

# St Andrew Presbyterian Church

## LOAVES + FISHES

[www.standrew-pres.org](http://www.standrew-pres.org)

December 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



## December Events @ SAPC

### Every Sunday

#### 9am - Coffee & Crafts

All ages are welcome to meet in Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and crafts. We will be making a new ornament each week to take home that coincides with our Scripture lesson for the day.

#### 10am - Worship & Children's Programming

All are welcome in worship at 10am every Sunday, with childcare available for ages 0-4. Children will be dismissed around 11:15 to practice for the Children's Pageant. See page 3 to sign up.

#### 11am - Fellowship & Snacks

Gather after worship for snacks and time together.

### Sat Dec 13 - Purcellville Parade featuring the Dad Joke Express

Line up @ Blue Ridge Middle School @11:30am if you're walking, parade starts at 12. **WALKERS NEEDED to hand out candy!** [mitch.seipt@standrew-pres.org](mailto:mitch.seipt@standrew-pres.org)

### Special Sunday Events

#### 12/7 - Ugly Sweater Day

Show your festive spirit by wearing your most over-the-top holiday sweater or outfit to church!

#### 12/14 - Cookie Decorating

Meet in Fellowship Hall after worship for cookie decorating and a hot chocolate bar.

#### 12/21 - Children's Pageant

The children and youth will lead us in worship during our annual Christmas Pageant. See page 3 to sign up.

#### 12/28 - Carols & Coffee

A casual service full of your favorite Christmas music. Christmas PJs encouraged!

### Christmas Eve Service - 7pm

A service of carols, communion, and candlelight perfect for the whole family.

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# December Calendar

Thur 4 9:15a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (*Doppio Bunny*)  
5:30-7p Choir/Bells Practice

## GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE SUNDAY THE 7TH

Sat 6 7:30p Book Club  
**Sun 7** 9a Coffee & Crafts, all ages (*Fellowship Hall*)\*  
10a **Worship Service with Communion\*** **UGLY SWEATER DAY!**  
Pageant Rehearsal during worship  
*Mission Wrapping Party after worship*  
Worship Committee meets after worship  
6-8p Youth Group (MS/HS): Cookie Exchange & Pageant Worship Planning  
Mon 8 10a Bible Bunch (*This month only @ Debra G's home*)  
Tues 9 6:30p St Andrew Stitchers (*Youth Lounge*)  
Thur 11 9:15a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (*Doppio Bunny*)  
5:30-7p Choir/Bells

## NLC STAFF COOKIE EXCHANGE DUE BY 10AM FRIDAY THE 12TH

Sat 13 12p *Purcellville Christmas Parade featuring the Dad Joke Express*  
**Sun 14** 10a Coffee & Crafts, all ages (*Fellowship Hall*)\*  
**Worship Service\*** **COOKIE DECORATING & HOT CHOCOLATE BAR AFTER WORSHIP**  
Pageant Rehearsal during worship  
Mission Committee meets after worship  
Wed 17 11:30a Communications Committee Meeting  
Thur 18 9:15a Coffee & Conversation Bible Study (*Doppio Bunny*)  
4:30p NLC Christmas Program  
5:30-7 Choir/Bells Practice  
6:30p NLC Board Meeting  
Fri 19 5p **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
Sat 20 3p Christmas Pageant Rehearsal w/ Dinner to Follow

## GIVING TREE GIFT CARDS DUE SUNDAY THE 21ST

**Sun 21** 9a Coffee & Crafts, all ages (*Fellowship Hall*)\*  
10a **Worship Service w/ CHILDREN'S PAGEANT\*** *\*child care is available 4 years old & under*  
Session & Deacons Joint Meeting after worship  
6-8p Youth Group (MS/HS)  
LCPS Closed, NLC Open for a School Age Drop-In Day  
**Wed 24** all day Church Office & NLC CLOSED for Christmas Eve  
7p **Christmas Eve Service**  
Thur 25 all day Church Office & NLC CLOSED for Christmas Day  
Sat 27 7:30p Book Club  
**Worship Service\*** **CASUAL CAROLS & COFFEE**

PLEASE SEND COMMITTEE UPDATES, ARTICLES, AND PHOTOS TO  
[NEWSLETTER@STANDREW-PRES.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@STANDREW-PRES.ORG)



# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



## Christmas Pageant Sign-Up

### Calling all Friendly Beasts!

St. Andrew's Children and Youth are taking us to the manger on December 21st during worship! We'll meet some of the animals who were there to welcome Jesus into the world. Rehearsals will happen primarily during worship at Children's Church culminating in a dress rehearsal on December 20th at 3pm with dinner provided after. We'd love to have your children and/or youth of all ages join us!

[Click here](#) or email Lisa Massey for more info or to sign up! [lisa.massey@standrew-pres.org](mailto:lisa.massey@standrew-pres.org)

## National Cathedral Tour

Fellowship Committee wants to see if there is interest in setting up a guided tour of the National Cathedral for Sat. Jan 3, 2026. The cathedral will still have their Christmas decorations & Nativity scenes up. Tickets will be approximately \$22 for the main floor. There is a behind the scenes tour that is \$40. If we get 20 people we can get a group tour and be a bit flexible with time for the tour, they have specific tour times under 20 people.

Click this link to RSVP, or email Leslie D. at [dragonnews@aol.com](mailto:dragonnews@aol.com)



## Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to provide poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service, please sign up on the clipboard located in the church foyer! They are \$15 each and may be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. You may pay by check, payable to St. Andrew, or online with notation of "poinsettias."

If you have any questions please contact Nancy at [nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org](mailto:nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org)



# Youth

**December 7** - Cookie Exchange (bring a dozen of your fave holiday treat, nut free please!) and Pageant Worship Planning

**December 20, 3pm** - Pageant Rehearsal - Theme is The Friendly Beasts

**December 21** - Pageant during worship. Youth will be running worship that Sunday and there will be many roles they can take on, both speaking and not.

[lisa.massey@standrew-pres.org](mailto:lisa.massey@standrew-pres.org)



## SAVE THE DATE

HS Retreat @Montreat  
- July 12-18, 2026

This is the date that worked for most of our High Schoolers in the group. More details to come, but add it to your calendar!



## HS Massanetta Springs Fall Retreat

9 High Schoolers attended this year's Massanetta's Keep Awake Program!

**HUGE thank you** to the chaperones:

Kevin Burel, Sarah Sassak, Kirsten Shields, and Chris Butkus!





# *'tis the season* TO GREEN THE CHURCH!





# Mission

## GIFTS FOR MOBILE HOPE

We are collecting gifts for Mobile Hope this holiday season! Stop by the Giving Tree in the narthex to pick up a gift tag for toys for specific age groups and/or store gift cards. **Return them unwrapped by this Sunday, December 7.**

Join us for a wrapping party of the donations in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service on the 7th! Mobile Hope will be hosting a Christmas Village event later that week where the gifts will be distributed.

## LAWS GIFT CARD COLLECTION

We are collecting gift cards for LAWS (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter) families again this year! LAWS provides temporary homes for abused women and their families. They also provide counseling and support for these families.

Parents know best what their children need and so gift cards are the most practical way we can help them. **Check out the Giving Tree, grab a tag, and return the gift cards by Sunday, December 21!**



# NLC Annual Family Feast

The NLC was grateful to welcome parents of our 3 and 4-year old children to join us for a Chapel led by Pastor Amanda and then a true feast for lunch. We were especially grateful for the St. Andrew volunteers who came to help serve our 180 guests!








**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, February 1  
Congregational Meeting &  
Chili Cook Off!**



Do you have 15 minutes once or twice a week to help take the recycling from the building to the recycling container at the end of the parking lot? Contact

Josh if you can help!

[josh.shields@standrew-pres.org](mailto:josh.shields@standrew-pres.org)



## **A Letter From a Grateful Member**

11/08/2025

Dear Congregants of St Andrew Presbyterian Church and the Mission Committee,

It is with deepest gratitude that I acknowledge the generous gift to the "Race for Every Child" fund raising event for Children's Hospital. Children's Hospitals special focus on the needs of children provides many families the hope for a healthy future for their child and the continuing support of a medical team always working toward more effective treatments for some of the deadliest illnesses a child might face. The team that I was happy to be part of, "Brain Tumor Trouncers" provided over \$77,000 for continuing research into treatments derived from the tumor cells affecting the child and promises the most targeted treatment ever. Loss of funding is detrimental to the smooth progress of such research and your support for brain cancer research is another step in the eventual eradication of this terrible disease.

Marjorie Diehl



## **Book Club**

**4TH SATURDAYS  
@ 7:30 PM  
@ MEMBERS' HOMES**

Dec 6

Time of the Child  
by Niall Williams

[bookclub@standrew-pres.org](mailto:bookclub@standrew-pres.org)



## **Key Fobs**

Any member of St Andrew may request a key fob for entry to the church on Sunday mornings for worship! If you would like a fob, please contact Josh Shields or Ally Fetch.

[josh.shields@standrew-pres.org](mailto:josh.shields@standrew-pres.org)

[ally.fetch@standrew-pres.org](mailto:ally.fetch@standrew-pres.org)



# Other Committees & Groups

## A/V

To help behind-the-scenes with AV at worship services and special events, contact Tom Hill. [hillkid@earthlink.net](mailto:hillkid@earthlink.net)

## Fellowship

Everything our Fellowship Committee does provides fun and important times to visit with our siblings in Christ!  
[fellowship@standrew-pres.org](mailto:fellowship@standrew-pres.org)

## Property

From light bulbs to air conditioners, the Property team makes sure our campus is well kept and welcoming. Hands are always needed!  
[josh.shields@standrew-pres.org](mailto:josh.shields@standrew-pres.org)

## NLC Board

### Church Members

- Suzanne Wade (President)
- Leslie Dragon
- Kirsten Shields

### NLC Parents

- Jessica Cassidy (Treasurer)
- Kalena Moore (Secretary)

[nlcboard@tnlcenter.com](mailto:nlcboard@tnlcenter.com)

## Deacons

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

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

[deacons@standrew-pres.org](mailto:deacons@standrew-pres.org)

## Session

### Class of 2026

- Stephen Fike
- Daniel Gillispie
- Josh Shields

### Class of 2027

- Randy Dragon
- Deborah Hill
- Kyle Hottinger

### Class of 2028

- Lynn Krepich
- Sarah Read
- Rob Weaver

[session@standrew-pres.org](mailto:session@standrew-pres.org)



## Liberty Walks Visitors

Enjoying fellowship at the table with one another is part of who we are. A week ago, we got to welcome travelers from Liberty Walks who are walking from Oregon to D.C. to promote curiosity, kindness, and connection in this country that we love. We hope you'll [read more about their visit](#) here and about their amazing adventure and mission!



## St. Andrew Stitchers

**YOUTH LOUNGE - 6:30 PM  
DECEMBER 9, JANUARY 13**

Bring a project you're working on and join friends to chat and craft! So far we have quilting, 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](mailto:ally.fetch@standrew-pres.org)



# Bible Bunch

SPECIAL DECEMBER 8 MEETING @ DEBRA G'S HOUSE

## 2ND MONDAYS @ 10 AM IN THE YOUTH LOUNGE

The Bible Bunch is a member-guided fellowship, study, and prayer group that uses the Presbyterian Women Horizon Bible Study, "Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rhashell D. Hunter. This study will explore the above by using several biblical characters, Gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. Please contact Nancy if you would like to join us or have any questions. [nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org](mailto:nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org)



## Coffee & Conversation

Whether you drink coffee, tea, hot chocolate, or Diet Coke, come share your thoughts and stories as we tie them to scripture. We will meet 9:15 every Thursday at Doppio Bunny through December 18<sup>th</sup> and then resume January 15<sup>th</sup> at Bkd Bagels.

[amanda.kemery@standrew-pres.org](mailto:amanda.kemery@standrew-pres.org)



## Some things you DIDN'T know about the animals!

- **St. Francis Started It:** The first live nativity was staged by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223, featuring a manger, an ox, and an ass.
- **Oxen & Donkeys:** They weren't in the Bible but were added due to prophecies (Isaiah 1:3) and Christian texts, symbolizing Jews (ox) and Gentiles (donkey).
- **No Donkey Ride:** The Bible never says Mary rode a donkey; she likely walked to Bethlehem.
- **Animals Could Talk:** According to one legend, God granted all the animals in the stable the temporary gift of speech at midnight on Christmas Eve, so they could praise the newborn Christ child.

Dude, there's a baby in the salad...

