



# Good News

JANUARY 2026

## FROM THE RECTOR

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*It's been a challenging year in the church and in the world. With God's help we have grown in the spirit and persevered together. Thank you for supporting St. Andrew with your time, talent, and treasure. While the new year will undoubtedly offer fresh challenges, may the quiet assurance that the Rev. Howard Thurman speaks about in his Prayer for the New Year inspire us to continue to live for Christ by loving our neighbors as ourselves. May we never forget that each of us is the beloved of God, and that together, we can do all things in Christ, who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13).*

### A Prayer For The New Year

"God,

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart. There will be much to test me and make weak my strength before the year ends.

In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and do the thing of which I am ashamed. There will be errors in the mind and great inaccuracies of judgment.

In seeking the light,  
I shall again and again find myself  
walking in the darkness.

I shall mistake my light for Your light  
and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make...

Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings, let my spirit be free

## FROM THE RECTOR (CONT.)

so that You may take it and redeem my moments  
in all the ways my needs reveal.

Give me the quiet assurance of Your Love and  
Presence. Grant that I may pass through the  
coming year with a faithful heart.”

- Rev. Howard Thurman

The Rev. Howard Thurman (1899-1981) was an American theologian, philosopher, author, teacher and civil rights activist. A graduate of Howard University, Colgate Rochester, and Crozer Divinity School, Thurman sought to imitate Christ in changing the world for the better by practicing radical nonviolence in his life and work. Howard's 1949 book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, greatly influenced The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement, and has inspired countless people of good will to pick up their crosses and do Christ's work in the world.

In Christ,  
Lisa+

## VESTRY NOTES

Hope all had a prayerful Advent and Christmas. Vestry continues to work on the Parish Hall ceiling repairs. The Administration offices will commence with the planned flooring replacement and blind installations. If you see any repairs that need attention let us know, there are forms in the end mailbox to alert Vestry. Have a very safe and Happy New Year.

Marsy Berlan Senior Warden

## Important Dates in January

- 04 Morning Prayer 10:30 am  
Food Pantry 1-3 pm
- 05 Women's Bible Study 1 pm
- 07 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
- 08 Choir Practice 1 pm  
Flower Guild 2 pm
- 11 Morning Prayer 10:30 am
- 12 Food Delivery 10:30 am  
Women's Bible Study 1 pm  
Men's Club 7 pm
- 13 Food Pantry 1-3 pm
- 14 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
- 15 Choir Practice 1 pm
- 18 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am
- 19 St. James Lunch 11-2
- 20 Fundraising Committee 6:30
- 21 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
- 22 Choir Practice 1 pm
- 25 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am
- 26 Women's Bible Study 1 pm  
Men's Club 7 pm
- 28 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30  
Vestry 6:30 pm
- 29 Choir Practice 1 pm

## ST. JAMES LUNCH

Mark your calendar for Monday, January 19th! St. Andrew will be making and serving lunch on Martin Luther King Jr. Day at St. James, Painesville. Everyone is welcome to join us for this fun and fulfilling ministry! Join us from 11 am to about 2 pm at St. James (131 North State St., Painesville.) For more information, contact the church office.

## ALTAR GUILD

Thanks to all who helped at All Clean.

Marcy Berlan for washing the marble altar in the surrounding floor on Wednesday. On Friday Mary Provin's came and polished silver. On Saturday, the official day of all clean, Randy and Carol came early and cleaned. They used an extension pole to clean numerous cobwebs by the Cross and near the ceiling plus Carol used Murphy's oil soap to wash choir pews. Jack and Bonnie Semenik came and helped. They were cleaning pews and sweeping, swifiting the sanctuary floors as was Susan Swain and Kathy Steffens. Barb Kovacs and Jill Sankal polished many brass items. Greg VanHorn washed the entire lower sanctuary floor. I finished polishing silver and setting up.

Also, thanks Scott Steffens repaired the lower drawer in the sacristy that had been warped and ruined by water. He put it back in the sacristy and made sure the area was clean. Scott also helped with cleaning too.

I was so blessed by all these people helping to

make our sanctuary area so clean and smelling lovely. Thank you all.

June Williams Webb



## January Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

05 Mary Ellen Fecser  
05 Megan Grau  
05 Scott Steffens  
14 Mary Provins  
14 Maryellen Sundstrom  
15 Sandy Mazelis  
25 Christopher Whitaker  
28 Brian Rotz  
30 Jack Semenik

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We are meeting on Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We are looking into new fundraising options

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for our Food Pantry – forward ideas to Mary Provins or Janna Penkowski or join us at the meeting. Additional help is greatly needed.

We are also planning on continuing with the Candy Apple Craft Fair, Election Day Bake Sales and the Jingle Bell Jam.

## GREETING CARD MINISTRY

There is an opening for the month of May to send Birthday/Anniversary cards to a list of names provided by Joan Lally. Easy, simple, can be done at home. Cards and stamps are located at church if you don't have your own. Please let me know if you are interested at [tjlally@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjlally@sbcglobal.net)

## FLOWER GUILD

Thank You to all who made donations for the Christmas Poinsettias and to Andy Spiesman, Scott Steffens, and Doug Sundstrom for helping me decorate.

Another big Thank You to Christine Siarka who made two beautiful luminaries to light up our church for years to come.

I will be taking down the remaining decorations on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

Many dates are still available for Altar Flowers. Forms are available in the Narthex.

## RECOGNIZING SCAM ATTEMPTS

Unfortunately, as a church, our members have been targeted for multiple scam attempts. People posing as our rector, email or text our church members in an attempt to defraud us (usually by asking for gift cards).

It is very important to **stop** if the situation seems urgent or an emergency. Scammers do this on purpose to bypass your normal caution.

Please be vigilant when reviewing your email and texts. Do not send any money or gifts card information via text or email. Any gift cards meant for St. Andrew's Discretionary fund should be given directly to Rev. Lisa or the church office. A copy of the email sent earlier is at the end of this newsletter.

# PRAYER CALENDAR

## January 2026 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Jenna & David Neuman	2  Rev. Lisa O'Rear	3  Joe Papaleo
4  Randy & Carol Pengov	5  Todd & Janna Penkowski (Kevin) <i>Mary Ellen Fecser(B) Megan Gau(B) Scott Steffens(B)</i>	6  Chris & Sarah Peshek (Evelyn, Marcus, Rosa, & Judith Rae)	7  Marybeth Primeau	8  Mary Provins	9  Debbie Pulman	10  Brian & Micki Rotz (Brianna, Chase)
11  Jarrod & Elizabeth Riddell (Jaxyn)	12  Ann Russell	13  Kenneth Rutske'	14  Brian & Sheree Sandacz <i>Mary Provins(B) Maryellen Sundstrom(B)</i>	15  Bernadette Sandacz <i>Sandy Mazelis(B)</i>	16  John(Spark) & Jill Sankal	17  Margaret Sinclair
18  Vince & Alissa Sitkowski (Lily, Piper, Emery)	19  Barbara Sopko & Dona Currutt	20  Andrew & Amy Spiesman	21  John Spiesman	22  Scott & Kathleen Steffens	23  Joe & Peggy Sturm	24  Doug & Maryellen Sundstrom
25  Susan Swain <i>Christopher Whitaker(B)</i>	26  Ryan & Julie Symonds (Hunter)	27  Debra Van Horn	28  Gregory Van Horn <i>Brian Rotz(B)</i>	29  Tom & Sandy Van Horn	30  June Webb <i>Jack Semenik(B)</i>	31  Christopher Whitaker

Let's Pray for Each Other! Introducing the Prayer Calendar, which will come to you each month. You'll note that there is a parish member/family designated for each day of the month on the calendar. Please take a moment to pray for that person on the day indicated, whether you know them or not! Prayer blesses the one who prays and the one who receives prayer, so incorporating this prayer calendar into your daily devotions is a win/win situation!

“Prayer is standing in the presence of God with the mind in the heart; that is, at that point of our being where there are no divisions or distinctions and where we are totally one. There God's Spirit dwells and there the great encounter takes place. There, heart speaks to heart, because there, we stand before the face of the Lord, all-seeing, with us.” — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*

**LECTOR AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

## January Volunteer Calendar 2026

Date	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Chalice Bearers	Lectors	Acolytes /Cross Bearer	Ushers /Greeters	Counters
January 4-2026 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas	<b>Mary Provins, Sarah Peshek</b>		<b>MP- Chris Whitaker</b>	<b>Randy Pengov, Barb Sopko, Dona Currutt</b>	<b>C-Dona Currutt</b>	<b>Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B</b>	<b>Andy Spiesman, Kim Herczog</b>
January 11-2026 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	<b>Randy &amp; Carol Pengov</b>		<b>MP-Alec Lawlor</b>	<b>June Webb, Ed Bridge, Micki Rotz, Peggy Sturm</b>	<b>C-Dona Currutt</b>	<b>Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B</b>	<b>Brian Sandacz, Andy Spiesman</b>
January 18-2026 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany	<b>Mary Provins, Sarah Peshek, Randy &amp; Carol, June, Margaret, Marsy</b>		<b>Marsy Berlan-</b>	<b>Eunice May, Brian Sandacz, June Webb, Carol Pengov</b>	<b>C-Dona Currutt</b>	<b>Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B</b>	<b>Kim Herczog, Jack Semenik</b>
January 25-2026 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany			<b>Mary Provins</b>	<b>Chris Whitaker, Alec Lawlor, Barb Sopko, Dona Currutt</b>	<b>C-Dona Currutt</b>	<b>Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B</b>	<b>June Webb, Brian Sandacz,</b>

## READINGS



### January 4

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day

### January 11

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

### January 18

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

### January 25

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

### February 1

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

### READINGS FOR THE DAY

- [Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)
- [Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a](#)
- [Matthew 2:13-15,19-23](#)
- or [Luke 2:41-52](#)
- or [Matthew 2:1-12](#)
- [Psalm 84 or 84:1-8](#)

- [Isaiah 42:1-9](#)
- [Acts 10:34-43](#)
- [Matthew 3:13-17](#)
- [Psalm 29](#)

- [Isaiah 49:1-7](#)
- [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)
- [John 1:29-42](#)
- [Psalm 40:1-12](#)

- [Isaiah 9:1-4](#)
- [1 Corinthians 1:10-18](#)
- [Matthew 4:12-23](#)
- [Psalm 27:1, 5-13](#)

- [Micah 6:1-8](#)
- [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)
- [Matthew 5:1-12](#)
- [Psalm 15](#)

PARISH CALENDAR

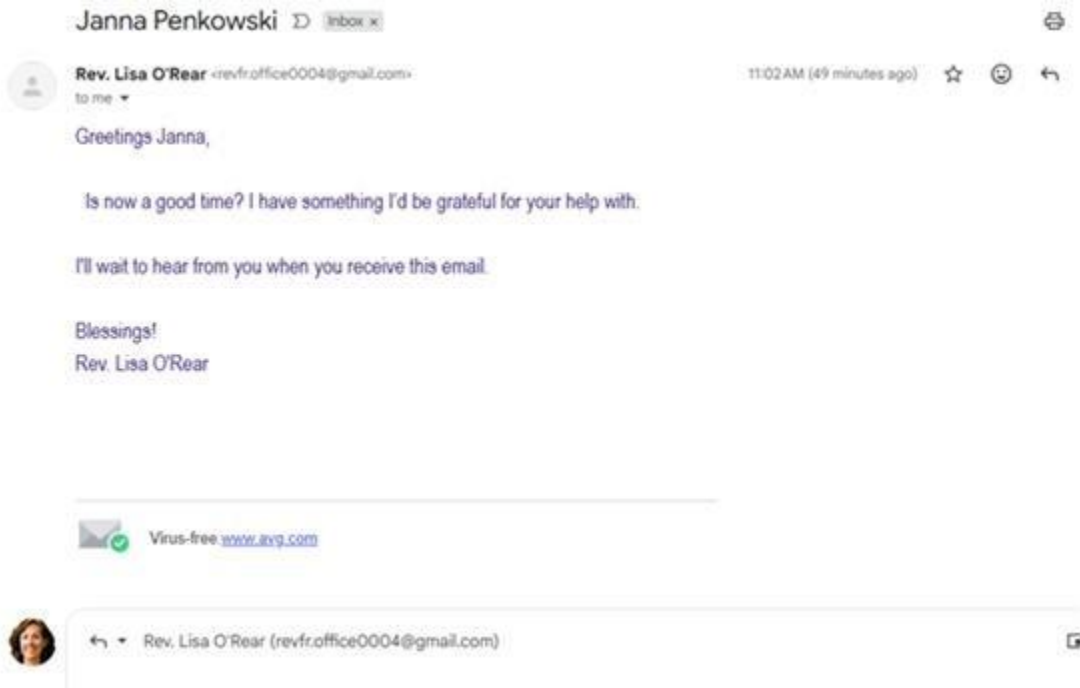
**St. Andrew Episcopal Church  
January 2026 Parish Calendar**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Happy New Year!!	2  12:15p AA	3  Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
4  10: 30a Morning Prayer w/ Music 1-3 Choice Pantry (Need help)	5  1pm Bible Study 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	6  12:15 AA 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	7  8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 6:30 p Finance 7:30p McD AA 5pm-Fit 4 Moms	8  8-5 Chris-W.R. 1p Choir 2p Flower Guild-Take down	9  12:15p AA	10  Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
11  10: 30a Morning Prayer w/ Music Online service	12  10:30a Food Delivery 1pm Bible Study 7pm Men's Club 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	13  12:15 AA 1-3 Choice Pantry (Need Help) 6p Scouts 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	14  8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 7:30p McD AA	15  8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30a-Food Delivery 1p Choir	16  12:15p AA	17  Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
18  10:30a Eucharist w/ Music	19  11am St. James Lunch 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	20  12:15 AA 7-8 Augustine Flwshp 6:30 Fundraising Mtg	21  8:30 Fit4moms 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 6-8 Choice Pantry 7:30p McD AA	22  8-5 Chris-W.R 1p Choir	23  12:15p AA	24  Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
25  10:30a Eucharist w/ Music Online service 2pm The Experience AA (Assembly Rm)	26  1pm Bible Study 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7pm Men's Club 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	27  12:15 AA 6p Scouts 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	28  8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 6:30 p Vestry 6-8 Choice Pantry 7:30p McD AA	29  8-5 Chris-W.R 1p Choir	30  12:15p AA	31  Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA

## RECOGNIZING SCAM ATTEMPTS

Recently I received an email from "Rev. Lisa" and something just seemed off about the message. I went to my laptop to check it out and the email address it came from was not her normal email. It was a "phishing" attempt using a "spoofed" email address. Phishing is trying to get personal information from you - in this case, the sender was trying to get me to communicate back to them in order to most likely scam me somehow. The "spoofed" email address looks like it is coming from a real person - The name says "Rev. Lisa O'Rear."

The email is shown below



Note that the name shows as Lisa's but the email address is not hers.

This seems pretty obvious on my laptop. BUT, I originally viewed it on my iPad. On both my iPad and my cell phone, you don't see the actual email address. You only see the name. This makes it seem perfectly legitimate.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time scammers have impersonated Lisa and churches. Churches are targeted in particular because of the trust church members have in their leadership and the generosity of church members. I am certain if I had replied to this email, there would have been a follow up asking me to purchase gift cards or send money.

If you received this same email, either mark it as "spam" or simply delete it.

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Two quick tips:

Always verify the email address (this may not show automatically so you need to click on the name) If you cannot see the address, don't "reply" - instead contact the person directly.

**Never** buy or send money, gift cards, etc. to a person requesting them via text or email.

More information on phishing can be found here:

<https://www.occ.gov/topics/consumers-and-communities/consumer-protection/fraud-resources/phishing-attack-prevention.html#:~:text=If%20you%20provide%20the%20requested,ensure%20all%20charges%20are%20correct.>