

# ROOTED

An inclusive Community Rooted in God's Incredible Love

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, PERKASIE, PA

An Open and Affirming Congregation



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August 2026



## AUGUST UPCOMING EVENTS



### PIE SALES AT PERKASIE FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> FROM 9AM-NOON



### GOD'S PRECIOUS CHILDREN MISSION SUNDAY, AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 10:15AM

On Sunday, August 23, we will welcome representatives from God's Precious Children to St. Andrew's during our worship service. God's

Precious Children is a Christ-centered ministry dedicated to sharing God's love by providing children in Liberia with access to education and the hope of a brighter future through child sponsorship and compassionate support. If you have sponsored a child in the past, or if you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please stop by the table in the narthex after worship to speak with Herb Volk, or contact the church office for more information. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can help make a lasting difference in the life of one of God's precious children. Learn more about the ministry by visiting [God's Precious Children](http://God'sPreciousChildren.org).



### WORSHIP @ PERKASIE PARK SUNDAY, AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:30AM

Join us for worship on August 30th at Perkasie Park starting at 10:30am. We will be worshipping as a community of faith at the park and will not have worship within our building on August 30th. A dessert social will follow the service. If you are able and willing consider bringing a delicious treat to share with the community.





# PASTORS MESSAGE

## LIVING TOGETHER

*"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are ruined, but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved." Matthew 9:16-17*

There's a saying worth remembering when a congregation feels the friction of change, no one sews a patch of new cloth on an old garment, and no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Jesus recognized that the challenging thing about growth is that sometimes new life needs new forms to hold it or everything tears.

We feel this tension in ordinary ways. The hymn someone learned to pray with sits next to someone whose heart is spoken to by a new song. A tradition that grounded one generation in ministry meets a new idea that grounds a new generation in a new ministry. The friction that this can cause has the potential to tear us apart making everyone feel like they've lost and no longer have a place in the life of the church.

In the passage, Jesus isn't condemning old wineskins or dismissing new wine. Both matter. Both are worth preserving. The point isn't that new is better than old, but that each needs room to be fully what it is because we need both. This is a picture of the church at its best. God loves every child, the ones who've prayed the same way for sixty years and the ones just discovering how to pray at all. Our call isn't to make everyone pour into the same wineskin. It's to build a household with room enough for both, honoring what has carried us this far and making space for what's still being poured out.

So as our church meets new ideas, new voices, and new ways of worshiping alongside the old and beloved ones, may we take the time to listen to each other and ask how do we make room? When we make space for both cherished traditions and faithful new possibilities, we witness to the truth that together we become a fuller expression of the Body of Christ.

As we journey together, may we remember that faithfulness is not choosing between old and new. It's allowing God's Spirit to weave us together into a community that roots itself in God's love, reflects Christ's welcome, seeks justice, extends compassion, and shares the hope of the gospel with the world. In this shared life, may we cultivate a church where every person knows they are seen, valued, loved, and embraced as a child of God.

*Pastor Barb*







# JULY MEETING CONSISTORY REPORT

While summer is often a quieter season at St. Andrew's, your Consistory has been faithfully at work, prayerfully planning for the future of our congregation and tending to the ongoing work of Christ's church. As is typical during the summer months, we continue to experience seasonal declines in giving as many members travel and enjoy time away. Even during these quieter weeks, however, the ministry of St. Andrew's continues every day. Our church remains a living, breathing community where worship is offered, ministries continue, our building is cared for, and lives are touched through God's love.

As you return from your summer adventures, we invite you to prayerfully consider making up any missed offerings through your faithful giving. Your generosity allows us to continue the ministries God has called us to, not only today but for generations to come.

In our commitment to transparency and faithful stewardship, Consistory will continue providing giving statements twice each year. Many of you received your most recent statement earlier this month, and another will be distributed at the end of the year. In addition, we will begin sharing financial updates three times each year so that our congregation remains informed about both the opportunities and challenges before us. Watch for our next financial update in early September.

Over the past several months, Consistory has also been developing a long-range vision for St. Andrew's. Our hope is to complete this work by the fall and begin implementing a strategic plan that will guide our ministry for years to come. Together we are discerning how God is calling us to strengthen faithful stewardship, modernize our worship and facilities, expand inclusion and accessibility, deepen our spiritual vitality, improve communication, and strengthen our engagement with the wider community. We are excited to share more of this vision with you in the months ahead.

As we continue to grow, our Elders have been thoughtfully listening to members across our congregation. We recognize that St. Andrew's is blessed with a rich history while also being called to embrace new opportunities for ministry. Our goal is not to choose between tradition and growth, but to faithfully weave them together. The stories of our past, our present, and the dreams we hold for the future all reflect God's faithfulness and the love that has shaped this congregation for generations.

Earlier this month, members of Consistory met with the Perkasie Police Department to discuss the safety and security of our church campus. Following their assessment, we will begin implementing several recommended safety improvements over the coming months. We also plan to offer educational opportunities this fall to help prepare our congregation for emergency situations. We are grateful for this partnership as we continue to care for all who enter our doors.

In the coming weeks, you will begin to notice several visible expressions of our commitment to the Open and Affirming Covenant that our congregation affirmed in June. A new garden flag in our Peace Garden, welcoming window decals, and heart symbols representing the many communities named in our covenant will serve as reminders that St. Andrew's seeks to reflect Christ's love by welcoming all of God's children.

Living into our covenant is about far more than signs and symbols. We will soon be forming a new Inclusion Team that will help our congregation continue growing through education, advocacy, relationship-building, and faithful ministry with those who have too often experienced exclusion. If you feel called to serve on this new team, we invite you to speak with any member of Consistory.

Consistory has also begun working with our Property Team to obtain estimates for sealing and repainting our parking lot, as well as making improvements to portions of our electrical system to provide safety upgrades. These projects are part of our ongoing commitment to faithfully steward the gifts God has entrusted to us while creating spaces that are warm, welcoming, and accessible.

This month, we are delighted to welcome Alyssa Martin, a local voice teacher from the Pennridge community, to the St. Andrew's family. Alyssa will be using our choir room three days each week to teach voice lessons. We are grateful to share our space with her and her students and encourage you to extend a warm St. Andrew's welcome if you see them around the church.

Finally, Consistory has approved the dates for Mission Week 2027, which will take place June 14-18, 2027, here at St. Andrew's. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for another meaningful week of serving our neighbors and sharing Christ's love throughout our community.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers, faithful generosity, and willingness to walk alongside one another in ministry. Together, we continue to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ—rooted in God's inclusive love, strengthened by faith, and called to serve our neighbors with joy.

## **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.



# AUGUST IS MAKE A WILL MONTH!

It's National Make-A-Will Month and as a thank you for being a member of United Church of Christ, FreeWill is delighted to help you create your legal will. It's 100% free to you. In just 20 minutes you can make plans to care for people you love, share your faith and values with future generations and leave a legacy gift to foster a stronger more sustainable church. For more information go to [freewill.com/ucc](https://freewill.com/ucc).

## A LASTING LEGACY OF FAITH

**"THE RIGHTEOUS LEAVE A LASTING INHERITANCE..." – PROVERBS 13:22**

As people of faith, we often think about the legacy we are leaving for those we love. We pass along family traditions, treasured memories, and the values that have shaped our lives. One of the most meaningful ways we can also share our faith is by making plans that continue God's work long after we are gone.

Including St. Andrew's in your will or estate plan is a beautiful expression of gratitude for the ways God has worked through this congregation in your life. It is an opportunity to ensure that future generations will have a place to worship, grow in faith, serve their neighbors, and experience God's inclusive love.

Legacy giving is not reserved for those with great wealth. A gift of any size can make a lasting difference. Whether it is a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, or another planned gift, your generosity becomes part of the continuing story of St. Andrew's ministry.

For generations, faithful members before us invested in this church so that we could gather here today. Their vision, generosity, and commitment provided the foundation upon which we now stand. We have the same opportunity to plant seeds of faith for those who will worship here years from now.

As you review or create your will, we invite you to prayerfully consider including St. Andrew's Church as part of your legacy. It is one final act of stewardship—an enduring gift that proclaims your faith and helps ensure that God's love continues to be shared in our community.

If you have already included St. Andrew's in your estate plans, thank you. Your generosity is a blessing to future generations, and we would love the opportunity to thank you personally and ensure your wishes are understood.

If you would like to learn more about legacy giving or how to include St. Andrew's in your estate plans, please speak with the pastor or a member of the Consistory. As always, we encourage you to consult with your attorney or financial advisor when preparing your will or estate plan.

Together, we continue to build a church that is rooted in God's inclusive love—not only for today, but for generations yet to come.





# GROWING PEACE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

What a joy-filled week we had learning how God's love helps us grow in peace, kindness, and faith. Throughout the week, we explored the parables of the Sower, the Weeds, the Mustard Seed, the Lost Sheep, and the Net while discovering how we can live out Christ's inclusive love through listening, respect, courage, forgiveness, and communication.

Our days were filled with laughter, learning, and love as we played games, enjoyed delicious snacks, created meaningful crafts, and served others by making sunshine bags for members of our local nursing homes. Each activity helped us discover new ways to share God's peace and welcome with everyone around us.

Our church halls were overflowing with smiles, joy, and the beautiful sound of children growing together in Christ. We are so grateful for the children from our church family and our wider community who joined us and helped make this week so special.

We may still be catching our breath after such a wonderful week, but we're already looking forward to seeing how God continues to grow our faith community together.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, families, and participants who helped make Growing Peace VBS a week to remember!



# PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY DAY 2026



On June 27, St. Andrews UCC attended our first Pennridge Community Day celebrating America's 250th anniversary! It was a joy being with the community and sharing God's love through friendship bracelets and the crowd favorite—baby Jesus! People were so happy to take home their own that we ran out after giving 200+ away. Luckily, there were enough bracelets to go around! Kids and families created and shared words of positivity including Love, Best Friends, and God Loves You through colorful strings. Even when beads scattered, the excitement couldn't be stopped. Instead of complaining, one boy simply shortened his bracelet from God is Amazing to God is Cool—we agree, and couldn't have had a better time representing St. Andrews UCC and spreading God's message in this fun way.

Huge thanks to all our volunteers, we look forward to more Community Days to come!

## GATHER WITH US AT THE PERKASIE FARMERS MARKET

August 1st and September 12<sup>th</sup> 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 September 10<sup>th</sup>

Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>

Start time is 9am



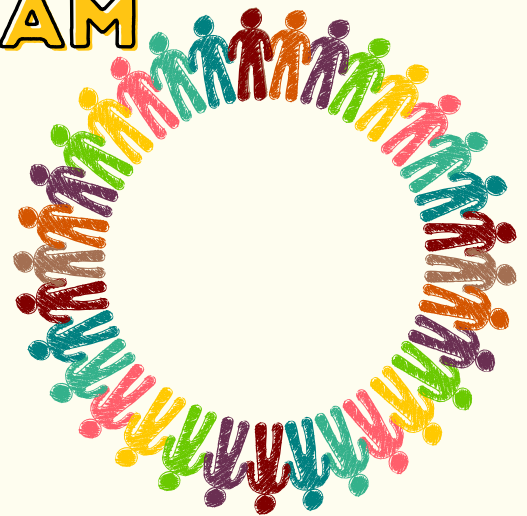
# CHECK OUT ST. ANDREW'S STORE!

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

[bonfire.com/store/st-andrews-united-church-of-christ/](https://bonfire.com/store/st-andrews-united-church-of-christ/)

## INCLUSION TEAM

As we continue living into our Open and Affirming Covenant, we invite you to prayerfully consider becoming part of the St. Andrew's Inclusion Team. This new ministry will help our congregation continue growing in Christ's love by fostering education, encouraging advocacy, and creating opportunities for greater inclusion and belonging for all of God's children. Together, we will seek ways to ensure that everyone who walks through our doors knows they are welcomed, valued, and loved. If you feel called to be part of this important ministry, please speak with any member of Consistory. We would be grateful to have you join us as we continue building a community rooted in God's inclusive love.



## WHAT DOES EACH HEART REPRESENT?



As a set, these six hearts communicate a broad commitment to welcoming and celebrating:

 LGBTQ+ people

 People with disabilities

 Neurodivergent individuals

 People of every race and ethnicity

 People of all gender identities and for gender equality

 People from every nation, culture, and background including our immigrant and refugee siblings in christ.



|             |                                         |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 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                      |
| Jan. 24     | Annual Congregational Meeting           |
| Feb. 27     | Lasagna Dinner and Charlie Zahm Concert |
| June 14-18  | Mission Week 2027                       |
| July 12-16  | VBS 2027                                |

# SERVING SCHEDULES

## USHERS

### August

#### *Head Ushers:*

Amanda Duffy & Tara Howell

2- Amy & Jim Smith

9- Erin Rush & Deb Kantner

16- Karen Peterson & Jen Flexer

23- Herb Volk & Ethel Dietrich

30- Doris Lindmeier & Karen Peterson

6- Lee Metzger & Ruth Yothers



### **August Communion Servers**

Tara Howell and Erin Rush

## LITURGIST

### August

2- Lolly Smith

9- Lance Ide

16- Tara Howell

23- Robin Ide

30- Kathy Fretz

6- Karen Gossard

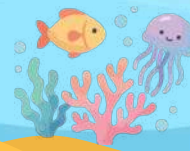
### **August Altar Guild**

Ethel Dietrich and Doris Lindmeier





# August



| SUN                                                                                                                                                       | MON                         | TUES                                                                                                          | WED                                                                                                                           | THURS                                                                                                                             | FRI                    | SAT                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                           |                             |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                   |                        | 9am-Noon<br>Pie Sales at the<br>Perkasie Farmers<br>Market<br><br><b>Pastor Barb</b> |
| 2<br>10:15am Worship with<br>Hymn Sing<br><b>Away</b>                                                                                                     | 3                           | 4<br>10:15am Bible Study<br> | 5<br>8:30am Coffee &<br>Conversations                                                                                         | 6<br>Pastor's Writing Day                                                                                                         | 7<br>Pastor's Day off  | 8                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9<br>10:15am Worship with<br>Communion<br>                              | 10                          | 11                                                                                                            | 12                                                                                                                            | 13                                                                                                                                | 14                     | 15                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  <b>Pastor Barb on Vacation August 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup></b> |                             |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                   |                        |                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 16<br>10:15am Worship with<br>Jess Reese Wamsley<br>Preaching                                                                                             | 17<br>6:30pm MRT<br>Meeting | 18<br>10:15am Bible Study                                                                                     | 19<br>8:30am Coffee &<br>Conversations<br> | 20<br>Pastor's Writing Day                                                                                                        | 21<br>Pastor's Day off | 22                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 23<br>10:15am Worship with<br>God's Precious Children<br>               | 24                          | 25                                                                                                            | 26                                                                                                                            | 27                                                                                                                                | 28                     | 29                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10:15am Worship at<br>Perkasie Park<br>                                 | 31                          | 10:15am Bible Study                                                                                           | 8:30am Coffee &<br>Conversations                                                                                              | Pastor's Writing Day<br>6:30pm Consistory<br> | Pastor's Day off       |                                                                                                                                                                         |



**ST. ANDREW'S UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
PERKASIE, PA

Join us Virtually for Sunday worship at 10:15am.  
You can find us at: [www.youtube.com/@Standrewsucc](https://www.youtube.com/@Standrewsucc)

