



St. Andrew,

I know what you're thinking... "It's the November Chronicle and Thanksgiving is coming up, so this article of Tripp's will likely be about giving thanks."

You got me! Sort of...

Let's be honest... sometimes we hear the call to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thess. 5:18) and it seems impossible to muster up gratitude. Every year, November rolls around and somehow we're supposed to be grateful while our bodies ache, our relationships strain, and our world feels heavy.

So here's permission to be a cranky Christian this Thanksgiving. Really.

Because here's the thing about biblical gratitude... it's not always sunshine and rainbows. The Psalms are full of complaints, laments, and brutal honesty with God. "How long, O Lord?" appears in scripture far more often than we sing it in worship. Our Reformed tradition has always made room for wrestling with God and for bringing our full selves (grumpy bits included) into the conversation.

Gratitude isn't always about pretending everything is fine. It's also about noticing that even when everything isn't fine, God is still present. Sometimes, it's spotting the small mercies in our lives and in the lives of others. These aren't consolation prizes for a hard year; instead, they're glimpses of grace breaking through.

The apostle Paul wrote about giving thanks from a prison cell... not because prison was great, but because even there, he found God faithful. I think that might just be the cranky Christian's secret. We don't give thanks for everything, but we can give thanks in everything, because God meets us exactly where we are.

So this November, if you're feeling less than cheerful, welcome to the club. Bring that crankiness to God. Be honest about what's hard. And then... see if you can spot one small sign of God's grace in the middle of the mess. Just one... not to fix everything, but to remind yourself that even on the hard days, you're not alone.

Pretty soon we'll gather around the Lord's Table for communion and our own tables for Thanksgiving, with some of us feeling cranky, some of us feeling cheerful, and all of us just showing up as we are. Maybe that's what real thanksgiving looks like, where we come as we are... mess and all... trusting that God will meet us there.

Grace and peace,
Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2025.....	Chairperson
Clerk of Session	Stu Strong
Building/Grounds	Stu Strong
Communications & Outreach	Rev. Tripp
Education & Spiritual Formation	B. J. Breeding
Finance & Administration	Don Koza
Member Care.....	D. Ann Norris & Jackie Naumann
Mission.....	Barbara Mouton & John Jordan
Treasurer.....	Philip Gilbert
Nominating.....	Shelly Shull
Worship.....	Linda Grissom
Comptroller	Tommy Gates



Jean Coshow	2
Tom Meier	7
Faye Anderson	17
Barbara Allen	21
BJ Breeding	28



Robert & Connie Lawton	1
Don & BJ Breeding	16
John & Shelly Shull	17

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.

2025 Church Cookout Everyone had a great time!





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.

Clothing, sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, coats, gloves, socks, bikes, etc. are all welcome.

CHOIR *Practice*


Wednesday
November
12th & 19th
4:30 PM



If you have not attended a Presbyterian Women's meeting, it is not too late to join in the fellowship and Bible Study. On November 4 we will be studying "Jesus is Tested" (Luke 4:1-13). This lesson will help us to see that when we are tested we are not alone. Come and join us November 4, 10 AM in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for your attendance at the Fall Luncheon. Your support of Presbyterian Women is certainly appreciated. Good food and a time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Thank you for your support of our mission projects. This helps us make a difference in our community and in the world around us.



Donations for poinsettias for the sanctuary are now being accepted in the church office. You may donate any amount in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Donations will be accepted through November 30th. Checks should be made payable to St. Andrew.

Congratulations Barbara Allen

At the recent joint Presbyterian Women Synod Triennial Gathering held on St. Simons Island, GA, our very own Barbara Allen was installed as the PW Moderator of the Synod of Living Waters. This is the first time in 31 years that someone from North Alabama Presbytery has been installed in this position. Congrats, Barbara, and thank you for your service to the larger church!



First Picture - Installation day - PWS Moderator Barbara Allen, Past Moderator Rev. Kirsten King, PWS Treasurer Carolyn McLarnen and Cindy Fisher from PHFC
Second Picture - Some of the Ladies from First, Huntsville, Barbara Allen in stole and Suzanne Cornett



Chat "N" Chew Advent Bible Study

December 1, 8, and 15 from
11:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Bring your own lunch

Presbyterian Women's Lunch 2025

Presbyterian Women hosted a lunch following the worship service on Sunday, October 26. Donations were accepted for this fundraiser which will help support PW's mission projects. Thank you.





Thanksgiving Meal Collection

We will be providing 50 Thanksgiving dinner kits this year to be divided between the Committee on Church cooperation (CCC), the Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC), The Salvation Army, and Hope Place.

We have ordered the turkeys, and the collection of groceries is in progress at the Donation Station in the church narthex. Each meal will consist of:

- *Corn - 2 cans ANY SIZE**
- *Green Beans - 2 cans ANY SIZE**
- *Dessert Item - 1 box or bag (if a cake, bring frosting)**
- *Candied Yams - 2 cans ANY SIZE**
- *Instant Potatoes – 1 box (no fresh potatoes)**
- *Cranberry Sauce - 1 can**
- *Cornmeal - 2lb. Bag (or larger)**

We are accepting cash donations to cover the cost of the turkeys, \$20-\$25 per turkey. Also, if you prefer to donate cash instead of purchasing the necessary groceries, the cost per meal for just the groceries will be \$18-\$20 per meal. Just mark your checks “turkeys” or “groceries”. The last day to contribute is November 16.



The Holiday Hope Chest Project is underway for the 2025 Christmas season!

Shoeboxes are available on the table in front of the Fellowship Hall. They are already wrapped with an instruction page and gift tag included. Suggested items are listed on the back of the instruction page.

Boxes must be turned in by Sunday, November 30th.



Thanks to all who came and helped wrap boxes at the Holiday Hope Chest wrap party.





The Christmas Joy Offering is on Sunday, December 21, 2025. This year we would like to display the Christmas Joy Offering scene pages colored by our own dear ones. If you, your children, grandchildren, or anyone you know, would like to color a page, please pick one up in the narthex. If you cannot find one, please text John Jordan. Once finished, please leave them in the church office. Don't forget to sign your name on the page!



CONNECT

FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE

NOV 12

5:30 PM
CONNECT
Bible Study
w/Rev. Tripp

DEC 10

5:30 PM
CONNECT
w/Brandi Breeden
Clothe Our Kids

JAN 14

5:30 PM
CONNECT
Bible Study
w/Rev. Tripp

FEB 11

5:30 PM
CONNECT
Bible Study
w/Rev. Tripp

During the months of September - March, we will meet only once a month, typically, the second Wednesday night.



Honoring
ALL WHO
served
THANK YOU
VETERANS

Veterans Day Breakfast

Our local DAR chapter is hosting a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall for our Veterans at St. Andrew during the Sunday School hour November 10. All are invited to join. If you are a Veteran or a widow of a Veteran, please give the following information to the church office:

*Name *Rank *Specialty *Years Served

Café Connect

8:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Fellowship Hall

Join us every Sunday morning for
coffee, light refreshments and
fellowship.



Stewardship Sunday *November 16th*

"Life is not measured by how much you own"
Luke 12:15 NLT



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, November 10, 2025

Menu: Friendship Soup and Salad

**Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring rolls,
cornbread, dessert, or serve.**



CARING HANDS MINISTRY

**Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of
the month.**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



We make cards that will be used to send out hope filled messages to those needing some encouragement or just a little extra "hug" to let them know how much we care about them. The only skills needed will be the ones you learned in kindergarten: cutting and pasting! All supplies are provided. We also knit or crochet shawls for Hospice and the Cancer Institute.



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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Daylight Savings Time ends All Saints Day	3	4 10A PW 6-8 Civic Chorus (CC)	5	6 1P Caring Hands	7	8
9 No SS 8A Veteran's Day Breakfast 2:30-5P DMC Fundraiser	10 HAD Lunch	11 6-8 CC Church Office Closed Veteran's Day	12 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT w/Rev. Tripp	13 5:30P-7:30P CC Concert	14	15 9:30A-11:00A North AL Presbytery Gathering
16 Stewardship Sunday	17	18	19 2P Session Meeting 4:30P Choir	20 1P Caring Hands	21	22
23	24 9A Decorate for Christmas	25 Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	28	29*
30						

November Worship Leaders

Nov.	2	9	16	23	30
Liturgists	John Jordan	Bob Martin	Robert Sparks	Shelly Shull	Jackie Naumann
Ushers	Doug Coshow & Don Foster	John & Shelly Shull	Sylvia Newbill & Linda Livingston	Alan & Shelia Chapman	Betty Matthews & Stu Strong
Nursery	Barb Mouton	Carol Strong	Shelly Shull	Joan Jordan	Lynn Panter
Communion Servers	Nellie Gates, D. Ann Norris, John Jordan(L), Stu Strong, & Linda Grissom				