

DECEMBER 2020

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 21ST

Christmas Comfort

Rappin' with the Rev by Pastor Dave Milam



Usually Advent is a time to listen to Scripture that challenges us to live with urgency, listening for how the Spirit whispers to us of the coming of a Divine One, unexpectedly coming not in a cloud of glory, but in the birth of an innocent child without certificate or announcement. And we would be urged: "look for God not in the glories of this world, but in the overlooked and forgotten!" Well, having written this down, maybe we shouldn't remind ourselves of God's urgency when Christ was given to the world. Still, given Covid, tempers flaring, distance learning, Facebook Live worship and on and on, couldn't we also find something in Advent and Christmas to encourage us with some comfort?

"Comfort, comfort, ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God..."

Well, okay, let's do announce some comfort and speak peace in this season.

Special Weekly 11:30 Traditional Worship Service

So here's what we're going to do. For the four weeks of Advent, we are adding an extra service. It will be 45 minutes in length. It will have a traditional bulletin and order of worship. The music will be out of the hym-

nal or a folder from the choir room. And those who love worshipping in this manner are especially invited to come to the sanctuary and attend the service.

Yes, the 10:00 service will continue as is and will continue to be streamed on Facebook Live and then converted to a YouTube video for later viewing. Members and friends are also welcome to attend this service. But for those who want to breathe quietly and deeply, renewing your spirits with what is familiar and comforting, please feel welcome to attend the 11:30 service. It is for you.

Christmas Eve Outdoor Worship

We also are planning to have our Christmas Eve services – except they will be held outdoors. Because it will be colder, we are limiting the services to twenty minutes. Can you stand wrapped up for twenty minutes? Sure you can. And as we gather at the front steps of the entry to the church you will hear the Christmas story read, hear some spirit-renewing music, have the opportunity to remember the physical presence of Christ in shared communion, and to hold a candle in your hands, passing a flame to one another, as we sing "Silent Night."

Because we want to keep numbers down, we are add-

ing an extra service on Christmas Eve. We will be having three compared to our usual two. So, come participate in a Christmas Eve that you will long remember at either 5:00 pm, 6:30 pm or 8:00 pm. Circles will be outlined in the parking lot area near the church so that family groupings can safely gather, socially distanced from one another. We ask that those in attendance wear masks (and warm clothing!). Feel free to invite neighbors and friends as well. We welcome all who wish to be comforted by the good news of Jesus' birth.

Advent Devotionals

Finally, let me say that our Sunday Advent services will focus on the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy and love over the four weeks of our spiritual preparation for Christmas. And, to help you have resources for daily devo-

tion, we are sending every family an Advent devotional from our Presbyterian Church denomination. But why not add to these things by putting together an Advent Calendar that you open each day, encouraging your hope, peace, joy and love by anticipating our celebration of Christ's birth? Why not join in an Advent wreath-decorating project with the Children and Youth Ministry Team who are inviting you to an at home workshop this year? Why not find new meaning in this very different observance of Advent, making its uniqueness a way of noticing its deeper meaningfulness that expresses itself both in challenge and comfort?

Yours,



Pastor Dave Milam



Join us Sundays on
FACEBOOK LIVE

As we stream Service live at 10:00AM

Not on Facebook?

You can watch live by going to our website
standrew-pres.org



The St. Andrew Book Club

The next meeting is scheduled for December 5th at 7:30 pm. The book under discussion will be The Evening and the Morning by Ken Follett. It is the prequel to the Pillars of the Earth or Knightsbridge trilogy. Please call or text Zoe Sowers at 703

629-4964 for more information and the location.

Lovettsville Group

Not currently meeting due to novel coronavirus.

Brunch Bunch

The next meeting is scheduled December 14th via Zoom. Contact Ann Paciulli at annpaciulli@gmail.com for more information.

Men's Group

Not currently meeting due to novel coronavirus.

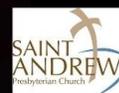
Advent SERVICES

Come celebrate this season of Hope with us!

TWO SERVICE OPTIONS

Online Service 10:00am
In Person Service 11:30am

December 6
December 13
December 20



711 West Main Street Purcellville, VA

Virtual Alternative Gift Market

For many years, we at St. Andrew Presbyterian have had our own gift shop where we could give a donation to a local, national, or international charity and receive a gift card in recognition of the donation. With the distancing requirements of Covid-19, we cannot have our traditional gift market in the church entry way, but we can still have a virtual gift market. Below are a variety of opportunities for you to pursue. The weekly email from the church will have a link to take you to each of these charities.

Heifer International

Heifer follows the philosophy that if you give a man a fish he will eat for a day but if you teach him to fish he will eat the rest of his life. They not only give those in need the means to provide for themselves, they also require that the recipient passes the same benefit on to others in the community. You can give, virtually, anything from a flock of chickens, to a basket of yarn, to a share of a goat, or the means to have clean water.

www.heifer.org/catalog

Community Coalition for Haiti

The Community Coalition for Haiti is working to provide an in-community solution to healthcare, sanitation, and education systems. It is staffed by locals and supported by many volunteers. CCH provides primary care, rehab, and surgical clinics staffed by Haitian doctors. Find all available gifts on CCH's NEW Gifts for Good Online Store!

www.cchaiti.org

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

PDA, whose motto is "Out of Chaos, Hope," is working in disaster sites throughout the US and internationally. In addition, they have an active ministry working with refugees and asylum seekers. PDA is one of the first organizations on site when a disaster strikes and

also one of the last to leave, providing both immediate assistance and long term resettlement help.

www.pda.pcusa.org

Loudoun Literacy Council

Loudoun Literacy works with at risk children to develop their reading skills and to provide books, works with families in a variety of ways (and sites) to encourage family reading time, and works with adults to help them gain needed literacy for job seeking, complete the GED requirements, and gain functional English skills particularly for non-native speakers.

www.loudounliteracy.org

Loudoun Habitat for Humanity

Loudoun Habitat, which is affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International, is working to provide affordable housing within Loudoun County. To date they have built or completely renovated over 40 homes in our county and sold them to qualifying families at affordable rates with interest-free mortgages. In addition, they have a home repair program to allow people to stay in their home. Your donation could provide materials for building or instruction time for the required courses the new homeowners complete in budgeting, home ownership, etc.

www.loudounhabitat.org



All non-perishable foods are welcome, as well as hygiene needs, and baby diapers!



FILL THE TRUNK THURSDAYS*

MONTHLY EVERY 3RD THURSDAY

4PM -6PM loudoun hunger relief

711 West Main St. Purcellville, VA
www.standrew-pres.org



Requested items for December: Cereals, Breakfast Bars, Hearty Soups, Canned meats – tuna, chicken, etc., Ravioli – cans and single serve cups.

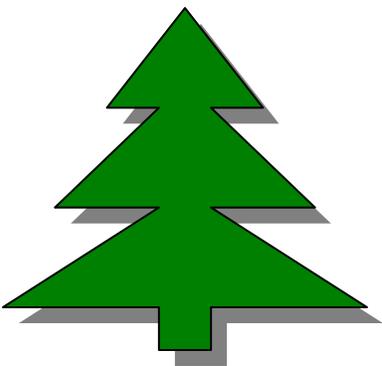
Thank you for your continued support with our Mission Partners.



Refugee Coat Collection

The Presbyterian Church partners with the Lutheran Social Service of National Capital Area (LSSNCA), to support the vital services provided by LSSNCA in our greater metropolitan area. The partnership that LSSNCA maintains includes faith communities, foundations, local, state and federal partners, and volunteers in all of the areas of support. The goal of the partnerships is to help refugees gain self-sufficiency through the resettlement process. St Andrew has joined in this partnership.

We were fortunate to become part of this process, to support a family of ten, from Afghanistan. The challenges to any family leaving a country of origin, even if it has been because of the threat of persecution, war, or violence, must be challenging beyond words. Most families come to the U.S. with very little, and I'm sure this was no different for our family. It was with gratitude that two boxes, filled with 10 new coats (and hats as well!) were delivered for the family on November 16th!



Christmas for LAWS Families

Thanks to all who donated to the LAWS Christmas project. St Andrew supplied gift cards for 13 individuals. These families will enjoy a happier Christmas thanks to your generosity.

Thanksgiving Food Bags

There were a total of 54 completed bags, and three boxes of extra foods. The gift cards totaled over \$600.00. The Hunger Relief parking lot was alive with bustling activity as cars drove in full of Thanksgiving bags, and blue transport containers, full to the brim, created a constant stream across the parking lot. The volunteers took time, as they helped unload my car, to comment on the generosity of our Purcellville community, and special thanks to Pastor Dave, and all the volunteers who participate in the food donations in Purcellville twice a month.

Special kudos to Suzanne W and Ally F, what an outstanding job!





Come join us for
Trustee Workday
Saturday, December 5th @ 9am

There will be work on lights, some wiring and outside work(weather permitting).

A fire circle will be used to dispose of some of the loose brush behind the church. (Beverages and lawn chairs are optional if you wish to enjoy the fire in an appropriately socially distanced manner after work is complete).

CDC physical distancing guidelines will be practiced.



711 W. Main St. Purcellville, VA 20132

Office Changes at St. Andrew

This is a picture of Khara Brit Struder. She is going to be our new Administrative Assistant at St. Andrew. She comes to us as a skilled manager, resourceful in graphic design and social media, having a good grasp on editing. She attended Loudoun Valley High School in Purcellville and lives therewith her mate and three children. Raised in an Army family, she has lived in a few different places around the country including West Point, the place she lived as a child. We look forward to having Brit in the office.



We are also very sad to see Diane Agbenyo depart. When Diane finished her M.B.A. in the summer of 2019, Pastor Dave knew the day would come on which Diane would gain a position matching her skills and education. In fact, she is departing following December 11th because she and her family are getting to return to Ghana for a long-awaited visit with their family there. They were last in Ghana eight years ago. With Covid-19, the month-long travel will end with period of quarantine, at which point Diane will begin a

new job search. Diane has always given a warm and gracious welcome to any visiting the office or calling on the phone. Give her an assignment and -- voila -- it is accomplished! Her communications work through church-wide emails, PowerPoint presentations and through social media has kept the congregation not only well-informed but in an engaging, picturesque way. We wish Diane and her family our best and celebrate her good work for the St. Andrew congregation. She will be missed.



Brit Struder will be starting her new position on December 1st, working with Diane Agbenyo, who will have her last day in the office on December 11th. Diane will get Brit up-to-speed on her many projects and procedures. Please take a moment to tell Diane how much she is appreciated and also give Brit a warm, St. Andrew welcome.

Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church



*We warmly invite you to join us for
 20 minutes outdoor christmas services*

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24

5PM ■ 6:30PM ■ 8PM

CDC physical distance guidelines will be followed.



711 West Main St.
 Purcellville, VA

For more information call, 540-338-4332
www.standrew-pres.org



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- Happy Anniversary this month to:*
- 13 Kyle and Kathy Hottinger
 - 16 Brian and Georgia McGranahan
 - 18 John and Lorna Howard
 - 30 Chip and Ann Pacuilli
- Happy Birthday this month to:*
- 1 Deann Mitchell
 - 4 Jacob Burel
Katie Cahoon
 - 5 Kestina Carneal
Bill Waller
 - 8 Chris Butkus
 - 11 Jacob Cahoon
 - 12 Pat Quinn
Kyle Sullivan
 - 14 Luke Rohrbaugh
 - 17 John Owens
Natalie Yurish
 - 18 Betty McNair
 - 19 Reagan Sassak
 - 20 Barrett Evans
 - 21 Melissa Macdonald
 - 22 Sam Ryburn
Erik Sassak
 - 23 Marie Cahoon
Alex Hottinger
 - 26 Parker Reed
Trinity Yager
 - 27 Ryan Hottinger
John Howard
Ford Marquardt
Barrett Marquardt
 - 29 Dan Miner
Karl Quinn
Drew Sassak
 - 30 Robin Laybourne

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYERS

We lift up our concerns

Congregation

June H and family on the death of her husband Tom. Karen R and family on the death of her husband, Rusty. Pastor Dave's mom suffered a stroke and is recovering. Betty W is recovering from shingles. Kathi H tested positive for Covid-19. Kyle, Ryan, and Alex H-were in a car accident, banged up but all home and doing ok. Jim W has completed chemo treatments. He awaits kidney removal surgery.

Friends and Family

Kate R is thankful for the Wilson family who safely arrived in Kampala, Uganda as a foreign service family. Joan T asks for prayers for Santiago C, age 13, diagnosed with brain cancer. Prayers for Sue and the Salazar family for the death of husband, Roberto. Lisa M asks for prayer for her friend Jess who is struggling with complications after a routine surgery and is now in the ICU on a ventilator. Stacey N's uncle Kim with stroke and lost use of his left side and fatally hemorrhaging internally. Matt F for the family of his sister's friend, who died of cancer.

NLC

Karen C - NLC teacher whose father passed away on November 12th.

Joys

Congratulations to Jason and Lisa M on the birth of Levi Harrison M



on November 21st.. Congratulations to Chris H and Tamara on their engagement. Congratulations to Brenda and Brian S on their wedding on November 7th. Deborah H for Scotty's 21st birthday on November 3rd. The baptism of Will G on November 22nd.

Community/World

Lorie F asked for prayers for cool heads and open hearts. Courtney H asks for prayers for the new President-elect, Joe Biden.

The deadline for each issue of *Loaves & Fishes* is the **21st of each month**. The next deadline is **DECEMBER 21st**. Please send your submissions to Sally Brenton at sbrenton@rstarmail.com.

DECEMBER MUSIC REHEARSALS

VIRTUAL CHOIR REHEARSALS

Join the choir from home!
We are rehearsing through Zoom.

WEDNESDAYS
7:00PM - 8:00PM

Interested?
Email Zack at zackh900@gmail.com

The **St. Andrew Ringers** and the **Children's Choir** are not currently meeting due to restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Flower Calendar

Since we are having Christmas Eve services outside, we will not be asking for donations for poinsettias this year. However, the flower committee will provide a few for the Sanctuary. Hopefully in 2021 we can once again fill the church with poinsettias.

If you would like to provide flowers to decorate the sanctuary, please sign up on the Flower Calendar in the entryway or call Nancy Gilmore. . If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Gilmore at 540-454-3219 or ngilmore5@verizon.net.



December Flower Calendar

| | | | |
|------|------------|------|------|
| 6th | Barbagallo | 13th | Open |
| 20th | Open | 27th | Open |

January Flower Calendar

| | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 6th | Open | 13th | Open |
| 20th | Open | 27th | Open |



Eric, Sophie, Spencer, and Emily celebrated Will's baptism on November 22nd.

SCRIPTURES AND SERMONS FOR DECEMBER

The Season of Advent

November 29th (First Sunday of Advent)

Theme: Hope

Advent Candle Family: The Mitchell Family

Scriptures: Jeremiah 1:1-12; Luke 1:67-79

Sermon: *"Concentrated Hope"*

December 6th (Second Sunday of Advent; Sacraments of Baptism and *the Lord's Supper*)

Theme: Peace

Advent Candle Family: The Sassak Family

Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-9; Luke 3:1-18

Sermon: *"Envisioning Peace"*

December 13th (Thirds Sunday of Advent; Sacrament of Baptism)

Theme: Joy

Scriptures: Psalm 30; Luke 1:39-56

Sermon: *"Joy Comes in the Morning"*

December 20th

Theme: Love

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7; John 1:1-14

Sermon: *"Love Moved Into the Neighborhood"*



711 W. Main Street
Purcellville, Virginia 20132
540-338-4332,

fax 540-338-4333

secretary@standrew-pres.org

ww.standrew-pres.org

The Rev. Dr. David Milam, Pastor

The Rev. JoAnna Rich, Children and Family Ministries Director

Marcia Owens, Clerk of Session

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

December 24th (Short Outdoor Christmas Eve Services – 5:00; 6:30; 8:00 pm)

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Candlelighting to Silent Night

December 27th (First Sunday in the Season of Christmas)

Theme: Does Anyone Really Know What Time It Is?

Scriptures: Psalm 100; Colossians 3:12-17

Sermon: *"Step In Time"*

Worship Leader: Zack Henderson