



St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church

eNews

March 16, 2023

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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 Kindred in Christ,

Thank you to the many who came out to see Caroline perform last weekend. She did make a very convincing mean girl, but we know that is the farthest from the truth about her. It is evidence that our daughter can act! Thanks as well to all who sent along birthday blessings to Kevin on his 50th. And thanks for the very warm welcome you offered to Steve and Jean on Sunday morning. They delighted in all the conversations they had.

This week I had a major press to finish a clergy renewal grant application. In the terms of call that you approve every year, you approve three months of sabbatical after every six years of service. Technically, I could take that leave this coming summer, but my intention is to take it next summer in 2024. I plan to begin my sabbatical on June 1, 2024, the seventh anniversary of my ministry start at St. A's and return on September 3, the day after my birthday! I have designed a summer of focus on hearts' desires, for all of us. We will offer adult education in Lent and Easter of 2024 to facilitate discernment of heart's desires and will likely change the rhythm of life at St. A's while I am away to carve out more space and time for pursuit of those desires. Don't worry. We have LOTS of time to prepare for this.

IF I get the grant for which I have applied this will bring in resources for both me and the congregation to broaden the possibilities of how the time will be spent, for all of us. I will not hear whether I have been selected to receive the grant until the end of August. So for now, I am letting it go. There is a lot of competition so there are no guarantees. I welcome your prayers. I appreciate the support of the Session, especially clerk of Session, Steve Planck, and chair of personnel, Steve Cook, and treasurer, Eric Chavez, in pulling this major application together. I am also grateful for one of our newest affiliates, the Rev. Jan Reynolds, who helped me dream up my plans and is willing to provide significant leadership in my absence.

Want to hear more about what I am hoping for the summer of 2024? Join me at Driftwood Coffee or on Zoom tomorrow for coffee chat between 10 and 12 tomorrow.

And, as always, if you want or need a visit or call, please let me know. I'm here for you.

Hope to worship with you on Sunday at 10, in person or on-line.

In Christ, Pastor Sarah

**Your Respiratory Viruses team learned on 1.19.23 that the surge in respiratory viruses is on the wane and decided it is ok to relax our masking requirement. We still encourage masking in worship, but do not require it. You may bring a mask from home or ushers will have masks available at the door when you enter.**

**Masks are the best tool we have, when gathering, to protect ourselves and, more significantly, to protect our most vulnerable neighbors-- presently infants and children who can get terribly sick with RSV, a virus for which we do not have a vaccine.**

**When we gather and sing and socialize, we expel aerosols that can carry viruses to others. I know that you are committed to serving neighbors. You can do this through the simple act of wearing a mask in public places.**

**See our website for the most current Respiratory Viruses Policy**

### **SCRIPTURE**

March 19

Matthew 25:1-13; Psalm 43:3-4

March 26

Matt 25:31-46; Psalm 98:7-9

### **New News & Announcements**

#### **SW HOPE UPDATES**

SW Hope is happening now, through April 15. Keep an eye on this space for fundraising and donation events each upcoming week. For more information you can go to the SW Hope website, or contact Katy in the office.

A food barrel is located in the narthex for food donations, and money donations can be made anytime up through April 15. Every dollar raised is the equivalent of four pounds of food. There is also a donation barrel near the Vermont Hills office so their community can take part as well.

### **March 16-23**

#### **TCT Saturday**

Positive Charge! PDX/Two Can Tuesday will have drivers picking up food donations curbside from SW Portland neighbors on March 18, from 10:00-1:00pm and taking them to Neighborhood House. Register online to donate or to be a driver. Registration ends today, March 16th.

See the piece below for a full list of events. We hope you find multiple ways to take part in this important fundraiser as part of our mission to serve our neighbors in Southwest Portland.

#### **LENTEN EVENING PRAYER**

On Wednesday nights in Lent we will be meeting over Zoom for evening prayer. Join Pastor Sarah on March 22, 29, and April 5 at 6:00pm on Zoom. A digital or paper copy of the Lenten devotional we will be using can be requested through the church office.

#### **LENTEN FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY**

Come together on Saturday, April 1, from 9:30am to noon in the Narthex of St. Andrew's to prepare for Palm Sunday's morning worship the next day. We will enjoy coffee and donuts as we make crosses from palm fronds and decorate the Sanctuary to welcome Jesus' entry to our church home. For more information contact Connie Blumthal.

### PARKING LOT CLEAN UP - SAVE THE DATE

The next local environmental project in the St. Andrew's parking lot will be Saturday, April 1 from 9:00am to noon. We will be pulling invasive plants, like ivy, shiny geranium, blackberries and holly, in preparation for Easter. Snacks will be served. For more information contact Jeanette Kloos.

### PATHWAYS HOME - AN EDUCATIONAL SERIES ON HOMELESSNESS

The Southwest Faith Coalition, in partnership with the Friends of the Multnomah Safe Rest Village (FMSRV), invite you to attend a two-part event around homelessness in Southwest Portland. The first night, April 26th from 6-8pm, will focus on understanding the problem; the second night, May 17 from 6-8pm, is on how to address this crisis, with a focus on sustainable solutions that maintain the dignity of those who are suffering because of it. Both nights will take place at Riversgate Church in Multnomah Village (7634 SW Capitol Hwy), and will feature speakers who are working directly on this issue. Childcare will be available by reservation, and we ask all attendants to bring a donation of non-perishable food items, new socks or underwear.

The Southwest Faith Coalition was spearheaded over a year ago by Pastor Sarah and Katy, as a way to bring faith leaders in SW Portland together to build relationships and look for areas of greater collaboration. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 11am over Zoom, and typically have up to a dozen people representing about half a dozen congregations in attendance. The FMSRV is a grassroots neighborhood group born out of the process of finding ways to welcome and support a Safe Rest Village into the Multnomah Neighborhood, especially as it faced opposition. This event is our first collaboration and we would love to have a strong St. Andrew's presence at both of these events. For more information about this work contact Pastor Sarah, Katy, or Marilyn. We'd love to tell you more about it!

### THE TOIL FOR LILLIES

In the February 23 eNews, Darwin invited you to join her in toiling for lilies. She shared that our grounds are in need of care, our volunteers are few and weary, and a plan has been drafted for a phase one revitalization of the grounds that is pragmatic and environmentally sound— featuring a rain garden and plants that would attract pollinators. It is also romantic and whimsical - with White Swan Coneflower nestled near Woodland Strawberry facing Sunset Boulevard flowing into our already present Japanese Maples lining the way down Dosch.

Minimally we need to establish a regular maintenance contract. Maximally we want to implement this phase one plan and establish a regular maintenance contract. To do it all would require nearly \$40,000 of extra-budgetary funds. And so your Session has authorize a short-term campaign to raise funds for care of our grounds. We hope to be able to make decisions in April about next steps, on the basis of funds received by Easter, April 9.

Deep breath - please give what you can, when you can, where you are called, how you are called. If it's not money, Steve Ihrig or Jeanette Kloos would be more than happy to have volunteers to assist with various needs. If it is money, Darwin suggests that every time a plant or animal - one of our non-human relatives - revitalizes you in a significant way, you give a little something to the grounds fund so that we can revitalize them in return.

To make contributions, send checks to the church with "Grounds Fund" or "Toiling for Lilies" on the memo line or make an on-line contribution designated for this purpose. Thank you for prayerfully discerning around this invitation to extraordinary generosity.

### **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.

### NEW SPIRITUAL FORMATION GROUP

We are excited to announce a new Spiritual Formation group at St. Andrew's! We will meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 12:30 to 2:00 in the Lounge. During our time together we will explore transformative teaching and daily practices. We will begin with videos and writing from Father Thomas Keating, practicing Centering prayer, and

sharing our experiences of growth. Additionally, we will publish a list of other Spiritual Formation opportunities from wise Christian Contemplative Teachers that you can pursue on your own journey." Come explore with us! Contact Wendy McCall if you have any questions.

#### ANTI-RACISM DISCUSSION GROUP

Join us as we begin reading and discussing the book, "All the Real Indians Died Off and 20 other Myths about Native Americans" by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker. Our schedule will change for the months of March-May, when we will be meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month instead of the second. Our first gathering will be on Thursday, March 23, at 6:00pm on Zoom. We plan to discuss the introduction and first six myths, which is about the first fifty pages of the book. All are welcome to take part. Contact Pastor Sarah if you have any questions.

#### 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.

#### CONTINUING ENNEAGRAM EXPLORATIONS

Every fourth Saturday at 1pm, a group of open, curious, compassionate people gathers on Zoom to come to greater understanding of themselves and other people through the tool of the Enneagram. This season we are using "The Journey Toward Wholeness" by Suzanne Stabile as our guide. If you would like to take part it would be helpful to get a copy of the book and read the first section. Our next gathering is Saturday, March 25, at 1pm on Zoom. Contact Pastor Sarah if you need a reminder of other specific homework.

#### **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!

#### SW HOPE FOOD DRIVE: FEBRUARY 26 - APRIL 15

The 2023 SW Hope food drive is happening now! This year Neighborhood House has set a goal to raise \$75,000 in donations for their food pantry (the equivalent to 300,000 pounds of food) to continue serving those in need in Southwest Portland. There are many ways you can participate this year!

#### Cash & Food Donations

Food donation barrels will be located in the narthex and downstairs near the Vermont Hills office all throughout this drive. Bring food donations with you to worship on Sundays, or drop off during office hours. Cash donations are especially encouraged as monetary giving is the most efficient way to support this work. Every dollar donated is the equivalent of four pounds of food. Donate by check or through the St. Andrew's website.

#### TCT Saturday

Positive Charge! PDX/Two Can Tuesday will have drivers picking up food donations curbside from SW Portland neighbors on March 18, from 10:00-1:00pm and taking them to Neighborhood House. Register online to donate or to be a driver. Registration ends today, March 16th.

#### Dine Out to Donate Nights

Enjoy a night out at any of these restaurants and part of the proceeds will go to SW Hope:

- March 25: Jack's Tap Room & Grill (special menu with 25% of proceeds donated!)

### Empty Bowls – Saturday, April 8, 1:00-3:00PM

An annual favorite returns for another year. Purchase a beautiful, handmade, ceramic bowl and one or more soup options from local restaurants, and all proceeds will go to SW Hope. Soup and bowl purchases can be made online and picked up in front of Neighborhood House on April 8.

### SW Hope 5K – April 15th

SW Hope will conclude with its annual 5K run/walk at Oregon Episcopal School. There will be a kids fun run at 10:00 followed by the 5K at 10:30. Registration is online.

### ZIPLOC MINISTRY

***Saturday, March 4:***

***10:30-12:00-Ziploc bag filling and donation drop-off***

***\*\*Please note the change in start time. We will now begin at 10:30 instead of 10:00.***

We continue our ongoing work of distributing important donation items to our ministry partners, which now includes Operation Nightwatch (see article above). Our goal is to assemble 40 bags a month, which will include enough to give some directly to those living outside in our own neighborhoods. The cost of this is \$250 per month, which currently comes out of our Neighborhood Ministries fund. We welcome continued donations to offset this cost and maintain this regular support of our unhoused neighbors. Suggested donation items include:

- Gatorade
- Water
- Sweet salty snacks (raisins nuts chocolate, not crunchy)
- Soft protein bars (not crunchy)
- Slim Jims or other easy-to-eat single-wrap snacks
- Razors
- Hand warmers
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpastes
- Soap
- Hand sanitizer
- Hand wipes/towelettes
- Socks
- Gloves

Items can be dropped off at First Saturday Donation Drop-off, at any time during office hours, or on Sundays. Feel free to take an assembled bag or two that are located in the Narthex and give them out as needed. 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. All meal and food contributions can be dropped off at the monthly first Saturday Ziploc ministry day (see above), from 11:30-12:00. Sign-up online to take part.

### HELP RESETTLE AN AFGHAN FAMILY

A group at St. A's continue to help support an Afghan refugee brother and sister family who have resettled in Portland and are working to reunite with their loved ones, including spouses and children. Donations 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 fourth 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, March 19 & 26

10:00am Hybrid Worship

Zoom & Facebook

(also in person)

Friday, March 17 & 24

10:00am Virtual Coffee Chat, Zoom

(Password- COFFEE)

Also in person on 3.17 at Driftwood Coffee

Wednesday, March 22 & 29

6:00pm Lenten Evening Prayer, Zoom

Thursday, March 23

6:00pm Anti-Racism Discussion Group, Zoom

Saturday, March 25

1:00pm Enneagram Study Group, Zoom

### **Reminders & Ongoing News**

#### JOIN OUR WONDERFUL YOUNGSTERS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Thank you to those who have signed up to help in the nursery, and give an extra set of hands to the wonderful Aubrey Schiefelbein, who works in our nursery most Sundays. We occasionally need someone to fill in for her, but most of the time we just need someone to check in and see if she needs any help. Come play, read, and be with our inspiring children! A few Sundays are still open in March, April, and May. Sign-up online to volunteer.

#### 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."

#### 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.

#### RIDES TO CHURCH

Do you or someone you know need a ride to church on Sundays? If so our Deacons are on hand to give rides to church to those who need one. 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.

**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**