



# Good News

JANUARY 2023

## From the Rector

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In this season of taking stock and pondering the place where we stand in the New Year, as individuals, neighbors, society, the church, it is so good to see people turning towards the light.

I was enormously grateful, hope-filled, and gratified to witness the surge of love directed towards Damar Hamlin, football player for the Buffalo Bills, after his heart stopped on the playing field just minutes into a high stakes game with the Cincinnati Bengals.

I was actually watching this game, my first of the year, surrounded by Buffalo fans in a neighborhood bar near Chautauqua NY. I know I was not alone that night in experiencing an emotional disconnect when 24-year-old Damar Hamlin, after a routine tackle, first stood up, seemingly unhurt, then fell to the ground, where he lay motionless for what seemed like forever. One moment I was a low-profile Bengals supporter in a sea of vocal Bills fans and the next minute we were all united, game forgotten, entirely focused on Damar's prone figure on the field and the people of circled around him, kneeling on the ground, praying for his life.

The fans at home and in the stadium grew instantly quiet. The media kept a respectful distance from Damar and the medical team, choosing rather to focus their cameras on the faces of Damar's teammates, coaches, and crew, who stood silently on the field, hands empty, faces etched with worry and sympathy. Their tears, much in evidence, were a balm to us at home and on the sidelines, reminding us what is truly worth holding on to – what is worth saving when all is said and done.

I was lifted up by the prayers of the players and fans that night, just as Damar and his family were undoubtedly lifted up by those prayers.

## FROM THE RECTOR (CONT.)

Why though, does it take a public tragedy like Damar's injury, to wake us up, again, to our shared humanity - to erase all sense of separateness between us, and remind us, again, that we are One Body, each of us a precious part of the sacred whole?

This is the core teaching of our faith. As we worship, pray, work, and struggle together to survive and thrive as Christ's church in our neighborhood let's not forget that we are One Body. Let's hold each other precious and remember that every one of us is integral to the health of the whole. As we begin another year as the community of St. Andrew, let Christ be the place where we stand together.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Lisa

## ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Meeting! There will be one service at 10:30 am followed by a potluck brunch and the meeting.

Ministry Leaders, please send your annual report to the church office by February 5<sup>th</sup>.

## ST. ANDREW SOCIAL CLUB

Your St. Andrew family is getting together for fun and games! Look for upcoming events in February and this spring. If you are able to host or plan a gathering, please contact the church office.

## January Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 05 Mary Ellen Fecser
- 05 Megan Grau
- 14 Mary Provins
- 14 Maryellen Sundstrom
- 15 Sandy Mazelis
- 15 Addalyn (Addie) Vernon
- 16 Marilyn Pastor
- 28 Kit Brandenburg
- 28 Brian Rotz
- 30 Jack Semenik

### Anniversaries

- 31 Joe and Kathy Gudel

## GREETING CARD MINISTRY

We as a church family are blessed with many volunteers. We thank those who send out a birthday or anniversary



to parishioners on a list provided by the office. They are: *Nancy Benes, Sarah Peshek, Debbie Pulman, Marybeth Primeau, Susan Zuber, Carol Pengov, Maryellen Sundstrom,*

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*Alissa Sitkowski, Peggy Sturm, Chris Heim, June Webb, and Joan Lally.* If you have not received a card, please notify the office to be placed on the list.

## Important Dates in January

- 01 Food Pantry 1 – 3 pm
- 06 Epiphany
- 06 Grant Provins funeral 6 pm  
Visitation 4 – 6 pm
- 07 Flower Guild cleanup 1 pm
- 10 Food Pantry 1 – 3 pm
- 16 St. James Lunch 11 am – 2 pm
- 18 Vestry 6:30 pm

### FLOWER GUILD

It is clean up time for Christmas decorations! Join the flower guild on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 to take down and store the Christmas decorations. Poinsettias will be available to take home after the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you want to donate fresh flowers for the altar, contact Janna Penkowski at [janna.penkowski@gmail.com](mailto:janna.penkowski@gmail.com). The cost is \$50.00 for the two arrangements. Dates are available throughout the church year with the exceptions of Lent and Advent.

### LECTORS

We are trying out a set schedule for lectors each month. Please see the schedule listed at the end

of this newsletter for lector assignments. Contact Sherrie at [standrewmentor@gmail.com](mailto:standrewmentor@gmail.com) if you need any adjustments.

New lectors are always welcome! Training for new and current lectors will be held on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> after the noon service (around 12:45 pm.)

### A NOTE FROM THE BENCH



### Epiphany Greetings!

*God, beyond our dreams,  
you have stirred in us a memory;  
you have placed your pow'ful  
spirit in the hearts of humankind.  
All around us we have known you,  
all creation lives to hold you.  
In our living and our dying  
we are bringing you to birth.*

*Bernadette Farrell, 1990*

This beautiful hymn by present day hymnographer and composer Bernadette Farrell speaks vividly of the importance of honoring our dreams. It is not just about *receiving*

a dream and *remembering* it, but also about what we do with it. “Dreamwork is a conscious, intentional response to a dream,” state Savary, Berne and Kaplan Williams (1984, p. 5). Working with our dreams furthers our call to holiness and wholeness, and deepens our relationship with God, of which this hymn reminds us. God stirs in us that call to holiness and wholeness, and invites us to a deep, meaningful relationship with the Divine.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we encounter one of these stirring dreams surrounding the story of the Magi – those distinguished foreigners described in the Gospel of Matthew who visit Jesus after birth, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The Magi are familiar in traditional accounts of the nativity, though are only mentioned directly in the Gospel of Matthew, appointed for the Feast of the Epiphany.

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”*

*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.***

*New International Version*

*Matthew 2: 1-2;*

7-12

Dreams come for our health and wholeness, and to tell us things that we do not already know. In this prophetic dream – one that comes to *guide* us, the Magi are warned that they should not go back to Herod and should go home by another route. Prophetic dreams can be experienced by us all and can occur at any time – sometimes they can be blurred by many symbols, and other times they can be very direct messages (from God) as we see in this passage from Matthew.

So, as we move into 2023, may we first be aware of our dreams – even if we only catch a symbol or two – and then decide what our *conscious and intentional* plan for working with our dreams might be.

In the meantime, may our God beyond all dreams continue to stir in us the many messages and opportunities given through dreams.

May we hear and accept our call to holiness and wholeness as we work to deepen our relationship with God, the Divine.

Blessings of the Epiphany!

John Spiesman

Organist

Helpful reference:

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Savary, L.M., Berne, P.H., & Kaplan Williams, S. (1984). *Dreams and spiritual growth: A Christian approach to dreamwork*. Paulist Press, New York, NY.

## VESTRY NOTES

Vestry elections will be held at our annual meeting and we are looking for a few parishioners willing to serve.

The vestry meets once a month a month on the third Wednesday of at 6:30pm. It is a great way to learn more about the workings of the church while having fun. Any questions, ask a present vestry member or Rev. Lisa. Please also let Rev. Lisa know if you are interested in running.

### **Vestry Job Description**

The vestry of Saint Andrew is responsible, along with the rector, for advancing the mission of our parish, which calls us to be open in spirit, deep in faith, rich in worship, and active in service. Each year we nominate new candidates for the open positions on the vestry.

The vestry welcomes and thrives on diversity in background, and many different qualifications and life experiences can make for an effective vestry

member. Listed below are some general attributes and qualifications for vestry members:

- Possess enthusiasm for the mission and ministry of St. Andrew and personal spiritual maturity;
- Are communicants in good standing\*, have been active in our parish life, and are regular worshipers and contributors;
- Are able and willing to make the necessary commitment of time and talent to serve as a member and/or liaison to at least one committee/work group in addition to regular attendance at monthly vestry meetings, parish events, and worship;
- Understand and participate in the vestry's stewardship efforts;
- Are willing to speak their mind, honor the opinions of others, vote their conscience, and work toward consensus;
- Are appreciative of differences in perspective and communication style and responsive to the diversity of the group.

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

Upcoming Lector Schedule. Please contact the church office if you are unable to do the listed reading.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Lector</b>
1/1/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Andy Speisman Brian Sandacz Eunice May Nancy Benes
1/8/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Judy Cudnik Barb Sopko and Dona Currutt Barb Sopko Chris Peshek
1/15/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Randy Pengov Kim Herczog Debbie Pullman Eunice May
1/22/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Ed Bridge Judy Cudnik Nancy Benes Micki and Brianna Rotz
1/29/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Eunice May Judy Cudnik Mary Provins Barb Sopko and Dona Currutt
2/5/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Andy Speisman Brian Sandacz Eunice May Nancy Benes
2/12/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Judy Cudnik Dona Currutt Barb Sopko Ed Bridge

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2/19/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Randy Pengov Kim Herczog Debbie Pulman Eunice May
2/26/2023	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Ed Bridge Judy Cudnik Nancy Benes Barb Sopko and Dona Currutt