



Presbytidings – December 2024 / January 2025

An outreach of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Words from Your Transitional Pastor

The Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

I hope in this season of beginnings, we can all work with hope into the future to which God is calling us. Much of the “transitional” work is coming to its ending, however this means the ministry of St. Andrew is beginning a new phase of life together, and will continue to begin again, day after day, and week after week, and year after year, as our God who claims us and calls us by name is continually doing a new thing.

Isaiah 43:19 (Common English Bible)

Look! I’m doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it?
I’m making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness.

Within the liturgy for Ash Wednesday the Book of Common Worship includes an invitation to observe a Holy Lent. In that spirit, I will invite you to observe a holy and new Advent. I am inviting you to do something new in your spiritual life and to actively engage in our Advent and Christmas Season.

Join us for a service you have never done before (or haven’t done in a while). Volunteer with a new organization, help cook for our neighborhood friends, work through a devotional (be it the one we provided or another), call someone in the church you do not know well and make a new friend, and join us for our Longest Night Service on December 22nd at 4:00 PM. Make cookies for our Christmas Eve Cookie exchange that will immediately follow our Christmas Eve service of Storytelling and Song at 5:00 PM. Create a reverse Advent calendar (you can easily find examples via an internet search). Attend Adult CE, our Spiritual Formation Group, or our Historical Jesus Group. Sit somewhere new in the sanctuary on Sunday morning! Take advantage of this opportunity to begin again as you seek to refresh, renew, and grow in your own faith journey.

This advent, we are exploring “how do we being again?” I will remind you that you are a blessing, you have something to offer this congregation, and the world. So, with sincere hope you are invited to fully engage your faith this Advent season.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Eric

Transitional Pastor

Rev. Eric

Koenig-Reinke

standrewpastoreric@gmail.com

Office Hours
by Appointment

Administrator

Birgitta Gustafson

Email

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Church

Office Hours

Tuesday–Thursday
8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Sunday Worship

9:30 am

Phone/Fax

Phone 505-881-9626

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St. Andrew News and Events

Words
from your
Transitional Pastor

Christmas Joy
Offering

Climate Crisis

New Staff

Alternative
Christmas
Fair

Adult
Christian Education
Special Services
APO Concert

Poinsettias

Birthdays
December
and
January
Lectionary

Calendars

THE PERFECT GIFT

Christmas Joy Offering: Sunday, December 22, 2024

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God's Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life. The perfect gift. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need.

- ❑ Gifts from the 2023 Offering are being used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their times of need.
- ❑ Income supplements BOP helped nearly 275 individual recipients, assisting retired church workers and surviving spouses with the means to provide for themselves.
- ❑ Housing supplements helped more than 218 individual recipients remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.
- ❑ Emergency Assistance Grants helped more than 215 individual recipients facing times of great financial need or uncertainty due to unforeseen circumstances.

We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

- ❑ Gifts from 2023 are being used to provide education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- ❑ Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color are the first in their families to enroll in higher education.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING SUPPORTS THESE INSTITUTIONS

- ❑ Menaul School, Albuquerque, NM
- ❑ Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville, TX
- ❑ Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL www.stillman.edu

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ. Please consider giving to the Christmas Joy Offering on December 22 or through the church office.



KEEPING AWARE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS DURING THIS SEASON OF HOPE'S BIRTH THAT ALL SACRED LIFE ON THIS SACRED PLANET WILL CONTINUE AD INFINITUM!!

A poem that describes the impermanence or finitude of all things that exist.

Ozymandias, Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792 –1822)

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:
And on the pedestal these words appear:
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

Some other wise sayings concerning our environmental crisis:

For if there is to be a livable world for those who come after us,
It will be because we have managed to make the transition from
The Industrial Growth Society to a Life-sustaining Society.
When people of the future look back at this historical movement,
They will see, perhaps more clearly than we can now, how revolutionary
It is. They may well call it the time of the Great Turning. -- Joanna Macy

And words from an Indigenous Prophet, Black Elk.

The Lakota shaman Black Elk once said, "We don't have to heal the Earth, she can heal herself.

All we have to do is stop making her sick."

To this simple truth I would add that the Earth can heal us too. -- Eliot Cowan

-Bill Renfro



Welcome, Tatiana Shustova!



Please welcome Tatiana Shustova to the St. Andrew staff! Tatiana will be dividing the church accompanist duties with Denise Baccadutre. Tatiana has had a distinguished musical career.

Please follow this link to read her biography on her website:

<https://tatianashustova.com/about>

You can find audio and video of Tatiana's performances at this link:

<https://tatianashustova.com/video>

Governor Bent Dollar Store

Help GBES students be a part of the holiday giving season by donating items to their dollar store. The proceeds go to the school and gives students a way to purchase gifts for a dollar or less for their friends and family. The following items are suggested:

- books
- toys
- jewelry
- games
- mugs
- kitchenware (no knives)
- knick-knacks
- puzzles
- stuffed animals
- blankets

Please, no clothing! Bring your donations to church by Dec. 15 and give them to Patty, Sharon or Kathy Renfro.



THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR TOTALS

The Alternative Christmas was a smashing success once again thanks to the efforts of so many of you who did so much. It was fun. It got new people in the door including several neighbors who appreciated the fliers delivered to their door. We served 70 Neighborhood Friends a wonderful meal, the most we have ever served. And we raised money.



The Silent Auction is on approach to \$3,500 when all monies are in.

Lunch raised \$1,175

The bake sale brought in \$590

Heifer International - \$670

Habitat \$165 in cash (but may be as high as \$15,000 with those who donate \$1,000 and receive a \$500 tax credit from the state.)

Cafe Justo \$270

Family Promise \$150

Total (Not counting the Habitat monies) \$6,520 WOW!!! and Thank you!

December Adult Education

Sunday Mornings at 11:00



December 1 Extended Fellowship Time

On the first Sunday of each month we have extended time for getting to know each other in the fellowship hall.

Refreshments provided by the Fellowship Committee.

December 8-22 Eight Ways to Hope*

Did you know that there are eight different ways in which we can hope? Come find out and discuss them in this 3-week series led by psychologist Bill Miller based on his new book.

**Dec. 8 Finding Our Way in the Dark:
Desire, Possibility, and Probability**

**Dec. 15 Facing the Unknown:
Optimism and Trust**

**Dec. 22 Choosing Hope: Meaning, Perseverance,
and Hope Beyond Hope**

December 29 Looking Back and Forward

As 2024 comes to a close we take this hour to reflect together on the year past and the year yet to come. No resolutions required – just pausing to catch our breath and talk together about our lives and hopes. Facilitated by Jan McEwen and Bill Miller.

*A few discounted copies of *Eight Ways to Hope* will be available, and there is also a copy in the church library.

The Albuquerque Philharmonic Orchestra
Byron Herrington, Music Director



2024 Winter Concert:
Revels and Serenity

Friday, December 13, 2024, at 7:30 PM

First Unitarian Church

3701 Carlisle NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 3:00 PM

St. Therese Church

3424 Fourth St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107

- **Roman Carnival Overture** by Hector Berlioz
- **Carmen Suite No. 1** by Georges Bizet
- **Symphony No. 5** by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Concerts will run approximately 90 minutes

Enjoy home-baked goodies at intermission

FREE • Donations Appreciated • Children are welcome

(505)433-7445 www.abqphil.org

facebook.com/AlbuquerquePhilharmonicOrchestra

[@abqphilorch](https://instagram.com/abqphilorch)

SERVICE OF THE LONGEST NIGHT

December 22 at 4:00 PM

The holiday season can be a time of complex emotions and grief – a season usually defined by joy is difficult for many of us. Our Longest Night service offers a time of prayer and togetherness. ALL are invited to come for prayer and support.

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
5301 Ponderosa Ave. NE, Albuquerque**



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24 at 5:00 PM

Join us for a service of storytelling, music and candlelight.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Cookie Exchange and cocoa following the service.

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
5301 Ponderosa Ave. NE, Albuquerque**





Why Are Poinsettias the Christmas Flower?

Native to Mexico, the plant is called *Flor de la Noche Buena* (Flower of the Holy Night) due to its resemblance to the Star of Bethlehem. According to Mexican lore, there was a young child, Pepita, who did not have a gift for the baby Jesus at a Christmas Eve service. She was very poor so all she could do was pick a bouquet of weeds to offer. The angels felt compassion for her plight. So, after Pepita set the flowers at the crèche of the nativity on Christmas Eve, the angels transformed the weeds into beautiful red flowers. Today, Poinsettias are not only the most popular Christmas plant, but the best-selling potted plant in the United States and Canada. Every Christmas Eve our sanctuary is adorned by beautiful poinsettia flowers. This tradition is part of our celebration of the arrival of the Christ Child. Another tradition is to purchase a poinsettia to remember and honor a loved one during the Christmas season. Names of loved ones will be included in our Christmas Eve bulletins. **We are asking for a \$20 donation for each plant.** You may contact the church office or look for the order slips that you can place in the collection basket or mail to the church office, along with your payment. These order slips are available in the back of the Sanctuary, or in the church office. Thank you!



Confessions of a 3-time Olympic Worrywart

Worry is OK,

Worry can be alright.

It can cause us to take long overdue action or

Make us rise to meet the challenges of a new day.

But when worry becomes an overwhelming, paralyzing thing,

It is a symptom of the inadequacy of our faith in God.

-Joe Woodworth

Session Summary

CLERK'S REPORT – November 19 Session

Hello St. Andrew! Session met on November 19 and spent the majority of our time discussing the mission statement/summary that Pastor Eric provided for our final small group discussion. We have more work we want to do with it, so stay tuned. Our business included:

- Please welcome John and Susan Dougherty, our newest members!
- Welcome Tatiana Shustova as our new bi-monthly pianist!
- We received a wonderful bequest from Rogene Henderson, approximately \$50,000. Half will be invested in the endowment fund and the other half will be invested in short term interest accounts and used for improvements and projects for St. Andrew.
- We acknowledged the death of member and friend, Ken Lersten.

Clerk's Report:

- Approval of Clerk's Report: average attendance for October—90.
- Membership as of October 31, 2024: 146

And the Word
became flesh
and lived
among us...

—JOHN 1:14



Treasurer's report:

October 2024	Current Month	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Income	11,515	299,237	290,700
Total Expenses	28,355	281,557	346,436
Difference	-16,841	17,680	-55,736



Lectionary Schedule

Sunday – Dec. 1

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Psalm 25:1-10
 Second Reading Thess. 3:9-13
 Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Sunday – Dec. 8

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79
 Second Reading Phil. 1:3-11
 Gospel Luke 3:1-6

Sunday – Dec. 15

First Reading Zeph. 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Second Reading Phil. 4:4-7
 Gospel Luke 3:7-18

Sunday – Dec. 22

First Reading Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:46b-55/Ps. 80:1-7
 Second Reading Heb. 10:5-10
 Gospel Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Sunday – Dec. 29

First Reading 1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Second Reading Col. 3:12-17
 Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Sunday – January 5

First Reading Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Second Reading Eph. 1:3-14
 Gospel John 1:10-18

Sunday – January 12

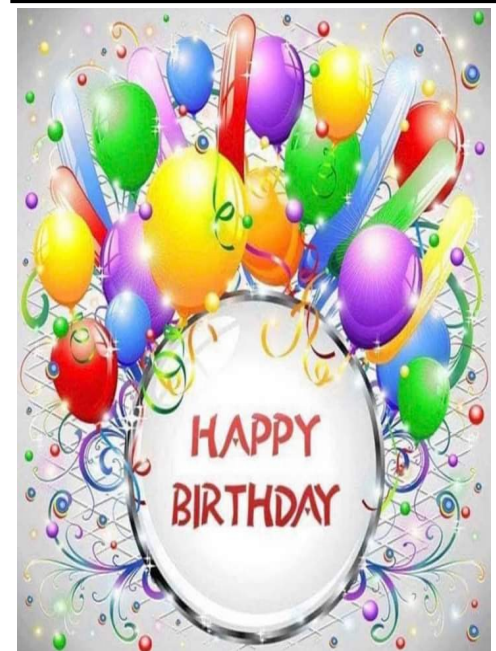
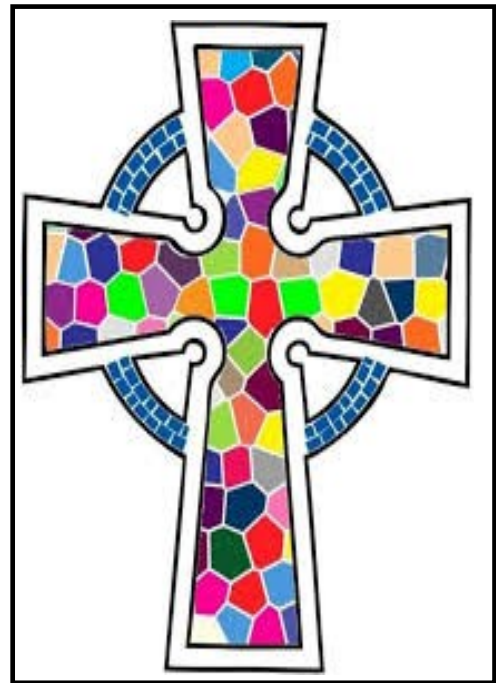
First Reading Isaiah 43:1-7
 Psalm 29
 Second Reading Acts 8:14-17
 Gospel Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday – January 19

First Reading Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm 36:5-10
 Second Reading
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 Gospel John 2:1-11

Sunday – January 26

First Reading Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 Psalm 19
 Second Reading
 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Gospel Luke 4:14-21



December

- 3 Joshua Soliz
- 8 Mark Wesselman
- 10 Jann Kindel
- 12 Sofia Nolasco Prewitt
- 13 Jaynie McConnell
- 17 Beverley McArthur
 Catherine Robinson
- 20 Bob Maze
- 23 Andrew McMillian
- 24 Valerie Dalton
 Jesus Prada
- 31 Suzanne Busch

January

- 2 Anna Creamer
- 10 Kathie Scott
- 11 Allan Emord
- 12 Isabel Martinez
- 15 Ester Griego
- 17 Kathy Jackson
- 19 Geoffrey Bartlett
 Ruben Martinez
- 20 Patty Emord
 Daniel Boyd
- 31 Marie StClaire



December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship and Com- munion Advent 1 10:30 am Fellowship Time Encantada 3 pm	2 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7 pm	3 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am	4 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	5 10:00 am Spiritual Formation 10:00 am Stroke Club Worship Committee 4:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	6 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	7
8 9:30 am Worship Advent 2 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Adult C.E. 1:30 St. Andrew Young Families Party Encantada 3 pm	9 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7 pm	10	11 4:00 pm Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir 6:30 Southwest Sniffers	12 10:00 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Historical Jesus Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	13 Encantada Rehearsal 5 pm 7:30 pm ABQ Science Fiction Society	14 Encantada Holiday Concert 7:00 pm
15 9:30 am Worship Advent 3 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Adult C.E.	16 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7 pm	17 Session 6:00 pm	18 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	19 10:00 am Spiritual Formation 10:00 am Stroke Club Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	20 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	21
22 9:30 am Worship Advent 4 10:30 am Fellowship 11 am Adult CE Longest Night Worship Service 4 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5 pm Church Office closed	25 Christmas Day 	26 Church Office closed	27	28
29 9:30 am worship Christmas Lessons and Carols 10:30 Fellowship	30	31 Church Office closed				

JANUARY 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			<p>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church office closed</p>	<p>2 Stroke Club 10 am Spiritual Formation 10 am Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>3 Girl Scouts 5:30 pm</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Worship & Communion 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Adult CE 11 Encantada 3 pm</p>	<p>6 APO 7 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Deacons 4 pm Southwest Sniffers 6:30 pm Peace Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Stroke Club 10 am Historical Jesus 10 am Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>10 Science Fiction Society 7:30 pm</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Adult CE 11 Encantada 3 pm</p>	<p>13 APO 7 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Peace Choir 6:30</p>	<p>16 Stroke Club 10 am Spiritual Formation 10 am Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>17 Girl Scouts 5:30 pm</p>	<p>18 Ken Lersten Memorial 10 am</p>
<p>19 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Adult CE 11 Encantada 3 pm</p>	<p>20 APO 7 pm </p>	<p>21 Session 6 pm</p>	<p>22 Peace Choir 6:30</p>	<p>23 Stroke Club 10 am Historical Jesus 10 am Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Worship 9:30 Congregational Meeting 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Encantada 3 pm</p>	<p>27 APO 7 pm</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Peace Choir 6:30</p>	<p>30 Stroke Club 10 am Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>31</p>	