

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

Perkasie, Pennsylvania

Rev. Barbara Pence

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Website: www.standrewsucc.org

9:00 am Faith Formation

10:15 am Worship Service

March 8, 2026

Liturgist: Karen Gossard

Third Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

GREETING

If able, please rise in body or spirit

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you need good news,

settle into this space. We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,

then trust us when we say, together, the impossible is possible

there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,

then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Hymn #655

Come Away from Rush and Hurry

Please be seated.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, we are like the disciples. The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away. We often do the same. Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part. So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, with you the impossible is possible. 5,000 can be fed. The blind can see. The hopeless can find hope. With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that. We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done. We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd. We forget that you are always with us. Forgive our small-minded ways. Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come. But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray.

Prayer Response #490

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news: **today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God. We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone. What good, good news. Amen!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, we could press our ear to the page, hoping to hear you more clearly. We could silence all the alarms and notifications, hoping to catch a murmur of your voice. We could still our beating hearts, and still we might miss your voice. So today we pray, open up space in our hearts, in our spirits, in our minds, for your presence among us. With you, anything is possible. We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:20-21

Mark 6:32-44

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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

It sounds like welcome and feels like home.

It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.

It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.

And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn #665 Break Now the Bread of Life
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

Let us bring forth our offerings and our very lives for God is able to take what we offer and accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine.

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 rejoice with thanksgiving for all we have received. Multiply these gifts that we give so that the world may be fed by Jesus and know the fullness of life in you. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(If you are participating online, you're invited to have the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine or something similar to join us around Christ's Table.)

Invitation

Communion Payer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the God of abundance.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for you...

And so with all your people, in every time and every place, we join the ending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Sharing of the Elements

(If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring communion to you.)

Please rise in body or in spirit.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, you have fed us once again. May we leave this table as your disciples left that hillside, nourished in body and in spirit. Give us eyes to see the hungry crowds around us, and the courage to offer what we have, trusting that in your hands it will always be enough. In the name of Jesus, who is the bread of life. Amen.

Hymn #698 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

BENEDICTION

Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church, and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Postlude

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Head Ushers for March are Angela Stofflet and Herb Volk

Communion Servers today are Karen Peterson and Lance Ide

Today's Ushers are Herb Volk and Ethel Dietrich

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

Pastor Barb's contact information: Email – 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 th St. Perkasio

GATHERING

Come Away from Rush and Hurry 655

Unison

1 Come a - way from rush and hur - ry to the still - ness of God's peace;
 2 In the pas - tures of God's good - ness we lie down to rest our soul.
 3 Come, then, chil - dren, with your bur - dens— life's con - fu - sions, fears and pain.

from our vain am - bi - tion's wor - ry, come to Christ to find re - lease.
 From the wa - ters of God's mer - cy we drink deep - ly, are made whole.
 Leave them at the cross of Je - sus; take in - stead his king - dom's reign.

Come a - way from noise and clam - or, life's de - mands and fren - zied pace;
 At the ta - ble of God's pres - ence all the saints are rich - ly fed.
 Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them— he a - lone will sat - is - fy.

come to join the peo - ple gath - ered here to seek and find God's face.
 With the oil of God's a - noint - ing in - to ser - vice we are led.
 All our long - ings find at - tain - ment when to self we glad - ly die.

WORDS: Marva J. Dawn (1948-)
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

BEACH SPRING
 8.7.8.7.D.

PRAYER & DEVOTION

490 Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; in -

cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A - men.

WORDS: Para. Psalm 143:1
 MUSIC: George Whelpton (1847-1930)

Break Now the Bread of Life 665

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
 2 Bless your own Word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
 3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me; your ho - ly
 4 O send your Spir - it now, dear Lord, to me, that he may

broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
 blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond - age cease,
 Word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live
 touch my eyes and make me see. Show me the truth made plain

I seek you, Lord; my spir - it longs for you, O liv - ing Word.
 all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All in all!
 with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.
 with - in your Word, for in your book re - vealed I see the Lord.

WORDS: Mary A. Lathbury (1841-1913); vs. 3-4, Alexander Groves (1842-1909), alt.
 MUSIC: William F. Sherwin (1826-1888), alt.

BREAD OF LIFE
 6.4.6.4.D.

698 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

Refrain
 Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

WORDS: Fred Kaan (1929-)
 MUSIC: Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter (1925-1980)
 Words and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

LINSTEAD
 L.M.Ref.

HOLY COMMUNION

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

The musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, containing a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment, with the middle staff in treble clef and the bottom staff in bass clef. The piano part features chords and moving lines in both hands. The lyrics are written below the vocal staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.