ST. ANDREW UCC
Welcome, Worship, Service

September 6, 2026
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship 10:30 am

Welcome to worship with St. Andrew United Church of Christ.

We treasure our diversity, believing each person enriches us. You are invited to share in our connection to God and to each other as we gather for worship of the One who is worthy of our love and devotion.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Acolytes: Sophia, Victoria

PRELUDE Gratitude (John Wyeth, arr. Pepper Choplin) Bonnie Wolfgram
Peggy Pancake

WELCOME

OPENING SCRIPTURE Isaiah 12:2-6 (MSG) Ron Jones

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: God, you are our greatest joy!
Many: Such a joyful noise our lives are when we are filled with your Spirit.
One: God, our heartbeat, our breath, our song…
Many: Help us weave a tapestry of melodies, strong threads to heal our weary, wounded, and broken world.
All: Speak, O God, we love to listen to your voice. See God we are here!

HYMN God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION
May all beings be peaceful, happy, and light in body and mind.
May all beings be safe and free from anger, unwholesome states of mind, fear, and worries.
May all beings know how to look at themselves with eyes of understanding and love.
May all beings be able to recognize and touch the seeds of joy and happiness in themselves.
May all beings learn how to nourish themselves with joy each day! In Christ we pray. AMEN

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SERMON SCRIPTURE Luke 12:13-21;32-34 (MSG)

ANTHEM The Church is an Ark (Pepper Choplin)

SERMON "Gratitude" (A Successful Church is One with More Heart!) Rev. Bill Friederich

MONTHLY MISSION: Resurrection House Joe Lucero, Operations Manager

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY MUSIC Now We Thank You, Lord (J. Paul Williams and Douglas Nolan)

PASTORAL PRAYER
Please write your prayer concerns or celebrations on the blue prayer request forms located in the pew rack and place them in the offering plate.

LORD'S PRAYER *(using these or whatever words are familiar to you)*
Our Father and Mother in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Today's service prayers are from Worship Ways, UCC

PASSING OF PEACE
Not everyone is comfortable with physical contact. Please refrain from hugging or touching anyone without consent.

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me;

Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our parent, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my silent vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me!

BENEDICTION "May the presence of God go before us." (3X)

POSTLUDE Hymn to Joy (Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Tom Birchwood)

Luke 12:13-21;32-34 (MSG)
Someone out of the crowd said, "Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance."

He replied, "Mister, what makes you think it's any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?"

Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!'

"Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?'

"That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."
"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with *getting* so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.

"Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

606 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

WORDS: Robert L. Edwards, 1961
MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

NETTLETON
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Altar Flowers
The flowers on the altar today are given by Nancy Goethe, for the glory of God and in loving memory of George Goethe.

Announcements

Visitors Welcome! We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. We already feel you are part of our family, and we invite you to continue to get to know St. Andrew by joining us at Fellowship Brunch after worship. Please take a moment to sign the Guest Book in the Gathering Area, and feel free to take one of the stuffed bears as a welcome gift.

St Andrew Choir Rehearsal Sunday mornings before the service 9:30-10:15. All are welcome!

Fellowship Brunch Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall.

Book Study Group Each Thursday 10:00am Thursday Book Group
Beads and Bears Craft Each Thursday 11:00am Conference Room
Thursday Lunch Break Each Thursday 12:00pm Bring your lunch and join us!
Centering Prayer Each Thursday 1:00pm In the Sanctuary

St. Andrew 101 September 13 & 20 in the Sanctuary after Brunch
New Member Sunday September 27

Missions & Outreach Meeting Monday, September 14 11:00am In person & Zoom
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81275092260

Pastor-Parish Relations Tuesday, September 15 10:00am ***CLOSED***
Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86167079148

Church Council Meeting Tuesday, September 22 10:00am In person & Zoom
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88509609964

Project 180 Desserts & Fellowship Monday, September 28

Mission of the Month: Resurrection House If you wish to donate, you may do so in worship, in the office, or on our website. Scan this QR Code to reach our Giving Page, and then scroll down to the monthly mission.

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- We are an **Open and Affirming** church. We covenant to affirm and welcome visitors, members, and staff of all sexual orientations and gender identities, just as we extend the same loving affirmation and welcome to people of every age, faith, race, ethnicity, sex, nationality, marital status, and physical or mental ability.
- We are a **Just Peace** church. We promote peace with justice (a just peace) as an expression of God's love, and we support peaceful opposition to intolerance, injustice, discrimination, violence, and war.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Rev. Bill Friederich, Pastor Cell: 207-669-5353 Email: bfriederich@yahoo.com

Bonnie Wolfgram, Interim Music Director Email: bonnie.wolfgram@gmail.com

Kate Eichorst, Church Administrator Office: 941-922-7595 Email: office@sarasotaucc.org

Craig Bray, Sexton

6908 Beneva Rd., Sarasota FL 34238

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm

Worship: Sundays at 10:30am