



## Newsletter



Over the past few weeks, I have heard many people state that Fall is coming. When I hear this I get a little excited because I am a huge fan of Fall. I love Fall. I love the changing colors; I love warm fall days and I love the cool fall evenings. I love everything about Fall; colors, temperature and football season. I love high school football. It is great to see a community excited when football season arrives; everyone wearing their school colors; everyone cheering; and everyone coming together. Friday nights at a high school football game is great fun and excitement!

Well, guess what? Fall arrived on September 22....did you miss it?

However, another thing happens when someone tells me Fall is coming. There seems to be a question that always follows the Fall predictions. What is that question? That question is "Well you know what follows fall, don't you? Winter!!". It is amazing to me that we are quick to look for the hard and difficult things in life and pass over the moments that are wonderful and special. We seem to look past blessings and look toward trials and difficulties. You see, I love Fall and the new colors of the leaves that surround us; but I do not; let me say that again; I do not like to rake leaves! Those beautiful colors lying on the ground is not a happy sight. When I was a kid, my parents spent a great deal of time, insisting, or should I say, trying to teach me that raking the leaves was my responsibility. A responsibility that I did not want! It was a job that took away my excitement for Fall.

I began to dread the Fall time of the year. I didn't want to see Fall show up. I knew when the leaves began to change colors, it would not be long until my Dad would bring

up the subject of raking leaves. I had a really hard time understanding how something that brought me such joy and excitement could cause so much distress and unhappiness. It wasn't long before I wanted to skip Fall altogether.

Can you imagine me asking God to take the Fall season away because I didn't like raking leaves? I would be asking God to take away one of His great blessings in my life. I couldn't do that. I love Fall.

Many times we allow God's blessings to slide right by us because our focus is not on the blessing but on the difficult things in our life at the time. We see only the hard times and miss an opportunity to see a Glory sighting of God. There are Glory sightings every day in our lives. Every day God is blessing us, providing for us, and just simply loving us.

Luke 24 tells us a story of two men walking home on the first Easter evening. They are walking distraught because the man that they thought would set Israel free had been crucified and died and laid in a tomb. As they walked, they talked together of all the things which had happened (vs. 14). Then Jesus himself came and went with them (vs. 15). They walked and talked and Jesus asked a wonderful question; he asked them why they were sad (vs. 17). They were walking with the resurrected Christ and couldn't see him, because they were looking past the blessing to the horrors that had happened. But please notice, Jesus went with them all the way to their village in Emmaus. He never left them; he went with them! They walked 11 or 12 miles with Jesus and didn't see him and missed the excitement of walking with our Risen Savior. Could you imagine the excitement of seeing the resurrected Jesus? Could you imagine knowing that death has been defeated for all that believe? Could you imagine not shouting Hallelujah! Don't think this is a crazy question. They didn't see Him! What a great celebration they were missing.

I pray that each of you are seeing Jesus every day and each of you know He is walking with you every day. I know many are going through difficult situations and many are going through some scary things. But please know that Jesus is there. And He will walk the entire way; not part of the way, but the entire way. Please don't allow your visions and dreams to be stolen from you. Walk looking toward the future and not seeing the things and situations of the past. And with our Church, Great Things are beginning. I can see Jesus walking with us. Can you? If you are always in Church, keep coming! If you haven't been there for a while, hurry back! If you have lost your joy, hurry back to Jesus and to Church and join the celebration.

The story of the two men walking on the road to Emmaus may sound like an Easter story. I believe it is our story or should be our story every day. The story of the Resurrected Christ going with them the entire way! As He is with each of us--the entire way--everyday.

The folks who tell me that winter follows fall. Don't miss the beauty of the Fall season. Don't miss the beautiful colors that are coming and don't miss God's masterpiece that He will paint for us.

Oh yes, with fall approaching quickly, remember that winter is not the only season coming. With each day of fall and with each day of winter, it brings us so much closer to spring. So instead of thinking about winter let's just say 'Spring is getting close!' . See you in Church!!!

See you in church! Pastor Brian



## Calendar

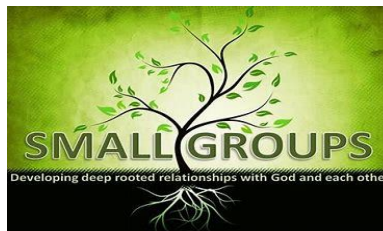
Sunday morning worship at 11:00 AM in Friendship Hall  
Nursery and One Room Sunday School at 11:00 AM  
SNAP, Monday through Wednesday at 9:30 AM  
Karate, Monday at 6:00 PM in Crusader Classroom  
Boy Scouts, Monday, at 6:30 PM in Cottrell Hall

Finance Committee meeting, Sunday, October 6 at 2 PM in the Parlor  
Charge Meeting, both churches, Sunday, October 13 at 7 PM in the Chapel  
Church Council, Sunday, October 20 at 2 PM in the Parlor  
Consecration Sunday, October 27

## Activities

Children's Event – Trunk or Treat on October 27 from 4 to 6 PM  
Marilu Lilly is the Event Leader (See Children's Corner)

Fields of Faith (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) invites you to a  
Change the Culture event on Tuesday, October 8, 2024  
at McKinley Middle School at 6:30 PM  
There will be a speaker, worship band and fellowship.



The days and times for our small groups are as follows:  
Amy's and Bob's small groups are on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM on Zoom  
Diana and Tim's Small group is on Thursdays at 11:00 AM on Zoom  
Fishermen's small group meets on the second Thursday of each month at  
11:00 AM in the Wesley classroom - In October, this will be October 10,  
The Fishermen group also meets for lunch at Christ's Kitchen on the  
fourth Thursday of each month. In October, this will be October 24.

FOR ZOOM MEETINGS: link meeting ID: 870 9640 8438 and the  
passcode is 44703



### **Christmas Basket Update**

As we head toward the holiday season, I wanted to share with you the latest information on Christmas Baskets for this year.

Applications for baskets this year are being accepted from September 15 to November 15, meaning I won't have the names for our church until mid-November. During the month of October, I would like to ask each of you to prayerfully consider adopting a family for this program.

The program will be **totally different** this year, in that the St. Albans Ministry Alliance (SAMA) is specifying what food items and quantities to purchase so that all individuals, depending on family size, receive the same items. In the past years, SAMA has received a lot of feedback about some families being shorted food while others received too much.

This year's program is broken down by family size, 1-3 and 4 or more. With the food list provided by SAMA, a family of 1-3 is estimated to cost about \$70 while a family of 4 or more is estimated at about \$90. This cost is based on the food list I received last month from SAMA.

So in thinking about this year's program, like many other things, a change is being made to try to standardize the food being distributed. Families will receive similar amounts of food and hopefully with the cost more standardized churches will hopefully adopt more families within the St. Albans area. Hopefully with the standardized food list for each family size (which I will provide next month) it will mean we as a church (families, small groups, individuals) can adopt more families this year than last. Please prayerfully consider your participation in this year's program, **which we as a church will do in the same way as the past three years.**

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email me or give me a call.  
Ernie Downey



Consecration Sunday this year will be on October 27. Watch your email and mailboxes for updates. We encourage individuals and families to bring this year's Ministry Card to the church for our service and as we have done in the past place them on the altar. More detailed information will be in the mailing to your home so watch for it and prayerfully consider your gifts to our church to support our 2025 ministries and outreach. If you have any questions, contact Carol Hutchison, Robert Stalnaker, Ernie Downey or Walter Wood.

## Race Against Hunger

**St. Andrew United Methodist Church was the leader in the Race Against Hunger. The name of our church is at the top of the Banner and the Race t-shirt because we were the top contributor. A huge thanks to the congregation and our Church Mission group for supporting Christ Kitchen, The Food Pantry and Jericho House!**



## Did You Know?

As we look around our church, we have many blessings to be thankful for and as a congregation how we use the donations and monies of the church to the blessings of others is one of those things.

This year a few of those blessings have come in the form of outreach and include:

- Monetary Donations in support of benevolences in St. Albans, including Christs Kitchen, Food Pantry, Jubilee Fund, Jericho House and Hezekiah House
- Scholarships for Undergraduate and post Graduate students. This year our church supported 2 Graduate Students, John Boggess and Nick Loftis along with 2 undergraduate students Nolan Duncan and Ethan Wood
- Our Church sponsored one camper for a week program at Spring Heights
- Our Church sponsored 16 families with Christmas Baskets and this year hope to do more.
- In September, our Church contributed to the Race For Hunger, pulling together congregation donations along with budgeted Missions funding for this event. Proceeds from monies collected will be divided among benevolences in St. Albans.
- Development and implementation of a Children's program including Sunday School and planned events for children to attend beyond our normal Church services.

So as the Church looks back at how we are spending donations and contributions for Outreach, we should be proud of the programs we have supported and continue to support. Your donations and financial support of St. Andrew is making a difference in the lives of not only our community but also our Church.



## Outreach

PLEASE HELP CHRIST KITCHEN!! Christ Kitchen is experiencing a serious food shortage. This vital meal service provides an average of 120 to 165 meals per day to the homeless, sick, and shut in members of our community. Please consider a financial donation or assistance by providing the following most needed items:

canned chicken, chicken noodle soup, cereal (any kind), cans of powdered coffee creamer, baked beans, chili with beans.

They also need small Styrofoam bowls and 3-section trays for carry out. (Susan Danford is going to purchase large containers of the bowls and of the trays at Sam's Club. If you would like to purchase some for the kitchen as well, just let Susan know and she will be glad to purchase them on your behalf.



## Children's Corner

Nursery is available for children from birth to age three. There is a lesson and activities provided for children above 3.

We continue to be in need of volunteers for this area of our church.

There is a special activity for children this month which is Trunk or Treat in our parking lot at the church on October 27 from 4 to 6 PM. Come and join in the fun and wear a costume if you like!

We need volunteers to provide a trunk and a treat (candy) for the children. Please call The church office (304) 727-7114 if you have any questions or contact Marilu Lilly.

The more trunks we have the more fun it will be! Feel free to decorate your trunk if you wish!



The United Methodist Men invites all of our church family to a Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday, November 10 at 4:44 PM.

We will need reservations if you and your family want to attend. Please call the church office to leave your reservations. We hope you will join us



Once again SNAP is preparing shoebox gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, an outreach of Samaritan's Purse. Boxes will be for boys 2 - 4 years old, girls 2 - 4 years old, boys 5 - 9, girls 5 - 9, boys 10 - 14, and girls 10 - 14.

Suggested gift items include dolls, stuffed animals, shoes, tooth brushes, wash cloths, combs, hairbrushes, pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, coloring and picture books, solar calculators, socks, sunglasses, jewelry, watches, and flashlights (with extra batteries).

They ask that the following items not be included: candy, toothpaste, used or damaged items, scary or war related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, medication, vitamins, breakable items or glass containers, and aerosol cans.

We have placed a collection box with an identifying poster in the temporary sanctuary of Friendship Hall. If you would like to contribute, please place suggested/acceptable items in the box no later than October 21st. If you would like to "adopt a child of your own," we have extra boxes and labels that we will gladly provide. Drop by SNAP, and we'll be happy to give you one. For this we ask that your box be returned to SNAP no later than October 21st.

We appreciate your support,  
SNAP Class



## *IN OUR PRAYERS*

Rev. Jarrold and Debbie Lanham  
Peg Henrich  
Allison Hubbard-Jones  
Bob Hubbard and Family  
Dan Rittenhouse  
Gary and Barbara Asbury  
Jill Taylor, friend of John Danford  
Emma Gandee  
Bobby Ball by Alice Baldwin  
Ann and David Estep  
Elizabeth Ross  
Suzie Maxton, niece of Jeannie White  
Marvin, his daughter Brooke and family by Ernie Downey  
Ralph Lawrence by wife, Nancy Lawrence  
April Craig, friend of Margie Cook  
Terri Drury  
Grace Cochran, friend of Kathy Stalnaker  
Linda White, friend of Kathy Stalnaker  
Beverly Loftis  
Donetta Blankenship by Sheila Radochio  
Dean Halstead, son of Leigh Long's cousin  
Sandy Jacobson, cousin of Randi Robinson  
Ann Landers, cousin of Robert Stalnaker  
Marie Hernandez, friend of Kathy & Robert Stalnaker  
Anthony Smith and Family by Lois and Ernie Downey  
Dot Finn by daughter, Trish McPherson  
Sue Hawkins by Sheilla Radochio  
Brad Cather by Sheila Radochio  
Henry Bono by wife, Gay  
Michael Holstein, brother of Sue Holstein  
Tracy Sanderss by friend, John Hall  
Ethan, son of local pastor, by Sheila Radochio

Please contact Randi Robinson,  
Prayer List Coordinator, (304) 206—6172  
To add a name to the prayer list.