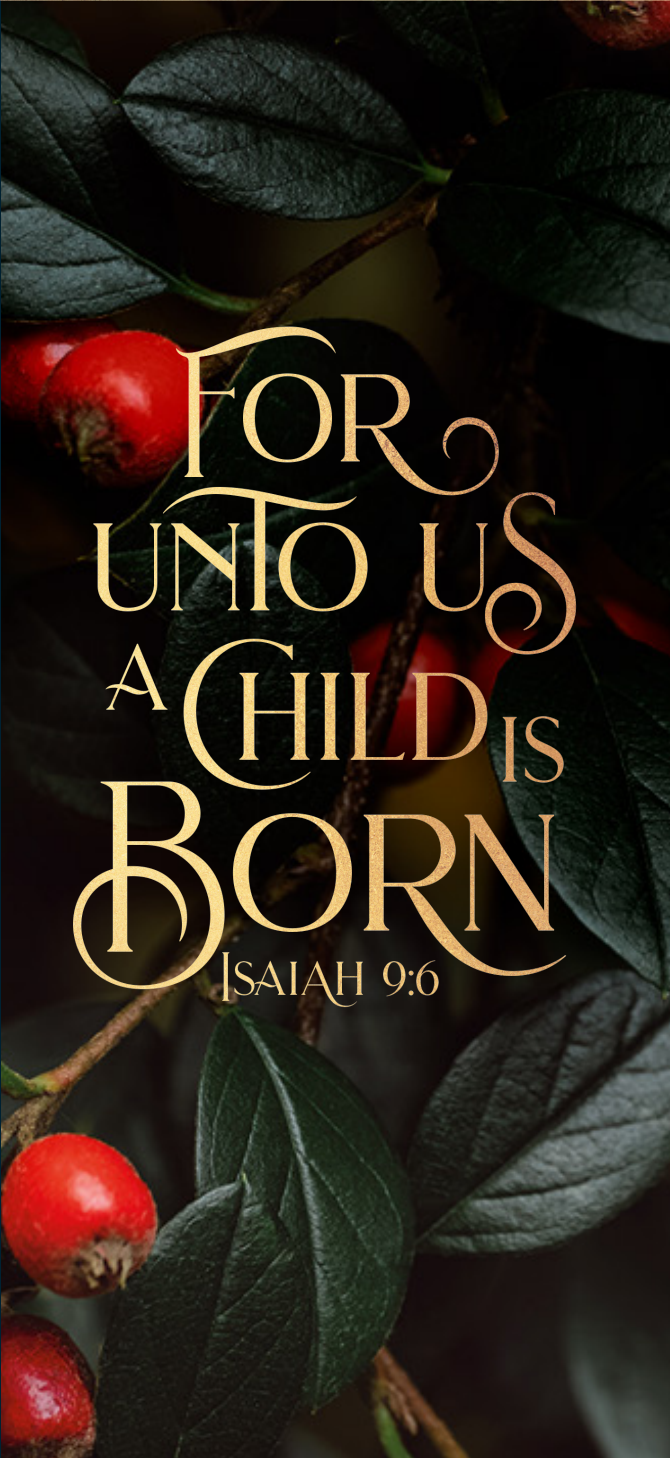




# CROSS CURRENTS

DECEMBER & JANUARY | VOLUME 2025-2026 | ISSUE 10



FOR  
UNTO US  
A CHILD IS  
BORN  
|ISAIAH 9:6

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# DECEMBER



**06 WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH** Our Annual Women's Christmas Brunch will be on Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in Friendship Hall. (Doors open at 9:30 am) Enjoy a lovely brunch, festive music, and fellowship with Tracey Chavez from Calvary Chapel speaking on this year's theme, *Hope in Christ*.

Our outreach project will be for Eagles Wings of Grace. We will be collecting "purse-  
onals," toiletry items to pack into a purse or bag for the women in Tucson needing help getting back on their feet. Contact Jackie at [jharms@uwalumni.com](mailto:jharms@uwalumni.com) or 480-332-8681 for more information. We can't wait to celebrate the season with you!



**13 17TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** The combined SAPC Music Ministry presents the Worship Team, Chancel Choir, Orchestra, Wittman Ringers, St. Andrew's Sisters, Children's Choir, and more in concert, featuring music to lead us joyfully and prayerfully into Christmastide.



**14 COOKIES WITH SANTA** - Please celebrate with us following the 9:00 am Worship Service to enjoy a time decorating cookies out on the SW patio! We will also have a special visit from Santa! If you can make plain sugar cookies or donate frosting and sprinkles, please sign up at [sapctucson.org](http://sapctucson.org). We will see you (and Santa) on the Patio!



**18 BLUE CHRISTMAS** - A Blue Christmas service offers a sacred space to acknowledge grief, loss, and loneliness during the holidays. While the world celebrates, many carry heavy hearts during the Christmas season. Through candlelight, prayer stations, and quiet reflection, we'll honor our struggles and find comfort in God's presence. You don't need to pretend

joy you don't feel. Come as you are—your sorrow is welcome here. This service will be led by our Stephen Ministers and SAPC Staff members.



**21 COMFORT & JOY** - On Sunday, December 21, following the 9:00 am Service, join us for a special Family Christmas Event with fun activity stations for the whole family in the Sunday School rooms! Enjoy activities such as: Writing your very own Christmas carol, Creating unique Christmas ornaments, Spreading Christmas cheer with snacks that smile, Come celebrate the season with creativity, connection, and joy! We can't wait to see you there.

# ADVENT HIGHLIGHT



**DECEMBER 13**  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
7:00 pm | Sanctuary

**DECEMBER 18**  
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE  
6:30 pm | Chapel

**DECEMBER 22**  
COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT  
REUNION DINNER  
7:00 pm | Friendship Hall

## DECEMBER 6

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm | Friendship Hall

## DECEMBER 14

COOKIES WITH SANTA  
10:00 am | SW Campus Patio

## DECEMBER 21

COMFORT & JOY:  
*A Family Christmas Event*  
10:00 am | SW Patio



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM FAMILY SERVICE & CHRISTMAS PLAY  
7:00 PM CONTEMPORARY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE  
9:00 PM TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

## FROM PASTOR JOHN

Greetings St. Andrew's Family! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Our 2025 calendar is down to its last page and the new year of 2026 is soon to be rung in. The Advent season in December is a time to anticipate and patiently wait for the arrival of the Christ child on Christmas! Our Advent sermon series *Ghosts of Christmas* began November 30 where we are exploring Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*, and reflect on Christmas Past, Present, and Future. After the season of Christmas, as we step into the new year, we're reminded of God's faithfulness through every season. The turning of the calendar offers us a fresh

start—an opportunity to renew our commitment to faith, fellowship, and service. And thank God we're not alone, Christ the Light of the World is leading us together. Let us trust to the light and carry forward the lessons learned and embrace the growth that awaits. Whatever challenges or blessings this year brings, we trust in God's unchanging love and guidance. May this January mark the beginning of a year filled with hope, grace, and deeper connection with our church family and our Creator!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor John



# TUCSON REFUGEE MINISTRY

Our Christmas Offering this year will support a social enterprise project being launched by Tucson Refugee Ministry (TRM). Good Samaritan Coffee, a coffee truck business, will provide life-changing job training for refugees as well as create a sustainable funding stream for Tucson Refugee Ministry. Refugee participants will enroll in a 6-month structured training program in food service, customer service and small business operations and will earn Food Handler's certification. Tucson Refugee Ministry will benefit from Good Samaritan's revenue, which is needed to supplement donations and grants that keep TRM operational.



Refugees face lack of U.S. work experience, references and employment opportunities. Good Samaritan Coffee will empower new Americans to build careers in the food industry and entrepreneurship.

St. Andrew's has supported the work of Tucson Refugee Ministry for many years as it nurtures and empowers legal refugees from around the globe to thrive as an integral part of our community. We are delighted to support this employment project which provides a tangible way to live out the call to "love your neighbor."



## WATER FOR LIFE

The Mission Committee of St. Andrew's wishes to let you know of a donation we have prayerfully made in honor of Pastor Mat Grover.

Pastor Mat lived a life of service, not just to our community in Tucson, but to the world as a whole. He raised money for years on behalf of World Vision, running races for clean water projects in communities around the world. His passion for World Vision led us to reengage with the Chosen program in early 2025 where dozens of children in two Ugandan communities were sponsored by our church members.

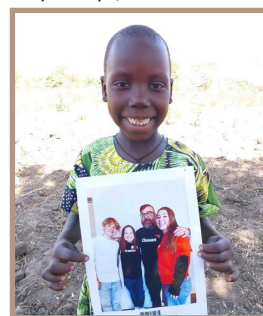
Above: On the left - daughter from a family who in Ethiopia who showed Mat and others on the Vision Trip their new water point right in their backyard. On the right, Mat running the 2018 NYC Marathon in support of clean water.

Following Pastor Mat's passing, the Mission Committee felt led to honor his life through a donation with World Vision. **We are honored to share that World Vision Uganda has identified a water point in our sponsored community of Morungatuny, Uganda, where a well will be installed in Pastor Mat's name.** The Mission Committee has donated \$15,000 to fund this gift.

World Vision is creating a plaque that will be added to the well when it is built and will share pictures with us. We will write a letter to the Ugandan community, which will be translated by World Vision, to share our intention behind the donation.

Thank you for entrusting us as a committee to faithfully steward these funds and honor Mat's life of service.

Below: Children who Chose the Grover Family. On the left is Veronica from Marungatuny, Uganda, and on the right is Emelyn from Concepción Chiquirichapa, Guatemala.



Below: From left to right - Running with Team World Vision in the 2018 Mesa Marathon, 2016 Ethiopia Vision Trip visiting World Vision sponsored kids, including Grover family sponsor child - Robel, Endabaguna Water Supply System Expansion constructed by World Vision Ethiopia.



# SAPC YOUTH



SAPC YOUNG ADULTS

## REUNION DINNER

December 22, 2025 | 7 PM  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
Friendship Hall

RSVP on the Google form

## YOUNG ADULTS REUNION DINNER

All college-age individuals (and those close to that age group) are invited to attend the College Reunion Dinner. This will be an opportunity to reconnect, enjoy a meal together, and reflect on shared experiences from previous years in the youth program.

Sunday, December 22 | 7:00 pm  
St. Andrew's Friendship Hall



## St. Andrew's Youth Ministry

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM BREAK

12/25/25 - 1/7/26



## PARENT YOUTH LEADER CONFERENCES



PARENT YOUTH LEADER conferences  
12/1-12/11

### PARENT YOUTH LEADER CONFERENCES

I'm excited to invite you to our mid-year Parent/Youth Leader Conferences! These brief check-ins provide an opportunity for us to collaborate in supporting your student. I see your student for only a few hours each week, but you know them best, and I value your insight. During our time together, we'll discuss how things are going socially, spiritually, and emotionally, and explore ways to continue encouraging and advocating for your student and your family. Also, I want some face time with YOU. How can I support you in the ongoing roller coaster of parenting and juggling commitments?

Please visit [sapcyouth.com](http://sapcyouth.com) to sign up for a meeting time: You can Sign up today for an in-person meeting at Tim's office, a remote Zoom meeting, or a meeting at a location of your choosing!

If none of the listed times work for you, please email Tim at [tchristian@sapctucson.org](mailto:tchristian@sapctucson.org) and we'll find an alternate time.

- Tim Christian, Director of Youth Discipleship Ministry

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES & WHITE ELEPHANT

Our annual White Elephant gift exchange will take place again this year. Participants are asked to bring a wrapped gift, either an item they already have or a new item valued at no more than \$5.

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

Dec 16, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

Dec 17, 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm



### WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

HIGH SCHOOL

12/17

6:30-8:30

MIDDLE SCHOOL

12/18

6:15-8:15

BRING A WRAPPED GIFT \$5 OR UNDER



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## CHRISTMAS PLAY

We are excited to announce our upcoming Christmas Play: *The Good News Flash!* This is a wonderful opportunity for our kids to share the story of Jesus' birth with our church family and community. The performance will be during the Christmas Eve Family Service on December 24 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary. All children and youth are invited to participate—whether they'd like a speaking role, to be part of the choir, or to help bring the story to life as angels, shepherds, or animals in the nativity.

Rehearsals will be during children's Sunday School (9:15 am - 10:15 am) in Room F. Our final dress rehearsal will be Monday, December 22, at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. Parents, please mark your calendars and encourage your kids to join in this special celebration. We can't wait to see them shine as they tell the greatest story ever told—Jesus' birth! Please let us know who wants to be involved by signing up at [sapctucson.org/kids](http://sapctucson.org/kids).

## SUPER FRIENDS: A SPECIAL NEED MINISTRY

*Everyone Belongs!* Our special needs ministry provides a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive space for individuals of all abilities to grow in faith and community. Whether you have a child, teen, or adult with unique needs, we offer a sensory friendly Sunday School class for our Super Friends and a parent support group. Our upcoming meetings of Super Friends and parents will be on December 7 and January 4 at 10:30 am in the Sunday School Rooms. Let us walk alongside your family in faith. For more information or to volunteer, contact Heather at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org). Because everyone deserves a place to belong!



## COMFORT & JOY: A FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVENT

On Sunday, December 21, following the 9:00 am Service, join us for a special Family Christmas Event with fun activity stations for the whole family in the Sunday School rooms! Enjoy activities such as:

- *Writing your very own Christmas carol*
- *Creating unique Christmas ornaments*
- *Spreading Christmas cheer with snacks that smile*
- *Come celebrate the season with creativity, connection, and joy!*

We can't wait to see you there.

## UPCOMING HOLY MOLIES

- **December 17:** *The Breastplate of Righteousness & White Elephant Gift Exchange*
- **January 21:** *Fitted Feet*

## NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 12/28

There will be no Sunday School on December 28. Childcare will be available for children five years old and younger in Room L. Activity clipboards will be provided in the Sanctuary for elementary-aged children.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2026 - JUNE 8-12

*(Registration opens March 22)*

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

# 2026

## RECONNECTED IN FAITH

Attention all current prayer partners: You are warmly invited to a meaningful reunion where we will reconnect in fellowship, encourage one another, and share in some light refreshments. Come and meet up with your prayer partner on January 11 at 10:15 am in Room F. We hope to see you there!



## KINDERGARTEN PRAYER PARTNERS

It's time to begin praying about joining our Kindergarten Prayer Partner Ministry! We are looking for ten adults who are willing to walk alongside a child in their faith journey through prayer and encouragement. As a Prayer Partner, you will commit to:

- *Praying for and with your partner*
- *Building a supportive, faith-focused friendship (The children will also pray for you!)*

Have you served as a Prayer Partner before? We would love for you to join us again! Prayer Partners will meet on February 15 during the 9:00 am Sunday School hour. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Heather at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org). Thank you for considering this meaningful ministry!

# PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Lots of celebrations happen this time of year in the Preschool and Kindergarten! We finished our month of gratitude by learning about how families celebrate holidays and talking about what we are thankful for. As we enter the Christmas season, with the hope and joy that Jesus brings, may we approach the season with wonder just like our preschoolers and kindergarteners do!

As we welcome our new year, church families have an early opportunity to begin registration for the 2026-2027 school year on January 15! Our Preschool and Kindergarten offers small class sizes, two qualified teachers in each classroom, indoor and outdoor play based learning curriculum, within a faith based environment. Families can register for classes in our 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, and Kindergarten classrooms. A full list of our class offerings are available on our school website, [sapcschool.org](http://sapcschool.org).



## GALLERY ARTIST

**MARGARETTE LOISEAU: DECEMBER 7, 2025 - JANUARY 11, 2026**

Margarette Loiseau has long been immersed in the art world. Influenced by her native Haiti and her travels throughout Europe and the Caribbean. Her style reflects the emotional depth of post-impressionism while embracing symbolism and naturalism. Her palette is inspired by artists such as Odilon Redon, Paul Gauguin, and many Haitian painters whose vibrant tones and spiritual undertones resonate deeply with her.

Though self-taught, Margarette refined her craft through workshops at the Art Students League of New York. Her paintings—shown in exhibitions in New York and Tennessee—blend diverse styles and expressive brushwork to convey a love of life, a celebration of universality, and a search for harmony and balance. She

describes her work as energetic, flowing and mystical. Margarette lives in Tucson, Arizona, and paints in oil, acrylic, and mixed media. While living in Memphis she has donated many of her works to the Playhouse in the Park and the Child Advocacy Center to support their annual fundraising events, reflecting her belief in art as a vessel for healing, joy, and community connection. She envisions expanding her body of work by deepening its spiritual dimension—exploring themes of grace, mystery, and transcendence through symbolic imagery and intuitive composition. Her current focus invites viewers into quiet reflection, offering moments of stillness and wonder through moonlit landscapes, flowing forms, and subtle gestures of hope. Margarette is a member of St. Andrew's and attends the 10:45 am Worship Service with her husband.

## COUNT FROM FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.  
Count your gains instead of your losses.  
Count your joys instead of your woes.  
Count your friends instead of your foes.  
Count your smiles instead of your tears.  
Count your courage instead of your fears.  
Count your full years instead of your lean.  
Count your kind years instead of your mean.  
Count your health instead of wealth.  
Count on God instead of yourself.

Reference: Thankful, Blessed and Grateful by Cheryl Willis MSN RN  
Faith Community Nurse

FOR  
UNTO US  
A CHILD IS  
BORN  
[ISAIAH 9:6]

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Many things can pull our attention away from God. Stress, anxiety, divorce, disagreements, loss, pain and fear. However, God is present even in our pain. If you'd like to have someone come alongside you, encourage and listen; please know that St. Andrew's offers a free, confidential resource in Stephen Ministry. For more information about requesting a Stephen Minister visit [sapctucson.org/care](http://sapctucson.org/care) or call the Church Office, 520-297-7201, or Cheryl Smith at 520-271-6591.



## YEARLY GIVING

We are celebrating all that God has done through the ministry of St. Andrew's over the past year! Your generosity has a direct and tangible impact on our families, community, and beyond. So as you make your final 2025 giving plans, would you prayerfully consider how you will give to St. Andrew's today and in the coming weeks as we look to finish the year strong.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of October 31, 2025

	YTD Offering	YTD Expenses
Actual	\$1,335,684	\$1,678,104
Planned	\$1,341,753	\$1,757,181
Difference	\$(6,069)	\$(79,077)

LEARN MORE AT  
[sapctucson.org/give](http://sapctucson.org/give)

Thank you for your support of our ministries. Please contact Brad in the Business Office at (520)297-7201 if you have questions.