week

Order online at standrewsucc.org, via Order Form in Bulletin or by contacting Karen Peterson at 267-664-0231
Deadline to Order is May 10

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, MAY 17, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

A special congregational meeting will be held Sunday, May 17, 2026, following worship to discuss the affirmation process for becoming an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ. This is the next step after a three-year journey of discernment, prayer, learning, and conversation within our church. A draft of the ONA Covenant is available for review later in the newsletter. We encourage all members and friends to attend as we seek to live more fully into Christ's call to love and welcome all.



PENTECOST AND RITE OF CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY, MAY 24, DURING WORSHIP

On Sunday, May 24 at 10:15 a.m., we will celebrate Pentecost and the Rite of Confirmation for Julia Metzger. Julia has completed a year-long confirmation journey with Pastor Barb and her mentor, Judy Koenig. We look forward to this special service as we welcome Julia into full discipleship and celebrate her growth in faith over the past year. We hope you will join us for this meaningful occasion.





PASTORS MESSAGE

PENTECOST

“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

–Acts 1:8



The story of Pentecost is one of transformation, courage, and mission. The disciples, once fearful and uncertain, are suddenly transformed by the Holy Spirit. Flames of fire, a rushing wind, and the disciples telling the good news of Jesus to a vastly diverse crowd of people who each hear in their own language. The Spirit breaks through barriers so that all people can hear the good news in ways they understand. By their witness, three thousand, repented, were baptized and received the Holy Spirit that day.

As dramatic as this first experience of the Holy Spirit is it's not an experience that was exclusively for the first disciples. The same Spirit that empowers the disciples empowers us today. We are given the same calling to be witnesses. We are called to share the good news far and wide speaking in ways others can understand. Through the generosity of our love, grace, by listening and serving, and genuinely caring for all who people in need of good news.



This Pentecost we'll welcome our confirmand, Julia Metzger, through her affirmation of her baptismal vows into the full life of discipleship. The Holy Spirit that has been present with Julia since her baptism will now send her forth to use her gifts in the witnessing of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Also, during the season of Pentecost, we are invited to affirm our Open and Affirming Covenant as a witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. Through this affirmation, our neighbors who have been excluded from church or experienced church hurts will know that St. Andrew's is a safe place for them to worship and participate in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. We have always prided ourselves as a welcoming congregation and this is an opportunity to follow the Holy Spirit out into the streets and proclaim the good news is indeed, for everyone. The Open and Affirming affirmation is a witness to our wider community that we truly believe this truth and we are living into it.

The same Spirit who swept through the house, breathing new life, igniting hearts, and sending the disciples into the streets now stirs in us with that same breath, urgency, and fire. In a world marked by division and fear, the Holy Spirit transforms, unites, and send us out into the world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us go forth boldly as witnesses to set the world ablaze with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Barb





APRIL MEETING

CONSISTORY REPORT

The Consistory will be hosting a special congregational meeting on May 17th in conjunction with the Open and Affirming team to discuss our next steps in affirming our covenant and becoming an Open and Affirming church of the United Church of Christ. The meeting will be to discuss the affirmation process and review the covenant. The process of affirmation will occur in late May through June. The meeting will begin following worship on the 17th. Please see the ONA update for a draft of the Open and Affirming covenant.

Consistory recently reviewed our financials and continues to closely monitor expenses, income, and our 2026 budget. To keep the congregation informed, we will begin sharing trimester-based financial updates. You can expect communications during the first full weeks of May and September, as well as our usual year-end update. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with a member of Consistory or the Finance Team.

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to our new sanctuary screen project, Pixel Power. After careful consideration, Consistory has approved moving forward with installation, as costs are expected to continue rising in the coming months. These screens will enhance worship by allowing for multimedia presentations, expanded musical offerings, and on-screen scripture, hymns, and responses. While additional funding is still needed, proceeds from our Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner and upcoming rummage sale will help support this effort. We also extend special thanks to an anonymous donor who has generously contributed half of the project cost.

Consistory is currently reviewing fellowship hall rental procedures. We are updating forms, including an online option to streamline the process for members, non-members, and staff, which will be available later this summer.

Following multiple evaluations and thoughtful discussion, we have determined that the sanctuary piano will need to be replaced. We are exploring options for a quality "new-to-us" instrument with excellent sound and reliable mechanics. Additional updates will be shared as this process moves forward. If you are aware of a suitable piano, please contact a member of Consistory for consideration.

Our Music Search Team will begin its work in May as we seek a new church musician with skills in both organ and piano. We look forward to discovering new opportunities for music ministry at St. Andrew's.

In partnership with the Property Team, Consistory is exploring the installation of additional lighting on the far side of the gravel parking lot to improve safety for all who park there, including staff from The Perk. We will also assess nearby trees for potential removal if they are dead or diseased.

We are excited to announce that a new church guidebook will be published in June. This resource will provide information about our teams, missions, and ministries, and will be especially helpful for visitors and those who want to learn more about St. Andrew's. Watch for its release this summer.

Our current office copier lease is ending, and we will be transitioning to a new lease through Altek. This change will replace aging equipment while saving approximately \$50 per month.

Finally, we continue to explore ways to improve accessibility within our church building. While the installation of an elevator is not currently feasible due to financial constraints and limited grant opportunities, it remains an important goal. The next step would involve engaging an engineering and architectural firm to assess possibilities, which would require a significant investment. We remain committed to exploring options and prayerfully discerning how we can become a more accessible and welcoming space for all.

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.



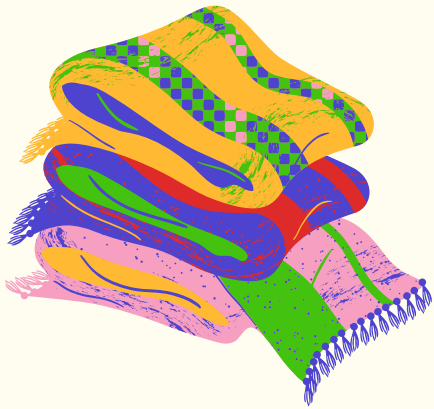
Strengthen the Church

The Holy Spirit gathers us together. From across the country and the spectrums of human experience, we become united in Christ. And, united, the Spirit commissions us to work for a more just world for all.

The Strengthen the Church Offering supports congregations and leaders across the United Church of Christ as they respond to the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a more just world for all. The challenges our congregations face vary:

- Some seek ways to strengthen youth ministry
- Some hope to start new congregations
- Some look for innovative ways to renew existing congregations
- Some need help developing leaders

The giving in your congregation can ensure congregations get the help they need from their conference and the national ministries of the UCC. Together we can answer the Spirit's call to be united in Christ for a just world for all.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our supply of prayer shawls is currently low. These shawls are shared with individuals in times of illness, grief, or celebration as a sign of care and prayer from our church community.

If you knit or crochet, we invite you to help by making a shawl. Instruction sheets are available if you need a pattern or guidance. If you're interested or would like directions, please contact the church office. Thank you for supporting this meaningful ministry.

OPEN MINISTRIES

Open dates for liturgist

June 28 and October 4

Open dates for ushers

August 30 (1 needed)

October 18 (1 needed)



WE WANT YOU!



MISSION WEEK 2026

Our Mission Week team is planning for the fun filled missions they will be participating in throughout our local community. We are very excited to be able to complete missions throughout the wider community right here in the Pennridge area after many years of participating in missions throughout the country. The team is looking at opportunities to serve with RamPacks, Pennridge Fish, St. Stephen's free clothing closet, Pearl S. Buck, Perkasio Pride, Pennridge Community Day and our rummage sale. If you are still interested in serving for mission week or have any questions regarding mission week please contact Karen Peterson and the MRT team.

If you have any question or concerns please contact Karen Peterson 267-664-0231 or kapcharlkp@gmail.com

NIGHT AT THE PERK RECAP

Thanks to all who helped make the "Night At The Perk" event a success either by helping with the raffles or attending the event. Approximately 35 members and friends enjoyed a night of fellowship and good food. The church received a total of \$828 from this event this year.



VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 13-17, 2026

Join us for a week of fun and learning at "Grow Peace" Vacation Bible School. We welcome all children from 3 years of age through those entering 5th grade in fall 2026. We meet 9am to Noon daily for the week. Grow Peace includes bible stories, learning about non-violent action and the peace of Jesus through song, creating, exploration, snacks, and experiments. Register by June 30th. Register at: vbspro.events/p/growpeace

If you are looking to help with vacation bible school or have questions please contact Amanda Duffy at standrewsuccvbs@gmail.com

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, PERKASIE

RUMMAGE SALE



June 27th • 8am-1pm
615 E. Walnut Street, Perkasio
COME FIND YOUR NEW TREASURES

GATHER WITH US AT THE

PERKASIE FARMERS MARKET

Saturday, June 13th, August 1st and September 12th
from 9am-Noon



Hoagie Sale

MAY 16TH
10 TO 11:30AM

ITALIAN OR TURKEY
AVAILABLE
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO
MISSION WEEK

Order online at
standrewsucc.org, via Order
Form in Bulletin or by
contacting Karen Peterson
at 267-664-0231
Deadline to Order is May 10

thank you

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers for
Administrative Professionals Day. Your thoughtfulness and
kindness are much appreciated.
-Karen Rush



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who generously supported the clothing drive
for St. Stephen's Clothing Closet as part of my confirmation
mission project. Your donations will make a meaningful difference
for individuals and families in need in our community. I am grateful
for your kindness, generosity, and support of me as a confirmand.

Thank you,
Julia Metzger



ONA TEAM UPDATE



ONA AFFIRMATION PROCESS

In the next several months we will be going through an Affirmation Process for the draft Open and Affirming Covenant. This process will begin May 24th. To get ready for this, you will see the draft Open and Affirming Covenant in your weekly Sunday bulletin over the next couple of months. We encourage each St. Andrew's member to review the draft covenant, pray about its meaning, and discern if you have any unanswered questions. Please take this time frame to ask questions of any Open and Affirming Team member if you have them. If you continue to struggle with scriptures related to Jesus' commandment to love ALL our neighbors, please contact Pastor Barb for guidance during this time.

DRAFT 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

ONA Team Meeting Dates:

May 5th and May 21st at 6:30 p.m. - All are welcome to join!

The Open and Affirming Team members include Tara Howell, Robin Ide, Deb Kantner, Doris Lindmeier, Lee Metzger, Pastor Barb Pence, Karen Peterson, Erin Rush, Evie Starkey, Brynne Stork and Angela Stofflett.

Save
THE
Date



June 13	Perkasie Farmers Market 9am to Noon
June 13	Perkasie Pride LGBBQ Block Party
June 22-27	Mission Week 2026
June 27	Rummage & Book Sale 8am-1pm
June 27	PRIDE at Perkasie Farmers Market 9am-Noon
June 27	St. Andrew's at Pennridge Community Day
July 13-17	Growing Peace Vacation Bible School
August 1	Perkasie Farmers Market 9am to Noon
Sept. 12	Perkasie Farmers Market 9am to Noon
Oct. 18	Crazy Sock Sunday
Nov. 7	Annual Bingo Night
Nov. 20	Sharing God's Love Cooking Class 6pm
March 6	Lasgnana Dinner and Charlie Zahm Concert

SERVING SCHEDULES

USHERS

May

Head Ushers:

Evie Starkey & Lance Ide

3- Jen Flexer & Ethel Dietrich

10- Doris Lindmeier & Herb Volk

17- Deb Kantner & Karen Rush

24- Robin & Lance Ide

31- Lee Metzger & Ruth Yothers

7- Lance & Robin Ide



LITURGIST

May

3- Ron Grace

10- Tara Howell

17- Brian Rush

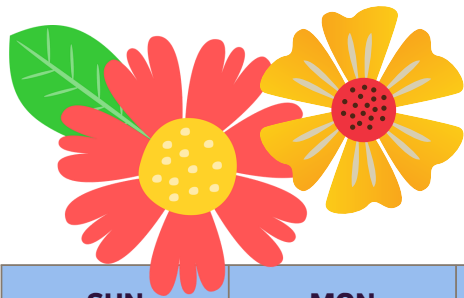
24- Kathy Fretz

31- Karen Peterson

7- Shirley Metzger











May Communion Servers
Erin Rush and Amanda Duffy

May Altar Guild
Robin Ide



MAY



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Pastor's Day off	2
8:45 Adult Circle 9:00 Faith Formation 10:15 Worship 3	4	5 10:15am Bible Study  6:30pm ONA Meeting	6 8:30am Coffee & Conversations	7 Pastor's Writing Day 6:30pm Bell Choir 6-8:30pm Veteran's Circle	8 Pastor's Day off	9 Consistory Long Range Planning Meeting 9am-3pm  1:30-5pm CPR Group
8:45 Adult Circle 9:00 Faith Formation 10:15 Worship with Bell Choir Last Day for Hoagie Orders  Happy Mother's Day	11 6:30 pm Mission Resource Meeting 	12 10:15am Bible Study 6:30pm Girl Scouts	13 8:30am Coffee & Conversations	14 Pastor's Writing Day 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Elders Meeting	15 Pastor's Day off	16 Hoagie Sale Making and Pick up 10-11:30am 
8:45 Adult Circle 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship Congregational Meeting to Follow Worship 17	18	19 10:15am Bible Study	20 8:30am Coffee & Conversations	21 Pastor's Writing Day 6:30pm ONA meeting  6-9pm CPR Group	22 Pastor's Day off June Newsletter Deadline 	23
8:45 Adult Circle 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship with the Rite of Confirmation and Communion  24	25  HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed	26 10:15am Bible Study 6:30pm Girl Scouts	27 8:30am Coffee & Conversations 	28 Pastor's Writing Day 7pm Consistory Meeting	29	30 10:30am-4:30pm CPR Group