



Ministry Spotlight: Holy Week

Many thanks to our staff, volunteers, and ministry members for all they did to make our celebration of Holy Week possible, memorable, and special.

On Maundy Thursday we gathered in Heffner Hall for worship, shared a simple meal and fellowship together.

Worship on Good Friday was a nod to the traditional Stations of the Cross incorporating visual art, reflections from Peter's perspective, and interactive prayers.

On Resurrection Sunday, we began with Worship in the Garden, followed by Easter Breads, an Egg Hunt, and the Flowering of the Cross, concluding with Worship at 10:00 am. If you were unable to view worship at 11:00 am, you can watch it [here](#).







From the Pastor: The Messy Middle

My neighborhood book club recently had its first meeting in almost two years. We discussed *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. It was great to be back together again. We had several meetings over Zoom during the height of COVID, and then, later, when the weather cooperated, we met on patios and back decks. But once things opened again, we seemed too busy to meet. Not surprisingly, due to the proximity of our neighborhood, about half of the women in our book club work for the CDC. In 2020, they shared their frustrations of their hard work being suddenly removed from COVID-19 resources online. They talked about how hard it was to work in emergency response mode while experiencing demoralization and being undermined at every turn.

So last night, as we were cleaning up and chatting after our book discussion, I asked if morale had improved in the past few years, assuming the answer would be "yes." But they said it might be worse,

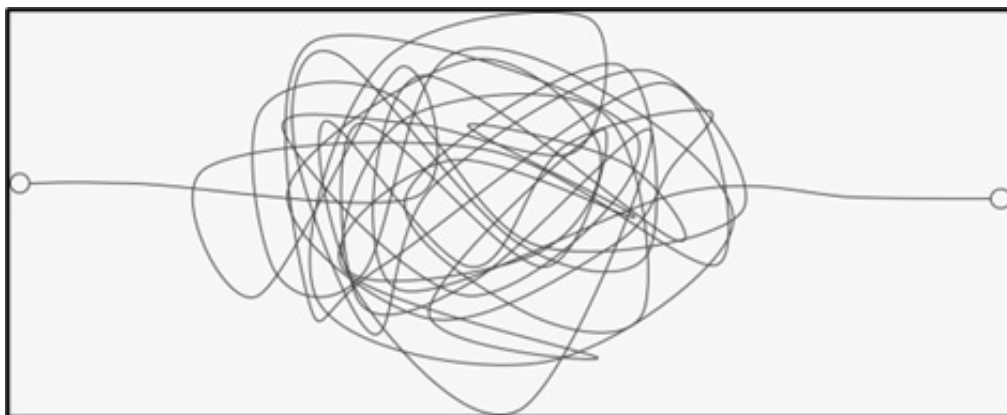
simply because they expected it would be better by now. This started a rich conversation that reminded me of discussions at St. Andrews in Sunday school and Session meetings.

It has recently hit me, thanks in part to our Lenten Sunday Mornings Together study, that we are in what Brené Brown calls “Day Two.” This is a concept I was introduced to on her podcast in September 2020, when we had already faced the reality that COVID wouldn’t be over in time for Easter, and we longed for things to go back to “normal.” Brown talks about Day Two of three-day training events when the excitement of Day One has worn off, and the finish line is not yet in sight. Most people don’t like the feeling of being stuck in the middle on Day Two. Brown says,

“The middle is messy, but it’s also where all the magic happens, all the tension that creates goodness and learning... Whether it’s an ancient battle strategy or the creative process, or a pandemic, at some point we are in the dark, there’s no turning back. The only way is forward and most of the time, we can’t see what that way is, otherwise it wouldn’t be anxiety-producing to be in the middle. We’re in Day Two.”[1]

I remember hearing her talk about this and thinking about how much we would learn during the pandemic. I hoped we would emerge stronger, kinder, more compassionate, and more justice-minded. But I also thought things would feel more “normal” when kids returned to school, in-person indoor worship resumed, COVID wards in hospitals emptied, and folks started traveling again. At the same time, poet, writer, and activist Sonya Renee Taylor wrote,

“We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-Corona existence was not normal, other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate, and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment, one that fits all of humanity and nature.”



A visual depiction of the “messy middle” of Day Two, also reminiscent of Peter’s Wandering Heart Way

All these connections started lighting up for me at the end of Lent. As the session is discussing the congregational survey results and the next steps in the Vital Congregations Initiative, we are still in Day Two. I think we thought we might be past it by now. One of my neighbors, who works with issues of trauma at the CDC, pointed out that we are all still dealing with the effects of trauma from the past several years—not just the pandemic but the racial reckoning, political upheaval, and economic uncertainty, not to mention the continued conflicts around the world. It's no wonder it is hard for us to figure out what's next. It's no wonder we're tired. This is hard. We have been through trauma, even those of us who made it through relatively unscathed. We should acknowledge that. And we probably have more work to do with that, so stay tuned.

But there's another piece that just hit me about this idea of being stuck in the messy middle—in Day Two. It's a little embarrassing to admit, but it hit me while working on Holy Week worship. “Day Two” may be popularized by Brené Brown, but we Christians have our own Day Two—that space and time between Good Friday and Easter morning. We don't often talk about what happens between Friday and Sunday, but it's in The Apostles' Creed: I believe in Jesus Christ... who was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again from the dead. Whatever else that means, which we can save for another day, “he descended into hell” at least means that there is no place, no matter how bad Day Two may feel, that Jesus hasn't already been. And if we are Easter people, we shouldn't be afraid of death or Day Two. We can trust that God is with us in the messy middle and that the Holy Spirit is working in and through us to shape us into something new and vital and not just the same as before.

When Brown recorded that podcast almost four years ago, even with all her wisdom, experience, and research, I would guess she thought we'd be farther along through Day Two by now. I wonder if we're always in some phase or cycle of Day Two. She knows this phase is anxiety-producing, and she offers this encouragement, “No matter what the middle is, experience does not give us easy passage through struggle. Experience... only gives us a little bit of faith that we can navigate it together. Most of the time when we're in complete darkness, we wave our arms around to reach out and grab someone who can walk with us, to get our bearings, to give us perspective, to hold on to.” That, for us, is the gift of our church community. We get through this together, knowing that the Holy Spirit accompanies us and there is no place we go that God has not already been before.

-Camille

[1] Brown, B. (Host). (2020, September 2). Brené on Day 2. [Audio podcast episode]. In *Unlocking Us with Brené Brown*. Cadence13. <https://brenebrown.com/podcast/brene-on-day-2/>

“What Kind of Christianity” Book Study and Author Talk at St. Andrews

This month we begin a four-week foray into the difficult history of American Presbyterians' complicity in slavery and anti-black racism as we collectively read and digest William Yoo's award winning book, "What Kind of Christianity." On three consecutive Sunday afternoons, April 14, 21 and 28th at 4:00 pm in the Youth Room, we will discuss the three-part study in which the Columbia Seminary Professor recounts the concurrent development of the Presbyterian denomination in America alongside Presbyterians' promotion of

slavery and anti-Black racism. Contrary to common misconceptions of the Presbyterian church as abolitionist, most Presbyterians supported the institution of slavery, and knew of its inherent physical and sexual violence, either tacitly approving or ignoring it. Whether in the north or south, Presbyterians held racist attitudes toward African Americans and readily acted on them. As the Presbyterian church today seeks to promote racial justice, we must first acknowledge and understand the deep-rootedness of racial injustice in our history and identity as a denomination.

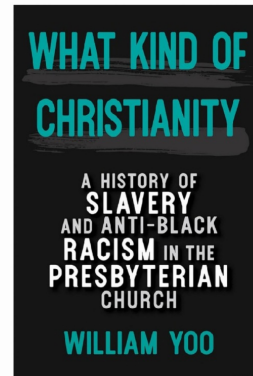
The April book discussions will prepare us for Dr. Yoo's May 5th appearance at St. Andrews, (4 pm in the sanctuary) where he will present the themes of his book and entertain our questions. Numerous reviews of "What Kind of Christianity" laud it for its "clear-eyed view of the truth of the past," but also for its attention to anti-Blackness in the present. Not leaving us totally hopeless, Yoo also offers imaginings of a different possible future. As Kirk Nolan, of Presbyterian College notes, "Yoo highlights a way forward for all Christians committed to addressing systemic racism."

Start now to prepare yourself to participate in this important book study by beginning to read "What Kind of Christianity" and by viewing Dr. Yoo's recent [Matthew 25 summit address](#), which touches on some of the same themes as the book. [Note: Yoo's presentation starts at 1:15:30] Discounted copies are available for \$15.00 in the church office. For more information [contact LaVerne Byas-Smith](#).

St. Andrews Presbyterian
Church Hosts

**REV. DR. WILLIAM
YOO**

Discussing *What Kind of Christianity*
May 5th at 4:00 pm



Pre-talk discussions will be held
on April 14, 21 & 28 at 4:00 pm

sapctucker.org
4882 Lavista Road,
Tucker, GA 30084

Treasurer's Report

Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In February, our income was \$29,063, and our expenses totaled \$47,288.50. Year to date, our income is \$54,731.50 and expenses are \$77,127.76. So, we are in the red by \$22,396.26. We paid our quarterly property insurance bill this month and our annual assessment to Presbytery.

Currently, we have a mortgage balance of \$52,030.15. We have \$16,037.98 in our mortgage fund, and a monthly payment of \$4,111. Thus, we have funds on hand to cover 4 months of payments.

Welcome New Members

Join us in welcoming new members to St. Andrews! Patrick (Pat) and Bernadette Andelo joined St. Andrews on March 24th.



From Caring for Creation: Collection Project

If you've ever wished you could recycle your used aluminum foil - you can!

The Caring for Creation Team has experimented with this possibility and has worked out the procedures which are posted on our webpage. The Team proposes to do an experiment during April, in recognition of Earth Day (April 22).

We invite you to bring your clean aluminum foil each Sunday in April, and place it in the designated container in the Narthex.

At the end of the month, we will weigh the accumulated foil to estimate the amount of foil that might be submitted annually. This will help us to determine whether we should establish this as an ongoing project of the Caring for

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Visit our
website

Earth Care Congregation

St. Andrews is pleased to announce that we have been re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation for 2024 by the



OACM Oakland Cemetery Tour - May 7

by Pat Baker

We will be touring the historic Oakland Cemetery on Tuesday, May 7th at 10:30 am. The rich history of what was originally called the City Cemetery or Atlanta Cemetery dates back to when the land was purchased in 1849. Volunteers will be providing us with a choice of two guided tours, one on foot and one in a golf cart; each will last around an hour. The space on the golf cart is limited so sign-up will be on a "first come, first served" basis. The walking tour will be easy-going with lots of stops as we listen to the tour guide. After the tour we will enjoy lunch at DAS BBQ Grant Park, next to the cemetery.

The cost is \$6.00 for folks over the age of 65 and \$12.00 for everyone under 65; proceeds support the mission of Historic Oakland Foundation. Payment can be made to Pat Baker on the day of the tour, BUT all reservations for this day trip have to be in to the church office NO LATER than April 29th.

Please [contact the church office](#) or [Pat Baker](#) with your reservation, or if you have any questions.

St. Andrews Free Book Table returns to Spring Farmer's Market

St. Andrews Free Book Exchange Table, a huge success last fall, returns to the Tucker Farmer's Market this month when it reopens on church grounds April 18th. The Book Table was a success, not because we received lots of book donations and gave away a ton of books. The Table was a success because it became a place of contact with myriad neighbors from Tucker and beyond. Nancy Qarmout, Farmers Market director, graciously placed our table at the market's entry so every shopper passed it. Book Table volunteers delighted in greeting everyone as they entered the market. After inviting them to the table with the lure of "free books!," we engaged browsers in light conversation about books, the weather, the market, and so forth. We met so many interesting and engaging neighbors. One young woman was newly transplanted to Atlanta and was thrilled to find a book on adoptions, just as she was praying through the decision to adopt. Several shoppers with children used the treat of a new book to appease, encourage, and yes, even bribe good behavior from restless little shoppers. We fielded occasional questions about St. Andrews church and, when appropriate, extended invitations to visit. At least one market shopper did.

Whether or not book browsers consider visiting our church, we value this opportunity to serve and get to know our neighbors and community, and for them to get to know us as a church that loves and

serves.

This spring we need your help with the Free Book Table. We need volunteers to help sort and prepare book donations, to set up and break down our display, and to host the table during Market hours. We'll be there for the Market's opening day April 18th and most 1st and 3rd Thursdays throughout the summer. The two hosting shifts (4-5:30 pm; 5:30-7 pm) pass quickly as you come to enjoy interacting with neighbors, fellow volunteers and even other vendors. It's a place of real community-building.

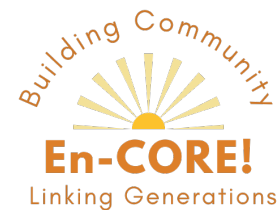
We also need gently loved books. We especially need children's books, and well-kept novels and histories. Other popular genres include travel books and cook books. If you have gently used books you'd be willing to pass on -- that you'd be proud to share -- please drop them off at the church office or leave in the bin in the Narthex labeled "Book Table." We appreciate your well-considered donations. Once again to join the Book Table team, contact LaVerne to get on the schedule: by email; or call 678-429-0411.

Music Class at St. Andrews School

LaVerne Byas-Smith

En-Core, the volunteer group of St. Andrews' members dedicated to supporting and encouraging the St. Andrews School community, offered its first Music Class in March. When school parent, Kayla Chen shared that she'd love for her daughter to have music during her school day, En-Core got busy planning the trial classes. Two classes, a shorter one for the younger toddlers and a 45-minute class for the 3- and 4-year olds were led by En-Core members experienced in music education, Phyllis Bearden and Gretchen Perkins. Assisted by LaVerne Byas-Smith, and with school teachers present, the En-Core music teachers led enthusiastic students through familiar kids' tunes, including "The Wheels on the Bus," "Twinkle, Twinkle," and the all-age favorite, "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." According to school director Lonnette Bruce, "It was a real hit!" "The teachers enjoyed it just as much as the kids!" A second trial class will be held April 11th. We would love to regularly offer this service to St. Andrews School next year, starting in the fall. But we need more volunteers.

Currently, in addition to Music Class, En-Core Volunteers read each Friday at Storytime and do other intermittent projects to support the school. We would love your help. If you'd like to join En-core in encouraging the St. Andrews School community, please contact LaVerne.





Fidelis Sunday School Class

Everyone is welcome to join the Fidelis Sunday School Class, which meets at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Library, and on Zoom (password fidelis).

The class uses *The Present Word* series of books. This month, the study theme is The Measure of Faith. Contact Deanna Hall for more information.

Revelation Bible Study Class

The class on the Book of Revelation has finished looking at the background information with Bruce Gore. After a break of 6 weeks, we will be starting to actually go through Revelation verse by verse. Please join us in the youth room starting May 12th at 2:00

Giving

Online giving applies to your pledge just the same as a paper check. Secure online contributions can be made by clicking this link, or checks can be mailed to: SAPC, 4882 Lavista Rd, Tucker, GA 30084



pm as we delve deeper into the material by Bruce Gore, facilitated by Arch Baker. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not attended any of the other classes.

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

There are spots available for upcoming dates to bring food to Clifton. For more information or to sign up, [click here](#). This ministry is a very easy thing to do while maintaining your social distancing since meals are dropped off on Clifton's front porch after calling ahead to let them know when you are coming.

A group gathers on the 4th Sunday each month after worship to make lunches for Clifton. If you are interested in helping, [contact Phyllis Bearden](#).

Our congregation feeds the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on the fourth Sunday of every month.

Jigsaw Puzzles

Did you know - St. Andrews has a puzzle shelf located in the work room in the office building? Many of our members enjoyed working puzzles during the pandemic and we now have a dedicated shelf to share them. Feel free to pick one up and/or leave one there. Please let one of the folks on staff know that you'd like to visit the puzzle shelf, if you need access to the office.

April Birthdays

2 Cloe Drury
5 Meg Westbrook
9 Cassie Westbrook
10 Ron Weber
11 Jane Drury, Warren Halvorson
12 Jocelyn Davis, Lettie Hudson
15 Ross Phillips, Camille LeBron Powell
18 Kate Kubik
19 Carrie Edwards
22 Burrelle Meeks, Kim Rometo, Kim Tomberlin
23 Fred Akuffo
24 Jimmie Artley
28 Nancy Mills

April Anniversaries

7 Jeff & Connie Jackson
15 David & Janet Shiver

Collection Project

The Presbyterian Women are continuing to collect adult diapers, poise pads, maxi pads, and tampons at meetings and in the Narthex which will go to NETWorks. All are invited to participate.

PDA: Disaster Relief and More

Did you know that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responds to more than just tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, and floods? They also aid refugees and asylum seekers, as well as respond to incidents of public violence, like mass shootings.

When you are not sure what to do besides offering thoughts and prayers, supporting PDA is a way to do more. [Click here](#) to

To Donate:

Call 800-872-3283

[Click here](#) to donate online

Text 'PDA' to 20222 to donate \$10

contribute directly to their efforts. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to the following address:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

The code to designate gifts to the humanitarian response in Ukraine is DR000165.

The code to donate to hurricane relief, including Hurricane Ian, is DR000194

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

770-938-2833

office@sapctucker.org

sapctucker.org

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