



"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting." Then all the people said 'Amen!' and praised the Lord." 1 Chronicles 16:36

It's very few and far between that an "Amen!" comes out of the mouth of a Presbyterian during worship or during, well...anything. As someone who has been a part of the Presbyterian church since before I was born, I can probably count on my right hand how many times I've heard it said. Other traditions, however, would find it odd that we so rarely proclaim it. In fact, in many churches it's common to hear a good, loud "Amen!" (more often than not pronounced HAY-MAN here in the South) from the pews over and over again.

One of my seminary classmates told a story about her time in college, when she became a member of a PC(USA) congregation. One year at her new church, she was asked to deliver a monologue in an Easter service. She was thrilled because her father, a Baptist minister, attended the church that morning to support his daughter and her important role in the worship service. She said that they were not two minutes into the liturgy - still in the welcome and introduction section - when her dad "shouted a riveting 'AMEN!' that echoed in the stark silence." This happened time and time again throughout the entire service.

My friend remembers being so embarrassed in the moment, because she couldn't deny that the man was her father; they shared pale skin and red hair, after all. She wished that her father would have just stayed quiet, respected that church's traditions, and done things the way everyone else did.

Only later, after conversations with friends, did she realize what a blessing it was to have him so excited and so moved that he just couldn't keep it in. He had to let it out!

I have thought of this story recently as I have struggled with the rise of COVID once more. I admit that too often I find myself angry at the folks who refuse to get vaccinated and saddened by those who have lost their lives because of it.

The story of my classmate has moved me to try something different, though. Instead of complaining, instead of being angry, and instead of being frustrated, I am choosing instead to look for a silver lining, to look for God's grace, and to look for reasons to shout "Amen!"

If you want to join me, start first with a celebration of St. Andrew and your commitment to being vaccinated and masked. It shows that you care for and love one another, and it shows that you care for and love your neighbor. That's worth at least two "amens" in my book!

If we start there, we can then begin to see other things in our lives and in the world that are worth praising God. I'm certain of it. Why don't we give it a try?

And all God's people said..."Amen!"

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2021		Chairperson
Clerk of Session.....	Stuart Strong	
Worship	Linda Grissom	
Member Care.....	Nellie Gates	
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	Turner Matthews	
Mission	Barbara Mouton	
Communications & Outreach	Harold Culbert	
Treasurer/Administration.....	Philip Gilbert	
Finance.....	Greg Vogel	
Building/Grounds	Bob Naumann	
Nominating	TBD	



John Brandon	11
Carol Watt	24
Joan Jordan	24
Teresa Culbert	28
Robert Lawton	29



John & Betty Brandon	23
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Thank you for your generous support for local missions!

Hands Across Decatur: Thank you for your generous support for the homeless of Decatur. It is churches like yours that make our ministry possible. Harold Comer, Director

Habitat for Humanity: Thank you for your recent donation. Donations such as yours makes it possible for families in need to obtain affordable housing. (This was from our can collection.)

Tennessee Valley Outreach: On behalf of all the guests who call the TVO home and the staff who serve to meet their daily needs, I would like to thank you personally for the generosity you have shown to us through your gift. It is because of friends like you who care that TVO is able to meet the needs of many homeless and hurting men, women and children throughout the North Alabama and Southern Tennessee area. Your kindness and compassion are not only gifts . . they are lifelines. Matthew Richards, Executive Director.

Presbyterian Mission Engagement & Support: On behalf of Presbyterian Mission, thank you for your gracious and faithful support. We received your gift from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. The support of your congregation makes a difference in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ locally and around the world.

Fox Valley Missions: Thank you for your generous donation. The money will be used to rebuild water lines and systems after two hurricanes in 2020.

Complete acknowledgements can be read on the hall bulletin board.



Presbyterian Women's Meeting

Tuesday, September 7
10:00 am in the fellowship hall.

Leader: Nellie Gates
Lesson: "Family Trees," Matthew 1

"What My Grandmothers Taught Me"
Learning from the women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus.



The Worship Ministry Team wishes to thank the congregation for your warm "welcome back" to Rev. Dr. Judy Rich on August 22nd, when she graciously filled the pulpit for Pastor Tripp. She feels a special bond with St. Andrew through her family's involvement with Westside and Bethany Presbyterian Churches during her childhood. Thank you!

During the month of September the choir plans to help the congregation learn a new communion hymn and, on another Sunday, sing an anthem from the "fountain side" of the sanctuary. Later in the month we'll also enjoy music by Jacob Shull and Linda Webster.

See you in September!
Linda Grissom, Chair, Worship Ministry Team

NAP Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering
Saturday, September 11, 2021
at Maranatha Camp and Conference Center

9:00-9:50 Registration
10:00 Program

Lunch and Workshops follow
conclusion of Program

Cost is \$13: Please sign-up in church office and
make your check payable to BJ Breeding by September 1.

CCC FOOD PANTRY

Collection the 1st Sunday of the month.



Items Needed Most

Grits/Oatmeal	Soup
Hamburger Helper	Crackers
Peanut Butter	Canned Greens
Canned Fruit	Pasta
Canned Veggies	Pasta Sauce
Dried Beans	Rice

Please leave items in shopping cart.



Canned Food
Toiletries
Men's clothing
Women's Clothing
Underwear
Socks
Antiseptic ointment
Insect Repellent
Travel size shampoo
Bar Soap / Deodorant
Tissues
Aspirin

More items listed in the donation area.



Have a laugh!

A car's weakest part is the nut holding the steering wheel.

Do you know ants never get sick?
It is because they have little anty bodies!

Worship and Small Group Guidelines

Revised August 12, 2021

Your COVID-19 Restart Team has still been meeting regularly throughout the pandemic to assess guidelines that will keep us and our neighbors safe. As most of you are aware, the Delta variant is surging throughout the country. It is especially so in our area, where the vast majority of folks are still not vaccinated.

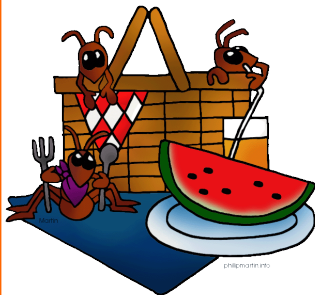
We have made the difficult decision, however, to update some of our guidelines in response to the increase in cases and hospitalizations due to COVID and in accordance with the most recent CDC guidelines:

- Wearing a mask is required while attending services and groups at St. Andrew.
- Social distancing guidelines are required when seated in the sanctuary and gathering in the narthex.
- No food or drink is available in the building. The kitchen remains closed.
- Sunday School and other small groups who have meetings already scheduled will be able to meet wearing masks and social distancing. They will need to make sure the area they are using is sanitized after their gathering.
- The nursery is closed till further notice.
- There will be no Sunday School for children and youth.
- The choir will be seated in the congregation following social distancing guidelines.

While this may be hard to get back in the habit of doing, we believe this is a faithful response for us as followers of Christ. According to the CDC, this Delta variant poses a greater threat in its rate of transmission than the first wave of the virus. And so we will do our part by implementing and abiding by these guidelines. In so doing, we continue to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Nellie Gates, Chair, Restart Team

Member Care Committee Update



Member Care Ministry team is working toward some activities for fellowship for St. Andrew. The first activity (COVID restrictions permitting) will be a cookout on the patio on October 17, 4:00 PM. We will try our best to make this as sanitary as possible. Mark your calendar for this fellowship time. If you have suggestions to keep St. Andrew connected, please let the Member Care team know.

I look forward to seeing you at church.

Nellie Gates, Chair



Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
3310 Danville Rd. SW
Phone: 256-355-6310
Email: Tripp@standrewdecatur.org

Join us:
Sunday Worship 10:00a
(in person and on-line)
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00p
(on-line)

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Facebook: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church,
Decatur AL
www.standrewdecatur.org
Email: churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org

September Worship Leaders

September	5	12	19	26
Liturgists	Greg Vogel	Stu Strong	Barb Mouton	Nellie Gates
Ushers	Jackie Naumann Stu Strong	John Newbill Sylvia Newbill	Harold Moore John Shull Shelly Shull	Dave Ellerbe Betty Matthews Barb Mouton
Nursery	Betty Matthews	Barb Mouton	B.J. Breeding	Shelly Shull

CARING HANDS MINISTRY

2nd & 4th Thursdays each month, 1:00 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME! No skills needed, we will teach you.



Are you looking for a chance to socialize and do something fun? Join the Coloring Group!

We have a group for those who like to create works of "art" and fellowship with other believers. We use coloring books for adults so no true artistic ability is required. We have plenty of supplies.

We meet every other Monday. Our next meeting is Sept. 13 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship

The Chronicle is published monthly by St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. To submit articles by email send to: churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org by the 22nd of each month. You may also submit articles in print to the church office Monday through Thursday, 8:45 am—1:00 pm.