

St. Andrew UMC

Newsletter, March 2023

Dear Church,

Recently I sent out an email encouraging you to return to our in-person worship service at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. You can attend this service in the sanctuary, or tune-in from the parking lot by adjusting the station to 94.1 FM. This service includes both traditional and contemporary elements as we combined our contemporary and traditional services into one.



We are in a season of transition as Melanie Ogu retires and I prepare to begin a new appointment at the beginning of July. Now more than ever your church needs you to bind together in one mind and accord as you enter a new chapter of ministry. My hope is to make the transition as smooth as possible for your new pastor, and so here is what I am asking of you:

During this Season of Lent, reflect on the vows you took when you became a member of the United Methodist Church. You vowed to be loyal to Christ and His Church through your Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness.

Typically, during the Season of Lent we think of fasting (i.e., giving something up), but this year I hope you will reflect on your membership vows and consider what it will look like for you to take one step toward increasing your faithfulness to Christ and His Church.

- **Prayer**

- Pray for our church that we will continue to be strengthened as we grow together as disciples.
- Please continue to pray for me and my family during this time of transition.
- Pray for Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball and her cabinet as they discern the next pastor for St Andrew
- Pray for your incoming pastor and his/her family.
- Pray for Melanie Ogu as she transitions into retirement.
- Pray for the Staff Parish Relations Committee as they work to fill staff positions.

- **Presence**

- Be present for worship.
- Be present in a small group.
- Be present through one of our outreach ministries.
- Be present in the commitments you have made to lead and serve.

- **Gifts**

- Use your gifts to help with childcare, sing in the choir, be a greeter and extend hospitality, serve as a liturgist, help the media team, etc.
- Use your gifts through your tithes and offerings to help our congregation continue our mission and ministry in St Albans and around the world.

- **Service**

- Continue to look for ways to serve in the midweek update!

- **Witness**

- Invite someone to come to church with you; sit with them; introduce them to others.
- Let your light shine in the community in the ways you treat others as you become more comfortable with sharing your faith.

When we all choose to live into these vows we become a stronger church and a stronger presence for Christ in our community. As always, if you need to talk or would like for me to pray with you, you can contact me at jonathan.wvumc@gmail.com or 304-444-3874.

Blessings,

Pastor Jonathan



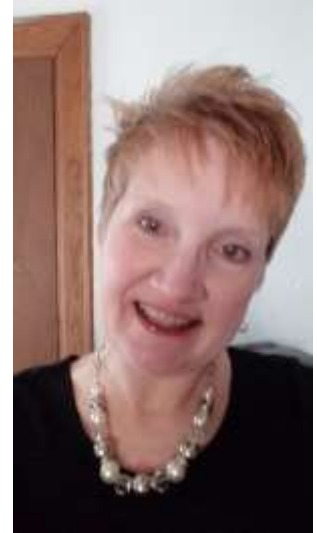
(Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023)

Sheila's Page

Dear Church,

As hard as it is to believe, we are in the month of March! The first day of Spring will soon be upon us, the trees will start budding, flowers blooming, grass growing; all signs of change and growth in the world.

As hard as change is sometimes, it is necessary to change in order to grow, in any part of our lives; be it in professional, personal or spiritual. Spring is a great time to evaluate those areas of our lives to see if we have become stagnant in any of those areas and what we can do to change it. Do you need to take some extra training for your job? Spend more time with your family? Take a few extra minutes each day to spend in Prayer?



I wish it were that easy! I recently found myself feeling “unsettled” in my relationship with God; to many nights of little sleep, to many things on my mind that I thought I could handle on my own, to many questions that I did not have the answer to. After another night of little sleep, I was reading my Bible (attempting too if I am completely honest) before daylight one morning and I was reminded of the words from a former Associate Pastor, who would always say “Let go, my child and LET GOD”!! I realized in that moment that I needed to change and let go of some of the ideas that I can handle it all of my own. I do not need to do that, God is always one step ahead of me, He is just waiting on me to let go.

I am not at all trying to say that I am God, but I want you to know that you do not have to carry anything on your own; I am just a phone call or text message away if you ever need anything. It always stays between you, me and God!

I leave you with my verse for the month of March....

“Be Still and Know That I Am God” ~ Psalm 46:10

In Christian Love,
Sheila Radochio
Minister of Congregational Care
304-744-6086 (home)

304-415-0863 (cell)

Melanie's Page

Food Donations for the St. Albans Food Pantry

On the first Sunday of each month, items are collected for the St. Albans Food Pantry. For March, any non-perishable food items are always welcome! However, the most needed items at this time are: pasta sauce, spaghetti, pancake mix, pasta sides, Hamburger Helper and oatmeal. Your support for this ministry in our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Children's Church – weekly – All ages welcome! Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Cottrell Hall



Compassion Camp – monthly – All children in Gr. K-5 are invited!

Sun. Mar. 19 – 4:00 -5:30 p.m. at Roadside Park. We will be making placemats for the Golden Living Center/Riverside Health & Rehabilitation with Debi Ellis leading this project.



Compassion Camp – Our February act of compassion was cookie making for Christ's Kitchen. Thanks to Bob & Becky Lilly for providing leadership for this activity. Additional thanks goes to Compassion Camp families and those from the congregation for donations given for the homeless in St. Albans.



Youth Ministry

Sun. Mar. 19 – 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Rm. 308 or at St. Peter's UMC

All youth in Gr. 6-12 are invited! Friends are always welcome! Contact Roy & Kathy Smith for further info.

Outreach Opportunities

Opportunities are available to meet and connect with our neighbors during the month of March. Is God calling you to participate in any of the following? All are welcome. You may call the church office at 304-727-7114 for further contact information.

Personal Care Kits

Karen Bradley's Small Group is continuing the collection of items for personal care kits for St. Albans schools. Items needed are: chapstick, tissues, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, hair brushes/combs, and feminine hygiene products. Please place your donations in the box in the overflow. Thank you!

Sharing a Meal with the Fishermen Small Group– Thurs. Mar. 23 at 11:15 a.m. at Christ's Kitchen

Bingo & Snacks with Tim Priddy's Small Group- at The Villager Apartments on Tues. March 14 from 2-4 p.m.



St. Andrew Piecemakers

To request a Prayer Pillow made by St. Andrew Piecemakers, please call Melanie Ogu, 304-724-7114, option 5.

SNAP Update

We kicked off our program in February with a Valentine's Day party. We are planning a trip to the Clay Center to see the exhibit "Medieval to Metal, The Art and evolution of the Guitar." We also started cooking on Monday and the class made spaghetti! The group would also like to do a community project, making enrichment blankets for the animal shelter. We need donations of towels and fleece blankets (used is fine!) and dog and cat treats. SNAP program also needs volunteers to be a substitute to help with lunch and other activities. If you are interested, please contact Melanie.

Report of Your Church Finances

In the past few weeks, several members of the congregation have ask “how are we doing”? When I have people ask me that question, I know it is not how am I doing, but “how is the church doing” and more specific from a finance perspective.

While our bank accounts reflect a robust amount, the one thing that we as a church must keep in the back of our minds is that several of the congregation have prepaid their full 2023 pledge amount. Some people have taken to heart the article regarding 401K/IRA donations for those retired and eligible. A few others have just decided to pay their entire annual pledge for 2023 in one payment and have already done so this year. With that happening, our income, while somewhat inflated now, has a strong potential to trail off (decrease) as we move into the year, since rather than the income spread over time, it has already been sent to the church during the first couple of months.

In our 2022 annual Pledge Campaign we had 77 pledge units, with a pledging amount of \$277,150 and a budget of \$381,114. In our 2023 Pledge Campaign, our pledge units to date are 64 with pledging dollars at \$195,040 and a budget for 2023 of \$372,458. Our 2023 budget is our lowest budget in more than 7 years. The sad reality is that each year, our church falls short on Pledged Income by 25-30% which in many cases is made up in part by non-pledged giving. As you can see from the numbers, this year our church is in a position where we MUST watch our expenses and cash flow to be able to continue to offer opportunities and programs that are essential to the church we love.

In reviewing our Apportionments for 2022, against an Apportionment amount of \$86,220, our lowest in more than 7 years, our church paid \$71,916 or 83.4%. For 2023, our Apportionment amount is \$79,613 which we are paying against with a payment of \$6,000 per month. Our goal for 2023 is to pay a larger percentage than 2022 and hopefully with the help of the congregation make this year our 100% full payment year.

If you haven't made a pledge for 2023 and wish to do so, that campaign is always open so feel free to contact Carol Hutchison or Walter Wood who will be glad to help you. If you have questions about the finances of your church, please feel free to contact someone on the Finance Team. We are always available to answer questions or get the answer if we don't have it.

In closing, we all need to acknowledge the hard work of the Trustees and their diligence in maintaining the church and keeping the facility in top operating condition. All of this is the result of the Trustees keeping an eye on expenses, helping to keep our church in the black and providing a beautiful facility to worship within.

We hope that this brief overview and update is of value to you. This is your church and the success of it in our community and our programs is the responsibility of each of us. May the Lord continue to bless St. Andrew and we have many wonderful memories here to share with each other in the future.

Ernie Downey, Finance Chair

Announcements

Holy Week and Easter Plans

Palm Sunday – April 2

Maundy Thursday – April 6 – Jonathan preaching

Good Friday – April 7 – Sheila preaching

Easter – April 9

Work Day at the Church

Sat. March 18 from 9 AM to 1 PM

Please contact Oscar Hutchison for further info.

Volunteers Needed for Childcare/Children's Church on Sundays

In order to ensure the safety of our children and to be in compliance with St. Andrew's Safe Sanctuaries policies, we need 2 unrelated adults to work with our children each Sunday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Cottrell Hall or on the playground (in good weather). Volunteers are needed. A Bible story is shared along with a related activity. All supplies are provided. The average attendance is 4-5 students ages 2 – 12. If you can help out about one Sunday a month, that would be very helpful! Please let Melanie Ogu know of your interest as soon as possible. Thank you!

Library Update

Since the library has not been used much in recent years and because the library needs to be weeded periodically, in the next several weeks books will be placed in the overflow for rehoming. When you see them there, please take time to look at them and take any that may interest you.

Susan Danford, Church Librarian

Lawncare needed

Please contact Rich Ingram or Oscar Hutchison or leave a message in the church office if you are willing to help with lawncare. The schedule is now being made.

Grow, Serve, Engage

- Wed. Mar. 1 **Weekly Small Groups** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Sun. Mar. 5 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
 Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
 One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
 The Table – 4:44 p.m. at St Andrew UMC
- Wed. Mar. 8 **Weekly Small Groups** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Thurs. Mar. 9 **Fishermen Small Group** - 11:00 a.m. in Rm. 100
- Sun. Mar. 12 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
 Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
 One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
- Tues. Mar. 14 **Trustees** – 6:30m. by Zoom
- Wed. Mar. 15 **Weekly Small Groups** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Sun. Mar. 19 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
 Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
 One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
 Compassion Camp – 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Cottrell Hall
 Youth Ministry – 4:00-5:30 p.m. in Rm. 308 or at St. Peter's UMC
- Tues. Mar. 21 **Prayer Pillow Group** – 9:30 a.m. in Rm. 300
- Wed. Mar. 22 **Weekly Small Groups** – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom
- Thurs. Mar. 23 **Fishermen Small Group Outreach** – 11:15 a.m. at Christ's
Kitchen
- Sun. Mar. 26 **The Vine: Virtual Message and Music**
 Choir Rehearsal – 9:30 a.m. in the choir room
 One Service – 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary
 Small Group Leaders – 6:30 p.m. by Zoom

If any of these meetings pertain to you, a Zoom link will be sent in the Midweek Update.

March Birthdays

- 2 William Radochio
- 6 Diana Taylor
- 7 Patricia Boggess
- 10 Richard King
- 11 Savannah Ash
- 12 Lynn Franklin
- 14 Gene Thompson
- 16 Seth Fitzwater
- 21 Libby Londeree
- 23 Karen Bradley
- 25 Jack Brown
- 27 Kathy Jordan
- 28 Kristi Ash
- 30 Craig Hinchman, Betsy Brucker

March Anniversaries

- 16 Michael & Elizabeth Ross
- 27 Chuck II & Lori Young
- 31 Mark & Debi Ellis

Prayer Concerns

Our Church; Our Staff; Nursing Homes & Shut-ins; Healing for our nation and the world; Those suffering from anxiety/stress; Unspoken; Our Military; Rev. Jarrold & Debbie Lanham; Dinah Withrow; Melissa Henrich; the family of Harriet Claypool; Carol Huffman; Judi Thompson; Kay Coffman; Emily Grace & Carl; the people of Syria & Turkey; Don Dierdorff; Leora McCoy; the Hensley family; Kitty Fizer; the Gaston family; Beth Ann; Steven Nichols Bill Evans, Amy Robinson, Lindsay (Downey) Nichols; aid for Turkey and Syria; Barbara Asbury; Sam Hardy; Ju-Wanna Snyder, Johnny Adkins.

A joint memorial service will be held for Laura and Caren Thomas at the church on Saturday, March 25. The family will receive friends at 2p.m. and a joint service will begin at 3p.m.