

ROOTED

An inclusive Community Rooted in God's Incredible Love

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, PERKASIE, PA



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February 2026



FEBRUARY UPCOMING EVENTS



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 1, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Our Re-scheduled Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 1st, following worship. We will look at the 2026 budget and vote on its approval for the upcoming year, elect upcoming consistory members, and review this past years team reports. Please plan on attending this important meeting for our community. If you have questions please contact Lee Metzger, Consistory President or any consistory member .



CHURCH HURTS CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 10 AT 7PM

Pastor Zack Jackson from Open Table UCC has graciously accepted an invitation to join us in our discussion focused on Church Hurts. He will be presenting and answering questions related to experiences of how people are hurt by the church on February 10th at 7pm. Pastor Zack along with his wife Pastor Nichole founded the church Open Table UCC as a new church plant in Pottstown in order to serve that community. We look forward to sharing in this conversation.



LENTEN JOURNEY WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS

Throughout the Lenten season we will be sharing worship, fellowship, reflection, prayer, and the word with our UCC sister congregations. We look forward to the opportunity to deepen our knowledge and understandings with our "Tree of Life" theme. Throughout lent Wednesday's will include joint lenten experiences at both mid-day and evening times as well as Sunday worship services filled with the spirit. Find out more about times and locations in the newsletter.





PASTORS MESSAGE



LAMENT AND LENT

"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love... Create in me a clean heart, O God." (Psalm 51)

Psalm 51 is not a polite prayer. It's a cry from the depths, a lament that refuses to deny reality and dares to tell the truth. The psalmist names sin and brokenness plainly, trusting that God's mercy is strong enough to meet reality as it is. Lament, in this biblical sense, is not weakness or despair. It is an act of faith. In our own time, there is much to lament. Communities are reeling from the suffering caused by ICE raids, families are being torn apart, neighbors are living in fear, and the indiscriminate violence makes us all unsafe. At the same time, many of us sense a troubling deterioration of democratic norms, lies are proclaimed as truth, power is being abused, voices are being silenced. People are suffering from higher prices from the cost of electric, to food prices, to insurances forcing many to make difficult decisions on what they can afford and what they now must go without. The amount of people using Penridge FISH is going up, stretching FISH's resources to serve and a growing number of the unhoused in our community are the elderly who's limited income can no longer keep them housed and paying the bills. These realities wound not only those most directly harmed, but the moral fabric of society we all share.

Psalm 51 teaches us that lament begins by naming injustice. "Against you, you alone, have I sinned," the psalmist prays, taking the responsibility of placing human wrongdoing squarely before God. Lament refuses to spiritualize suffering or rush past it. It tells the truth about harm done, systems broken, and lives diminished. In doing so, lament stands in solidarity with those who suffer and insists their pain matters.

Lament also calls God to be accountable to God's own promises. When we pray for mercy, for cleansing, for a new heart, we are not begging a reluctant deity. We are appealing to the steadfast love God has already pledged. Lament holds God's promises up to God's own light. "God, you have promised justice, compassion, freedom, and life; do not abandon the work of your hands." This kind of prayer is bold, even confrontational, because it trusts that God is faithful.

Psalm 51 does not end in despair. It moves toward hope. "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." Forgiveness leads to transformation and renewal leads to vocation. The psalmist promises that a restored life will teach others God's ways and sing of God's deliverance.

True lament always bends toward action. When our hearts are made new, our lives cannot remain the same. Lament propels us toward healing work: standing with neighbors who are immigrants and refugees, advocating for just policies, telling the truth when it's costly, practicing compassion in our neighborhoods, and strengthening human rights for all people because we are all made in the image of God and are beloved by God.

This month we enter into the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday opens the season and invites into this very posture of lament. Marked with ashes, we tell the truth about our frailty, our sin, and the brokenness of the world we live in. Like Psalm 51, Lent leads us through honest repentance toward renewed hearts, so that our prayer, fasting, and action might become a part of God's healing and justice and bringing forth resurrection and new life.

Pastor Barb



JANUARY MEETING CONSISTORY REPORT

Consistory reviewed all the activities we have had over the last month, including the pork and sauerkraut dinner, concert by Joe LaPosa, and upcoming events. Stay tuned for all the exciting events headed St. Andrew's way.



Consistory continues to discuss and work on long range planning for St. Andrew's. We continue to take a deeper look at our mission, welcoming strategy, communications, and ways we can further engage our wider community. We spent time planning and discussing the Lenten season and the excitement of joint ventures with our sister churches in the Penridge area.

Consistory is also pleased to announce that we will have nearly a full slate of candidates to fill out the Deacon and Elder positions for 2026. We have one Deacon spot available. If you are interested please discuss with any consistory member. We also spent time celebrating and bidding farewell to our Organist and Choir Director, Robert Creager who resigned as of the end of January. We wish him the best in all of his future endeavors .



Tentative Consistory Members 2026 (following the Congregational Meeting on 2/1):

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

Deacons- Erin Rush, Lance Ide, Herb Volk, Amanda Duffy, Angela Stofflet, Evie Starkey and Cindy Grace.

WE ARE..THE KEYSTONE CONFERENCE, UCC!



The Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ was formed by the merger of four Pennsylvania Conferences – Penn Central, Penn Northeast, Pennsylvania Southeast and Penn West. These Conferences had started in 1962, soon after the birth of the United Church of Christ in 1957. The Keystone Conference UCC was formed on January 1, 2026 and is now one of 38 regional bodies of the United Church of Christ.

Pastor Barb participated in a “service of release” on Sunday, January 4, in which our former Conference Minister, the Rev. Bill Worley, after 11 years of faithful service to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the UCC, stepped down and was released from his role as our conference minister.



Our new Transitional Executive Conference Minister is the The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call (pictured left) who previously served as the conference minister of the Penn Central Conference UCC. She served there from 2019-2025. Before that she served at Lancaster Theological Seminary as Executive Director of Development and Communication.

Learn more about the Keystone Conference at keystoneucc.org

Quick Stats on the Keystone Conference:
Congregations in PA 512
Regional Associations 20
St. Andrew’s UCC is in the North Penn Association

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. 6th St. Perkasio





A Future with Hope

2026 CLIMATE HOPE ART CONTEST



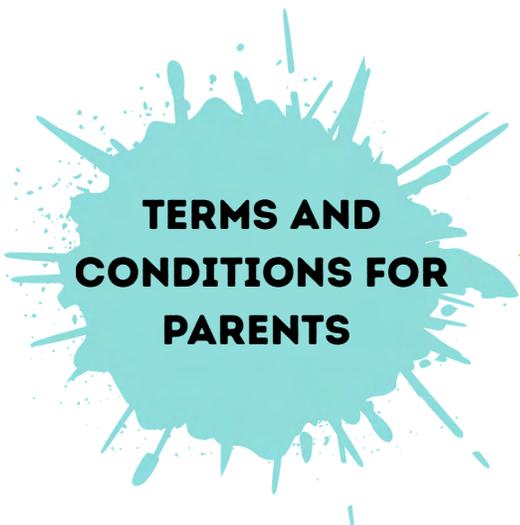
The 2026 Climate Hope Art Contest for children and youth! The theme this year is "A Future with Hope." Children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color works of art that bring this theme to life. The theme originated from Jeremiah 11:29 We will have winners for different age groups and an overall winner who will receive an all-expense paid trip to visit Washington, DC with a parent! Submission will be accepted from February 6th to March 20th. The winner will advocate with the offices of their congress members, tour the Capitol, and learn how they can bring their faith values to life in the halls of power. The winning art will additionally serve as the 2026 artwork for the advocacy postcards of Climate Hope Affiliates, a joint program of the United Church of Christ and Creation Justice Ministries that involves ecumenical chapters throughout the country. If you have questions contact Judy Koenig at rockysmama1@verizon.net or at (215)-378-8216.

Steps to participate:

1. Download the template by clicking on the orange paint blob.
2. Parents review the terms and conditions of the contest and give your permission by clicking on the blue paint blob below.
3. Talk about the theme: A Future with Hope based on Jeremiah 11:29
4. Let your children create!
5. Submit by clicking on the green paint blob (our church is already registered to participate)



**DOWNLOAD THE
TEMPLATE HERE!**



**TERMS AND
CONDITIONS FOR
PARENTS**



**SUBMIT YOUR
DRAWING HERE!**



MISSION WEEK 2026

St. Andrew's has a long history of mission trips to a wide variety of places. We have learned a lot and always enjoyed the company and of course the food. You may have always wanted to participate but did not have the time off or the budget to make it happen. You may have worried that you would not be able to do the work required of the mission trip team. Well, this is your year. We are planning a mission week to serve our own community or nearby mission needs. June 22nd, to June 27, 2026, is being designated as Mission Week. We will be planning mission activities for each day of that week with a possible overnight. We will be leaving from the church or meeting at a specific site each day to complete a project. It may include such things as serving at FISH, St. Stephens clothing cupboard, painting, building or a trip to Old First UCC in Philadelphia to serve at the Urban Cupboard. We will not know all the activities until we know who is interested and how many people are available each day. You can sign up for the week or a day or even part of a day. To make our plans we need people to sign up by February 15th so that we can begin making our plans for the week. We will then form a team to begin our preparations.

Please contact Karen Peterson 267-664-0231 or kapcharlkp@gmail.com if you have questions. There will also be a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

2026 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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THANK you

Dear St. Andrew's Congregation,

Thank you for your generous monetary gift. My family and I were touched to be remembered so graciously at Christmas. My cup overflows from your love and grace every day and this added kindness is special blessing. Thank you.

The peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Barb

CELEBRATE THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF ROBERT CREAGER

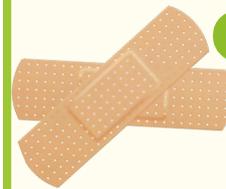
POTLUCK DINNER

**FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AT 5PM
ST. ANDREW'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**

SIGN UP ON THE SIGN UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

MOVIE SHOWING

On February 21st at 2pm St. Andrews will be showing the documentary known as "1946" in fellowship hall. 1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture, is a 2022 film by Sharon Roggio that investigates how a specific Bible translation in 1946 wrongly introduced the term "homosexual," fostering anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment in Christianity and shifting cultural understanding, featuring researchers and LGBTQ+ Christians seeking healing and truth.



CHURCH HURTS DISCUSSION

FEBRUARY 10TH AT 7PM

Pastor Zack Jackson from Open Table UCC has graciously accepted an invitation to join us in our discussion. He will be presenting and answering questions related to experiences of how people are hurt by the church on February 10th at 7pm.

Pastor Zack along with his wife Pastor Nichole founded the church Open Table UCC as a new church plant in Pottstown in order to serve that community.

Zach Jackson describes himself as "a believer in the power of the scientific method and am constantly in awe of the reality that we find ourselves in. I am also a follower of Jesus and a big fan of the Bible that documents humanity's beautifully flawed history with God. That might seem like an impossible contradiction to some folks, but if electrons can be both particles and waves, then I can be a scientific mystic. I love exploring the mystical and physical unknowns of existence, and the liberative, connective love that is manifest in that exploration.

AN EVENING WITH Charlie Zahm

joined by the excellent, award-winning guitarist Steve Hobson



\$15 PER PERSON

7TH MARCH | 7 PM

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, 615 E. WALNUT STREET PERKASIE, PA

MUSIC | REFRESHMENTS | RAFFLE | 50/50



SCAN ME

We encourage reservations by calling Karen at 267-664-0231 or email kapcharlkp@gmail.com Checks can be made out to St. Andrew's and mailed to the church or purchase tickets online at standrewsucc.org.

Proceeds to St. Andrew's Mission Resources

Lasagna Dinner

Saturday March 7, 2025

4:30-6 pm or till SOLD OUT

St. Andrew's UCC

Cost - Donation

Eat-In or Take-Out



Proceeds to benefit Church Mission Projects & General Fund

ONA TEAM UPDATE



The ONA team met in January and continued the discussion of the survey and next steps. Based on the results of the survey and the information that the congregation would like to hear more about we have several events planned. Unfortunately, the meeting with the Zwingli ONA team had to be canceled due to the snowstorm. Although Pastor Alan may not be able to join us, we are hoping to reschedule their team for a question-and-answer session on what it means to be an ONA church and how it has impacted them.

Our draft covenant includes not just people who identify as LGBTQ+ but also includes all people who have been harmed by the church. As a church that considers itself welcoming, we wanted to hear from those who may not always have had this experience.

We at St. Andrew's United Church of Christ have joyfully welcomed all of God's children to worship and fellowship with us, as we follow Jesus's commandment to "love our neighbors as ourselves." As we continue our work to officially become an Open and Affirming church, we invite everyone to participate in this conversation! Upcoming events include:

February 10th Reverend Zack Jackson, of Open Table UCC, will speak with us about "Church Hurts" at **7 p.m.** This is our opportunity to discuss ways we can love and accept one another, so that none feels marginalized.

February 21st Showing of the movie **1946**, at **2 p.m.** This is a thoughtful look at how Scriptures have been translated in the past, and how many have come to understand the meaning of certain Bible passages.

Looking ahead, we invite everyone to attend our ONA meetings to get a fuller idea of our goals and mission. Upcoming meetings will be on March 3rd, March 31st, and April 14th, all at 6:30 p.m.

ONA Team Meeting Dates:

March 3rd, March 31st, and April 14th, all at 6:30 p.m. - All are welcome to join!

If you have any questions about our work or have any ideas about what type of educational opportunities you would be interested in attending, please reach out to any member of our core team. Our members include Jessica Reese, Lee Metzger, Lance and Robin Ide, Karen Peterson, Tara Howell, Robert Creager, Debbie Kantner, Erin Rush, Doris Lindmeier, Angela Stofflet, and Evie Starkey.



GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE

Save
THE
Date



- March 4 Midweek Lenten Gathering @ St. Paul's UCC
- March 7 Lasagna Dinner
Charlie Zahm Concert
- March 11 Midweek Lenten Gathering @ St. Andrew's
- March 18 Midweek Lenten Gathering @ St. Paul's UCC
- March 23 Dine and Donate at the Perk 5-9pm
- March 25 Midweek Lenten Gathering St. Stephen's UCC
- March 29 Palm Sunday
- April 5 Easter Sunday
- June 22-26 Mission Week (more to come)
- July 13-17 Growing Peace Vacation Bible school

SERVING SCHEDULES

USHERS

February

Head Ushers:

Herb Volk & Ron Grace

1- Linda Brickajlik & Ron Grace

8- Karen & Brian Rush

15- Amy & Jim Smith

22- Erin Rush & Doris Lindmeier

March 1- Deb Kantner &

Karen Peterson



LITURGIST

February

1- Brian Rush

8- Lance Ide

15- Tara Howell

22- Lolly Smith

March 1- Kathy Fretz

February Communion Servers
Doris Lindmeier and Herb Volk

February Altar Guild
Karen Rush and Amy Smith



February 2026



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>8:45 Adult Circle 9:00 Faith Formation 10:15 Worship</p> <p>Congregational Meeting Following worship</p>	<p>HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY</p>	<p>10:15am Bible Study</p> <p>4:30-8:30 Veteran's Circle</p> <p>6:30pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30pm Book Club</p>	<p>8:30am Coffee & Conversations</p>	<p>Pastor's Writing Day</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>Pastor's Day off</p>	
<p>8:45 Adult Circle 9:00 Faith Formation 10:15 Worship with Bell Choir Performance</p>	<p>7 pm Mission Resource Meeting</p>	<p>10:15am Bible Study 5pm Potluck Celebration for Robert Creager</p> <p>6:30pm Girl Scouts</p> <p>7pm Church Hurts with Rev. Jackson</p>	<p>8:30am Coffee & Conversations</p>	<p>Pastor's Writing Day</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Choir</p> <p>7pm Elders Meeting</p>	<p>Pastor's Day off</p>	<p>CPR Training 10:30-4:30</p> <p>HAPPY Valentine's DAY</p>
<p>8:45 Adult Circle 9:00 Faith Formation 10:15 Worship</p>	<p>7pm Altar Guild</p>	<p>10:15am Bible Study</p>	<p>8:30am Coffee & Conversations</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday at St. Stephen's UCC 11:30am & 5:30pm</p>	<p>Pastor's Writing Day</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Choir</p> <p>CPR Training 3-9pm</p>	<p>Pastor's Day off</p> <p>March Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>2pm Showing of 1946 movie and discussion</p>
<p>8:45 Adult Circle 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship with Communion</p> <p>2:30-4:30 Andrew's Piano Lessons</p>		<p>10:15am Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Girl Scouts</p>	<p>8:30am Coffee & Conversations</p> <p>Midweek Lent at St. Andrew's UCC 11:30am & 5:30pm</p>	<p>Pastor's Writing Day</p> <p>6:30pm Bell Choir</p> <p>7pm Consistory Meeting</p>	<p>Pastor's Day off</p>	<p>CPR Training 11am-5pm</p>

