



St. Andrew's  
Presbyterian Church

eNews

**September 17, 2020**

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Staff is working from home. Please call (503) 293-1048 to speak to our Office Administrator during office hours (9 am - 3 pm, M - TH) or in case of an emergency. [admin@standrewspdx.com](mailto:admin@standrewspdx.com)

Dear Kindred in Christ,

First, I pray that you all are safe, staying out of the smoke as much as possible, and staying connected to people you love. If you feel like the events of 2020 are just. too. much. You're not wrong. And you're not alone. Again, if I can support you, in any way, I want to. Please call or text or e-mail me. I am grateful to those who have contacted me offering help. If I am made aware of needs, I can connect you to those who are able to help.

Second, it seems time for another service of lament. Our hearts are heavy and we worship a God who is ready to receive our groans of grief and even our rants of rage. We worship a God who hears us and holds us. So I have revised a Lutheran lament service for use for evening prayer. I intended to use it last night, but no one joined me, so next week it is! I hope that next week many of you will [7] log onto zoom by 6:30 on Wednesday to pray and lament together.

Third, it is important to be honest about our heavy and hard feelings, but it is also important to tap into hope. It is my prayer that our worship together on Sunday morning we will tap into deep dreams for our lives and for the world. We will dare to dream bigger than it feels wise to dream in current circumstances. The last time I preached on Genesis 15:1-6, the story of God renewing God's promise to Abraham and helping him to grasp the grandeur of that improbable promise by taking him outside to look at the stars, I invited those who gathered to write big dreams on stars. I wrote of a dream of living in the Pacific Northwest and of teaching a community much like St. A's! Dreams come true! Let us continue to dream big. I hope you will go to our webpage and click on the star to download a printable star; print copies for everyone in your household; cut them out if you want; and join us for worship on Zoom or Facebook at 10 a.m. Sunday morning to find out what to do with them! You can print them on pretty paper, or color them, or otherwise decorate them, or you can just print them on ordinary paper. But please come to worship with a star in hand. Or just come, even empty handed. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Let us gather together and draw strength from our promise making and promise keeping God and from the community with which God has blessed us.

In Christ, Pastor Sarah

**SCRIPTURE**

**September 20**

**Genesis 15:1-6**

**September 27**

**Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21**

**2021 WOMEN'S RETREAT POSTPONED** It is with a heavy heart that we announce we are postponing the Women's Retreat scheduled for February 2021. We feel this is the safest and best decision for all involved. In light of current circumstances, we do not yet have a new date in place. We will keep you informed of any future developments.

**PATH OF PEACE DAILY REFLECTIONS** A Season of Peace is a pilgrimage designed to deepen the pursuit of peace culminating on October 4, World Communion Sunday, with the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which you can read more about in the 'Service Opportunities' section of this E-News. This year's Season of Peace Reflections explore practices for building peace on every scale. From the personal level to global issues, the Season of Peace is a chance for congregations, whether gathered or dispersed, to reflect on their identity and consider anew what they can do to promote peace in their communities and in our nation and in the world.

Week 1 September 6-12: Peace Within

Week 2 September 13-19: Peace in Relationships

Week 3 September 20-26: Peace in Community

Week 4 September 27-October 4: Wholistic Peace

You can participate in this pilgrimage by downloading the daily reflections or having them sent to your inbox each day.

**USED BOOK DRIVE** Our Neighborhood Ministries program is looking for your used book donations! Your used books help us raise money to continue doing work with organizations in our neighborhood and the greater Portland area. We work with organizations that provide things such as food, clothing, sanitation supplies, medical care, and worker advocacy. Learn more about our work [www.standrewspdx.com](http://www.standrewspdx.com). Some of the funding for our Neighborhood Ministries program comes from reselling used books online. Please contact Cynthia Reynoldsto arrange a donation today!

**WEST WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SHELTER SUPPORT** A heartfelt shout out of appreciation goes to the Sou'westers Mariners, Skipped by Laura Erickson, for their generous and ongoing support of this important mission! Their \$100 monthly donation goes a long way in purchasing critically needed supplies for the shelter. Thank you Sou'westers Mariners!

**IN-PERSON DONATION DROP OFF** Beginning September 25th, Darwin Força will be in the church office every Friday evening from 5:00pm - 8:00pm to receive donations for Coats for Kids, the Fall Food Drive, our Care Packages, and our annual giving tree partners. Please call Darwin via the church phone number at 503-246-4276 once you have arrived to drop off your donation to arrange how it will be received in keeping with the church's COVID-19 policies. The list for what is needed for our giving tree partners will be made available as soon as it is compiled. List of items needed for Coats for Kids and the Care Packages can be found in the newsletter or made available upon request.

**SESSION UPDATE** Your Session met on Tuesday, September 15. They decided to aim for monthly meetings in coming months. The next scheduled meeting is October 20, 2020 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Here are a few other highlights from the meeting.

The Session approved the promotion and collection of five special offerings in the coming year. The four denominational offerings- Christmas Joy (which supports church workers, future leaders, and communities of color), One Great Hour of Sharing (which supports global hunger and disaster response ministries), Pentecost (which supports ministry with at-risk children, and youth and young adults), and Peace and Global Witness (which supports local, national, and global ministries of reconciliation). The fifth offering is the Christmas Eve offering. Every year the mission team allocates this offering in full to an area of particular need. This year's recipient has not yet been identified. The Session authorized Marilyn Palumbo, mission elder, to offer the north parking lot (25,000 sq ft) to Multnomah County for emergency use. We do not know that it is needed at

this time, but in the future we'd like the county to know this resource is available. Further contingencies to use of the lot will be expressed to the county. The Session agreed it is time to change the message on the church sign and Connie Blumthal and Steve Cook are going to work on a faith based message of hope that speaks to the multiple crises unfolding. Larry Patterson has repaired fire doors in the basement. They may need to be replaced in 2021, but they are safer and functional at present. We are continuing to negotiate rent adjustments with Vermont Hills as their enrollment continues to increase. They are back to about 75% of previous enrollment and thus are paying 75% of previous rent. Two Eagle Scout projects have been approved and are in process. Painting and molding repair is on the way for the church basement. We agreed that we will practice Native Land recognition 4-6 times a year, in worship on World Communion Sunday, Earth Day, and Pentecost, minimally. And at every meeting of the congregation. In October, we will consider whether to increase the maximal allowable gathering size. Brad Van Allen has purchased an outdoor sound system and would like us to host at least one outdoor worship service before the end of the year. Hannah Feely, worship elder, and Pastor Sarah will work on this.

**MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** Several St. Andrew's men meet twice a month (facilitated by Charles Duncombe, often accompanied by Pastor Sarah) for an early Wednesday morning Bible Study. While recently the group has been meeting in Gabriel Park, at a covered shelter near the orchards, due to smoke they were entirely on Zoom yesterday. Zoom is ALWAYS an option. They meet the first and third Wednesday of every month. Let us know if you want to get connected. This is the first Wednesday link. We will discuss Exodus 7-9 on the first Wednesday in October.

**ANTI-RACISM STUDY GROUPS MEETING THIS WEEK** There are actually two groups; they meet on the second Saturday at 1 pm and the third Thursday at 7 pm. The same materials is covered in both sessions. We are reading How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi and if it is helpful to you, use this workbook too. Please transcribe one quote from each chapter that you think best answers the question in the title of the book - How to Be an Anti-Racist. If you want to join in, please contact Pastor Sarah so she can catch you up.

**COATS FOR KIDS DONATIONS** St. A's, through Neighborhood Ministries, has been supporting Coats for Kids for the past several years. We are delighted to invite support of this mission once again.

Over 20,000 impoverished elementary age children in the Tri-County area are in need of warm winter coats. The members of the South Riverside Foundation want to do what we can to make sure that coats are provided for the neediest of these little children and we ask for your help!

Through the South Riverside Foundation (a 501c3) we are conducting a fund raiser to purchase as many coats as possible for these needy children. We are partnering with Operation Warm and local organizations such as Impact NW, Sun Service System, churches and area Kiwanis clubs to help us determine needs and distribute warm, high quality coats to local school children. We will distribute the new coats in early November as the cold fall rains set in.

So please join us! Each \$20 donation will buy a needy kid a new coat and it is 100% tax deductible. If you are interested in making a donation to Coats for Kids, please contact Cynthia and she will send you the donation form which the foundation requests in order to be able to issue tax receipts and thank you notes. Donations are needed by the end of September. ALL donations in any amount are gratefully accepted!

If you want to be absolutely sure that your donation will result in coats sent to Stephen's Creek Crossing you can make your check out to St. Andrew's, writing "Coats for Kids" on the memo line and send it with the form to bookkeeper@standrewspdx.com. All donations will allow kids in need to receive warm coats and the organization assures us that they will do their best to target donations from St. A's members to kids at Stephen's Creek Crossing, but for absolute confidence in local application this is the best approach.

**PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING** We are in the midst of the Season of Peace, a time of reflection and action for building peace in our communities. The season culminates on World Communion Sunday with the

Peace and Global Witness Offering which enables our church to advocate for peace and justice around the world. Half of this offering stays with St. Andrew's and our presbytery for ministries of reconciliation. This year the 25% of the offering that we retain will be directed to Don't Shoot PDX. You can participate in this pilgrimage of peace by downloading the [22] Season of Peace Daily Reflections and giving generously to the Peace and Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday on October 4th.

**URGENT NEED FOR FOOD DONATIONS** Due to increased demand, the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) and other essential food suppliers of the Neighborhood House Food Pantry are experiencing food shortages. As a result, our Food Pantry is unable to purchase specific foods that our clients rely on. In particular, the Pantry currently needs: Rice Beans (canned and dried) Pasta Canned Meats Canned/Dry Fruit Flour/Baking Mix Cereal/Oats Fresh produce Meat (fresh or frozen as long as it is wrapped and labelled) The Food Pantry relies entirely on the generosity of community members. If you are able, please donate these food items to the Pantry at [25] 3445 SW Moss St during donation hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 9-4 Tuesdays, 9-12 Thursdays, 9-5 Closed Fridays

**CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED** You've read about the Neighborhood Ministry's recent work gathering donations of supplies for creating care packages, and the work parties where these packages have been assembled. This important ministry is ongoing and still needs your support! You can support this effort by donating supplies, money for the purchase of supplies, attending a monthly assembly work party, or distributing care packages in our community. Visit the [26] new signup link for the current list of needed supplies and contact [27] Marilyn Palumbo with questions.

**FACE MASK MINISTRY** Please consider making masks for one or more of the following situations:

1. Masks for the West Women's and Children's Shelter in both adult and child sizes in any style.
2. Fabric and purchased paper masks for the St Andrew's Service Project the last Saturday of each month when we assemble 50-75 hygiene bags for the houseless.
3. Inventory of fabric masks for use at St Andrew's. Hopefully most people will wear their own masks, but we want to have some available to use and keep if they need to.

Fabric and materials are available. Please contact me if you can help with masks and/or quilts for children in hospitals and foster care.

Blessings, Connie Jo Blumthal

**WEST WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SHELTER** Every three weeks St. Andrew's delivers casseroles for a weekend meal at the shelter. You can join the effort by signing up to bake casseroles. You may also sign-up to provide supplies. Here are the most pressing needs: Toilet Paper Toddler diapers (size 4) Paper towels Disinfectant Washcloths Laundry detergent

Thanking God for this opportunity to serve, St. Andrew's Mission Team

**ST. ANDREW'S YARD WORK** Please do not make plans to work on the St. Andrew's grounds while air quality is poor and dangerous! If you and your family are craving fresh air and exercise once our air is clear and safe, please consider working on the St. Andrew's grounds. Contact Steve Ihrig for assignments and scheduling. Thank you!

**SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION CONNECTIONS** Check out the resources page on our website to get connected to organizations who consistently provide invitations to show up on behalf of social justice.

**Every Sunday  
10:00 am Worship on Zoom & Facebook**

**Every Wednesday  
6:30 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom**

**Every Friday  
10:00 am- Noon Pastor's Coffee Chat on Zoom**

**Thursday, September 17  
7:00 pm Anti-Racism Study Group on Zoom**

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM EFFORTS** While we have been away from St. Andrew's the Building and Grounds Team has been keeping busy making sure the church is ready for us when we return. Earl, Larry (and Carol too), Jeanette (and Todd too), Richard, Jim and Steve have been:

- \* Weeding in the Rose Garden and in many places around the grounds with Chuck's support too
- \* Cleaning the flag pole and shopping for new flags
- \* Weeding and planting new plants in the parking lot for more than 100 hours
- \* Changing light bulbs and ballasts
- \* Flushing out faucets and toilets weekly to keep the plumbing in good order
- \* With Chuck Stilson's help repairing the sprinkler system in the Rose Garden
- \* Repairing toilets and faucets
- \* Shutting off water heaters to save electricity
- \* Picking up yard debris
- \* With Michael House's efforts pruning our roses and generally maintaining the Rose Garden
- \* Cleaning gutters
- \* Buying and replacing smoke alarms
- \* Larry has recycled the pages from more than 140 blue hymnals
- \* Cleaning/trimming/organizing/recycling the East side of the church around the shed and the lounge entrance
- \* Planning landscaping projects for this fall and winter
- \* Sorry, but we have not been able to have the white pickup towed from the parking lot. The Portland Police have a moratorium on towing cars during the pandemic.

Be safe and be well. We look forward to turning the water heaters and coffee pots back on when we have our next fellowship hour!

**WARM SPRINGS FOOD BANK** Since 1938 the Warm Springs, Wasco, and Paiute Tribes have been unified as the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in Warm Springs, Oregon. One of the poorest communities in Oregon, this is also the home of Warm Springs Presbyterian Church. Here, in an old Sunday school classroom, the church started the Warm Springs Food Bank 24 years ago. The food pantry has served the tribal community ever since.

Pastor Rick Ribeiro has served Warm Springs PC for the past 34 years. "Every week dedicated church members scour the community for the best food bargains. They also acquire food from the Oregon Food Bank. They repackage bulk foods, stock the shelves, and ready the food bank to open every Sunday. As many as 500 food bags are distributed each month. Filled with dried and canned goods, each bag is 25 lbs. and costs about \$4.

Last month, as part of our COVID-19 outreach, St. Andrew's made a \$1,000 contribution to the Warm Springs Food Bank. Praise God for this renewal of partnership with our Oregon neighbors! For more information on this ministry contact [40] Marilyn Palumbo.

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION ALERT** St. Andrew's has received notice of construction that will be ongoing from August 2020 to August 2021. The City of Portland will be repairing sewer pipes all along Dosch Road and

around Hillsdale Crest. Please be aware of street closures, flagging, and delays. For more information, including street closures and scheduling, please visit the City's website.

**CUBA CORNER** Our sister church in Santa Clara, Cuba has reopened! With physical distancing and other safety precautions, and after months of staying at home, our sisters and brothers are together again! We were delighted to send a gift of \$5,000 to our kindred in Santa Clara through Presbyterian World Mission at the end of August. Thanks to all who generously contributed. Please contact Marilyn Palumbo if you have any questions about our Cuba mission.

Pastor Sarah has been assured by Pastor Reile that our kindred in Cuba are praying for us and for our state in the midst of the wildfire crisis. Let us continue to pray for our Cuban kindred as well.