



*St. Andrew United Methodist Church*  
*September 2023 Newsletter*

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a note from our Pastor ~

A story is told of a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his backpack with cupcakes, several cans of root beer and started on his journey to meet God. When he had gone about 3 blocks, he saw an elderly woman sitting on a park bench watching the pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his backpack.

He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the lady looked hungry. So, he offered her a cupcake. She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so wonderful that he wanted to see it again. So he offered a root beer as well. Once again she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling without saying a word. As it started to get dark, the boy realized how tired he was and wanted to go home. He got up to leave but before he had gone no more than a few steps, he turned around and ran back to the old woman, giving her a big hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy arrived home his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked, "What has made you so happy today?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." Before his mother could respond he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile in the whole world!"

Meanwhile, the elderly woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home.

Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face. He asked, "Mother, what has made you so happy today?" She replied, "I ate cupcakes in the park with God." And before her son could reply, she added, "You know, he is much younger than I expected."

Have you seen Jesus lately?

The Apostle Paul shares with us, “I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened “ (Eph 1:17-18).

The eyes of our hearts are enlightened when we come to know the love that God has for this world, the love made known to us through Jesus Christ. And it is God’s yearning that we, His children, will live in that same love for one another.

What picture do you have of God? Is He a policeman, a judge, Santa Clause? Is He making a list and checking it twice? Jesus gave us a picture of God. Jesus called Him Father. And this is how intense God’s love for all humankind is.

In Micah Chapter 6 we are told: “8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Matthew 25 is truly Jesus’ summary of that passage of Scripture. We are to help one another, not out of an expectation of some kind of reward, but out of love.

Christ has come to us in our prison, whatever that may be for you and for me. And He has called us to live in freedom and in peace. Therefore, as those who Christ has called, we are to live in love, a grateful love for what Christ has done for us. And through this love, God enables us to love all people, even those whom the world might deem unlovable, because God loves them and us with the intense love of a Father who is willing to give His very Son for our salvation!

There is a story of a man by the name of Martin who was a Roman soldier and a Christian.

One cold winter day, as he was entering a city, a beggar stopped him and asked for alms.

Martin had no money; but the beggar was blue and shivering with cold, and Martin gave what he had. He took off his soldier’s coat, worn and frayed as it was; he cut it in two and gave half of it to the beggar man. Then, that night, he had a dream. In the dream he saw the heavenly places and all the angels and Jesus among them; and Jesus was wearing half of a Roman soldier’s cloak. One of the angels said to him: “Master, why are you wearing that battered old cloak? Who gave it to you?” And Jesus answered softly: “My servant Martin gave it to me.”

You and I see Jesus every day. We see him in the face of the homeless person, the sick, the hungry, and the stranger.

Have you seen Jesus lately?

Pastor Brian

[umcpasorbrian@gmail.com](mailto:umcpasorbrian@gmail.com)

304-672-0886



# Congregational Care

a note from the Minister of Congregational Care ~

Happy September! My favorite time of year, the colors, the sounds, the smells, and being able to wear my favorite hoodies!!! Since I tend to be an early riser, I also like that it is getting daylight a little later and that allows me to spend a little more time with God in the mornings, before I have to pack lunches and make breakfast.

Since we are still in a time for transition, I wanted to give you a few scriptures you can use during your quiet time with God, to Pray for St. Andrew.

- Ephesian 4:1-6
- Amos 3:3
- Acts 2:42
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- 1 Peter 2:9-10
- Romans 15:5-6

The month of August showed a lot of names shared to the Prayer chain and they will be listed below, but I also wanted to let you know that we can always use more people on the Prayer chain, the only experience required is the ability to Pray for the names received. If you would like more information, please let me know!

## August Prayer Requests

- **Rev. Jarrold and Debbie Lanham**
  - **Unspoken**
- **Robert Holley and Family**
  - **Rob Warren**
  - **Sherry Wood**
  - **Laura Ryder**
  - **Vernon Taylor**

- Valerie Asbury
  - Cindy Bays
  - Beverly Loftis
  - Sheila Radochio
- The Family of Wanda Shifflett
- The Family of Alexandria Whitacre
  - Dr. David Fisher
    - Norma King
  - The Family of Teresa Davis
  - The family of Jack Brown
    - Pete McCoy
    - Teri Joseph
- Dustin, Hailey and Raiden Holly
  - William Hutchinson
- Elizabeth, Savanna and Ava Wilkonson
  - Terri Barr
  - The Family of Jack Brown
    - Jim Bias
    - Gene Thompson
    - Jeannie White
    - Bill Morrison
- The family of Rev. Barbara Starling

If you ever have a name for the Prayer chain, need someone to talk to, cry with, laugh with or just someone to listen, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

I leave you with my scripture for the month,

*“Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.” ~ Hebrews 10:23*

In Christ’s Love,  
Sheila Radochio

[sheila.radochio@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.radochio@gmail.com)

304-415-0863

# S.N.A.P

## Special Needs Adult Program

Upon returning from summer break, SNAP enjoyed a very busy August. We met the new pastor, delivered food to St. Marks, and learned to play the spoons when Ed Deuren visited. We also enjoyed a cook-out / picnic / swim party at the Chapmans' camp!

As part of our mission is serving others, we will be participating in Operation Christmas Child. It is a project of Samaritan's Purse which delivers joy to children in need around the world. We will be packing shoe boxes with toys, school supplies, and personal care items, and would appreciate your help. A box marked **S.N.A.P. Donations** is in the overflow area for contributions for such items. And as always, SNAP is grateful for your love and support. You may also mail donations to; SNAP c/o St. Andrew UMC with **checks made out to Special Needs Adult Program, Inc.!!!!**

If you would like to stop in to visit with SNAP -- to read a story or share an experience with us -- we would love for you to come and see us!

Wishes for a healthy and happy fall,  
Ms Ruth, Ms Wanda, Ms Linda, and our SNAP family





## Finance Committee Updates

### Church Donation Options

As we approach the end of 2023, many retirees and others are in a position that they must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from their 401K or their traditional IRA. One consideration is to use a portion of this RMD to make a contribution to St. Andrew.

One question to ask yourself is "**did you know that you can take an RMD from your 401K or traditional IRA?**" and **donate it to a qualified charity (eligible nonprofit organization) and reduce your tax obligation?** These distributions aren't taxable, but they still count toward satisfying your required minimum distributions for the year and reduce your tax obligations. You can donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA as a Qualified Charitable Deduction to avoid taxes if:

- Your IRA custodian agrees to transfer the funds to your chosen charity on your behalf. (You can't make the donation directly.)
- You don't claim that donation as a charitable deduction on your taxes.

**As an example**, if your RMD is \$15,000 this year, and you wish to make a donation to the church for \$5,000, you may ask your IRA custodian (Financial Institution) to make a payment directly to St. Andrew from your IRA. This payment can be to **cover your entire pledge for the year or a gift above and beyond your pledge**. By doing this, your tax obligation on your RMD is reduced from the original \$15,000 to \$10,000, saving you a \$5,000 tax obligation for the year.

If you would like to take advantage of this option on your 401K or Traditional IRA RMD, please take the time to contact your Financial Institution and discuss this option with them. IF you would like to speak with someone on the Finance Team about this option, please contact Ernie Downey (Finance Team Chair) or Walter Wood, either of which would be glad to discuss this possibility with you. This donation can be made anytime during the year, and many Financial Institutions will work with you to make these contributions multiple times during the year or even a single time. **The only thing you need to consider is that your contribution must be received by the church before the end of the calendar year to qualify for this year's contribution.**

## Consecration Sunday

Consecration Sunday is coming in October. This provides each of us with the opportunity to consider how we will support our Church not only financially but also with those gifts that were a part of our Baptismal Covenant: Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. I would like to ask each of you to be in prayer as you consider how you will support our Church during the 2024 year, not only financially but with your service, attendance, witness to others and participation on Church Committees... More on Consecration Sunday will be in the October Newsletter as well as in the Midweek Updates. Prayerfully consider how you can be a blessing to your Church and our community. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me!

Ernie Downey, Finance Team Chair.

# HEZEKIAH HOUSE

## BENEFIT GOSPEL CONCERT

### St. Peter's UMC

2601 Forrester Ave. Saint Albans, WV 25177

Sunday | Sept. 10 | 6:00-8:00 pm

### WITH ARTISTIS:

The Waymarks Trio

Jimmy McKnight

Martin Luther King Jr. All Male Chorus

### AND SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:

Hezekiah House President

### LIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING THE CONCERT



## Church Calendar September 2023

Sunday, Sept. 3

9:30 Choir Rehearsal in Room 210

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, Sept. 4

Labor Day **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday, Sept. 5

9:30-2:30 Special Needs Adult Program  
(SNAP)

9:30 Quilters

Wednesday, Sept. 6

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy's and Bob's Small Groups\*

Thursday, Sept. 7

11:00 Diana's and Tim's Small Group\*

6:30-7:30 Cub Scouts

Sunday, Sept. 10

9:30 Choir Rehearsal in Room 210

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary

4:00-5:30 Youth

4:44 THE TABLE (Bring a box of cereal or oats  
for the St. Albans Food Pantry)

Monday, Sept. 11

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30-8:00 Boy Scouts in Cottrell Hall

6:30 Karate in Friendship Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 12

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30 Trustees

Wednesday, Sept. 13

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy's and Bob's Small Groups\*

Thursday, Sept. 14

11:00 Fishermen Small Group in Wesley Classroom

11:00 Diana's and Tim's Small Group\*

6:30-7:30 Cub Scouts



Sunday, Sept. 17

9:30 Choir Rehearsal in Room 210

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary

4:00-5:30 Compassion Camp for Kdg. -5th Grade

Monday, Sept. 18

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30-8:00 Boy Scouts in Cottrell Hall

6:30 Karate in Friendship Hall

6:30 Committee on Nominations in Parlor

Tuesday, Sept 19

9:30-2:30 SNAP

9:30 Quilters

Wednesday, Sept. 20

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy's and Bob's Small Groups\*

Thursday, Sept. 21

11:00 Diana's and Tim's Small Group\*

6:30-7:30 Cub Scouts

Sunday, Sept. 24

9:30 Choir Rehearsal in Room 210

10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, Sept. 25

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30-8:00 Boy Scouts in Cottrell Hall

6:30 Karate in Friendship Hall

6:30 Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)\*

Tuesday, Sept. 26

9:30-2:30 SNAP

Wednesday, Sept. 27

9:30-2:30 SNAP

6:30 Amy's and Bob's Small Groups\*

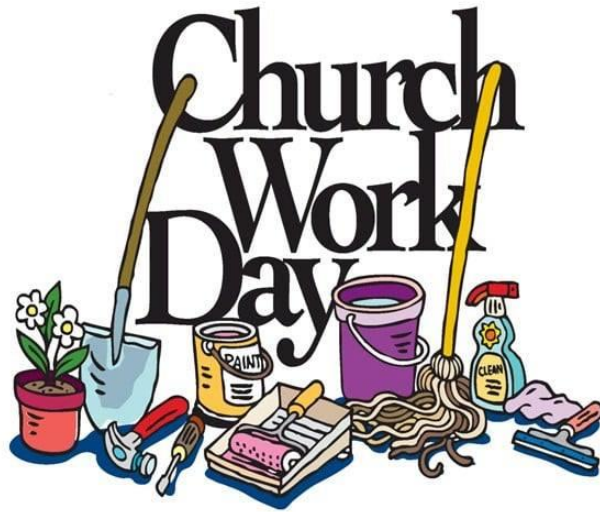
Thursday, Sept. 28

11:00 Diana's and Tim's Small Group

11:00 Fishermen Small Group to Christ's Kitchen

6:30-7:30 Cub Scouts

\*DENOTES ZOOM MEETING



The Trustees will be holding a workday on September 2nd beginning at 9:00am.

We are asking that everyone who wants to help gather at the Garden Path and then break into groups to work on outdoor jobs that need to be taken care of before the weather changes.

We appreciate all your help!

Oscar Hutchison  
Trustees Chair



Several in our congregation volunteer each week at the St. Albans Food Pantry and with Meals on Wheels. If you talk to any of them, they will tell you that the need for food among many in our St. Albans community, especially families with children, is great. They will tell you that the need is growing all the time. What they may not tell you as readily is that often these dedicated volunteers will go to the store and purchase the items themselves that are in short supply at the **Food Pantry**. Each month our church is given a list of just a few of the items that are needed. For September, please consider adding these to your shopping list and place them in the basket in the Overflow of the Sanctuary:

**Cereal, Instant Oatmeal Variety Boxes,  
Ramen Noodles, Corn Bread Mix,  
Baked Beans or Pork and Beans**

There are also ways we can help **Christ's Kitchen**, located at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on B Street, next to the post office. Volunteers feed anyone who comes, no questions asked. Here is a list of items they would be most appreciative to receive at this time:

**canned hot dog chili, egg noodles, 8 oz.  
Styrofoam cups, sugar**

These items may be placed in the basket in the Overflow as well.

Another way to help those around us that are hungry is to **bring a box of cereal or oatmeal to THE TABLE** when you come each month. The food pantry never has enough cereal to distribute. This is a new ministry idea for St. Andrew. We don't have to pay for our dinner that evening, so let's share with others.



The Table will be held on September 10, 2023 with a location to be given closer to the date, due to scheduling conflicts with publishing the newsletter. We do ask that you bring a box of cereal or instant oatmeal to be donated to Christ's kitchen!



Pastor Brian and Zondra will be on vacation from August 31 through September 5th if you have any congregational care need, contact Sheila Radochio at 304-415-0863. Let's let him enjoy his time off!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
**JACK SWINEY**  
ON PASSING THE WV STATE BAR EXAM!!

Thank you to  
**Susan Danford & Sheila Radochio**  
for taking the  
Nine Rivers District  
Safe Sanctuaries Training

