



# ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

JULY 2023 VOLUME 68, ISSUE 7

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**AUGUST CROSS DEADLINE:  
JULY 17**



## ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

IS PUBLISHED TWELVE TIMES A YEAR BY:

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## Council Votes to Explore Becoming a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

At the June 12 Congregation Council Meeting, the Council approved moving forward with becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. First and foremost, that does not mean that a decision has been made, but that the congregation, in meeting, can make that decision. It does mean that we will be moving forward with information about what it means to be Reconciling in Christ.

Moving forward will mean that we will talk about the ways we can be supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community. We will have opportunity to talk about the six times that this topic is addressed in the bible (it is never addressed in the Gospels). We will talk about the possible difficulties and challenges that might arise because of our support of the LGBTQIA+ community. We will talk about whatever you want to talk about as it relates to this topic.

To be sure, you have been very welcoming and supportive and David and myself. I will never be able to fully express my appreciation for that support and acceptance, and it was because of that support that I felt we could enter into conversation about becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

I have been in touch with the Synod task force who will be helping us with this process. All I ask is that you participate in the process and discussion, that you feel free to ask any and all questions that you have, and never be afraid that you will upset David or me for asking questions. This has to be an open and loving process, it is the only way that we can move forward as a congregation.

I thank you in advance for your participation in this process.

*- Pastor Neel*

# CHURCH COUNCIL



## Highlights of the June 12th Council Meeting

We continue to offer postcards and addresses of our local, state, and federal representatives, and ask membership to consider reaching out to those representatives requesting common sense gun legislation.

Council approved the purchase a new website builder to begin the process of making a new, updated website.

Council decided to begin the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.

At the recent Synod Assembly, it was decided to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous Peoples who were forcibly removed from their homelands, and upon whose ancestral lands we gather. Synod also laid out financial safeguards that they expect all churches to be following (we are fully in compliance). In addition, there was a lengthy discussion about the model of one pastor/one congregation being unviable today and in the future, due to a severe shortage of pastors and seminary students.

May offerings are again behind budget, a concern as we head in to summer.

St. Andrew's Women has been very busy with the recent rummage sale, luncheon, boat trip, and potluck.

Property: The roof was recently patched, near the kitchen entrance. Carpets will be cleaned the last week of June. New monitored smoke and CO detectors have been installed in the church building. Work continues on the spring clean-up. Dead trees have been removed, others trimmed.

Doors and windows in the church building have been re-numbered to coordinate with the space they enter in to. Floor plans with "You are Here" and fire exit paths are being produced for each room of the building.

The Nursery School Audit will be held on July 20th.

Outdoor Worship is scheduled for Sunday, August 27.

People are using our driveway to avoid the traffic light, speeding through, and there have been some dangerous near misses. We are looking at solutions that will permanently close off the Freemansburg entrance.

## 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

Laurie Roth, President: 610-252-7619

Ed Schaeffer, Vice President: 610-258-4280, \**Mutual Ministry*

Teresa Diehl, Exec. Cmte. Secretary: 610-248-2421, \**Community Care*

April Shaheen, Exec. Cmte Financial Secretary: 610-559-1038, \**Res. Mgmt.*

Deborah Ealer: 610-330-0209, \**Finance*

Sue Himmelreich: 484-226-0165, \**Congregational Care*

Diana Laustsen: 610-217-0448 \**Community Care*

### Non-Council Appointed Officers:

Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer: 610-462-9488

Elizabeth Campbell, Secretary: 610-252-2258



## **General Fund Financial Position Summary for the month ending May 31, 2023**

	<b>May</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>Offerings</b>	\$15,561.00	\$89,168.20
<b>Expenses</b>	\$20,954.60	\$97,925.06
<b>Surplus (Shortage)</b>	(\$5,393.60)	(\$8,756.86)

Council meets the second Monday of each month on Zoom.

All are invited to attend, but only members of Council may vote.

Links to meetings can be found in the calendar on our website.



*The Strong. The Proud. The Backbone.*

## 2023 Rummage Sale Proceeds: **\$7,201.85**

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the sale this year. Whether you donated your time, baked cookies, brought over a few boxes of unwanted items, or shopped the sale, the impact we made could not have been accomplished without each and everyone's help.

The decision was made before the sale opened to make a significant donation of clothing and household items (that could be immediately put to use) to members of our community who lost their homes in the Ferry Street Fire on Memorial Day. A truckload of items was delivered to one of the collection locations on June 1st.

### **Sale proceeds will be distributed as follows:**

- NEPA Synod, United Luth. Seminary: \$1,000
- NEPA Synod, Bear Creek Camp: \$500
- Easton Neighborhood Center: \$500
- Safe Harbor: \$500
- ProJeCt of Easton: \$500
- Third Street Alliance: \$500
- Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley: \$500
- Miracle League of Northampton County: \$500
- United Fellowship Food Pantry: \$500
- Ferry Street Fire Victims: \$500

### **The following was allocated for future use:**

\$1,500 for Christmas Gift Cards  
\$250 for 2023/24 Presenter Honorariums

SAW is taking a break for the remainder of the summer. The annual planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1st at 9:30am at Hope House, and monthly meetings will resume on Weds, Sept. 13.

## **Community Need Continues in the Summer**

Just as our church continues to rely upon your financial support, so do the charities we help to sustain. Here are a few examples.

Please consider picking up some extra food or diapers for Easton Area Neighborhood Center and bringing them to church.

Monetary donations are now being coordinated through the United Way in support of the Ferry Street Fire Victims. Go to: [unitedwayglv.org/firefund](http://unitedwayglv.org/firefund) to help the effort.

In addition, we remind you that the need for blood remains constant in the summer, while donations fall dramatically. Consider making a donation at Miller-Keystone Blood Bank. [www.giveapint.org](http://www.giveapint.org) or call 800-B-A-DONOR.

## **Steel Magnolias**

**Tuesday, July 11 @ 12:30pm**  
**Frank's Pizza, Southmont Mall**

All widows are invited to join. Reservations are appreciated, but not required. Call Melissa Steckel at 484-456-6148.

## *- Deer Crossing -*

We have twin fawns in the neighborhood, and they are crossing Freemansburg Ave. in front of our office all day long.

These little guys are still nursing and haven't yet learned the dangers of cars. Please be mindful of our four legged friends when approaching the church building.







- 7/1 Mitchell Coriell, Jennifer Hunara, Corey Webb
- 7/2 Jodi Hess, Robert Nitchkey, Christopher Reese
- 7/3 Jackie Carr, Johnathan Bechtold
- 7/4 Eileen Lisa
- 7/7 Christopher Murray, Bill Richards, Jill Sachs
- 7/8 Carol Ehler
- 7/9 Jeff Connlain, Jullian Orcutt, Matthew Semanick
- 7/10 Jeff Matase, James Perry, Chuck Tichy
- 7/11 Linda Baskwell, Michele Ryan, Kathryn White
- 7/12 Kati Derenick
- 7/13 John Hunara, Rachael Rymon, Angela Spadafora
- 7/14 Alina Fox, Blair Miers, Bradley Thomas
- 7/16 Jennifer Alercia, Justin Vivian
- 7/17 Christopher Baskwell, Matthew Baskwell, Terry Diehl,  
John Price
- 7/18 Ruth Snyder
- 7/19 Danny Hynes
- 7/20 Sean Boylan, Austin Hulsizer, Pauline Thoma
- 7/21 Ava Woodhull
- 7/22 William Murnane, Jeff Ward
- 7/23 Anthony Rodriguez
- 7/24 Coda Merluzzi
- 7/25 Christian Combi, Kim Ravese, Vicki Rose
- 7/26 Courtney Battoni, Chris Hunara, Felisha Warrelmann
- 7/27 Kevin Dotts, John Werkheiser III
- 7/28 Charlene Colon, Debbie Game, Nicholas Ravese
- 7/29 Brooklynn Ealer, Nancy McFarland, Reilly Ward
- 7/30 Nicholas Hill, Liesl Metzger, Hadley Moskella, Nicole  
Ryan, Don Sachs, Melissa Steckel, James Welsh
- 7/31 Jerry Heebner, Allyssa Ward

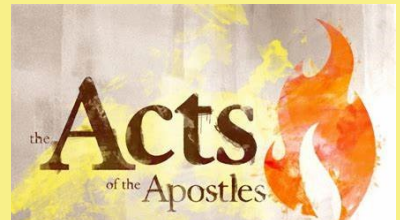
*In Loving  
Memory*

Memorial donations were received in memory of Dorothy Fournier, who died on June 2nd, from Sonia DeBellis, Sharon Gibson, and Cynthia and Joseph White.

## THANK YOU

We have received letters of thanks from Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter for our recent donation of \$201, and also from the ELCA for our recent contribution of \$375 to Lutheran Disaster Response. A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

## Bible Study Wednesdays at 7 on Zoom



On June 21st, the Adult Bible Study group began an exploration of the Book of Acts.

**The Book of Acts** is a fast-moving historical account of the first three decades of the church. Acts begins in Jerusalem just after Jesus' resurrection, recounts how the Gospel reached what are Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, and Malta today, and closes with the apostle Paul's two year ministry in Rome.

Copies of the study guide are available through the church office and new members are always welcome. Contact the office or Pastor Neel for additional information.



# JULY CALENDAR

**Sunday, July 2**

9:00am      Worship Service

**Tuesday, July 4**

**Independence Day**  
**Church Office Closed**

**Wednesday, July 5**

7:00pm      Bible Study via Zoom

**Friday, July 7**

7:30pm      Crossroads AA

**Sunday, July 9**

9:00am      Worship Service

**Monday, July 10**

7:00pm      Church Council via Zoom  
7:00pm      Parent Partnership Support Group

**Tuesday, July 11**

12:30pm     Steel Magnolias

**Wednesday, July 12**

7:00pm      Bible Study via Zoom

**Friday, July 14**

7:30pm      Crossroads AA

**Sunday, July 16**

9:00am      Worship Service

**Monday, July 17**

7:00pm      Parent Partnership Support Group

**Wednesday, July 19**

7:00pm      Bible Study via Zoom

**Friday, July 21**

7:30pm      Crossroads AA

**Sunday, July 23**

9:00am      Worship Service

**Monday, July 24**

7:00pm      Parent Partnership Support Group

**Wednesday, July 26**

7:00pm      Bible Study via Zoom

**Thursday, July 27**

7:00pm      Community Care via Zoom

**Friday, July 28**

7:30pm      Crossroads AA

**Sunday, July 30**

9:00am      Worship Service

**Monday, July 31**

7:00pm      Worship and Music Committee  
7:00pm      Parent Partnership Support Group

**Tuesday, August 1**

9:30am      SAW Planning Mtg at Hope House

