

St. Andrew United Methodist Church Newsletter

June 2026



CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Effective June 7, 2026, our worship hour will return to 11:00 AM!!

Nursery and Sunday School for children will be provided during the worship hour.

Also, on June 7, after our worship service, we will be having a reception in Friendship Hall to honor our 2026 graduates. Please plan to stay and congratulate them!

Nolan Duncan, Riley Turturice, and Arianna Rectenwald graduated from Marshall University.

Gavin Duncan, Lydia Sturm, and Shannon Joins graduated from St. Albans High School.

Michael, a 2026 high school graduate, from Cross of Grace, will be joining us!

Bible Study is held every Thursday morning at 10:30 AM. We meet at Coal River Coffee on Olde Main Plaza in St. Albans.

SNAP meets Monday through Wednesday from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

Karate is held every Monday at 6:00 PM in Friendship Hall.

Boy Scouts is held every Monday evening at 6:30 PM in Cottrell Hall

Cub Scouts is held every Thursday evening at 6:30 PM in Cottrell Hall.

FEAST OF ST. ALBAN CELEBRATION on Monday, June 22, at St. Mark's starting at 6:00 PM with refreshments to follow. If anyone from your church is willing to provide a snack-type food or dessert for our fellowship time after the service, please have them contact Beth Sturgill at (304)415-1150 or

sturgilbeth1@gmail.co

The Feast Day of St. Alban

Have you ever wondered who St. Alban was anyway?

The St. Albans Ministry Alliance invites you to a worship service observing the Feast Day of St. Alban on **Monday, June 22, at 6:00 PM at St. Marks Episcopal Church.** Worship will be lead by our local church and ministry leaders and the St. Albans Festival Chorus. Refreshments will follow provided by volunteers at Christ's Kitchen.

This special service will offer a meaningful time of worship, fellowship among members of our various churches, and shared encouragement as we ***celebrate the ministries that unite us in service to our neighbors.*** Those attending will also have the opportunity to hear from and learn more about the benevolences supported through the St. Albans Ministry Alliance and the ways we are working together to care for our community. Please join us!

Invitation to VBS from First Presbyterian Church

THE CHILDREN OF ST. ANDREW ARE INVITED TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at First Presbyterian Church of St. Albans at 201 Kanawha Terrace running from 5:30 PM to 8:15 PM June 8 through June 12, 2026.

Flyers will be available at St. Andrew or call (304)727-2241 for more information.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries

(The flowers for June are honeysuckle and roses.)



Barbara Asbury	June 1	Jeff Loftis	June 12
Alice Baldwin	June 23	Ann McComas	June 2
Jane Foster	June 27	Steve Perry	June 28
John Hall	June 27	Sue Pomykata	June 4
Barbara Hoffman	June 2	Robert Stalnaker	June 21
Bob Lilly	June 6	Charles Young III	June 27

Anniversary

Lois and Ernie Downey June 24



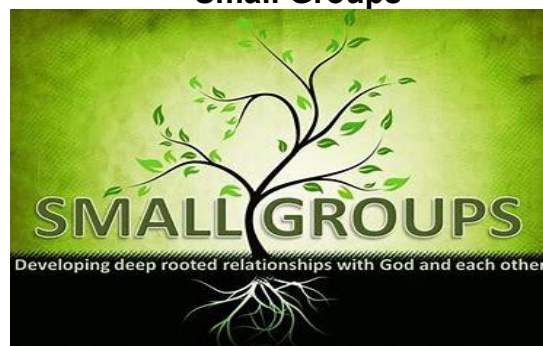
SNAP

Have you seen our SNAP sign in the parking lot along Kanawha Terrace? That is right; we are trying to add young adults to our program. We are desperately trying to keep our program going. We cannot rely on grants alone; they have become fewer and fewer every year. We have already received three calls about our program and these families will be visiting us in June to learn about our program.

We will be having several fund raisers coming up. We will keep you posted as to when and where. Please keep us in your prayers.

In May, we went bowling and the movies and to bingo and karaoke at the Hansford Center. We celebrated cinco de mayo at the Rio Grande. We also visited the Ronald McDonald House. We are participating in Ronald McDonald's pop can tabs collecting. It doesn't seem like much; but when we have schools, scouts and other organizations collecting, it adds up. This teaches us several lessons. Recycling helps the environment, helping others who need it the most; and no matter who we are, or how young or how old we are, we can make a difference.

Small Groups



Tim's small group meets on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM on Zoom
Bob's small group meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM on Zoom
Amy's small group meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM on Zoom
Fishermen's small group is attending the Thursday Bible study at 10:30 AM

Address Update:

As most of you know, Betty Moore moved to Raleigh, NC several months ago. She built a home there and her address is 1429 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27604

Outreach



Christ Kitchen needs: egg noodles and Styrofoam food containers with three compartments

Food Pantry needs: any non-perishable food items will be greatly appreciated

Prayer List



Emma Gandee

Grace Cochran, friend of Kathy Stalnaker

Linda White, friend of Kathy Stalnaker

Beverly Loftis

Rev. Jarrold Lanham

Josh Reuter, cousin of Kathy Stalnaker

Alice Baldwin

Mary Frances Combs

Bob and Karen Tate, Bev Hart's brother in law

Cathy Henley Lankford

Angie, mother of Katie (Cross of Grace)

Nancy Lawrence

Jan Quinlan, sister of Diana Beane

Lela Ann Carroll by the Downeys

Ann McComas

Larry Winter, brother of Claudia Bowles.

Adam Shope, Nancy Crawford's nephew

Amy Holbrooke by Nancy Crawford

Barbara Asbury

Barbara Murray, mother of a friend of John Boggess

From the Pastor's Desk...

It is hard for me to believe that in just over a week, on June 12, Cindy and I will be celebrating our tenth ordination anniversary. Ordination is such a momentous occasion, and one that served as a culmination of over ten years of arduous work (four years of undergraduate study, three years of seminary, and three years of residency). This day was a day of celebration, one of new possibilities and ministries

That morning Cindy and I sat with our ordination class on the front row of Wesley Chapel at West Virginia Wesleyan when the news of the Pulse Shooting made its way through the chapel. At 2:02am earlier that morning, in Orlando, Florida, a gunman opened fire on Pulse Night Club killing 49 and injuring 58 individuals. While the details at the time were very few, it was shared that Pulse was a gay bar and this violence was against the LGBTQ+ community. That morning I heard Bishop Sandra Steiner-Ball share from the pulpit, that her daughters had been in that very club recently with friends, and that Pulse was known as a safe place where individuals could go and be embraced for who they were.

This brutal killing was very much in the forefront of my mind the morning of my ordination, and over the past decade the Church's relationship with the LGBTQ+ community has been an ongoing focal point in my ministry. In 2019 the United Methodist Church rejected full inclusion for LGBTQ+ individuals – leaving so many hurt and wondering what the future held. This decision was **entirely reversed just five years later**, after a mass exodus of traditionalists left – some forming the Global Methodist Church while others went independent.

Even though things have been fraught for the UMC, especially in West Virginia, a year and a half of this past decade has been spent serving St. Andrew United Methodist; and here I have been able to live out my call to welcome all people into a walk with Christ, regardless of gender and sexuality. I have been able to live into the calling that God had put on my heart, long before my ordination. Yet, it is looking back on ten years of ordained ministry that helps me see that while ministry has changed dramatically in ten years, the call to “love God above all else, and love our neighbors as ourselves” will always be the locus of my call from God. Jesus embodied this best when he sought out those rejected by religious traditionalists of his time, and I believe this call is as important now as it was two thousand years ago.

-Pr. Darick

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Pr. Darick J. Biondi
Pastor of Cross of Grace Lutheran and St. Andrew United Methodist
United Methodist Elder in Extended Service



Scholarships Awarded

The St. Andrew Scholarship Committee met during June and it is with extreme pleasure and pride that as a church we are able to award three scholarships this year. These scholarships are comprised of monies from the earnings from the Dr. Donald E. and Andrew Lee Cunningham Memorial Trust Fund.

Those who received scholarships this year include:

Lydia Sturm – Undergraduate Marshall Univ.

Alex Ward - Undergraduate Western Governors University

Annalee White – Undergraduate University of Kentucky

The congregation would like to wish you continued success as you pursue your education and we wish you the best in the upcoming school year. St. Andrew is proud to have young adults of your caliber and hope we can continue to assist you in the future.

And here are additional announcements we just received:

WE ARE HAVING GUESTS AT ST. ANDREW FROM JUNE 11 to June 20, 2026!

Work Teams from “Youth Works” will be staying in the church and eating breakfast here.

After that, they go to the “Y” to shower and then to their work sites. They will have dinner before returning to St. Andrew for the night.

Their mission work is not affiliated with St. Andrew.

We have hosted teams in the past before the pandemic

St. Andrew will be hosting a second technology class on Sunday, June 28, 2026 from 1:00 to 2:30 PM.

YOUTH TRIP TO WATER WAYS!!

The youth will be going to Water Ways on Saturday, July 11, 2026. We will car pool from the church to the pool. Please be at the church by 9:45 AM. Pick up will be at 5:00 PM.

The admission fee and lunch will be provided.

If interested in helping or for any information, please contact maeleetharp@gmail.com

