

The Advent Season is upon us. Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the First Sunday of Advent, a season observed in the church as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

This year I am especially excited about our theme for the Advent season, "The Star... A Journey To Christmas." You're invited to experience this life-changing journey as we follow "The Star" throughout Advent. We will study the meaning of *hope, love, joy and peace*. We will journey together to discover that just as the Savior showed up in an unexpected way that first Christmas, He still surprises us today when we most need Him. And may our Breakthrough Prayer this Advent be all about God breaking through in miraculous ways, into our hearts, and into the church. Each Sunday, and on Christmas Eve, the services have been designed to help us move through this unforgettable journey.

Mary and Joseph took the first Christmas journey 2,000 years ago, and Jesus' humble birth was not what the people of Israel were expecting. The people were weary of waiting for their Savior. Sometimes we also give up too soon on our own times of waiting.

There are familiar words--words that warm our hearts and spirits, from **Luke 2:1-14**:

"2Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup> in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

My hope and prayer for you is that during this Advent season you will take part in all of the many opportunities that are before us. We've meticulously planned and shaped each of our services to reflect our very simple theme, "The Star... A Journey To Christmas."

And remember that on Christmas Eve there will be two services, one beginning at 7:00 pm and the second at 9:00 pm. Many have been devoted to planning extraordinary worship experiences on Christmas Eve; both of the services will be candlelight services. At the 7:00 pm service the Nativity Story will be beautifully portrayed by our children and youth. During our 9:00 pm service the Chancel Choir will be singing, and there will be Communion. There are many other Advent and Christmas activities highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope that you will immerse yourself in this spiritual journey.

And in closing may you know that my prayer for you this Advent Season is that we truly grow closer to one another, that we are filled with awe as we gaze again at the nativity, and that we are strengthened in our faith. May God Bless you and your households abundantly throughout these days of Advent. Thanking God for each of you and for everything you do to further God's Kingdom,

*Pastor John & Michelle*

*The people of St. Andrew have been called by God to embrace, equip and encourage persons of all ages to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. e<sup>3</sup>*

## Happy December Birthday!

Robert Spencer	12/03
Tammy Baxter	12/06
Ben Borszcz	12/06
Nic Burja	12/07
William Doebereiner	12/08
Steven Aquino	12/10
Bill Shoup	12/10
Marilyn Durrum	12/12
Jim Booth	12/14
Cody Ganger	12/14
Dorie Williams	12/15
Randy Boudinot	12/16
Susan Fisher	12/16
Ernie Muller	12/17
Katie Miller	12/18
Julie Christian	12/22
Shaun Nicholson	12/22
Greg Williams	12/23
Joyce McCready	12/28
Betty Hughes	12/29

## Sermon Topics & Scriptures

### December 3, 2017

The Star: A Journey of Hope  
**Mark 13:24-37**

### December 10, 2017

The Star: A Journey of Love  
**James 1:17**

### December 17, 2017

The Star: A Journey of Joy  
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

### December 24, 2017

The Star: A Journey of Peace  
**Luke 2**

### December 31, 2017

Design Thinking  
**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

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Website: [www.standrewumchurch.org](http://www.standrewumchurch.org)

Office Hours:

9:00am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday  
9:00am-Noon Friday

Sunday Worship Times:  
8:15am, 9:30am & 11:00am  
9:30am & 11:00 am Sunday School  
Childcare available during Sunday services

*St. Andrew UMC is a  
Safe Sanctuary Congregation*

### Staff of St. Andrew

Rev. John Schlicher, Senior Pastor  
[pastorjohnschlicher@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorjohnschlicher@yahoo.com)

Cameron Voorhees, Music Director  
[musicianservices58@gmail.com](mailto:musicianservices58@gmail.com)

Aaron Grefer, Director of Family and  
Youth Ministries [dfymAaron@gmail.com](mailto:dfymAaron@gmail.com)

Ed Baker, Organist

Laura K. Smith, Administrative Assistant  
[standrewumc@ameritech.net](mailto:standrewumc@ameritech.net)

Kaitlin Fahey, Child Care Specialist

Cindy & Tom Seats, Personal Touch Custodians

Congregation - Ministers of St. Andrew

## Looking Ahead

### NOVEMBER 2017

#### ~ Thursday and Friday, 23 & 24

Thanksgiving Holiday  
Office Closed

#### ~ Sunday, 26

Advent & Christmas Decorating

#### ~ Thursday, 30

Holiday Lunch, Prayer & a Movie

### DECEMBER 2017

#### ~ Sunday, 3

First Sunday of Advent  
UMW Christmas Celebration

#### ~ Sunday, 10

Christmas Musical Sunday  
10:30 AM Combined Service  
Poinsettia Orders Due

#### ~ Wednesday, 13

STARS Christmas Celebration  
Staff Christmas Party

#### ~ Thursday, 14

No Promises Concert

#### ~ Friday, 22

Church Office Closed

#### ~ Sunday, 24

10:30 AM Combined Service  
7:00 and 9:00 PM Services

#### ~ Monday, 25

Merry Christmas!  
Church Office Closed

#### ~ Tuesday, 26

Happy Boxing Day!  
Church Office Closed

#### ~ Sunday, 31

10:30 AM Combined Service

### JANUARY 2018

#### ~ Monday, 1

Happy New Year!  
Church Office Closed

#### ~ Tuesday, 2

Yoga Begins

#### ~ Sunday, 7

Women's Bible Study Begins

#### ~ Monday, 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Church Office Closed

## Martha's Closet

Jerry Sedlacek

We'll resume collecting food again in the red wagon in January for The Wesley Center to serve those in need. The wagon will be placed in the Atrium on Sunday, 1/7, as a reminder of our food collection on Sunday, 1/14. Please support this important outreach program by bringing food items you can spare.

## Winter Weather

Please be sure to check the WHIO website, TV or radio station should we have inclement weather. If the church is closed during the day, it will remain closed *all* day and *all* evening as well. The safety of our congregation and all who meet here is of utmost concern.

**Please pray** for these people who have been in the hospital, ill, and/or recuperating, grieving, or who are simply in need of our prayers and support. The St. Andrew prayer chain is always available to pray for you. Prayer requests can be made at the Atrium prayer box, or by contacting the church office in person, via phone (937-426-6491) or email: [standrewumc@ameritech.net](mailto:standrewumc@ameritech.net). Every week, a group of people pray for the needs of our members, our church, our community, our country and our world.

Sean McCallum	PM Schlicher	Julie and Stan Erk	Betty & Jack Darst	Kara Sandberg
Vera Kercher	Morris Miller	Chuck Lauersdorf	Marilyn Hackett	Ilene Shultz
Jan Garrett	Diane Hutton	Andrew Fox	Charles Thomas	Elda Fitzsimmons
Ed Barnett	Jeane Locke	Harriet Brown	Cindy Lawson & Tom Mann	
Alex Reed, grandson, Art & Kathy Bauer	Marcy Lauersdorf			

“God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.” ~ John Wesley

### Christmas Adopt-A-Family

Jerry Sedlacek

Our Christmas tree with gift ornaments for children and adults in our Adopt-A-Family program is up in the Atrium this Sunday, November 19. This year we will gather Christmas gifts and food for families from the Wesley Center and Fairbrook Elementary School. Cash donations designated for our Adopt-A-Family program will be used to complete the gift and food packages we assemble for each family. This year cash donations will be needed to complete the packages. Gift, food, and cash donations should be returned to the church by Sunday, December 10 so our gift packages can be completed and sent to the Wesley Center and Fairbrook Elementary School in time for Christmas. The need this year continues to be great so please be generous in your support of this program.



Thank you to everyone for making the **Winter Manna Bag** ministry a success. Through everyone's generosity and assistance, we were able to prepare 50 manna bags for the needy. ~ Karyle

Thank You

### Memorial Garden Bricks

The Memorial Committee will be ordering bricks for the memorial garden on January 15, 2018. The prices are:

4" x 8" for \$30.00

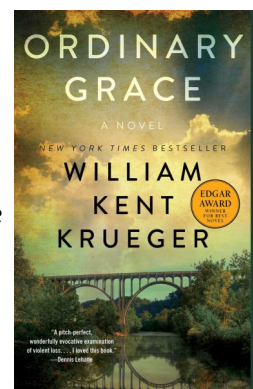
8" x 8" for \$50.00



There are order forms in the church office. Please leave completed forms in the office or give to Karen Spencer or Betty Hughes.

## Ordinary Grace

By William Kent Krueger  
Reviewed by Pat Reynolds



How do you handle death, loss and grief? This is just part of the story we see through the eyes of Frank, our thirteen year old narrator, as he attempts to understand a world that seems to unravel one summer in New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. More than a mystery on the surface, this book is about family, brotherhood, friendship, death, faith and the grace of God.

Frank and his younger brother Jake run around their neighborhood and small town, play softball with big groups of friends, eat Sugar Pops and Jello-O salads, drink root beer in frosty mugs, read comic books and lay awake nights in their shared bedroom in the stifling heat without air conditioning. They also overhear adult conversations meant for adult ears only. Some of these memories Frank shares may evoke memories in the reader when summer days stretch before you and school seems a long way off.

When tragedy is thrust upon his family, each person experiences a range of emotions—anger, hope, forgiveness, guilt and faith are all explored by William Kent Krueger. This is a beautiful coming of age story told through Frank's eyes, but we also get to know his minister father, sensitive mother, very special younger brother, and artistic older sister. In the end we get a glimpse of what it takes for this family to finally understand and accept ordinary grace by ordinary people.

## **St. Andrew Children and Youth**

Season's Greetings and a special hello. My personal hope for this Thanksgiving and Christmas is that all of us have a wonderful and meaningful time thinking of God's goodness while we celebrate with family and friends.

The youth had an especially fun time working at the bazaar, laughing and enjoying each other's company as they served God and others. All the youth also joined in congratulating their friend, Ryan Smith, on his significant achievement of becoming an Eagle Scout.

Coming up are opportunities for our children and youth to participate in:

- On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the youth will go Christmas caroling from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Everyone is invited to participate in the caroling. Afterward, the youth will stay for a special cookie/nerf gun party at the church which will conclude at 7:00 PM.
- Our Christmas Eve Pageant will be performed on December 24<sup>th</sup> during the 7:00 PM service. Practices are set for December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM and the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

God bless and have a wonderful Christmas - Aaron

*Please contact Aaron Grefer in the church office 937-426-6491 or via email [dfymAaron@gmail.com](mailto:dfymAaron@gmail.com) for more information.*

# THE Star

“FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON  
IS GIVEN...AND HE WILL BE CALLED  
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD,  
EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE.”

—ISAIAH 9:6

## Our 7:23 Breakthrough Prayer

Almighty God, we pray for the Holy Spirit to breakthrough our limits, into our hearts, and into the hearts of others. We have faith that You will give us a vision of Your miraculous possibilities and reveal to us Your path for St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Give us the courage to step out and trust You. Strengthen us and empower us to be living examples of your love and grace. **Amen.**

Ed Pastor John

Laura

Merry Christmas  
and best wishes for a Happy New Year

Kaitlin

Cameron

Aaron

## Reindeer Chow

### Ingredients

14 Cups Chex cereal  
18 oz holiday m&ms  
12 oz semi sweet chocolate bar or chips  
1/2 Cup unsalted butter  
1 Cup peanut butter  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
4-5 Cups powdered sugar

### Instructions

Melt the peanut butter and butter in a microwave safe dish. Microwave in 30 second intervals until butter is melted. Add the chocolate a little at a time until all is melted into the mix. You might need to microwave one last time to make sure everything is melted and add the vanilla. Stir together.

In a large bowl add half of the cereal.

Drizzle half of the chocolate peanut butter mixture into the cereal in the bowl. Mix with a spoon.

Place one large paper bag into another one. Add 1/2 cup of the powdered sugar and half of the mixed cereal into the bag. Close this tightly and shake vigorously. Add more powdered sugar 1/2 cup at a time if needed until all the cereal is coated. Add 1/4 of the m&ms into the bag and toss. Place in an air tight container.

Continue these step with the remaining ingredients.

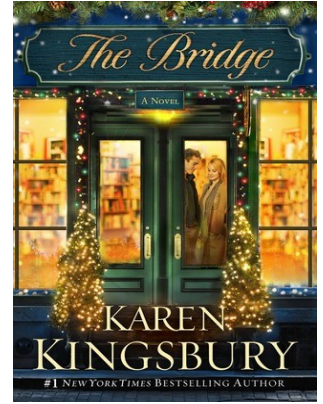
Keep stored in an air tight container. Enjoy!



## The Bridge

By Karen Kingsbury

Reviewed by Pat Reynolds



If you are looking for a heartwarming Christmas story to read, *The Bridge*, by Karen Kingsbury will give you a holiday glow. Charlie and Donna Barton have run The Bridge bookstore for 30 years but when a hundred-year-flood sweeps through Nashville, nearly every book in the store is lost. With the rise of digital books and dismal print sales, even providing coffee, conversation and places to curl up with a good book are not enough to keep the bookstore going. Enter Ryan Kelly, a country music guitarist, who found love at Belmont University and lost that love many years ago. When Ryan learns of the loss of his favorite bookstore where he and Molly spent so many hours together, he is determined to help the Barton's restore The Bridge and give the community of Franklin a second chance with opportunities he and Molly lost at The Bridge. This is a sweet, quick read to go along with the holiday spirit of giving.

### Happy January Birthday!

Edie Keast	01/01
Braxton Miller	01/03
Jennifer Tucker	01/03
Jim VerStreate	01/04
Ivy Spray	01/10
Aaron Cheney	01/11
Ben Fenning	01/11
Noah Miller	01/11
Dale Mateer	01/12
Thongsay Boualavong	01/17
Nick Dhrkop	01/25
Stephen Moad	01/25
Marc Caudill	01/29
Jeannie Duncan	01/29
Eric Schwartz	01/29
Bob Steele	01/29
Bob Gray	01/30



What a fantastic experience our Annual Holiday Bazaar was thanks to the tireless efforts of so many! A big thank you to each and every one of you who contributed their time, talents, and hard work. It was a successful and blessed time of fellowship and shared labors because of the saints of St. Andrew UMC.

~ Marilyn Durrum

Thank You!





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**SPECIAL EVENT**  
Yuletide at St. Andrew  
An Evening with  
**No Promises**  
Men's Acapella Group  
December 14, 7:30 pm



**THE STAR**  
Sermon Series  
Sundays, December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
8:15 am 9:30 am & 11:00 am  
Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Nativity Pageant &  
Candlelight Service  
7:00 pm  
Candlelight &  
Communion

Merry



THE  
**Star**  
A JOURNEY TO CHRISTMAS

Christmas



**GIVE AND SERVE  
THIS SEASON**  
Angel Tree  
Manna Bag Sharing  
Christmas Eve Offering



**COME LET US ADORE HIM**  
Our Christmas  
Musical Celebration  
Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am



**CHRISTMAS  
CAROLING**  
Church-Wide Event  
Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm