

SEPTEMBER 2024

CROSSROADS

ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Building Authentic Christian Community, One Relationship At A Time"

611 SWAMP CREEK ROAD • BECHTELSVILLE, PA 19505 •
610.367.7043

WWW.SAINTANDREWUMC.ORG

[FACEBOOK.COM/BECHTELSVILLEUMC](https://www.facebook.com/BechtelsvilleUMC)

Church Staff

Pastor Pastor Barb Seekford
PastorBarb@saintandrewumc.org
Pastor Barb's Cell# 610-310-8349

Administrative Assistant Jeanine Deckert
Office@saintandrewUMC.org

Worship Leader Kelly Werkheiser

Adult Choir Director Nancy Webb

Treasurer Donna Werkheiser

★ WE WILL BE ★
CLOSED
FOR
LABOR DAY



From the Pastor's Desk



Worship Service to Remain at 9:45

Hopefully, most of you have heard by now that we will be staying with one worship service as we head into the fall. We wanted you to know that this was not a decision made lightly. At this point in time, we just don't have the support needed for two worship services. We don't have enough folks to run the sound board, the computer

and our musicians have no substitutes when they need a Sunday off. (Let us know if you would be willing to serve in any of the positions mentioned!) As with most decisions, we know that this a big disappointment for some folks as you enjoyed the time and the worship style of the service you attended, for others you are enjoying being together with everyone and appreciate the different styles of music, etc. Please know that we are always looking for ways to help folks draw closer to God during worship so please share with the Pastor Barb and the Worship committee your thoughts and suggestions.

As was mentioned in the August newsletter, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to allow each individual congregation to decide how it will handle same sex marriages. At our congregational meeting on June 2nd, we said that we would take a vote later in the summer to give folks time to process and pray. On August 11th at our congregational meeting, we voted.

Our Lay Leader, Faith Schlegel, SPRC chair, LeRoy Moser and Trustee chair, Tracy Donmoyer counted the votes. The results are as follows:

51 folks voted in favor of allowing same gender weddings to be performed on the St. Andrew campus and 25 folks voted against same gender wedding being performed on the St. Andrew campus.

There has been some division and some hurt feelings as a result of this decision. We also know that some folks are choosing to leave. Please continue to hold St. Andrew in your prayers as we move forward.



Cash 4 Causes

Help Raise Money for Our Missions Program!

Cash4Causes helps to raise money for our Missions Programs. Thank you to those who purchase cards every month. If you are interested in ordering a Giant gift card to give as a gift or use for yourself, please see Faith Schlegel (Or Maryann Stauffer) on the first 2 Sundays of the month to place your order.

The Monday Group

This group is in keeping with St. Andrew Women's objective; to serve others.

They meet on Mondays from about 9AM to 12PM. Except for the last Monday of the month when they go out to breakfast first.

If you'd like to join them, they'd love to have you be a part of the group.

Please contact Edie Scherer at 610.754.7793, if you have any questions.

**Next Breakfast: Monday, September 30th
at the Americana Diner**



The United Methodist Men will meet for breakfast on **Sunday, September 1st at 7:30am** at the Saville Diner.

All the men of the church are welcome to join them!
Contact: John Stauffer.

The Board of Trustees will be meeting on **Tuesday, September 10th at 7pm** in the Library.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christian Companions

*Christian Companions Women's Bible Study -
Walking through life with God
and each other.*

*The Christian Companion Women's Bible Study
Group will be meeting on Friday, September 20th
at 7pm in the Youth Room downstairs.*

*They will return and kick off the fall with
"The Chosen" - Season 2!*

*All women are welcome to join them on the 1st &
3rd Fridays of the month at 7pm.*

*Contact Linda Clancy or Donna Werkheiser with
any questions.*



Cathy Webb offers a Bible Study
in our Fellowship Hall
the 4th Tuesday every month.
**Next Study:
Tuesday, September 24th at 1pm.**

The Praise Band will return to practicing every
Wednesday (except when the Church Council
meets) from 7:15-8:30pm in the Sanctuary.
Contact Person: Kelly Werkheiser.



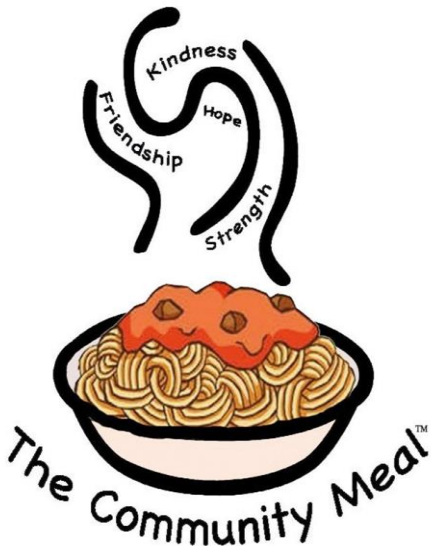
The St. Andrew Women (SAW)
will begin the season on
Wednesday, September 11th at 1pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

We have a lot of things to discuss and vote on
so please try to attend. Help us plan for the
new year as we keep our mission projects
going.

We are still saving your Redner's tapes. Please
put them in the box in the Welcome Center.

All women of the church are invited to attend. Come for fellowship and fun!

The Mission Committee will be meeting on
Wednesday, September 18th at 7pm
in the Fellowship Hall.



Free Community Meal

Hello Church Community!

The Monthly Community Meal is held on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 12 to 1 pm. Groups and volunteers are needed to sponsor and/or assist with cooking, serving, take out and clean up. You may also come to enjoy the meal and meet some of our community members.

There is a sign-up sheet in the welcome center. If you have any questions, see Faith Schlegel or Becky Rhoads.

**The next Meal will be on
Saturday, September 21st at Noon.**

**A special thank you to LeRoy, Tim & Linda, Christie, Isaac, Sarah, Jane & Tracy and all who showed up to help Becky in August in My and Bob's absence* - Faith*

The Church Council will be meeting on
Wednesday, September 25th at 7pm
in the Fellowship Hall.
Contact: Bob Schlegel



Church Council Meeting



Adult Choir practice is starting on
Thursday, September 12th from 7:15-8:30pm.
Will plan to practice and sing twice a month....
Dates TBD.

Yarn Spinners

Welcome back to our fall season of knitting and crocheting. Hope you all had a nice summer.

We will meet on

**Thursday September 26th in the Library
from 12-2pm+.**

At this time, we will prepare items we have made for the 29th of September Blessing during the church service. Please bring any items that you wish to be Blessed. Looking forward to seeing everyone.



School Supplies for Salvation Army - A BIG thank you to all who donated

school supplies for the Salvation Army distribution to area students in need. We had a very nice variety of items and amounts of them.



**The Finance Committee will be meeting
on Monday, September 30th at 7pm
in the Library.**



gratitude

Henry Ziegler, class teacher, invited the class members to Eck Restaurant in Lenhartsville PA for a memorable homecooked meal and spread of desserts. Sandy Bancroft led us back to St. Andrew church by way of a country covered bridge, around three roundabouts in the Thursday evening rain.

Expressions of Gratitude:

Thank God for our Sunday school teachers! "Willkommen"



September 2024 Liturgist Schedule

Date	9:45am
September 1 st	Henry Ziegler
September 8 th	Faith Schlegel
September 15 th	Phyllis Conroy
September 22 nd	Kelly Werkheiser
September 29 th	Dave Purnell

September 2024 Computer & Soundboard Schedule

9:45am	Computer	Soundboard
September 1 st	Andy Moyer	John Stauffer
September 8 th	Sarah Conroy	LeRoy Moser
September 15 th	Pat Kerr	Jen Ewing
September 22 nd	Andy Moyer	John Stauffer
September 29 th	Sarah Conroy	LeRoy Moser

September 2024 Offering Count Schedule

Date	9:45am
September 1 st	Lead: Tracy Donmoyer and Tim Clancy
September 8 th	Lead: LeRoy Moser and John Stauffer
September 15 th	Lead: Rob Thomas and Beth Rosenberger
September 22 nd	Lead: Tracy Donmoyer and Adina Warren
September 29 th	Lead: LeRoy Moser and John Stauffer

**If you are unable to work your scheduled day, please switch with someone else on the list.
Thank you!**

PRAYER

list...

Please keep the following members who are unable to attend services in your prayers:

Donna Baith

1600 Black Rock Rd.
Room# 711
Royersford PA 19468

Virginia McKinstry

PO Box 113
New Berlinville PA 19545

Dennis Kline

Southeastern Veterans Center
1 Veterans Dr.
Spring City PA 19475

June Stoudt

17 Stacy Dr.
Barto PA 19504

Nancy Renninger

1599 County Line Rd.
Bechtelsville PA 19505

Joan Maute

1666 County Line Rd.
Bechtelsville PA 19505

Laverne Maute

Lutheran Community at Telford
12 Lutheran Home Dr.
Telford, PA 18969

Marian Meitzler

451 Township Line Road
Bechtelsville PA 19505

Janice Hull

Greenfield Senior Living
300 Perkiomen Ave.
Schwenksville PA 19473

Our Current Prayer List

Phyl Minner's Brother-in-law Armand, Mary Conroy, Bob Schlegel, Owen & Candy Allen, The School Year, The Schmale's Neighbors Cory, Ashley and Cooper, Mary Cantlin's Sister Lori and Nephew Sean, Louise Wilson, Eric Scherer, James Kraemer, Alan Kerr, The Schlegel's Family Members Vicky, Vanessa, Christina & Families, Phyl Minner, Laverne & Joan Maute, Stanley, Michelle & Kirstie Weller, Alex Schollenberger and their son Levi, and Julia Welsh.

Community Meal Friends: Edna, Joe, Rose, Peg, Shirley, Our Country, Children going back to school.



September

BIRTHDAYS

Harold Moyer
Josh Schmale
Bill Evens

9/4
9/13
9/22

Alan Kerr
James Riefenstahl
George Bartow

9/24
9/28
9/30



Jeffrey & Jen Ewing ~ 9/1 *Dave & Tracie Gomołka ~ 9/19*
Jim & Shari Good ~ 9/25

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary information printed here
and you would like it to be, please contact the church office to update your
record.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

St Andrew United Methodist Church
Treasurers Report
June 30, 2024

	June 2024	June 2023	Y-T-D 2024
Funds Received *	21,434.00	17,224.00	141,444.50
Bills Paid	16,895.89		100,112.82
Open Bills	7,532.05		7,567.63
Total Bills	24,427.94		107,680.45
Net Increase (Decrease) in Funds	-2,993.94		33,764.05

Other Collections that do not affect the budgeted expenses:

Improvements	4,085.00	15,961.50
Special Offerings	0.00	1,330.00
Memorials	0.00	100.00
Sunday School	0.00	160.00

* Funds received includes Current offerings, Church plate and other income used to pay budgeted expenses.

TREASURER'S REPORT

St Andrew United Methodist Church
Treasurers Report
July 31, 2024

	July 2024	July 2023	Y-T-D 2024
Funds Received *	18,958.00	20,714.00	160,402.50
Bills Paid	16,602.17		116,714.99
Open Bills	8,585.65		8,585.65
Total Bills	25,187.82		125,300.64
Net Increase (Decrease) in Funds	<u>-6,229.82</u>		<u>35,101.86</u>

Other Collections that do not affect the budgeted expenses:

Improvements	1,415.00	17,376.50
Special Offerings		1,330.00
Memorials	50.00	150.00
Sunday School		160.00

* Funds received includes Current offerings, Church plate and other income used to pay budgeted expenses.

MISSIONS

Mission: Salvation Army

Our mission team is asking our church family to once again answer a need expressed by Boyertown Salvation Army. We are going to collect one non-perishable food item a month to help them throughout the year.

The item for September is Rice

They can be placed on the table in the Welcome Center. There are slips available to take home as a reminder of what we will be collecting each month, so you can plan ahead and buy items when they are on sale.

We appreciate your support of this community-based outreach ministry.

Thank You!

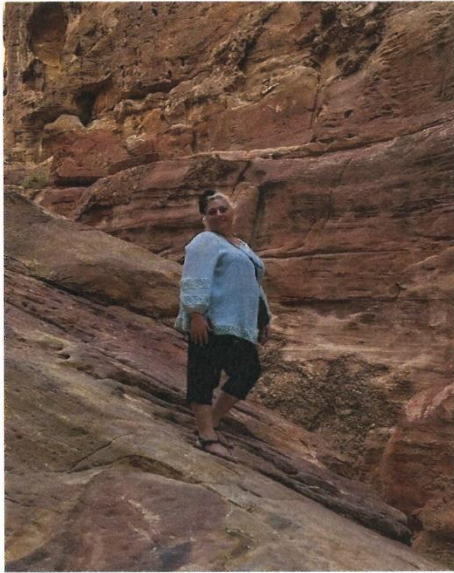
Food Item for September 2024

Rice



AGLOW COMMUNITY LIGHTHOUSE
POTTSTOWN PA AREA

<https://www.aglow.org/>



Visionary **Lisa Hicks** will be with **Aglow Pottstown** on **Sept. 7**. Live Gospel Worship with **Antoinette Valentine** of Kingdom Life Center.

Aglow Community Lighthouse Pottstown

www.facebook.com/AglowCommunityLighthousePottstown/

AglowCommunityLighthouse@gmail.com

Every nation touched, every heart changed

Aglow Community Lighthouse

Saturday, Sept 7, 2024

9:00 am - 12 noon

An OPEN DOOR in '24

Eyes of FAITH are linked with HOPE.
Hearts that BELIEVE hold fast,
envision the future and KNOW
Romans 8:28 - ALL things work
together for GOOD ... is in process.

The LORD is fighting FOR us. HE is
not against us. HE sees the future.

**COME to AGLOW for
VISION to OVERCOME.**

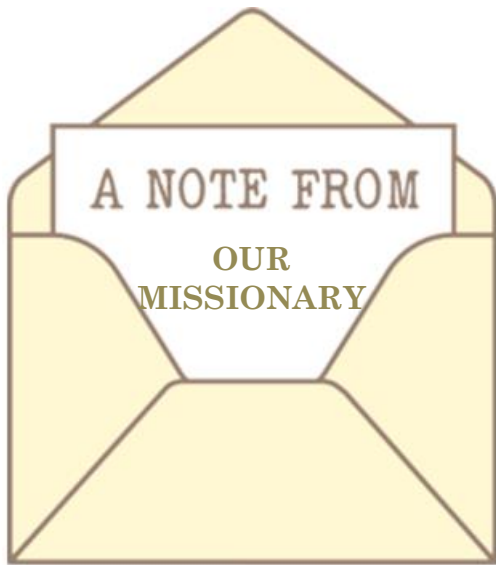
Location: TRAAC

Tri-County Active Adult Center

288 Moser Rd

Pottstown, PA 19464

No Charge or Cost



SOURCE OF LIFE: PROVIDING COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS AND LOCAL CHURCHES WITH BOREHOLES FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER

1. Introduction

While Burundi has made great strides in providing water for its population, there are still over 40% of its rural population without access to an improved water source (UNICEF 2020). With respect to sanitation, the situation is much grimmer.

2. Project rationale (description of the need affecting the community)

As Burundians look to recover socially and economically, access to safe drinking water is a central concern. As it stands, about nearly half of the population lacks access to clean, safe drinking water and this situation remains a big challenge particularly for households in rural areas. Additionally, only approximately 20% of the population has basic sanitation services while 28% of the total population and 44% of the rural population continue to practice open defecation, according to UNICEF. Currently, 33% of the population in urban areas has access compared to 14% of the population in rural areas. This disparity is, in part, due to the fact that funds and resources are evenly distributed to both regions despite a majority of the population residing in rural areas.

Sanitation infrastructure such as sinks, sewage systems, toilets and latrines, are generally of poor quality. This infrastructure is also poorly maintained, often resulting in a lack of basic sanitation facilities. Ultimately, only 46% of Burundians can access basic sanitation facilities with a majority of public facilities still lacking water points.

This resulting in disease burden, especially on children, is great, with 37% of child deaths attributable to diarrhea. As population is increasing, with current growth trends averaging about 3.3% per year, the demands on existing infrastructure, especially at aging school facilities, are increasing dramatically. So, while a



community may have a water point, or sanitation facilities, they may not be adequate to serve the current population, which results in rationing supplies, long lines, long walks to seek additional sources of water, and/or a return to unimproved sources of water or open defecation in frustration. As schools grow, taking in more students to keep the pace with the growing number of pupils and growing education level of the population becomes more difficult. The schools are barely able to keep up with the need for classroom and dormitory space, and are not in a position to properly expand water and sanitation facilities. Crowded conditions and poor sanitation facilities also result in increased sick days and other health concerns among the student population. Which also decreases the number of days students spend in the classroom.



This is also a challenge for the local churches with toilets and latrines that are generally of poor quality and poorly maintained often resulting in a lack of basic sanitation facilities. The government has threatened to close all the church infrastructures without adequate sanitation facilities and the United Methodist Church is not spared.

The lack of drinking water or the difficulty to access it are the primordial causes of health problems among children under 5 years of age who are prone to water-borne diseases such as schistosomiasis and malnutrition. Many Burundians drink from unsafe sources of water. The undeveloped health care industry makes matters worse, as those with diseases are not treated properly.

Even if people have access to water, there are still other constraints.

In some areas, the soil is sandy, and latrines need lined (and therefore expensive) pits. In other areas, the soil is rocky, and digging pits is difficult and expensive. Wood for superstructures and slabs is extremely scarce, and cement slabs are expensive. Given the widespread poverty, it will be very difficult for most people to construct proper 'improved' latrines.

The proposed project will contribute to reducing potential for conflict by reducing the scarcity of available water, and by strengthening joint planning by the different stakeholders. It will be essential to use a 'do no harm' lens when developing catchment management plans and when designing specific infrastructure. The development of water harvesting infrastructure and water points for people and livestock can have an effect on seasonal movement patterns, and can also have effects on downstream water availability. This needs to be considered carefully.



The proposed project will contribute to reducing potential for conflict by reducing the scarcity of available water, and by strengthening joint planning by the different stakeholders. It will be essential to use a 'do no harm' lens when developing catchment management plans and when designing specific infrastructure. The development of water harvesting infrastructure and water points for people and livestock can have an effect on seasonal movement patterns, and can also have effects on downstream water availability. This needs to be considered carefully.

3. Addressing community needs

The United Methodist Church in Burundi, as a faith-based institution, sees the right to safe water and adequate sanitation as a fundamental issue of human worth, dignity and justice. Our projects are designed to assist communities and institutions to recover their sense of pride in their community by helping meet the basic human needs for water and sanitation.

4. Description of the project

To help Burundi achieve universal coverage for water and sanitation by:

- 1) Providing safe reliable drinking water to communities, schools and church facilities in Burundi that otherwise are forced to use a less desirable or less reliable source of water.
- 2) Providing sanitation facilities and raising community awareness and education about the harm of open defecation. Which is contributing to the health and welfare of the communities served.

5. Impact of the project



We would like to see communities take pride in their water and sanitation facilities, keeping them clean and sanitary and in good working order. We would like to see water points still in use 5 years after installation. We would like to see healthier outcomes for children under 5 in the intervention communities, particularly those that receive both water and sanitation interventions. We would like to see a reduction in school absenteeism in schools where water and sanitation facilities are improved, as an indicator of project success.

We would like to see improved welfare of rural communities in the East of Burundi

SCARCE AND UNEQUAL ACCESS TO WATER IN RUYIGI, RUTANA AND CANKUZO PROVINCES

The lack or limited access to clean, safe drinking water is a source of various health problems among households of rural Burundi and contributes to aggravating malnutrition.

A shortage of safe drinking water presents a health crisis for children — water and sanitation-related diseases such as diarrhea are one of the biggest causes of death for children under five around Burundi.

Poor access to clean water also undermines their development: children, and particularly girls, often miss out on education as they make long journeys to fetch clean water.

Below is a table showing an overview of the situation of water and sanitation in the church districts located in Rutana, Ruyigi and Cankuzo provinces with limited access to basic sanitation.



“Camp Firelight” Vacation Bible School!

I think VBS was a great success! I'm not one to usually lead things, but God has been calling me to do many things that are unusual to me.

You all made it so easy! Thank you to everybody involved in setting up, planning, guiding, teaching, feeding, and taking down. —
Faith





SEPTEMBER 2024



Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Saturday
1 <i>Communion</i> 7:30AM Men's Breakfast at Saville's 9AM Sunday School 9:45AM Worship Service 10:50AM Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting	2 5:30PM AA Mtg. 	3	4 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7:15PM Band Practice	5	6	7
8 9AM Sunday School 9:45AM Worship Service 10:50AM Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting	9 9AM Monday Group 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7PM Worship Comm Mtg.	10 7PM Trustees Mtg.	11 1PM SAW 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7:15PM Band Practice	12 7:15PM Choir Practice	13	14
15 9AM Sunday School 9:45AM Worship Service 10:50AM Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting	16 9AM Monday Group 5:30PM AA Mtg.	17	18 5:30PM AA Mtg 7PM Mission Comm. Mtg. 7:15PM Band Practice	19 6:30PM SPRC Mtg	20 7PM CC Women's Bible Study	21 12PM Community Meal 
22 9AM Sunday School 9:45AM Worship Service 10:50AM Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting	23 9AM Monday Group 5:30PM AA Mtg.	24 1PM Bible Study	25 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7PM Church Council Mtg.	26 12PM Yarn Spinners	27	28
29 9AM Sunday School 9:45AM Worship Service 10:50AM Sunday School 5:30PM AA Meeting "Blessing of the Yarn Spinners Projects"	30 9AM Monday Group Breakfast @ Americana Diner 5:30PM AA Mtg. 7PM Finance Comm Mtg.					NOTES: Pastor Barb will not be working in the office Monday, 9/23- Wednesday 9/25.