

St. Andrew's Message

Worship Learn Serve



Dates to Remember

February 2

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Live and Zoom

11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

February 5

6:30 p.m. Worship and Music Meeting

February 6

6:30 p.m. Life Commission Meeting

February 9 Scout Sunday

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Live and Zoom

February 13

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

February 16 Marriage Sunday

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

February 23 Marriage Sunday

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

February 27

7:00 p.m. Memorial Committee

WORSHIP



February 2025

The Pastor's Pen

“Discernment,” have you ever heard that word? Used it? It’s a pretty interesting word for church people. Let me explain. It is part of the decision-making process, but it’s more than that. Discernment is about being open, curious and attuned to what God is up to — with you and with your community. And it’s being confident that

you have a part to play in the story of God’s love for the world. Years ago, I thought about becoming a pastor. I reflected on what I was good at, what the community of the church needed, wondered if my gifts fit the needs presented. I discerned that becoming a pastor was part of my journey. Discernment is about always being ready to ask the questions — and then being engaged in living the answers.

Our world is changing. Physically our world is evolving. Climate change is real, the ever-present traffic on 202 means Yorktown is welcoming more people into its schools, restaurants and maybe churches. Politicians are presenting fact as fiction and fiction as fact. No one is getting any younger, the world is changing. Always has always will.

We need to join together in a time of prayer, reflection and study to better gain an understanding of what God is doing. What is God up to in St. Andrew’s, Yorktown and beyond? What’s God doing in my heart? During Lent we are going to focus on these questions. We will wonder together where is God leading us? To do so we will read a book and ask each other some questions and really listen to each other. This is a necessary and healthy part of our spirituality. We will use Joan Grey’s recent book “Sailboat Church.” Gray recognizes the problems of doing Church man’s way and rightfully proposes the need to set aside human wisdom in favor of God’s. This is not easy because many churches are already deemed to be entrenched in a “rowing” mentality through the years, the book compares sailboats to rowboats. Doing God’s work must be done in God’s way. The tendency for humans to take upon human wisdom to do Church work is why people get burned out so easily.

Let's discern where God's wind is blowing and raise the sails. Let's work together with God rather than row ourselves to where we think the church should go. Will you join me for 40 days of prayer, 40 days of wondering together where we think God is calling our church and 40 days of listening to each other and to our Lord. Let's do it friends, God is always calling disciples to grow, to share, to love, put down the oars and let the Spirit of God do what only the Spirit can!

Blessings Pastor Dave

Council Notes

February 2025

Photo Directory – The St. Andrew's Photo Directories have been delivered to the church and can be picked up after worship services. Please see Sue Epting or Carol Holodak if you still need to pick up your copy. Each family who either sat for a photo or submitted one is eligible to receive one directory free of charge. If you would like one and do not have a photo in the directory, \$20.00 is requested to cover the printing cost.



Contributions – Thank you for all you have done financially to help St. Andrew's navigate a difficult time. Your contributions for 2024 have been the highest ever in the history of the church and we are grateful for your generosity. Together we can accomplish much!

Lease-related matters – Our new tenant, "Exploratory Play Center of Yorktown" is scheduled to open for business in the near future. We wish them well and if you are interested in having your child/children attend any of their programs, please let us know so we can connect you with the owner. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Epting or David Hamm. We will notify you of any updates regarding leasing the Chapel House.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – The semi-annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Thank you for supporting the Church Council by attending the meeting either in person or via zoom. Please contact Sue Epting if you have any questions or comments.

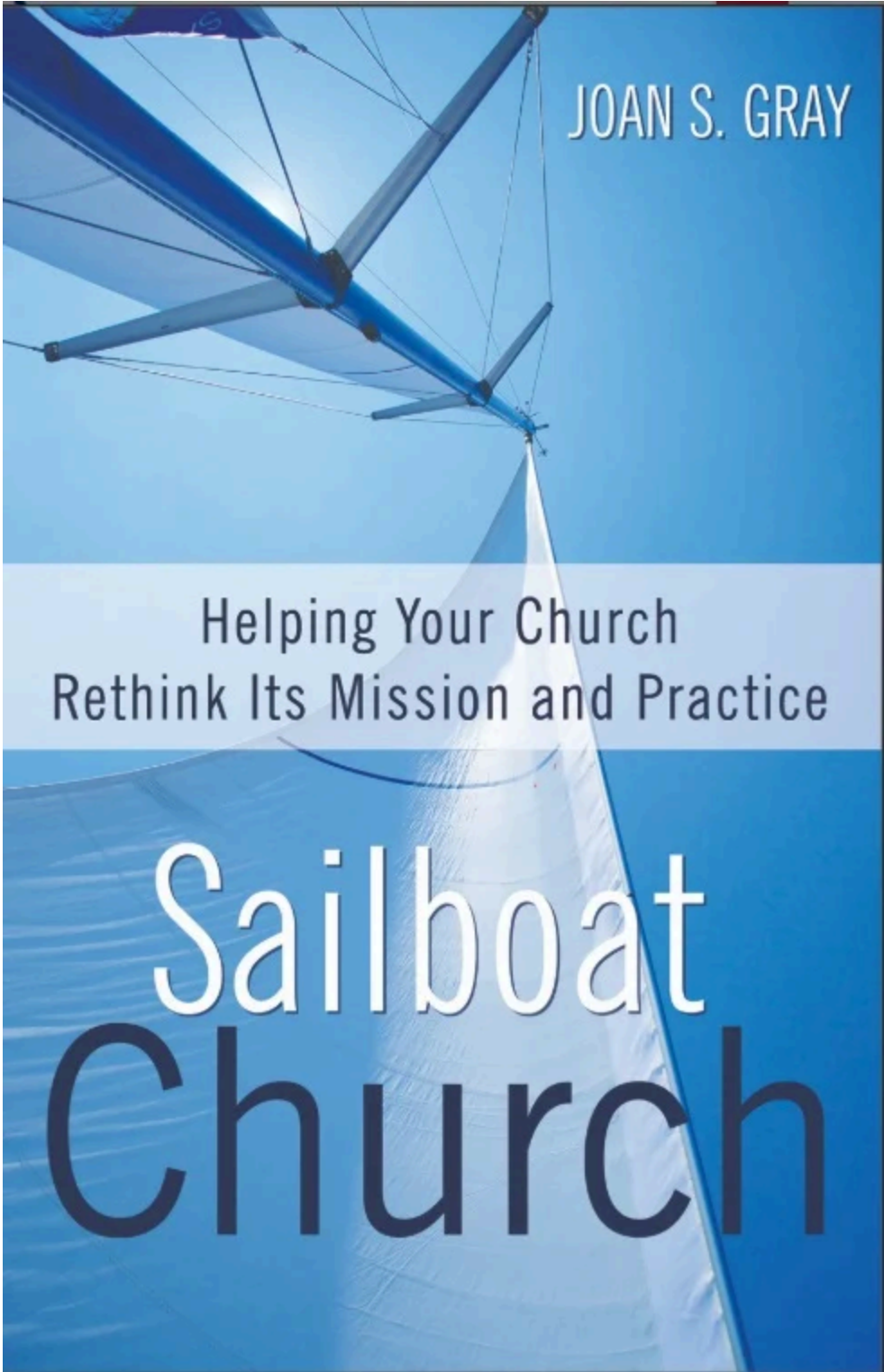
Annual Budget Approval – The proposed 2025 budget was approved by the Church Council and will be on the agenda for congregational approval at the Semi-annual congregational meeting on 2/2/25.

Upcoming special celebrations -

- February 9, 2025 – Scout Sunday – wear uniform if involved in any Scout troop (girls, boys)
- February 16, 2025 – Marriage Sunday – for couples celebrating in multiples of 5 years and everyone over 50 years
- March 2, 2025 – Fastnacht Luncheon – marks the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday 3/5/25)



Opportunity Ahead!



JOAN S. GRAY

Helping Your Church
Rethink Its Mission and Practice

Sailboat Church

Come be part of this study. We will gather between services at 9am beginning on March 9.
Let me, Pastor Dave, know if you need a copy of the book, it costs \$13 on Amazon or I
can get a bunch of copies for the group.

LEARN

February 2025

Sunday School Update



Happy Ground Hog Day! 2025 is off to a great start! Sunday School is back in full swing and the children are enjoying learning about Jesus and his love for us.

Harvest Sunday will next take place on February 2nd so we hope the entire congregation as well as the Sunday School students will help to fill the shelves at St. Mary's Food Pantry with their donations. Since the Yorktown Food Pantry has closed, it's especially important to help stock St. Mary's to support those who are hungry and need our help.

On Sunday, February 2nd, the Sunday School children will also be treated to a special lesson about the church presented by Cyndi Clark. She always does a great job, and the children enjoy her presentations so please try to attend.

On February 9th, we will again try to have "Bring a Friend to Sunday School." If you have a friend who would enjoy visiting our Sunday School, please bring him/her along. Each of you will receive a special treat!

St. Andrew's also will celebrate Scout Sunday on February 9th so if you are involved in any type of scout troop, please wear your uniform so we can recognize your involvement.

Sunday School will not be in session on Sunday, February 16th as we celebrate President's Day weekend but we will resume the following Sunday, February 23rd.

Ash Wednesday is on March 5th so we will be distributing the Lenten boxes to the Sunday School children on Sunday, March 2nd. Please save your loose change so that we can fill those boxes and the kids will then choose where to donate the money again this year. For the past several years, we have purchased animals, mosquito nets, and water through the ELCA catalog and the kids really enjoyed that!

As always, we welcome anyone who would like to teach or help with Sunday School, do a special lesson or craft with the children, or assist in any way. Please reach out to me with any questions at epting.susan@gmail.com or via cell at 914-715-9546.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Sunday School each week!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Coordinator

Financial

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	2024	2023	Difference
Contributions	\$ 220,700	\$ 203,000	\$ 17,700
Rental Income	27,300	44,300	(17,000)
Other Income	19,800	13,000	6,800
Total Income	267,800	260,300	7,500
Expenses (<i>Budget-\$285,000</i>)	275,300	264,500	10,800
Deficit	\$ (7,500)	\$ (4,200)	\$ (3,300)

Give online

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

2405 Crompond Rd, Yorktown Heights
United States of America

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