



St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church

eNews

November 17 2022

(503) 246-4276, [admin@standrewspdx.com](mailto:admin@standrewspdx.com)

3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, OR 97239

Office Hours: (9am - 3pm, M - TH)

**Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00am in person *or* on Zoom & Facebook.**

### Thoughts from Pastor Sarah

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, for the first time in two and a half years, a choir gathered in our basement choir room, 16 voices strong! It was a wonderful mix of returning voices and new voices and preparation for enhanced music in worship with the dawn of a new church year on the first Sunday of Advent (Nov 27) is well underway. I turned to a neighbor and said "This feels surreal." Something that was once so ordinary is now extraordinary. There are many times in the past two and half years when Don and I (and surely others too) wondered if we'd ever have a choir again. And, thanks be to God, we do! A wonderful choir!

A few weeks ago when I was in Arkansas I did a lot of robust singing with my gathered colleagues. More than once tears sprung to my eyes. I remember the moment in 2020 when it clicked for me that one of the most dangerous things one can do in a world gripped by an airborne virus is to gather people to sing together. I cried. I grieved. This was among the hardest moments of a hard year. All my life I have delighted in gathering for song. Singing with others on Zoom just isn't the same thing. Mercifully I have a husband and daughter with whom I can sing, and a sister when she is on this side of the country too. But there's something about gathered song that can't be replaced. And when I joined my voice in heartfelt praise with about 30 others in Arkansas I was overwhelmed with the realization that the moment I had yearned for had returned at long last.

COVID is still with us, as is RSV, and the Flu... but we have learned to wear masks when we need them and to stay home when it's wisest, and we have immunizations and there's no reason we can't sing together. We've been singing together in worship for months now and I hope the strength of our song will grow as we move towards Christmas. I look forward to gathering with several of you on New Year's Day for a potluck and carol sing. Sing with me, friends. It is good for the soul. So good.

With hearts overflowing with gratitude, Kevin and I will be discerning our tithe for 2023 and making our pledge this weekend. I hope you will join us for our commitment Sunday with food offerings and pledges in hand. And if you are a singer (even a timid one), you are welcome to join the choir in the choir room after worship for another rehearsal for the following Sunday.

We have survived the gauntlet of the last two and half years through the faithful friendship of God in Christ and faithful friendship with each other. I hope as we move towards Thanksgiving that you are truly in touch with gratitude. There is so much for which to give thanks.

Join me for coffee chat on zoom Friday 10-12 and share your gratitude and anything else on your heart.

I am your singing pastor,  
Sarah

**Mask-wearing is now STRONGLY ENCOURAGED, not required during worship. The Session voted unanimously to require vaccination for those attending in-person worship and other St. Andrew's events, with possibility of medical exemption. The COVID task force decided that we will implement this policy via the honor system. We trust the congregation to abide by the vaccination policy and will not require proof.**

**SEE THE ST. ANDREW'S WEBSITE FOR OUR CURRENT COVID POLICY**

**SCRIPTURE**

November 20

Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4

Matt 5:14

November 27

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19

Matt 26:36-38

**New News & Announcements**

**CHANGES TO BOOKKEEPER HOURS**

As our bookkeeper, Krissy, navigates a family crisis her schedule will be temporarily adjusted. She will be in the office Mondays, 9am-1pm, and will be working remotely on Wednesdays, 9am-1pm. She will also be adding evening hours in the office, as needed. We are confident these adjusted hours will not affect her job duties and monthly reporting but if you have any questions or concerns please reach out. You can contact Krissy directly via email or by calling the office during her Monday and Wednesday hours.

**\*CORRECTION\***

In gathering together the list of our veterans last week we left out the names of two important ones - Ollie Young and Dr. Scott Nasson. Our sincere apology and gratitude for your service!

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Neveh Shalom (2900 SW Peaceful Ln.) is hosting an Interfaith Abrahamic Thanksgiving Worship Service, Saturday, November 19, at 5:00pm, a very special annual event celebrating "gratitude." As is the tradition, Imam Abdulah Polovina and Rev. Greg Neel will be joining Rabbi Eve Posen. There will be a short reception and Havdallah followed by the service and dessert. They are excited to welcome those of other faiths to their sanctuary. Come to welcome and celebrate together. RSVP online.

**YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND- STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2023**

Commitment Sunday is right around the corner. This Sunday, November 20, we will dedicate our commitments for the year of head in our 10am worship service. If you have not already turned in a pledge card or made a pledge on-line, please bring your completed card to worship with you this Sunday. It's not too late to make an on-line pledge. \*\*See additional article below for more about this worship service\*\*

Thank you for being a friend to and through St. A's in 2022.

**SHARE THE HARVEST**

This Sunday, November 20th, during worship, we will dedicate our commitments to St. Andrew's, with our pledges helping us continue our mission to "Connect with Christ and each other to serve our neighbors." Along with your pledge card please bring edible winter vegetables (root vegetables, various squash, etc.) or canned goods, and place them on the communion table before the worship service begins. All food gathered to create a beautiful, 'fall harvest' centerpiece will be donated to Neighborhood House afterward. We especially invite you to involve your kids in this mini-food drive, to help share the bounty we are blessed to have.

## HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Hanging of the Greens is the first Sunday of Advent, November 27. Stay after church to join the fellowship and fun of decorating trees, hanging wreaths, and putting out manger scenes. All are invited!

## CHOIR RESUMES!!!

We will be singing again! There are a few changes, but we will begin the first Sunday in Advent, November 27. The NEW rehearsal time is Sunday mornings, after the worship service, for one hour approximately 11:15-12:15. Thank you to all who came to practice last Sunday! It was a thrill for all those present. It's not too late to join - all are welcome!

Also, take note of our Advent special music schedule as follows, and make sure to join us for some beautiful and joyful music!

- Nov 27 - Dagny Regan, Oboe
- Dec 6 - Jordan Paulus, French Horn
- Dec. 11 - Canby Cantalinas
- Dec. 18 - TBA
- Dec. 24 - Nick Luchterhand, Saxophone

## ST. ANDREW'S NAMETAGS

Would you like to make a new friend? Wearing your nametag each Sunday at worship can help. You can request a new nametag this coming week. They are being made for visitors and/or members of our worship community. Please contact Katy in the office or Connie Blumthal for a new (or renewed) nametag.

"Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other gold."

## WINTER WISHES GIFT DRIVE FOR NEIBORHOOD HOUSE

Have you been wondering about our annual Fall Food Drive for Neighborhood House? Your Mission Team has decided that for this year we will instead take part in the Winter Wishes Gift Drive, to remain most responsive to the stated needs of Neighborhood House and their program recipients. We will be collecting the items listed above, in barrels located in the narthex, through Sunday, December 11; donations will be taken to Neighborhood House in the week that follows to meet their deadline. If you would like to help coordinate this at St. A's, to spread the word and make this a bigger success, contact the office and let us know. Thank you for your continued generosity to this valued ministry partner!

## WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

All Good Northwest, with the support of their community partners, is holding a winter clothing drive for the Multnomah Safe Rest Village participants. Men's and Women's adult-sized items are needed, especially hats, gloves, coats, sweaters, and warm, wool socks. New and gently used items are accepted. Items can be dropped off at Classic Collision and Umpqua Bank, both in Multnomah Village, at the Southwest Community Center, or in the office with Katy. This drive is ongoing through Thanksgiving.

## Learning & Fellowship Opportunities

Members of all classes and groups are encouraged to continue reading and studying at home. Please contact your group leader if you do not find a list or link below.

## ANTI-RACISM DISCUSSION GROUP

The Anti-racism discussion group is reading the book, 'Caste: The Origins of our Discontents', by Isabel Wilkerson, that "examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions." Our next meeting is Thursday, December 8, at 6:00pm on Zoom, where we will discuss part four: The Tentacles of Caste. This will be our last gathering of 2022, but we'll pick up again on the second Thursday of January in 2023. Regulars and new-comers alike are invited to join us. Contact Pastor Sarah for more information.

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Several St. Andrew's men meet on first and third Wednesdays at 7am, usually at Pastor Tom's house. New participants are welcome. For more information, please contact Larry Patterson or the church office. Virtual participation is available upon request.

## Service Opportunities & Mission Updates

We know that there are many requests for basic needs assistance right now. Please contact the Church Office Admin or Mission Team Leader if you have questions or need help with drop-off or deliveries. We hope that you find one or more opportunities that call to you, and please know that any amount of support is appreciated and makes a big difference!

## ZIPLOC MINISTRY \*UPDATE\*

**Saturday, November 26, 10:00-12:00; Ziploc bag filling**

**Saturday, December 3, 11:30-12:00; First Saturday donation drop-off**

In addition to our regular Ziploc filling this month, we will be filling stockings for the residents of the Multnomah Safe Rest Village! This ministry opportunity brings together the combined efforts of the St. A's quilters, who made the stockings, and our Mission Team, who will purchase items to fill the stockings using Neighborhood Ministries funds. Join us on November 26th from 10:00-12:00 to fill the stockings with goodies and other useful items for each of the approximately 30-35 Safe Rest Village Participants. This is a great activity for kids to take part in too!

We also continue our ongoing work of distributing important donation items to our ministry partners. We ask for the following to fill this critical need in our community:

- period products (especially sanitary pads)
- diapers (especially larger sizes)
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- disinfectant cleaner/wipes
- NEW underwear
- socks
- travel toothbrushes/toothpaste
- men's protective eyewear
- gently used or new backpacks
- men's work gloves (with latex fingers/palms) Sizes L and XL

Items can be dropped off at First Saturday Donation Drop-off, at any time during office hours, or on Sundays. Contact Darwin if you have any questions.

## MEALS FOR WEST WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S SHELTER

Once a month volunteers from St. Andrew's provide a large meal and snacks for residents at the West Women's & Children's Shelter. There is a pre-set menu to follow and the recipe for each meal is provided in advance. Delivery drivers are also needed. Sign-up online.

## HELP RESETTLE AN AFGHAN FAMILY

*Extend hospitality to strangers. Romans 12:13b*

*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

*Matthew 25:35*

We've been supporting Amir and Khatera through donations to the Afghan Refugee Fund and the efforts of the Hillsdale Afghan Refugee Team (HART, many members of which are also members of St. Andrews). Amir, who grew up working in his family's welding business, has just started working for Fought & Co., which does major metal projects from its Tigard location. Thanks to Carolyn Gazeley for spotting the job opening! Khatera, who had recently suffered a severe bicycle accident when we first met her, is now walking well and has received needed dental care, thanks to the efforts of many taking her to appointments. She is now looking forward to getting back to work; she was a banker in Afghanistan. Both are now taking English classes at PCC. Thank you for your time, money, and prayers helping them on their resettlement journey. Continued donations to help this family can be made to the Afghan Refugee Fund, via St. Andrew's, and should

include your name and address, and whether you're a member of St. Andrew's. Questions? Ask Amy Houchen or Rebecca Nasson.

#### ST. ANDREW'S QUILTERS

The St. Andrew's quilters meet on the second and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:30. Their beautiful creations are donated to organizations that provide warmth to those in need. All are welcome to join them! Contact Gail Planck for more information.

#### **Virtual Gatherings & Events**

Sunday, November 20 & 27

10:00am Worship, Zoom & Facebook  
(also in person)

Friday, November 18 & 25

10:00am Virtual Coffee Chat, Zoom

#### **Reminders & Ongoing News**

##### PARENTS NIGHT OUT - DECEMBER 9

Join us for a Parents Night Out on December 9th, 5:00-7:30pm. Kids ages 2 - 4th grade are invited for a fun night of games, crafts, and stories, while their parents enjoy some time to themselves. A kid-friendly dinner will be served as well. Register online, and spread the word! All are welcome.

##### NEW NATIONAL SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

People experiencing a mental health crisis have a new way to reach out for help in the U.S., by calling or texting the numbers 9-8-8. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. It will function much like 9-1-1, but is solely dedicated to addressing mental health needs. See their website for more information on this potentially lifesaving new program, and help spread the word.

##### CONFIRMATION IN 2023

Pastor Sarah is working on planning for a Confirmation retreat and experience in 2023. If you have a youngest in your life who is ready for confirmation, please let her know. She will likely collaborate with some other colleagues in the presbytery so we have a bigger retreat experience. At present a January retreat is being planned with several mentor check-ins over the next six months. If you'd like to be a confirmation mentor, or learn more about this, please let her know.

##### RIDES TO CHURCH

We are grateful St. Andrew's is now open for Sunday worship services and are anxious to reunite with friends, fellow members, and all who wish to be part of this. To help make this happen, some of our Deacons are starting a program to give rides to church to people who need them. If you would be interested in receiving this service, or know someone else who would, please let us know so we can get you on our list. If you would be interested in being a driver, please let us know that too. With enough volunteers people may only be needed once a month. Contact the office, Merrie Backer, or Larry Kelly to sign up, or if you have any questions.

##### NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in becoming a member of St. Andrew's? Let Pastor Sarah know today! And keep your eyes posted for the next Inquirers' Class.

**Member Database Access is available anytime. Contact the office to get set up.**

**Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of St. Andrew's through your online donations and checks sent by mail.**

**Office: 503-246-4276**

**Office hours 9:00am - 3:00pm, Monday - Thursday**

**Bookkeeper hours: 9:00am - 1:00pm, Monday & Wednesday**

**The Rev. Dr. Sarah Sanderson-Doughty, Pastor and Head of Staff**

**Don Feely, Director of Music Ministry**

**Katy Rustvold, Office Administrator/Neighborhood Ministries Coordinator**

**Krissy Wilds, Bookkeeper**