



St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

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Lisa Pool, Chair
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Dear Church Family,

The beginning of a new year is always a good time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the year ahead. We know that our mission remains the same as when Jesus gave it to us over 2000 years ago - to go and make disciples and transform the world.

One way that we can assess how we are doing with this goal is to count the fruit - look at how God is blessing our efforts; see what type of impact we are making. There is growth happening, even amid a pandemic. Your giving helps that happen.

- Your giving helps us present worship in an online streaming platform to reach those who can't be here on site. It allows those who may have to stay at home or live far away to stay connected with our St. Andrew's family.
- Your giving provides a place for **35** people to continue their journey to recovery through **AA**.
- Your giving supplied a bagged back-to-school breakfast and a Christmas coffee gift card to 73 Montclair Elementary employees, reminding them that they are valued during a challenging school year.
- Your giving supports **afterschool** programs for **50 children** and their families, giving them a safe place to gather and learn healthy habits.
- Your giving helps 50 **preschool** families have an environment that fosters love and belonging.
- Your giving supplies materials for **Prayer Shawls**, which give a physical reminder of God's love through the care of the St. Andrew's family.
- Your giving welcomes over 100 people from the **community** to learn about Jesus through various festivals and gatherings.
- Your giving addresses repairs and updates needed to our facilities so that all of these ministries can happen.
- Your giving allows for materials, space, and **streaming services** for Sunday school classes, Bible studies and small groups to continue to help us on our discipleship journey.
- Your giving provides the technology for our Spanish-speaking members to participate in worship and meetings through **translation** services, allowing them a fuller experience as members of St. Andrew's. 5 new members took the Lay Servant class to become more involved in our church.
- Your giving supports the **Nurture** ministry, which cares for our senior members through cards, phone calls, drive-by birthday celebrations, and other ways to show our love and concern for them.
- Your giving welcomes over 2,000 youth, coaches, family and friends from Park Sharon Athletic Association to enjoy basketball games and practices in our **Family Life Center**.
- Your giving supports a staff who has been flexible throughout this challenging season, creatively delivering the message of God's love, pointing us to **Jesus**, helping us to find **connection**, reaching out to engage all in God's family.

These are just a few examples, but you see that your giving makes an impact. Your giving is needed. Your giving is a reflection of your partnership with God to make a difference for His kingdom.

Our current expenses average \$58,000 a month, including our mortgage and apportionments. While we receive conference support and building usage fees from other groups, our main source of income is through congregational giving. Our predicted monthly offerings for 2022 average \$43,750. Our January giving totaled \$26,000. As you can see, your help is needed.

Our committees and leadership are working to determine how to be good stewards of the resources we've been given. We want to be transparent in letting you know the state of the church finances, and hope that you see that your giving matters. Gifts may be made through checks, Electronic Funds Transfer (<https://secure.myvanco.com/YPJ6/home>), text (833-718-0142), or by mailing in the enclosed return envelope.

We know that God has provided for St. Andrew's since its founding. We know that He will continue to be faithful in guiding us and providing opportunities for us to "see Jesus and be Jesus" to those in our community and beyond.

Please continue to pray for our church and our leaders. Pray for discernment of how we can best use our resources, and of how you can be a part of making disciples to transform the world.

Thank you for your support.

Yours in Christ,

Lisa Pool

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Church Council Chair