



# Good News

APRIL 2023

## From the Rector

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Friends, although this is titled an Easter poem, and it surely is that, the poem speaks too of Good Friday and our broken world, redeemed by our Messiah upon his resurrection. It is a poem of clear-eyed hope I have concluded.

Sadly, the brokenness of humanity remains, despite our Savior's saving grace. The March 28, 2023 shootings at a Nashville elementary school where three nine-year old children, and three adults were killed, is evidence of that.

May we who belong to Christ, and not ourselves alone, teach peace, and act in love in all spheres of our influence, at home and in the public square, as witness to the power of our risen Lord.

*A poem on Easter  
The little stream sings  
in the crease of the hill.  
It is the water of life. It knows  
nothing of death, nothing.  
And this is the morning  
of Christ's resurrection.  
The tomb is empty. There is  
no death. Death is our illusion,  
our wish to belong only  
to ourselves, which is our freedom  
to kill one another.  
From this sleep may we too  
rise, as out of the dark grave.*



## FROM THE RECTOR (CONT.)

*from Wendell Berry's Given: Poems*

Faithfully, Lisa+

## FUNDRAISING WORKGROUP MEETING

We are having a fundraising workgroup brainstorming meeting on Wednesday April 19 at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend! Rev. Lisa's friend Cathy, who has done a lot of fundraising professionally, and who volunteers at the food pantry, will share a great fundraising idea she'd like to work with us on to be scheduled for late summer.

## FLOWER GUILD NEWS

Volunteers needed to help decorate the church for Easter on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. It is a fun and easy way to prepare for Easter. No experience necessary!



## IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

- 02 Palm Sunday 10:30 am
- 02 Food Pantry 1 - 3 pm
- 05 Healing Eucharist 6:30 pm
- 06 Food Pantry unpack 11 am
- 06 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm
- 07 Stations of the Cross 12 pm Online
- 07 Good Friday Liturgy 7 pm
- 08 Flower Guild 11 am
- 08 Easter Vigil at Trinity Cathedral 8 pm
- 09 Easter Sunday 10:30 am
- 11 Food Pantry 1 - 3 pm
- 16 Vestry Retreat 12:15 pm
- 19 Church Fundraising Meeting 6 pm
- 29 Consecration of Rev. Anne Jolly 11 am

## GOOD NEWS FROM OUR SANCTUARY FAMILY

Laura M. who, with her two young sons, Joshua and Jose, lived with us at St. Andrew, in sanctuary, for two

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years, just received some long-awaited good news from our Federal Government Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Upon reviewing her U-VISA application (filed in April 2018) the DHS has determined Laura's application to be a "bona-fide" claim which will be approved for a U-VISA in the next fiscal year (DHS has reached its immigration quota for this year). In conjunction with this favorable determination on Laura's claim, the DHS will process her work permit, and work permits for her children (all of whom are now 16 or older) immediately. Soon, Laura will be able to work in the local economy to support herself and her children without threat of deportation.

Please know, friends, that, had the vestry of St. Andrew not taken the heroic step of offering Laura and her family sanctuary (we were one of only 80 churches in the US to take this step), and had our parish not embrace her, Laura would have been deported and her family separated. Without our help, Laura would not have been able to obtain legal counsel through the Case Law Clinic, and would not have been able to complete and file her U-VISA application, an arduous process, in and of itself.

In taking on this work of sanctuary, the parish of St. Andrew offered Laura and her family the sacrificial love of Christ. While I cannot speak to the specifics of her case in order to protect Laura's privacy, suffice it to say that we may well have saved her life.

Thank you, parish family, for embracing our sister Laura and her family, who were strangers in the US, and needed our immediate help to stay together as a family. We did Christ's work together; thanks be to God.

*"I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me."  
The righteous then ask,  
"When did we see you, a stranger, and welcome you?"  
Christ replies,  
"Truly I tell you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."*

*-Matthew 25:31-40*





## PALM SUNDAY AND HOLY WEEK

You are invited you to join us for Holy Week services at our church. Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

### Sunday - April 2

10:30 am Palm Procession and Holy Eucharist (one service.)

### Wednesday - April 5

6:30 pm Healing Eucharist with Anointing in the Narthex

### Thursday - April 6

6:30 pm - Agape Meal with Holy Communion  
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Liturgy with foot washing or anointing of ha

### Good Friday - April 7

12:00 noon - Online Stations of the Cross  
7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy

### Holy Saturday - April 8

8:00 pm Easter Vigil at Trinity Cathedral

### Easter Sunday

10:30 am Easter Service  
Egg Hunt and refreshments directly following

## FLOWER SALE

Spring is right around the corner! Get ready for spring planting by ordering flowers from the St. Andrew Spring Flower Sale. The sale includes beautiful flats of hearty annuals, hanging baskets and a wide variety of vegetable plants and herbs. Order forms for the sale are available in the church lobby (Narthex) or online at [www.standrew-mentor.com](http://www.standrew-mentor.com).

Last year we tried online ordering - while the service was convenient, it was also expensive. The church paid a 10% fee to use the fundraiser website and customers paid credit card fees. This year we are using a paper form (pick up at the Church) or one that can be downloaded from our website and electronically completed. Simply email the order form to [standrewflowersale@gmail.com](mailto:standrewflowersale@gmail.com) or mail the form to the church. Pay either by paper check or by using your bank's bill pay service (in most banks this is free). Just add St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 7989 Little Mountain Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060 as a payee and instead of using an account number opt to add a memo - "Spring Flower Sale."

If you ordered last year, an order form will be emailed to you! Return flower orders between March 12th and April 16th and plants will be

## DID YOU KNOW?

If you are 72 or older you can direct mandatory yearly IRA withdrawals to St. Andrew and deduct the withdrawal from your income? Save money on taxes and help the church-it's a win-win!



available for pick up on Friday, May 19th - just in time for Memorial Day planting.

Please share order forms with your family, friends and neighbors! Pick up your flowers on Friday, May 19th between 1 and 6 PM.

Proceeds support St. Andrew ministries. Purchasing flowers does not constitute a "donation" as you receive goods in exchange for money tendered.

## LETTER REGARDING PARISH FINANCES

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to share an update on the financial health of the parish.

In reconciling the books for the month of February, it became apparent to vestry that our monthly operational income, as averaged over the first two months of 2023, is insufficient to pay our monthly bills.

We will reach a crisis point this month which will require us to draw down on limited reserves to meet our financial obligations.

Beginning in April, we will have no more reserves to draw from, and will be forced to default on some critical obligations.

The leadership of St. Andrew, your rector and vestry, are committed to creating a plan to increase our monthly income. This plan will require the active engagement of the entire community to implement.

We are one body, and every member is critically important to the health of the whole body. This teaching of Jesus holds true for all aspects of our ministry together, including our finances. We are so grateful for your support of St. Andrew parish. We ask you now to prayerfully consider how you might support us going forward.

Many parishes in the diocese are struggling to make ends meet in the wake of the COVID pandemic and declining memberships. Our church is not alone in operating with a deficit budget. All of us in Christ's body are seeking a way to continue the work of Christ together in our particular parish contexts.

For us at St. Andrew, the time is now.

Please know that the work we do now, together, to create and implement a financial plan for the parish that includes stewardship, space sharing, the sharing of clergy hours, and targeted fundraising, will

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help ensure that St. Andrew remains a beacon of hope for generations to come.

Implementing such a plan, once developed, will take time however, and, as things stand, we will default on bill payments beginning in April.

Given our average monthly operational income and our operational expenses, we need an additional \$2,400 each month to meet our current financial obligations as a parish.

This amount could be met in straightforward fashion, if the 31 people who pledged this year would increase their monthly pledge by \$80. For some of our brothers and sisters in the community an \$80 increase in monthly pledging is possible, but for others, it is not an option. That is why the financial plan we develop together must not rely on pledges alone to meet our church expenses.

Please watch for your invitation to attend a parish meeting, on a date to be decided in the upcoming month, where we will discuss our church finances and our options for the future.

For now, please pray for the health of St. Andrew, Mentor. Pray for one another, and for those we serve. Come to church and worship with us. Consider a monetary gift, as you are able, to the St. Andrew general fund, whether it be an increase in pledge or a one-time gift. With your help, we will weather this storm and find a way forward, together.

*Prayer for the Parish*

*Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family.*

*Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent.*

*Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen. BCP 817*

In Christ,  
Lisa+

The Rev. Lisa O'Rear  
Rector of St. Andrew, Mentor

The Vestry of St. Andrew, Mentor:  
Rick Berlan, Senior Warden, Joe Papaleo, Junior Warden, Barb Sopko, Treasurer, Janna Penkowski, Clerk of Vestry, Ted Herczog, Betsy Lee, Andy Spiesman, Chris Peshek, Mary Ellen Fecser.

## PRAYER CALENDAR

Let's Pray for Each Other!

Introducing the Prayer Calendar, which will come to you each month in your newsletter. You'll note that there is a parish member 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*

### April 2023 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Chris & Sarah Peshek (Evelyn, Rosa, Marcus,)	4 Linda Pietro
5 Leo & Shirley Poitras <i>Chris Sweet(B)</i>	6 Marybeth Primeau	7 Mary Provins	8 Debbie Pulman	9 Brian & Micki Rotz (Brianna, Chase)	10 Ann Russell	11 Brian & Sheree Sandacz
12 Bernadette Sandacz	13 John(Spark) & Jill Sankal	14 Jack & Bonnie Semenik	15 Doris Silvaroli	16 Margaret Sinclair	17 Vince & Alissa Sitkowski (Lily, Piper) <i>Marcus Peshek(B)</i>	18 Diane Smith
19 Barb Sopko & Dona Currutt (Lane, Luke Sopko)	20 Andrew & Amy Spiesman	21 John Spiesman <i>Julie Symonds(B)</i>	22 Joe & Peggy Sturm	23 Doug & Maryellen Sundstrom <i>Debra Van Horn (B)</i> <i>Kit &amp; Karla Brandenburg(A)</i>	24 Susan Swain	25 Chris & Sherrie Sweet
26 Ryan & Julie Symonds (Hunter) <i>Ted &amp; Kim Herczog(A)</i>	27 Debra Van Horn	28 June Webb	29 Griff & Margartet Wolf	30 Anthony WesleyIII & Alfred R. Cowger Jr.	31 Chris Whittaker	

## LECTOR AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### Volunteer Schedule for April 2023

	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>	<i>Sunday School</i>	<i>Chalice Bearers</i>	<i>Lectors</i>	<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Ushers/Greeters</i>	<i>Counters</i>
<b>April 2</b> The Passion Palm Sunday	<b>Carol &amp; Randy Pengov Susan Zuber</b>	TBD	TBD	Mary Provins	Passion Cast	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman	Andy Spiesman, Kim Herczog
<b>April 9</b> The Sunday of Resurrection Easter Sunday	<b>June Webb</b>	TBD	TBD	Judy Cudnik	Judy Cudnik, Chris Peshek, Mary Provins, Nancy Benes	C-	Andy Spiesman	Brian Sandacz, Andy Spiesman
<b>April 16</b> The First Sunday of Easter	<b>Mary Provins, Margaret Sinclair, Brianna Rotz</b>	TBD	TBD	Mary Provins	Eunice May, Dona Currutt, Debbie Pulman, Brian Sandacz	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman	Kim Herczog, Jack Semenik
<b>April 23</b> The Second Sunday of Easter	<b>Carol &amp; Randy Pengov Susan Zuber</b>	TBD	TBD	Judy Cudnik	Peggy Sturm, Mary Provins, Ed Bridge, Micki Rotz	C-	Andy Spiesman	June Webb, Brian Sandacz,
<b>April 30</b> The Third Sunday of Easter	<b>June Webb</b>			Mary Provins	Randy Pengov, Dona Currutt, Judy Cudnik, Brian Sandacz	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman	Andy Spiesman, Kim Herczog

**+ 10:30 am only lector order= 1<sup>st</sup>-OT, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Psalm, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Epistle, 4<sup>th</sup>-Prayers of the People**  
**If you need to reschedule, please make arrangements with someone else and let the office know of the change.**  
**Also, please check for your coffee hour Sunday.**



# PARISH CALENDAR

**10:30 am 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Online**  
**Worship with music**  
**10:30 am Eucharist Service with Music**  
**& 12 noon Contemporary service every**  
**Sunday**

## *St. Andrew Episcopal Church*

7989 Little Mountain Rd  
 Mentor, OH 44060  
 (440) 255-8842  
 standrewmentor@gmail.com

*If there is a pastoral emergency, contact*  
**The Rev. Lisa O'Rear**  
**Cell: 216-402-9860**  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday-Thursday**  
**9am to Noon**  
**(440) 255-8842**

## April 2023 Parish Calendar

• Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>Calling Hours for                      Jim Brown 3-6p                      Worman Rm</b>	1 Ping Pong <b>2p Jim Brown                      Funeral with                      Reception after</b>
<b>2 Palm Sunday</b> 6:30-8a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30a Eucharist w Music 12noon Contemp Service 1-3 <b>Choice Pantry-Need Help</b> 6-8 Joe & Charlie AA	3 8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i>  6:30 Women in Recovery 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA 6-8:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i>	4 5-6a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 12:15 AA 6-Den Mtg 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	5 8-5Chris-W.R. 8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30-12Thai Chi 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Arrow of Light 6-7:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 7:30 p McD AA	6 5-6a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 11:30 a <b>Food Bank Delivery-Need help</b> 8-5Chris-W.R. 7-Choir <b>7-MaundyThursday Service</b>	7  8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 12:15 p AA 7-8:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i> <b>7p Good Friday Service</b>	8 Ping Pong  10-12Thai Chi 1-4 Recovery Intl 2-4 Truth & Love
<b>9 Easter Sunday</b> 6:30-8a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30a Eucharist w Music Online service <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> 6-8 Joe & Charlie AA	10 8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 6:30 Women in Recovery 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA 6-8:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i>	11 5-6a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 12:15 AA 1-3 <b>Choice Pantry-Need Help</b> 6-Den Mtg 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	12 8-5Chris-W.R. 8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30-12Thai Chi 6-8 Choice Pantry 7:30 p McD AA	13 5-6a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 8-5Chris-W.R. 11:30 a Food Bank Delivery 7-Choir	14  8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 12:15 p AA 7-8:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i>	15 Ping Pong 10-12Thai Chi 1-4 Recovery Intl 2-4 Truth & Love
16 6:30-8a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30a Eucharist w Music 12noon Contemp Service 6-8 Joe & Charlie AA	17 8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i>  6:30 Women in Recovery 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA 6-8:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i>	18 5-6a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 12:15 AA 6-Den Mtg 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	19 8-5Chris-W.R. 8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30-12Thai Chi <b>6:30 p Vestry</b> 6-8 Choice Pantry 7:30 p McD AA	20 5-6a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 8-5Chris-W.R.	21  8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 12:15 p AA 7-8:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i>	22 Ping Pong 10-12Thai Chi 1-4 Recovery Intl 2-4 Truth & Love
23 6:30-8a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30a Eucharist w Music Online service 12noon Contemp Service 6-8 Joe & Charlie AA	24 8:30-9:30a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 6:30 Women in Recovery 7:30 12X12 Little Mountain AA 6-8:30p <i>Fit4Mom's</i>	25 5-6a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 12:15 AA 6-Den Mtg 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	26	27	28	29
30 6:30-8a <i>Fit4Mom's</i> 10:30a Eucharist w Music 12noon Contemp Service 6-8 Joe & Charlie AA						