



St. Andrew,

We've just entered Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar... that long stretch of mostly green Sundays that carries us from Pentecost toward Advent. If you've ever wondered why we call it "ordinary," you might be surprised to learn that originally, it had nothing to do with mundane or boring.

The word "ordinary" comes from the Latin *ordinalis*, meaning "numbered" or "ordered." These are simply the numbered Sundays of the church year, counted week by week as we follow Jesus through his earthly ministry. This time makes up about half of our church year.

Unlike the dramatic stories of Christmas and Easter, Ordinary Time gives us the parables, the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus' conversations with his disciples. It's when we learn what it means to follow Jesus in our daily lives.

We hear about loving our neighbors, caring for those in need, and what it means to be part of God's kingdom. These aren't always flashy stories, but they're the foundation of Christian living.

Ordinary Time, even though it doesn't mean mundane, can still remind us that spiritual growth happens in the everyday moments, not just during the big celebrations. These weeks and months, then, aren't just filler between the "important" seasons.

This matters because most of our lives are in "ordinary time," aren't they? We live in the in-between times of work, family responsibilities, decisions, struggles, and regular routines. Ordinary Time can teach us that God is present in these daily happenings.

So as we settle into all of these green Sundays, remember that these weeks offer us the chance to grow deeper in our faith, to learn from Jesus' example, and to discover how God shows up in the regular rhythms of our lives... and that's anything but ordinary.

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



Barb Mouton	3
Addi Zeiher	9
George Hilleary	3
Ella Stephens	21



Turner & Betty Matthews 18

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.

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



HOMELESS
Ministry

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.

Café Connect

8:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Fellowship Hall

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



CHOIR *Practice*

Wednesday

July
9th & 23rd
4:30 PM





MEET THE CHOIR

(This month we are sharing an essay written by Chloe, a high school senior from Desert Hills High School in Utah, just before her high school graduation during covid in May, 2020. It was assigned by her choral music teacher, Joseph Woolf, to his choral students. It sums up what members of school and church choirs think and remember about their experiences. This is printed with both Chloe's and her teacher's permission.)

CHOIR – by Chloe

If you had asked me what choir was 7 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people singing a song that they'd practiced.

If you had asked me what choir was 5 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people having fun learning songs and then performing them.

If you had asked me what choir was 4 years ago, I would have told you that it was a bunch of people working together on songs, even when they didn't feel like it, and even when they had bad days, and creating something beautiful. I would have told you that it was what I wanted to do in my life, but I didn't think I was good enough to.

If you had asked me what choir was 2 years ago, I would have told you it was a bunch of people that worked on a collection of pieces and tried to sing them exactly right so that the judges would like their performance. I would have told you that you could only be as good as the choir you were in.

If you had asked me what choir was 1 year ago, I would have told you that it was a group of people that spent hours together perfecting music, and working to make people feel something when you sang that music. I would have told you that it is a group of people bonded together by the emotional connections they find with a song, and that, even though they may not all see eye to eye or be the best of friends, they are one.

Today, I can tell you that a choir is a family. A choir is a family that is held together, not by mutual interests or blood, but by a love of music. A choir is a family that has bonded over the hearts they have poured into their music, a family that may not always like each other, but always loves each other, and a family that doesn't give up on anyone. I would have told you that choir is one of the things I have done with my life, and that my choir family has faced disappointment and heartache and fear, and that maybe we still are. Maybe there isn't a single guarantee that we will ever sing together again, and maybe our last performance together already passed and we didn't even know. But I don't believe that. Because a choir is more than just a bunch of people singing a song they've practiced. It is hours and days and months and years of commitment all built on top of itself and no virus is going to change that.

(Our regular Meet the Choir articles will resume next month.)

CONNECT

JULY SCHEDULE

JULY 9

**5:30 PM
CONNECT
w/Cerese Sweeley
“Glimpses” of Sacred,
Present Moments, Galilee**

JULY 23

**5:30 PM
CONNECT
Ivory Inspirations
w/Kay Grubbs &
Linda Webster**

“Glimpses” of
Sacred, Present
Moments,
Galilee



“Glimpses” of Sacred, Present Moments, Galilee

Join us at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 9 in the fellowship hall for a slide presentation by Cerese Sweeley. Cerese will use pictures from her trip to the Holy Land in 2023 and talk about Jesus in those sacred places around Galilee. Invite your friends.

Ivory Inspirations

On Wednesday, July 23 at 5:30 p.m., we will be entertained by Linda Webster and Kay Grubbs in the sanctuary. Linda & Kay will be playing their favorite two piano hymn arrangements from the 20+ years they have played together. Listeners may also have an opportunity to play “Name That Tune.”



*** New Way to Receive Church Information Starts in July ***

Starting July 1st all church communications, including the monthly newsletter and the Mid-Week Touch, will be sent through Clearstream. The number the text messages will be sent from is 256-804-0363. Please add this number to your contacts. If you have any questions or need help, please come by the church office or call 256-355-6310.



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, July 14th

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

CATS Trip—August 5

CATS will journey south to Jasper, Alabama to tour First Methodist church known as “A White Marble Church”. The church was built in the 1920’s and features large marble columns. The Sanctuary of the church is crowned by a stained glass dome that is 9 feet high, 105 feet in circumference and 34 feet in diameter. This awesome feature consists of 109 sections and contains 30,000 pieces of stained glass.

After touring the church, we will eat lunch at Victoria’s, a meat and three buffet.

The history of the church and a binder with pictures can be found on the table outside of the church office for your perusal.

Text CATS2025 to 256-804-0363 to sign up or scan the QR code.



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.



Mission and Christian Education

On Wednesday, June 25, we were blessed to welcome to our Connect program the Child Advocacy Center of Morgan County. In appreciation for the good work they do, Saint Andrew was pleased to donate the 40% of our Pentecost Offering which we retain for local use to this group. The total collected for the Pentecost Offering was \$995. The 40% we donated to the Child Advocacy Center amounted to \$400.

The following items are highlights of the May 21, 2025, Stated Session Meeting:

- 1) The May Stated Session Meeting was held on Wed., May 21, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.
- 2) The meeting was opened with a devotional led by Linda Grissom on the cycle of sending out and gathering in the faithful.
- 3) Barb Mouton was elected to be our Commissioner to the Summer Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery to be held at First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville on June 10, 2025.
- 4) The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of March 19, 2025, were approved as corrected.
- 5) April year to date income was \$11,328 more than budgeted and expenses were \$5,189 less than budgeted. Our checking and saving accounts increased by \$21,282 since the first of the year.
- 6) B. J. Breeding reminded us that we will be having our church picnic next Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm.
- 7) Rev. Brogdon told the group that we will be expanding the way we communicate church information to members. Members have been given several options on ways to respond as to how they wish to receive information. It can be by text, email, or both.
- 8) Jackie Naumann and D. Ann Norris reported that Member Care is working on new ideas including potential CATS trips. They are also working on updating our 2-adult policy for child protection in our Nursery.
- 9) Barb Mouton and John Jordan updated us on Mission work. We provided 50 ham dinners during our Easter food drive. One Great Hour of Sharing collected \$890 on April 20th. Pentecost Offering will be collected on June 8. The team is working to update existing projects, such as organizing HAD pantry and are looking to strengthen recycling program to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Look for information on local charities we support in the new "Folder Holders" on the wall opposite the "Donation Location" bins.
- 10) Linda Grissom informed us that our average worship service attendance increased from 57 to 61 over the same nineteen Sundays last year. Rev. Bob Phelps, our new Executive Presbyter of North Alabama Presbytery will lead us in worship on July 13, when Rev. Brogdon will be on vacation.
- 11) Rev. Brogdon led us in another installment of the Session Visioning and Discernment process. We are beginning to wrestle with ways in which we can expand outreach activities to the community.
- 12) The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 2:00 pm.

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session



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 1P CE Meeting	2	3 1P Caring Hands	4	5
6	7 Rev. Tripp off	8 Rev. Tripp off	9 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT Rev. Tripp off	10 Rev. Tripp off	11 Rev. Tripp off	12 Rev. Tripp off
13 Rev. Tripp off	14 HAD Lunch Rev, Tripp off	15	16 2P Session Meeting	17 1P Caring Hands	18	19
20	21	22	23 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT Music Program	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July Worship Leaders

July	6	13	20	27
Liturgists	Nellie Gates	Linda Grissom	Bob Martin	Robert Sparks
Ushers	D. Ann Norris Bob Naumann	John & Shelly Shull	Barb Mouton & Jackie Naumann	Sylia Newbill & Linda Livingston
Nursery	Lynn Panter	Gillian Buttgereit	Joan Jordan	Shelly Shull
	Communion Servers	D. Ann Norris, B.J Breeding, Don Koza, Barb Mouton & Nellie Gates		