

St Andrew Presbyterian Church

LOAVES + FISHES

www.standrew-pres.org

August 2025

Mission

CHRIST IS CALLING ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO BE A BEACON OF PEACE AND LOVE WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS

Vision

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE BEING TRANSFORMED THROUGH THE COURAGEOUS AND HEALING WORK OF RECONCILIATION



Welcome back!

Is it just us, or has summer flown by in a blur of sunshine, fun, and VBS songs? As the back-to-school season officially begins, it's great to have an anchor in the happy chaos, and for us, that's our St. Andrew family. Through all the vacation adventures and into the flurry of fall schedules, our community remains a place to connect, laugh, and recharge.

Let's carry that joyful spirit with us as we dive into another wonderful season of faith, fun, and fellowship! This month we will wrap up our sermon series on wholehearted living with some surprises in worship. I also can't wait for one of the favorite events of the year, our fall picnic at Franklin Park on September 9th.

As we wrap up the summer season, may we continue to be a beacon of love for one another into the busy and blessed program year ahead.

Pastor Amanda

FLAT JESUS

THANK YOU to the Gillispie family for sharing your summer adventures with Flat Jesus!

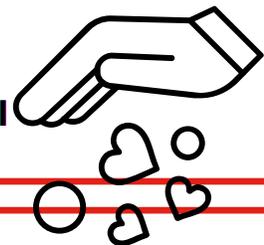


Send your photos of Flat Jesus' adventures to newsletter@standrew-pres.org so we can share them in our September edition!

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August Calendar



Fri 1	all day	Church Office closed, Pastor Amanda available via email
	9a-3p	NLC closed for Staff Development Day
	3-5p	NLC Open House
Sun 3	10a	Worship Service* with Communion
		Worship Committee meets after the service
Wed 6	6:30p	St Andrew Stitchers (<i>Youth Lounge</i>)
Thur 7	9:15a	Coffee & Conversation (<i>Doppio Bunny</i>)
	6:30p	Deacons meeting
	7p	Bells Rehearsal
Sun 10	10a	Worship Service*
		Mission Committee meets after the service
Wed 13	6:30p	St Andrew Stitchers (<i>Youth Lounge</i>)
Thur 14	9:15a	Coffee & Conversation (<i>Doppio Bunny</i>)
Sun 17	10a	Worship Service* Includes Mission Project
		Blessing of the Backpacks
		Children's Church starts for the fall!
		Session meets after the service
Wed 20	10:30a	Communications Committee meeting
	6:30p	St Andrew Stitchers (<i>Youth Lounge</i>)
Thur 21	<i>all day</i>	<i>First Day of Loudoun County's New School Year</i>
	9:15a	Coffee & Conversation (<i>Doppio Bunny</i>)
	6:30p	NLC Board Meeting
	7p	Bell Rehearsal (check with Caleb)
Fri 22	5p	Newsletter Deadline
	<i>all day</i>	LCPS closed, NLC open
Sun 24	10a	Worship Service* & Children's Church
		Fellowship & Fun after the service!
		Food on the Fourth
Wed 27	6:30p	St Andrew Stitchers (<i>Youth Lounge</i>)
Thur 28	7p	Bell Rehearsal
Sat 30	7:30p	Book Club (<u>No Country for Love</u> by Yaro Trofimov)
Sun 31	10a	Worship Service* & Children's Church

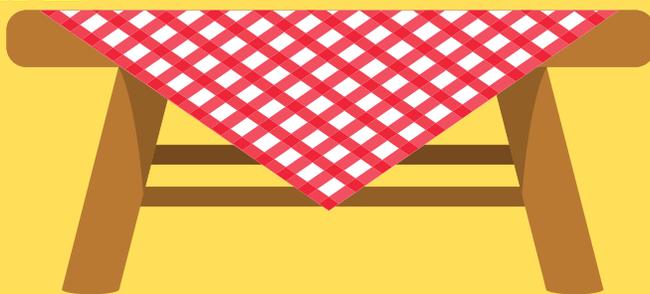
Blessing of the BACKPACKS!
Sunday, August 17
 Students of all ages, bring your backpack and teachers bring your bags to worship to receive a special blessing as you start the new school year!

Please send committee updates, articles, and photos to newsletter@standrew-pres.org

**child care is available 4 years old & under*

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Picnic
Sunday, September 7
@ Franklin Park
Details TBA!



There is a private Facebook group called "St Andrew Presbyterian Church Families" where TONS of fun stuff and photos are shared!

Worship

Sunday Signup Opportunities

Your siblings in Christ can share in your joys and concerns when you **provide flowers** for any worship service in honor of birthdays, anniversaries, or graduations, or in memory of a loved one. You may make your own arrangement or contact a local florist for delivery to St Andrew. Sign up on the flower calendar in the narthex or email nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org.

Liturgists help lead Worship every Sunday by reading Scripture, guiding prayers, and inviting song. Pastor Amanda makes it very easy to be a liturgist - you don't have to be a public speaker, you just have to be able to read! We are looking for liturgists for August 10, 17, 24, and 31 as we begin the process of scheduling people through December 2025. Volunteers for serving as liturgists can contact Lynn K at aeneasdido@aol.com

We are especially looking for ushers and door attendants. Thank you, as always, for sharing your time and talents! Email secretary@standrew-pres.org for ways to get involved.

Although Choir and Bells are on break for the summer, we are eager to welcome all voices, talents, & musical abilities! Email caleb.bates@standrew-pres.org if you would like to join our **music program**.



Summer Sermon Series

In a world that feels tender and chaotic—marked by violence, shame, and fear—how do we show up with courage, compassion, and wholeness? This summer, we're diving into Wholehearted Living, a sermon series grounded in scripture and inspired by Brené Brown's "The Gifts of Imperfection."

Each week, we'll explore the sacred connection between spiritual wholeness and personal authenticity, listening for God's wisdom through ancient texts and everyday experiences.

As we tend to our own hearts, we'll discover how becoming more whole ourselves can be a healing act for the world around us.



Summer sermon series is in coordination with two other local pastors. The series will induce creative worship elements and community building including:

- *Group Games - Aug 3 after worship*
- *Labyrinth - Aug 10*
- *Hands-On Mission - Aug 17 during worship*
- *Dance Party/Silent Disco - Aug 24 after worship*

Youth

**Youth Sunday School Starts September 7!
9am in the Youth Lounge**



Please **sponsor one Sunday of donuts** this year to bribe, er, I mean nourish this hungry crew!

To sign up please contact kevin.burel@standrew-pres.org



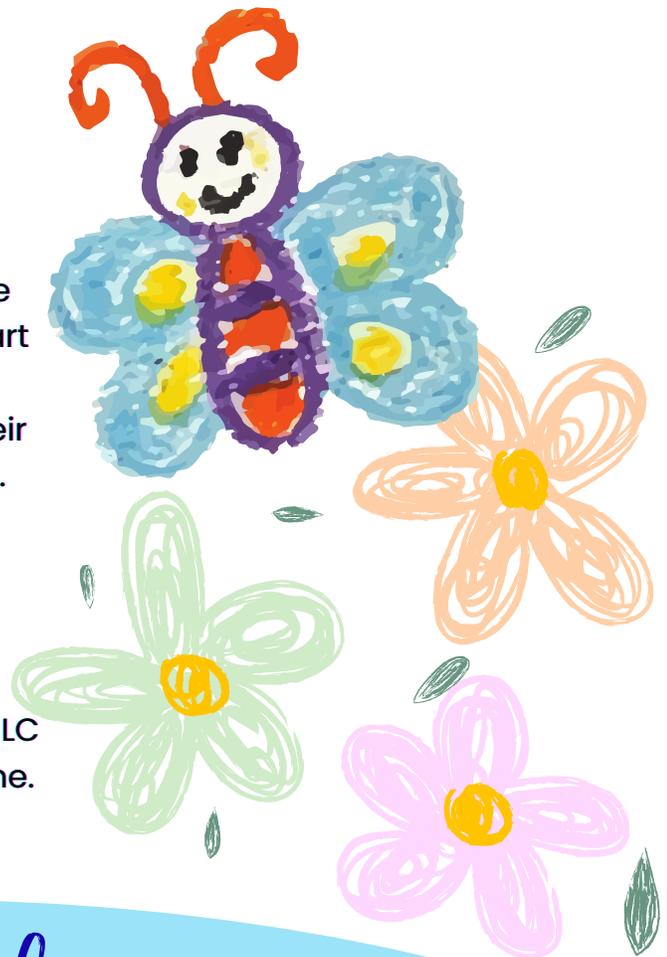
Children

Children's Church Starts August 17!

We are excited to have Children's Church kick off for the fall on August 17! Kindergartners through 3rd graders start the worship service sitting with their family. After the Children's Moment, they head to the basement with their teachers for their very own lessons, crafts, and fun time.

Please contact Sarah S to volunteer for one or more Sundays with this super fun group. sarah.sassak@standrew-pres.org

Childcare is available for children 4 and under in the Fellowship Hall with Ms. Michelle, one of our awesome NLC teachers. All children are welcome in worship all the time. Don't forget we have coloring sheets and clipboards available in the Narthex.



Minis

★ **2nd Sundays Starting
September 13!**

This is a group that meets during worship and is exclusively for 3rd-5th graders!

This group will need another volunteer adult to lend a hand as it has grown from last year! If you can help, please contact sarah.read@standrew-pres.org

Discipleship

Weekday Study Series @ Doppio Bunny, Thursdays @ 9:15am

Join our weekday study group! We will meet for coffee & conversation for a summer series based on Brene Brown's The Gifts of Imperfection.

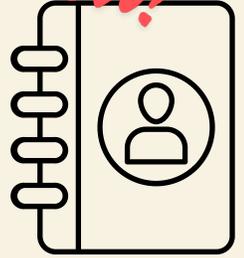
Come as you are, once or every week, and no advance reading required.

amanda.kemery@standrew-pres.org



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Coming
soon!



Coming soon to a church near you! A new, pictorial directory, featuring YOU! Session members plus a few other individuals will work together to make sure that we have accurate information for all of our members and friends of St. Andrew. Please help us by providing information when asked. We look forward to enhancing our fellowship by being able to put names to faces and to have ways to contact each other. Look for more information as fall approaches, Thank you for your support!

AV Team

To help behind-the-scenes with AV at worship services and special events, contact Tom Hill.

hillkid@earthlink.net

Fellowship

Everything our Fellowship Committee does provides fun and important times to visit with our siblings in Christ! If you want to get in on this action, even if just to provide snacks after worship, email:

fellowship@standrew-pres.org

Deacons

- Debra Gutenson (co-chair)
- Sarah Sassak (co-chair)
- Susan Cassuto
- Frank Diehl
- Nancy Gilmore
- Leslie Dragon
- Pat Quinn
- Evan Read
- Katie Schweiger

Please sign up to help greet one Sunday! Smiling faces are the best welcome!

If you or someone you know needs meals, help with errands, rides, or simply prayers, please reach out.

deacons@standrew-pres.org

Session

Class of 2026

- Stephen Fike
- Daniel Gillispie
- Josh Shields

Class of 2028

- Lynn Krepich
- Sarah Read
- Rob Weaver

Class of 2027

- Randy Dragon
- Deborah Hill
- Kyle Hottinger

**Next meeting
Aug 17**

session@standrew-pres.org

Property

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER OFFERING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO THE PROPERTY TEAM.

WHAT TALENTS ARE NEEDED? DO YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE?

- Organization - keeping track of maintenance lists
- Time - to make phone calls to schedule vendors
- Availability - to meet vendors at the church to show them around
- Finance sense - helping to keep track of upcoming expenses and available funds
- Communication - coordinating volunteers and vendors during projects

josh.shields@standrew-pres.org

Mission



COMMUNITY COALITION FOR
HAI+I

Sponsored Student Update

Jules is a healthy 6 year old girl who just finished second grade at EMEVO Primary School. But just a few months ago, she battled a painful health scare. Her troubles began when she fell into the cooking fire at home and badly burned her knee. Her mother tried a home remedy of putting mashed fried rice and tomato paste on the burn. but that didn't help-in fact it probably made it worse.

The second degree burn was infected. When Nurse Betty Paul saw Jules at school. she knew right away that she needed urgent care. CCH doctors treated Jules at the Primary Care Clinic and prescribed antibiotics and bandages. Miss Paul helped change the bandages at the right intervals when Jules was at school.

CCH school nurses treat acute issues like Jules' burn and they also identify larger community health issues. Many of our students suffer from anemia and CCH was recently able to address this by adding "iron fish" to the cooking pots for school lunches. Cooks have been trained in how to utilize and care for these special implements that boost the iron level in the students' hot lunches. Each iron fish will last for many years and should continue to reduce the symptoms of anemia.

Thanks for being a student sponsor and supporting CCH's holistic approach to health in our partner schools!



Loudoun Hunger Relief

With school out for the summer, we are concerned that demand at the food pantry may increase. The Mission Committee is challenging you to step up your giving of Healthy and Shelf Stable Food donations in the coming weeks. Thank you in advance for your generous donations which support the health and well being of our neighbors.

Share Your Harvest!

Do you have extra fruits, veggies, or herbs from your home garden? Bless our wonderful NLC staff by bringing in your surplus produce! It's a simple way to show appreciation and share God's abundance with those who care for our little ones each day. A small gift from your garden can go a long way in brightening someone's week!



Mission

UpsideDown Moments Founder and CEO Becky Saunders spoke to the congregation on Sunday, July 27 about the organization she founded after becoming a foster parent herself. Becky is grateful for the community support and that of Saint Andrew and our current project collecting items for the care packages for Teen Girls in Foster Care. www.upsidedownmoments.org



Summer Mission: Care Packages for Teen Girls in Foster Care

This summer, we're collecting items for care packages for teenage girls in foster care, in partnership with UpsideDown Moments, a local charity we've supported in the past.

Please bring donations through August 17 and drop items in the food donation box in the church lobby.

We'll pack the care packages during worship on August 17—join us as we share encouragement and hope with local teens!



Suggested donations:

- Bath wash
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush & toothpaste
- Small suitcase/duffell/backpack
- Small stuffed animal
- Books
- Small toys
- Coloring book
- Colored pencils
- Journals/pens



JULY @ THE NLC!

NEIGHBORHOOD
learning CENTER

SUMMER VIBES



Did you notice the new paint in our Fellowship Hall? Someone has been busy ...



Ms Dorothy and Kayanna took Flat Jesus shopping!



Book Club

4TH SATURDAYS @ 7:30 PM, AT MEMBERS' HOMES

Aug 23 No Country for Love
by Yaro Trofimov

Sept 27 The Battle for Loudoun County
by Wayde Byard

Oct 25 By Any Other Name
by Jodi Picoult

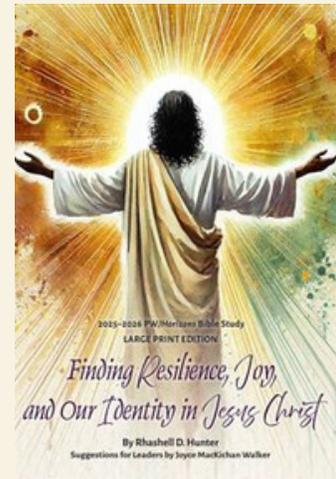
Dec 6 Time of the Child
by Niall Williams

bookclub@standrew-pres.org

Bible Bunch

2ND MONDAYS (STARTING IN SEPTEMBER) @ 10 AM, IN THE YOUTH LOUNGE

The Bible Bunch will resume meeting on Monday, September 8 at 10:00 in the youth Lounge to begin our new study "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rhashell D. Hunter. Please contact Nancy if you would like to join us or have any questions.



nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org

MISSING

A number of gray chairs from the basement used for the NLC pre-K have gone missing! Please return them if you borrowed them.
Thank you!

St. Andrew Stitchers

EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 6:30 PM, IN THE YOUTH LOUNGE

Bring a project you're working on and join friends to chat and craft! So far we have knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, cross stitch, and sometimes even "to do" projects like assembling goodie bags. Come hang out with us! ally.fetch@standrew-pres.org



I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A BENEVOLENT GOD CAN LET BACK-TO-SCHOOL HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

Did you know?

- A single pencil can draw a line 70 miles long.
- The pencil was invented over 400 years ago, in 1565.
- The first eraser used was bread. The Common rubber eraser was invented in 1770.
- Most school buses are painted, "National School Bus Glossy Yellow," which is actually an orange/yellow mix.
- 75% of middle and high school start times are before 8:30 am in 41 states.