

ROOTED

An inclusive Community Rooted in God's Incredible Love

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, PERKASIE, PA



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January 2026



JANUARY UPCOMING EVENTS



PORK AND SAUERKRAUT & PIANO CONCERT **JANUARY 10, DINNER 4:30-6:30, CONCERT 7:30**



Join us for a traditional new years Pork and Sauerkraut dinner including pork, sauerkraut, green beans, potatoes, rolls and delicious dessert from 4:30-6:30pm (or until sold out) and stay for a piano concert at 7:30pm by Joe LaPosa. We hope to celebrate the new year with you for this evening of dinner and music.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 18, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 18th following worship. We will look at the 2026 budget and vote on it's 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 .



ONA EDUCATION- VISIT FROM ZWINGLI UCC **JANUARY 25, DURING & AFTER WORSHIP**

Therefore, the committee has scheduled representatives from Zwingli UCC of Souderton to share in Sunday's service on January 25, 2026. The representatives will remain afterward for a Q & A session in fellowship hall for those who would like to delve deeper into their experiences and to ask questions.





PASTORS MESSAGE

EPIPHANY

Matthew 2:1-12

Epiphany is a season of light, of uncovering what has been present all along but not yet fully seen. The word "epiphany" means "manifestation" or "revealing," and in the church it names the moment when God's presence in Jesus is made known, shining out to the wider world.

The story of the Magi captures this beautifully. Guided by a star, they travel from far away, attentive to signs they do not fully understand but trust enough to follow. When they reach the child Jesus, they recognize that God is here in Jesus. Their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, are not just offerings, but responses to that revelation. In Jesus, they encounter more than a king. They glimpse God's presence among humanity.

Epiphany reminds us that God's self-revelation in Jesus is not hidden behind power or prestige. God is revealed in vulnerability, in a child born among the poor, in a life shaped by compassion, healing, and welcome. Jesus shows us who God is by how he loves: crossing boundaries, restoring dignity, and drawing near to those society deemed unworthy and placing them on the margins. In Christ, God is not distant or abstract, but embodied and relational.

This revelation is not meant to be admired from afar. Like the Magi, we are changed by what we see. After encountering Christ, they "returned home by another way." Epiphany invites us to ask how God in Jesus changes our direction, how the light of Christ reshapes our choices, our relationships, and our witness in the world.

As we journey through the season of Epiphany, may we keep our eyes open to the ways God continues to be revealed: in Scripture, in worship, in those on the margins, in acts of justice and mercy, and in the everyday lives of our neighbors. The light that dawned in Christ still shines, calling us to follow, to worship, and to reflect that light to others.

Pastor Barb



DECEMBER MEETING CONSISTORY REPORT



Consistory reviewed all the amazing activities St Andrew's was involved with over the last month and will hold in this Advent season, the first month in the Christian Calendar. They noted the congregation has been very supportive of the various mission projects and activities.

Consistory also worked hard on preparing a proposed budget that will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 18th. In order to keep expenses within our anticipated income we will have to rely more on volunteer helpers in the coming year to help with some of the mundane operations of the church and maintaining our facility.



Consistory is also pleased to announce that we will have a full slate of candidates to fill out the Deacon and Elder positions for 2026. Consistory also authorized the installation of an information kiosk in the lobby to organize and make available in one place all the information and event posters for our wide variety of activities.

Consistory Members 2025:

Elders- Lee Metzger (President), Karen Peterson, Ron Grace, and Doris Lindmeier
Deacons- Tara Howell, Erin Rush, Robert Creager, Lance Ide, Herb Volk (Vice-President), and Cindy Grace.

FAITH FORMATION



All children 3 years old through 5th Grade are invited to our weekly faith formation hour from 9-10am. Each week children will be engaged in a lively lesson from the new testament scriptures through play, games, music, science, art, and more. We are excited to be sharing monthly themes this year and starting a weekly online message on our social media pages each Wednesday! We can't wait to explore the gospel with our young disciples!



Join us in January for U.F.O's: Unbelievable Faith Occurrences for our faith formation hour for our young disciples. Lessons for this month are:

January 4 - Nothing is Impossible with God, Matthew 19:26

January 11- John the Baptist is Born, Luke 1:8-25, 57-68

January 18- Jesus and Peter Walk on Water, Matthew 14:22-33

January 25- Healing of a Paralyzed Man, Luke 5:17-26



Circle Process
St. Andrew's UCC

We start with a gathering time between 8:45 and 9:00. Adult Circle starts promptly at 9. If you are running late, we ask that you enter quietly and join the circle. Utilizing Circle Process we come together to share and listen to each other related to the book we are studying. We are currently studying an advent devotional throughout the season of advent. Questions? Contact Karen Peterson at 267-664-0341 or kapcharlkp@gmail.com



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

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, January 18th following worship. We will look at the 2026 budget and vote on it's 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 .



OLD FIRST MISSION MOMENT

Old First United Church of Christ in Philadelphia has a long history of serving the community. <https://oldfirstucc.org/know/history/> The members of the original congregation arrived in 1727 and built the first Church at 4th and Race in Philadelphia in 1747. Philadelphia began to change and in 1882 members moved away and the church sold the building and moved. The building had been a paint factory for many years before the congregation again purchased the Church in 1966. The goal was to help with the revitalization of the area from which they came.

The congregation was the first in many ways including becoming a shelter to homeless Philadelphians in 1984. Volunteers from all over the area helped serve meals regularly. St. Andrew's UCC has been one of those. For many years we provided meals once a month to the men in the shelter through our Shared Table Program. Chuck Hill made many trips to take socks, clothing and other items to fill the Urban Cupboard. Our youth groups spent weekends at the church feeding the people, making meals, serving at the Cupboard, learning from those who experienced homelessness and walking the streets of Philadelphia with water and sandwiches.

Old first has continued moving forward including the literal moving of part of the old building to make way for the housing of those who were previously unhoused. The renovations have been completed, and the new building is full. Although not without difficulties with transition, the church continues to help those who are adjusting to a new home.

On Friday Dec. 5th, Deb Kantner, Kelly Finno and I filled the back of Kelly's SUV with the mounds of clothing and supplies that we have collected for the men. Kelly drove to Old First and we were greeted by the coordinators who were delighted with our donations. One volunteer stated cheerfully, "back to sorting" as she was getting the clothing ready for the Cupboard on Saturday. Thank you to Kelly for driving down and to Casey, the administrator, who gladly showed us the "old" and the "new" of Old First.

It was a pleasure to be back down at Old First and I look forward to the time we can again go down and be of service to those experiencing homelessness and to support the people of the church who continually serve and have continued the long tradition of meeting the needs of the community in which they live. May we also have that kind of dedication to our own community as we plan for Mission Week 2026.

Karen Peterson



A picture of old first and their newly built Old First House including an image of one of the housing units. Old First house includes 34 permanent supportive housing units for the chronically homeless individuals.





ENJOY a traditional Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner

EAT-IN OR TAKEOUT

Saturday, January 10th from 4:30-6:30pm

OR until SOLD OUT

Cost: Donation

**MENU: LOIN OF PORK WITH HOMEMADE SAUERKRAUT, MASHED POTATOES,
GREEN BEANS, ROLLS, BEVERAGE AND PIE FOR DESSERT**

For information call Ken at 215-257-7063

JOE LEPOSA PIANO CONCERT

Saturday, January 10, 2026 | 7:30 PM

www.standrewsucc.org



ONA TEAM UPDATE

Hey, What's with the ONA Survey?

We had 30 surveys answered online or written on paper returned to provide the ONA committee with feedback about how members are feeling about St. Andrew's becoming an Open and Affirming Church. The survey questions were designed to flush out how informed the congregation is about our proposed DRAFT COVENANT, the hopes of members, and any concerns. The committee also asked for input regarding what educational opportunities you are interested in having.

The primary request reported is for there to be guest speakers from other local ONA congregations who can share with our congregation about their process, any surprises about living out Jesus's commandment to love one another as ourselves, and any expected or unexpected negative reaction from members of the church and their local communities.

Therefore, the committee has scheduled representatives from Zwingli UCC of Souderton to share in Sunday's service on January 25, 2026. The representatives will remain afterward for a Q & A session in fellowship hall for those who would like to delve deeper into their experiences and to ask questions. There are numerous churches in our area who have become ONA in recent months and years. We will schedule additional learning opportunities after the New Year.

The overall response to the survey was favorable, as has been the response to the DRAFT COVENANT. Respondents are excited about sharing the good news of the Gospel of Jesus and his love for ALL people, especially to people living on the margins and to those who have typically been excluded from church.

There was a small sampling of expressed concerns related to this process for St. Andrew's. These members are mindful that we may lose members and feel that St. Andrew's message is becoming too politically focused. While these are valid concerns, statistics have shown that singles and young families are searching for Open and Affirming churches and that the churches who make such a commitment have grown and flourished over time.

The ONA committee genuinely would like to keep this conversation going among our beloved congregation. Let's remember that God is still speaking. Can we listen together and trust in Jesus's promises and together we can create a world where we truly and bravely love our neighbor?

ONA Team Meeting Dates:

Jan. 13 - 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



Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday
March 7	Lasagna Dinner
	Charlie Zahm Concert
March 23	Dine and Donate at the Perk 5-9pm
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

January

Head Ushers:

Lance Ide & Tara Howell

4- Robin & Lance Ide

11- Erin Rush & Karen Peterson

18- Doris Lindmeier & Deb Kantner

25- Lee Metzger & Ruth Yothers

Feb.1- Linda Brickajlik & Ron Grace



LITURGIST

January

4- Denise Mayhew

11- Jessica Reese Walmsley

18- Lee Metzger

25- Shirley Metzger

Feb. 1- Brian Rush

January Communion Servers
Karen Peterson and Lance Ide

January Alter Guild
Karen Rush and Amy Smith

january 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				 Office Closed		
8:45 Adult Circle 9:00 Faith Formation 10:15 Worship		10:15am Bible Study	 8:30am Coffee & Conversations 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Pastor's Writing Day 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Elders Meeting	Pastor's Day off	 Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner 4:30-6:30pm  Joe Leposa Piano Concert 7:30pm
8:45 Adult Circle 9:00 Faith Formation 10:15 Worship with Holy Communion 	7 pm Mission Resource Meeting	10:15am Bible Study 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30 ONA Meeting	8:30am Coffee & Conversations 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Pastor's Writing Day 6:30pm Bell Choir 	Pastor's Day off	
8:45 Adult Circle 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship Congregational Meeting Following Worship 		10:15am Bible Study 	8:30am Coffee & Conversations 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Pastor's Writing Day 3-9pm CPR Group 6:30pm Bell Choir 7pm Consistory Meeting	Pastor's Day off February Newsletter Deadline 	
8:45 Adult Circle 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship with ONA Speaker from Zwingli 	7pm Altar Guild Meeting	10:15am Bible Study	8:30am Coffee & Conversations 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Pastor's Writing Day 6:30pm Bell Choir		Consistory Long Range Planning Retreat  CPR Group 10:30-4:30