

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



## From Your Rector

*"Always, we begin again."*

This quote from St. Benedict is so appropriate for the Christian life. We do the best we can. Sometimes we fail. Sometimes the outcome isn't what we wanted through no fault of our own. But, we begin again.

The quote also is appropriate as we begin another liturgical year. With Advent, we begin Year A in the three-year lectionary cycle. Advent is a time of hope and expectation. We know that God will perform a miracle. We know love and peace will increase in the world. We know God will bring about a new thing in our lives.

I pray that we will begin Advent with a sense of wonder and expectation that God will do something extraordinary at St. Andrew's this year.

Randi+



**Join Us Sundays**

**10:45**

**In-Person or on Zoom**

**Sunday School at 10:30**

**StAndrewsBurt.com**

*St. Andrew's  
Seeks to Share  
the Unconditional  
Love of God*





# October Pumpkin Painting Fun!





## Business

### Bazaar & Ladies Guild

We had another successful bazaar chaired by Jackie Jordan and Jamie Gailie. They were great at coordinating with everyone, so things ran smoothly.

As soon as the profit is reported we will donate to outreach, as always.

Thanks to everyone, and don't forget to start finding bargains for next year's Christmas section.

***Fun Fact:***  
***Every woman***  
***who is a member of St. Andrew's***  
***is a member of the***  
***Ladies Guild!***

Here's a list of donations made  
this December by the Ladies Guild:

Church Pledge: \$3000

Newfane Food Pantry: \$1500

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$500

Our Little Roses - Generator Fund : \$500

St. Andrew's Pet Food Pantry: \$150

***St. Andrew's***  
***STRONG***  
***Honoring Traditions***  
***Imagining Possibilities***

### November Vestry Highlights

Approved new Expense and Reimbursement procedures based on the Audit Guidelines provided by the Diocese.

Due to Randi's limited hours, a Pastoral Care Team is being assembled. Members include Sarah Hornquist, Darcy Buchanan, Pauline Wright, and Liz Depew.

The Bazaar was a great success and raised \$4,703 in profit for the Ladies Guild. Our next Fundraiser will be a Wing Bonanza on Jan 8th.

Once enough funds have been raised, a large TV will be installed in the worship area of the church for Zoom viewing on Sunday.

**Fish Fry season is upon us!!!!**  
**I can't believe it! Fish fry is very early this year. Our first Friday is February 17th and we will run through March 31st, every Friday from 3-7:30.**  
**If you can help this year, please contact me. We need lots of help to keep this tradition running smoothly!!!**

**Jamie**

# Diocese

The Very Rev Randi Hicks Rowe was appointed by Bishop Sean to continue as the Dean of the Northern Deanery. Randi was also re-elected to the Diocesan Trustees.

After discussion, a resolution to dissolve the WNY & NWPA Partnership was overwhelmingly defeated by a vote of 147 to 17. The Partnership will continue thru October 2024, when it will be evaluated.



Pastor Randi at this year's convention

## THE NEW RECTOR AT HIS FIRST 8AM SERVICE



## ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER ON DECEMBER 7

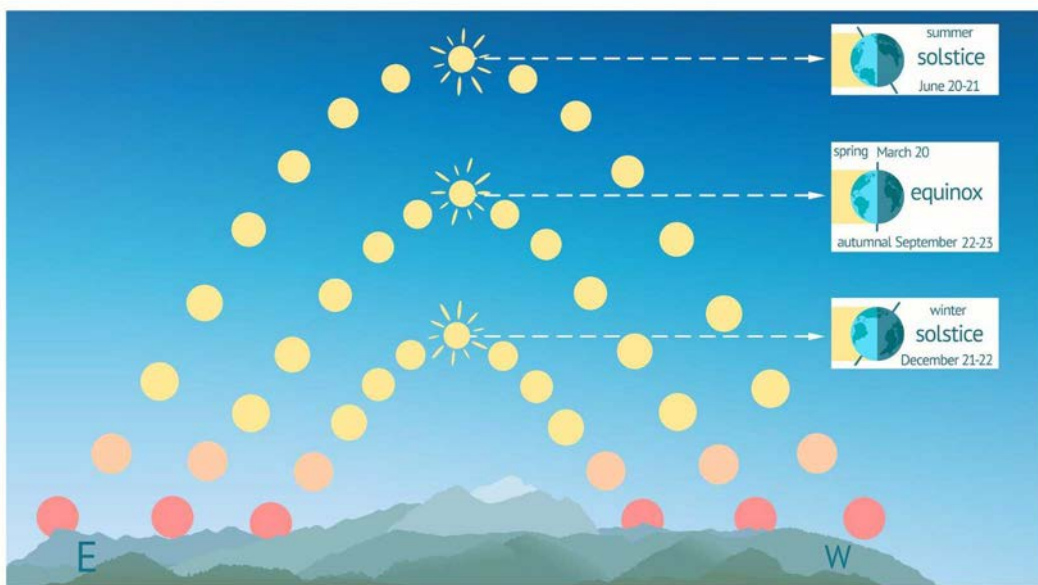
On December 7, people from the Dioceses of Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania will gather at locations across the region for an Advent Day of Prayer.

Canon Vanessa Butler will lead prayer on the Partnership in Prayer Facebook page throughout the day.

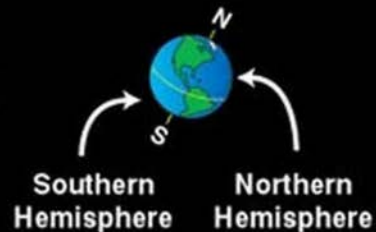
Find locations and details at  
[EpiscopalPartnership.org](http://EpiscopalPartnership.org)



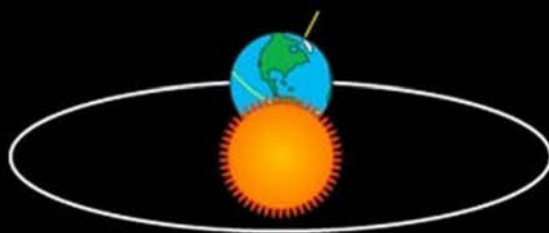
# December 21st is the Winter Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. After that, the days will get longer!



Earth has seasons because its axis is tilted. Earth rotates on its axis as it orbits the Sun, but the axis always points in the same direction.



**December:**  
Summer south of the equator, winter north of the equator. The Sun shines directly on the Southern Hemisphere and indirectly on the Northern Hemisphere



**March:**  
Fall south of the equator, spring north of the equator. The Sun shines equally on the Southern and Northern Hemispheres



**June:**  
Winter south of the equator, summer north of the equator. The Sun shines directly on the Northern Hemisphere and indirectly on the Southern Hemisphere



**September:**  
Spring south of the equator, fall north of the equator. The Sun shines equally on the Southern and Northern Hemispheres

# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 10.02.22

I want to talk about a quality we see in pets, especially dogs, since we are two days before St. Francis Day, the patron saint of animals.

I have a dog who often comes up to me and rolls over on her back for me to rub her belly. Now, she wouldn't go up to a stranger and do this. But she does it for Tom, me, and other people she knows well. She does this as a way of submitting to me but also because she trusts me. You might even say that she has faith in me. She has faith that I will love her and that I will rub her belly. When I do rub her belly, the act of my rubbing the belly will release endorphin, which helps her bond with me even further. So, my dog's faith in me causes her to take a vulnerable pose – that of showing her belly. Then, we become closer when I respond to that vulnerable pose with love. Her submissiveness and trust are rewarded when I meet her needs for love and bonding.

Now, my dog takes this pose frequently. She takes it when I first come in from being away. She takes it before bedtime. She takes it when she's relaxing in the chair while I work. Whatever happens, she continues to trust that taking this posture will provide her with something she needs.

If we wanted to use my dog's posture as a parable, we might say that when the dog adopts the posture, she is demonstrating how I should come to God – with faith and trust that my submission to God will result in God meeting my needs and in my becoming closer to God.

However, you might also say that when my dog is in that pose, she also somehow represents Jesus. Jesus had faith in God's plan for humanity and was ready to present Himself wide open and vulnerable. The difference, of course, is that Jesus didn't always receive affectionate love when he was vulnerable. He demonstrated love instead. Jesus demonstrated servanthood and submission. And as that loving servant, He died for us in a position not all that different than this vulnerable position our pet takes.

Ok, enough of dog parables. Now to the Gospel. The disciples are asking Jesus for more faith. In the verses right before this one, Jesus has talked about forgiveness, and the disciples realize they need faith to be able to forgive others as God forgives us. So they ask for more faith.

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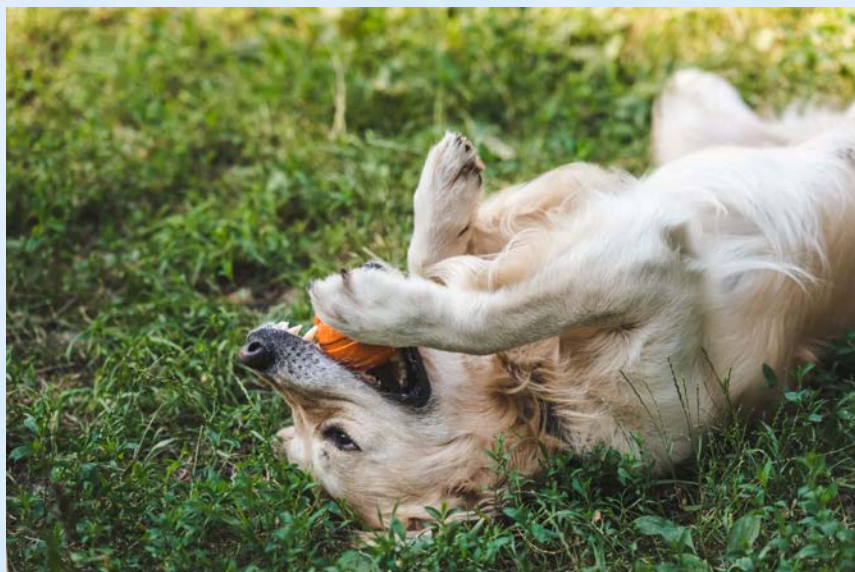
# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 10.02.22 *continued**continued from page 6*

However, Jesus gives them a curious reply and seems, on the surface, to blow them off. Instead, Jesus is trying to convey that the disciples already have enough faith. The key is to make themselves vulnerable to God just as Jesus did. The key is to make themselves submissive to God, just as Jesus did. Once we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and to submit to what God tells us to do, we receive what we need. When the Gospel talks about the servant serving the master first and then being allowed to eat and drink, it tells us that if we show our faith in God by serving others, we'll receive everything we need. It also tells us we'll be guaranteed an eternal feast too.

Our other Scriptures today also talk about faith. They talk about how we need to be able to keep our faith despite the devastation around us. A different translation of verse 2 of Psalm 137 reads, "On the willow tree, we hung up our harps." Stephen Laurence Schwartz and John Michael Tebelak used this verse in Godspell when Jesus was being crucified. They rendered it, "On the willows there, we hung up our lyres." The Crucifixion of Jesus must have been the devastation to end all devastations to His disciples who didn't yet understand the Resurrection. Very much like the devastation of a ruined city, or a ruined life, or a really big loss in our own lives. However, we can sing songs during these willow tree moments. We can sing those songs because Jesus himself hung on a willow tree to protect us and ensure we could live forever.

If we look at Jesus's example of vulnerability and demonstrate just enough faith to model submission and service to others, we'll receive everything we need. We may not necessarily be mirthful right away, but God will take care of us in the end. We'll be well fed and well clothed in God's love.



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 11.27.22

Our more evangelical Christian siblings (and perhaps some of us) may be familiar with the multimedia series, Left Behind based on the novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. These novels portray the world after the true Christians are suddenly taken to heaven, and the non-believers are left behind to face a world of chaos. The novels come partly from one interpretation of this Gospel passage in Matthew and the book of Revelation.

I disagree with this interpretation, although I think it makes for great science fiction. The theology, however, sounds very judgmental to me, and the sudden disappearance of people doesn't seem to fit with the behavior of a God who creates order out of chaos.

Instead, I believe the language is more symbolic. Yes, I think that God does judge us. And, I believe Jesus will come again – in the future for the whole world and to each of us when we die. But I think we're meant to look at the passage as a call to live as Jesus taught us every day. We're meant to see each day as a day of "judgment" and an opportunity for grace. Thus, one person in the field represents judgment, while another represents the promise of God's light and grace.

The message for us, then, is to seek to live every day in the way of Christ, trusting that God will continue to transform us into the image of Christ. We are to always stay alert to opportunities to show the love of Jesus in mundane everyday activities, trusting that the more we remain vigilant, the more God will show us these opportunities.

We know we will make mistakes and fail to do what we're called to do. We know we'll miss opportunities. We may face the consequences when we do that. Yet, even when we encounter negative consequences, we will see the grace of God.

I invite us to think of times when we've seen God's grace in our own lives as we struggle to live in faith. Although God's grace is with me all the time, I tend to recognize it more when I'm in situations I can't control.

For example, my mother was first diagnosed with lung cancer when I was in my mid-20s, and she was only in her 50s. My mother was a faithful Christian, and I tried to be one, too. The doctor told my mother that she probably wouldn't live more than six months to a year, and my mama and dad both cried in their prayers to God. I'm not sure what they prayed for as they cried. I prayed that, above everything, God would keep my mother free of pain. I didn't want to lose her, but if keeping her with me longer meant she'd have more pain, I didn't want that. I would wake up in the night with these prayers.

*continued on page 9*



# Sermon

Pastor Randi, 11.27.22 *continued**continued from page 8*

We expected my mother would die. But she didn't. She had treatments that upset her stomach, and she lost her hair. But she went into remission and lived another 15 years. Those years were happy and without pain until the last year, when the cancer returned, and she died. Even in death, however, my mother had no pain. God brought grace and light into a situation that seemed all dark. The transformation for me in that process was not to ever sell God short. My prayers were from the perspective that the doctors were right and death was imminent – essentially, that we were defeated. But God knew better. And my willingness to give up my mom so that she wouldn't suffer was an effort to live unselfishly, even if my prayer showed a lack of faith in God's power. God chose to be gracious.

Of course, God doesn't always choose to do miracles like defeating cancer. However, God does defeat death in the end. Even when my mother died, God was gracious to all of us. He was gracious to my mother because He carried her to the place He had prepared for her with Him. God was gracious to me because God gave me 15 more years with my mother, AND still, she died without pain. I had prayed, thinking I could only have one or the other, and God gave me both.

We try to live every day as faithfully as we can. Advent is a time to examine our daily lives, realize when we fall short, and renew our vows to live faithfully. Yet, it is also a time when we live in expectancy and hope of God's grace.

David L. Bartlett, a Yale Divinity School professor, wrote this about the themes of Advent. He says they are a counterproposal to Macbeth's cynical words: "Life is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Instead, says Bartlett, "life is a tale told by a strong and sovereign God, enacted according to God's pleasure. It is full of judgment and grace and moves toward the time when God will make all things new."

Advent indeed features judgment and grace. We realize that we come up short in living as Jesus taught. We know we can't control everything. We struggle with the evil in the world.

Yet, Advent is, most of all, a season of light. We light candles on the Advent wreath. As we get closer to the coming of our Savior, the wreath becomes more and more full of light. Ultimately, darkness and judgment will not prevail. We'll be transformed more and more into the image of Jesus. And Jesus will reign in the world.



# Around Our Parish

## Adopted Families Update

As the new year approaches, I will be reaching out to 3 new families for our Adopted Family ministry. I know I have said it in the past, but this is so important to our community. We really make a difference in these families' lives. Thank you for your continued support.

Jamie

## Christmas Pageant

On December 18, 2022, St. Andrew's will again present our annual Christmas pageant. This year the Sunday School teachers are proud to present to you, Jonathan Clarcq, a St. Andrew's teen who has written for us an original Christmas pageant script. The name of the pageant is, "The Spirit of Christmas Past."

This year because of the small number of Sunday school students, the wonderful people of St. Andrew's have stepped forward and signed up for parts. St. Andrew's wants to support Jonathan in whatever manner they can.

So be sure to come to church on the 18th and view the talent that our church puts forth. Bravo, Jonathan! Thank you for helping keep our Christmas tradition alive and well.

St. Andrew's Sunday School Teachers





# From Your Warden



Oh boy, here we are in the season of Advent and approaching the start of a New Year! I have a free daily devotional App on my phone called d365 which follows the format of “Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go.” I love this format because it speaks to what can help each of us in all aspects of our lives; pause, listen to others/the Word of God, think, pray, then go and take action! In this busy season it is easy to focus on the deadline of Christmas, so let us take a pause and reflect on the good the Fall brought to our family at St. Andrew’s. We had productive conversations during Stewardship Sundays about our favored traditions and hopes for the future, we had a great Community event with pumpkin painting, and a wonderful Bazaar! Great big Thanks goes out to all involved in those larger events and those that make the weekly parts of our parish life work with what appears to be ease (music, altar, Sunday School, coffee hour to name just a few!). A lot of thinking and praying is also in the works as we prepare to take action in new ways. The formation of a Pastoral Care team is in the early stages of development to help us bridge the gap of parishioner needs and stay connected and knowledgeable of those in our St. Andrew’s family in need of extra care and support. Our recent Team Leaders Breakfast helped us jump start a call for our Teams to meet in person at least quarterly and create a flow of open communication with the Vestry. These ministries play a vital role in our weekly workshop and community outreach. One thing that becomes clear when serving in a leadership role is that a thriving faith community requires the helping hands of everyone. Therefore as we head into the New Year I leave you with this challenge; What part of our Church ministries can you support with your skills? When you have an answer, reach out, take action! Not sure where to start? Just ask any Vestry member and we are here to help guide you to where your talents can be shared!

With faith and love,  
Sarah Hornquist

## Do You Know?      by Doug Wintersteen

Little child you lie sleeping, so quiet and so small,  
You can't know your destiny, you can't know it all  
Little child do you know what God's plan is for you?  
Little child do you know the world depends on you?

From a child to a boy to a young man you'll grow  
Son of God, Our Savior, the whole world will know  
Little child fast asleep, fast asleep in a manger  
Little child you don't yet know the world you will change.

*And the star, that shines above us so bright  
Will lead the wise men, the Kings, to you to see the light  
They will come, they will see, they will worship you  
They will come, they will kneel, they will pray for you*

Little child this world is filled with hate,  
You came to save us, this world cannot wait.  
But for now you lie sleeping so quiet and so small  
Your mother's arms are keeping you warm with us all

*And the star, that shines above us so bright  
Will lead the wise men, the Kings, to you to see the light  
They will come, they will see, they will worship you  
They will come, they will kneel, they will pray for you*

This world we live in can't find its way to peace  
Dearest Lord Jesus would you come again please?

*Bring that star to shine above us so bright  
Lead us all together to you to see the light  
We will come, we will see, we will worship you  
We will come, we will kneel, we will pray with you*

Little child...





# Celebrate Advent & Christmas with St. Andrew's

November 27th ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

December 4th ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 11th ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

**December 18th ~ 4th Sunday of Advent**

**Christmas Pageant**

**Greening of the Church & Potluck After the Service**

December 24th ~ Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Service at St. Paul's, Lewiston

10:30 pm Service at St. Andrew's

December 25th ~ Christmas Day

January 1st ~ New Year's Day

Service of Lessons & Carols

All Sunday Services begin at 10:45

Sunday School begins at 10:30

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

[StAndrewsBurt.com](http://StAndrewsBurt.com)

*Sharing the Unconditional Love of God*





St. Andrew's

# WING BONANZA



**EACH ORDER INCLUDES  
10 WINGS, BLUE CHEESE & CELERY**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2023**

**12 NOON – 4 PM**

**\$11 PER ORDER**

**\$1 FOR EXTRA BLUE CHEESE AND CELERY**

Choice of Sauces:

- Traditional Frank's Hot, Medium or Mild
- Papa Zeke's BBQ Sauce (Handcrafted BBQ - Medium Heat)
- Devil's Angel Wing Sauce (Spicy Honey Mustard)

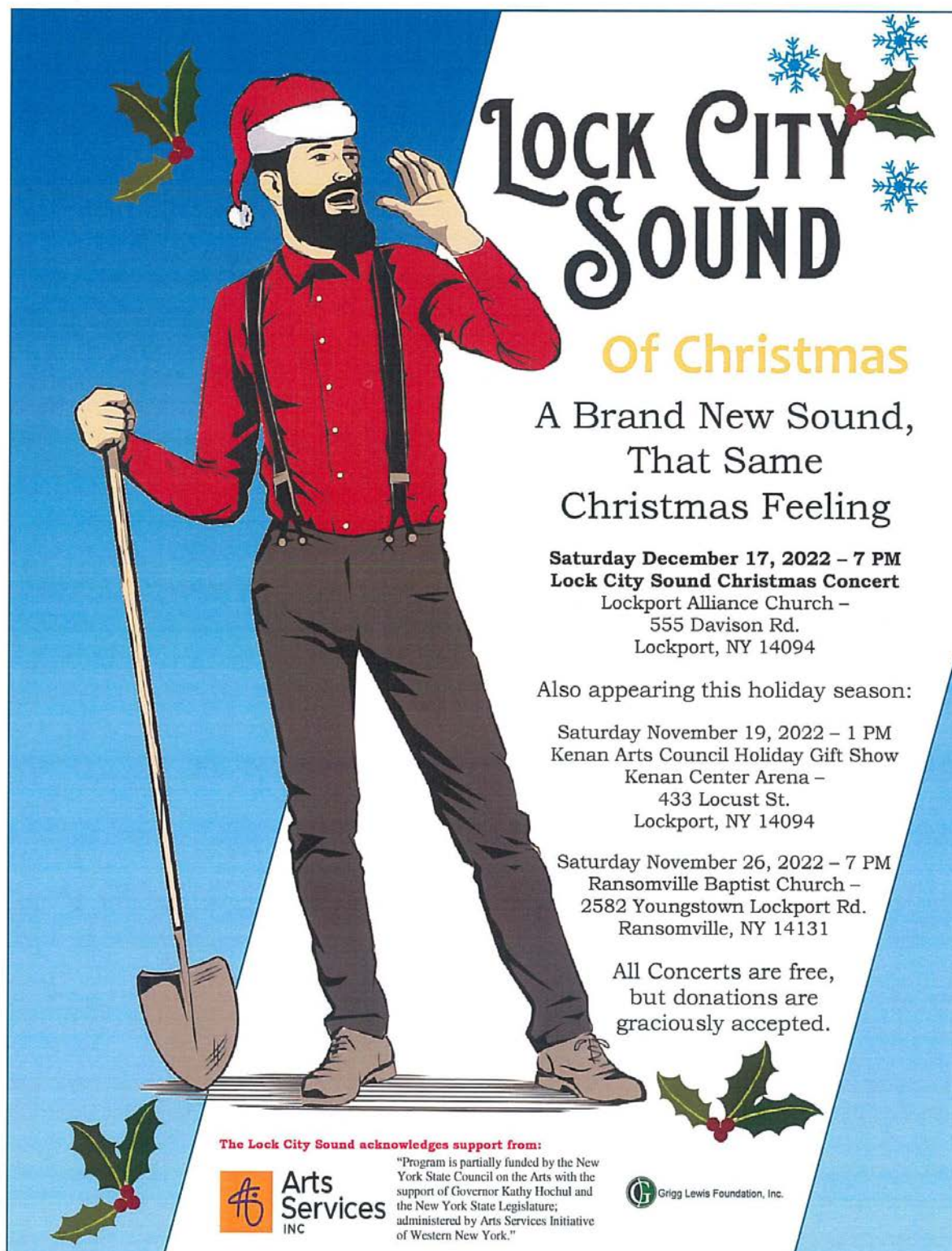
**-- PICK UP ORDERS INSIDE CHURCH --  
PRE SALE TICKETS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED  
TO GUARANTEE YOUR WINGS!**

Tickets are available at St. Andrew's on Sunday mornings,  
at the Community Store on Main Street in Newfane,  
or by calling Tom at 716.778.5554

Find more information on our website  
[StAndrewsBurt.com](http://StAndrewsBurt.com) and on our facebook page.

-- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2239 West Creek Rd, Burt NY --





# LOCK CITY SOUND

## Of Christmas

A Brand New Sound,  
That Same  
Christmas Feeling

**Saturday December 17, 2022 – 7 PM**  
**Lock City Sound Christmas Concert**  
Lockport Alliance Church –  
555 Davison Rd.  
Lockport, NY 14094

Also appearing this holiday season:


Saturday November 19, 2022 – 1 PM  
Kenan Arts Council Holiday Gift Show  
Kenan Center Arena –  
433 Locust St.  
Lockport, NY 14094


Saturday November 26, 2022 – 7 PM  
Ransomville Baptist Church –  
2582 Youngstown Lockport Rd.  
Ransomville, NY 14131

All Concerts are free,  
but donations are  
graciously accepted.

**The Lock City Sound acknowledges support from:**

Program is partially funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; administered by Arts Services Initiative of Western New York."

 **Arts  
Services**  
INC

 Grigg Lewis Foundation, Inc.

## THE LOCK CITY GLEE CLUB (aka) The Lock City Sound Christmas Concert

Date: Saturday, December 17th 2022

Location: Alliance Church, 555 Davison Rd. Lockport, NY 14094

Time: 7:00 P.M.

All are welcome!

## Schedules

### December

#### Lay Readers

4 Dorothy Cheasty  
11 Liz Depew  
18 Steve Clark  
24 TBA  
25 Dorothy Cheasty

#### Zoom

4 Lynn Bewley  
11 Doug Wintersteen  
18 Jerry Harrington  
24 Jamie Gailie

#### Altar

TBD

#### Collection Counter

Doug Wintersteen

### January

All TBA :)



Hey Kids!

Free!

Stop by  
St. Andrew's  
Community Store  
during the  
Light Up Newfane  
Parade  
for FREE To-Go  
Christmas  
Ornament Crafts &  
Glow Jewelry!



Friday, December 2nd, 2022  
4:00 - 7:30 pm  
2768 S. Main Street, Newfane  
[StAndrewsBurt.com](http://StAndrewsBurt.com)

### Community Store

Wednesday 11 am - 4 pm  
Thursday 10 pm - 4 pm  
Friday 12 pm - 3 pm  
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm



# Calendar

## December

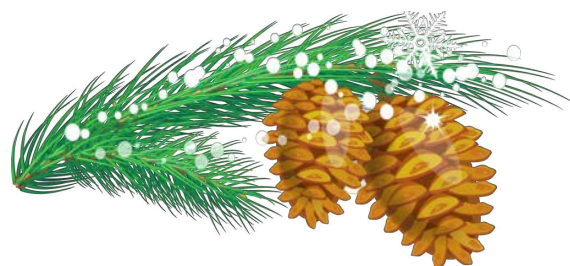
- 2 – Newfane Light Up Parade
- 10 – Christmas Party at the Jordan's
- 14 – Vestry 7 pm
- 18 – Christmas Pageant, Greening of the Church & Potluck, Newfane Rehab Service
- 23, 26, 27, 30 – Office Closed for Christmas and New Year's
- 24 – Christmas Eve Services, St Paul's, Lewiston 4 pm  
St Andrew's, Burt 10:30 pm
- 25 – Christmas Day Service, St Andrew's 10:45 am

*Pastor Randi will be on vacation December 26 – January 3*



## January

- 2, 3 – Office Closed for New Year's
- 8 – Wing Bonanza, Noon-4 pm
- 11 – Vestry 7 pm
- 15 – Newfane Rehab Service
- 16 – Office Closed, MLK Day
- 24 – Staff Meeting 5:30 pm



St. Andrew's  
Christmas Party  
Saturday, December 10th  
6 pm at the Jordan's  
- Sign Up in the Narthex -

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
Chicken Wing Bonanza: Sunday, January 8th  
Fish Fry Begins Friday, February 17th  
Community Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 1st  
Love Rising: July 15th (Visit Love-Rising.com)

**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

Office Manager: Shawn Slother

Music Director & Organist: Joe Brezka, Jr.

Music Associate: Evan Bleiler

Treasurer: Doug Wintersteen

Sexton: Jeryllyn Carney

St. Andrew's Community Store: Cynthia Harrington

Church School Superintendent: Nancy Pestinger

Choir Librarian: Shirley Litz

Altar Guild Director: Jackie Jordan

Deanery / Convention Delegates:

Sue Villeneuve

Cynthia Harrington

Janelle Dengate

**December 22/January 23**

Bishop of Western New York: Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

Rector: The Very Reverend Randi Hicks Rowe

Deacon: Martha Farone

Wardens:

Jamie Gailie

Sarah Harrington

Vestry:

Nancy Pestinger

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

Sue Villeneuve

Steve Clark

Pam Leibring

Dorothy Cheasty

**St. Andrew's Newsletter**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
2239 West Creek Road  
P.O. Box 133  
Burt, New York 14028-0133

Dated Material

To: