



**WORSHIP UPDATE**  
It's hard to believe that we are two weeks away from Easter.



**This Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>,** we hear the story of John, the disciple whom Jesus loved. John's story is one of powerful transformation, from one of the fiery "Sons of Thunder" to the learned elder in Ephesus whose persistent message was "little children, love one another." A special thanks to **Kenn Bullock** for sharing this week's message. Then on Sunday, **March 24<sup>th</sup>,** we come once again to **Palm Sunday** and will see the Cross through the eyes of the women who stayed. **Holy Week follows with a special service of communion and foot washing on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** And on **Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>,** we will have a **sunrise service in the columbarium at 7:00 a.m.** (check the weather, and dress accordingly). **Our second service of Easter will be at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary with a time of fellowship (Bunny Dunch) at 9:15 a.m. (please bring your favorite brunch finger food to share).** We will also have the flower cross available to decorate. So, we'll see you this Sunday. We begin with **intercessory prayer at 9:15 a.m., followed by worship and small groups.** And please be in prayer for the youth group as they travel to Hinton Center in Hayesville for a retreat Friday through Sunday.

**OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE** recently shared the current financial status for St. Andrew's UMC as we began 2024 with a significant deficit. With that, the Finance Committee asked all committees to consider a reduction in spending of 20-25%. Staff Parrish has met over the last month to discuss the budget for staff and the need for reduction. We have taken an opportunity to review line items, take into consideration upcoming changes or impacts, as well as, consider budget norms from the district and within the Charlotte area. Although a difficult decision, we understand that it is a necessary one based on our status.

In order to meet the budgetary requirements, we proposed the following:

- Moratorium on any Continuing Education or Travel expense.
- Reduction of salaries for lay staff, Cross-Cultural Minister and Director of Worship.
- Reduction of Senior Pastor salary,
- Elimination of Children's Minister position as of April 1, 2024.

Please know, that St. Andrew's is not in a unique situation as others within the district are making similar considerations. With our Children's Minister Sherry Jackson's departure, admittedly, this is a loss I feel personally. I know as a congregation and family you all will be impacted as well. I want to take this opportunity to recognize her tenured service to St. Andrew's, its children, families, and community in being a light of Christ in all her work. She has spent her

career fostering relationships, touching lives, quietly loving and supporting our church family. Her loss will be a notable one.

However, there is still good and important work to be done here at St. Andrew's. We are a church serving so many through God's work and as Pastor Sherri Barnes shared just a few weeks ago, have touched over 5,000 lives in 2023 alone.



**On Palm Sunday,** we will share in a Celebration of Service for **Sherry Jackson.**

This will be immediately following worship and in the Commons Room.

Please be sure to join in the celebration to share stories, laugh, and continue to lift Sherry and her family in love. We ask that you continue to pray for Sherry as her service in Christ will not end. And continue to pray for St. Andrew's as we go through this transition.

If you have any questions, and need to reach out, please feel free to contact me at 704-340-3707 Pastor Sherri Barnes in the church office.

Thank you for your continued support in prayers and service to St. Andrew's and its work in Christ.

~Kind regards, Courtney Picha



**CHURCH WIDE WORK DAY.**  
**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
Join us as we make **St. Andrew's look its best for Easter.**

**MARCH Birthdays**

- 17 Dawn Lisk
- 17 Don Woodruff
- 18 Michael Lewyn
- 18 Kelly Slade
- 20 Maria Lionel
- 21 Alex Gillis
- 21 Barbara Kaylor
- 22 Lauren Bradley
- 22 Christopher Brown Sr.
- 22 Dana Sanford
- 23 Chloe Johnson

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**MARCH 17, 2024**  
9:15 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Service #30  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary "The Beloved Disciple" John 19:26-27  
11:11 a.m. Small Group Gathering

**REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Closed on Friday.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS.**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**  
SPRC - Hybrid: 3:00 p.m.  
TRUSTEES - Online only: 6:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
CHURCH COUNCIL  
Hybrid: 6:00 p.m.

**GIVE ONLINE/OFRENDAR EN LINE.**



Our QR code will take you to **SECURE GIVING/** Nuestro código QR lo llevará a **DONACIONES SEGURAS.**



**SAVE THE DATE for an Easter Celebration on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-Noon.** Join us as we gather in the Family Life Center for a time of crafts and games, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn. We would love to have children of all ages join us! If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Sherry Jackson at [childrensministry@standrewsumc.com](mailto:childrensministry@standrewsumc.com). **Donations** of eggs and individually-wrapped candies are welcome. There will be a green tub in the Narthex for donation drop-off. Thank you!

this work together since 2019. Five of the delegates have ties to the Metro District: Havaleh Havelka - Lay Delegate, Myers Park UMC; Linda Linfors - Lay Delegate, St. Stephen UMC; Rev. Amy Coles - Clergy Delegate, Assistant to Bishop; Dr. James Howell - Clergy Delegate, Myers Park UMC; and Rev. Darryl Dayson - Clergy Delegate, Simpson-Gillespie UMC.

As the date approaches, there will be increased media attention and scrutiny. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastors Sherri, David or Sherry. There is important work to be done and we trust in the Holy Spirit's care of this and more. Thanks.

**THE USE OF ZOOM ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR WORSHIP HAS BEEN SUSPENDED.** During the height of COVID, ZOOM provided an essential gathering place, but over the last 18 months, we have seen an ongoing decline in the need for it. You can still access worship via YouTube on your television, smartphone or tablet, and here's the link to do that.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI2Duj4T\\_ovp5GEp\\_PXdFLQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI2Duj4T_ovp5GEp_PXdFLQ). The link can also be found on the SAUMC website. And a special thanks to Tammy Thompson for her long term care of this ministry.



**CenterWell Senior Care**  
8401 Sharon Lakes Road  
Charlotte, NC 28210

**Free for Seniors Only (65+). All levels mixed doubles.** Register with or without a partner. To register call/text: 704-772-6022.

**GENERAL CONFERENCE.** General Conference 2024 is a little over a month away. Please continue to check out the conference website **WNCCUMC.ORG** for updates and ways to engage. Hotel hospitality is especially needed for April 18<sup>th</sup> - April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Be aware that parking is limited so you'll need to be able to navigate the light rail as well as some walking. There will also be opportunities to welcome here at SAUMC as well as participate in a prayer vigil (more information on both available soon). Last but not least, please be in prayer for the WNCCUMC delegation. This is a group of 20, 10 faithful laity and 10 clergy who have prepared for



**Come Join Us!**



**March COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
MARCH 24, 10:00AM



**HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE**  
MARCH 28, 7:00PM



**SPRING FAMILY FESTIVAL**  
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 10:00AM



**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
MARCH 31, 7:00AM AND 10:00 AM



**SCAN CODE FOR UP TO DATE EVENTS:**



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