

# THE FISHERMAN

A publication of St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church

*And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'* MATTHEW 4:19



**F**ind blessing in music, lighting the candles, and in messages that explore the Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy of the timeless Christmas story.

**Sunday, November 30, 9:00 + 11:09 am**

First Sunday of Advent • Teddy Bear Sunday

**Sunday, December 7, 9:00 + 11:09 am**

Second Sunday of Advent • Teddy Bear Sunday

**Sunday, December 14, 9:00 + 11:09 am**

Third Sunday of Advent

Sounds of the Season: a musical worship service

**Sunday, December 21, 10:00 am**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Wednesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve (see details below)

**Sunday, December 28, 10:00 am**

Christmas Hymn Sing Service

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**4:00 & 6:00 pm**

Identical Traditional Candlelight Communion Services

## Repeat the Sounding Joy!

by Rev. Jonathan Tompkins

The Advent/Christmas season is here and my Sirius/XM stations, Apple music mixes, and Spotify playlists are now all purely Christmas music! Over the years I have, and continue to, collect Advent and Christmas songs, both sacred and secular, hymns and carols, jingles and jangles, old and new.

I love Christmas music, both for sentimental and spiritual reasons. It reminds me of special Christmases past, but also prepares me for the Christmas that is coming. Matt Rawles writes that "If 'faith comes from listening,' then Christmas must be the most faithful time of the year...It's hard to imagine Christmas without music." (*Experiencing Christmas*, pg 37) Good Christmas music brings nostalgia, excitement for presents and gatherings, but can also bring us closer to God...or bring Christ closer to us...if we are paying attention...if our ears are open.

Our Advent/Christmas series, *'Repeat the Sounding Joy!'*, will open our ears (and eyes, hearts, minds, and souls) to the songs of the season that can bring Christ's arrival on earth closer to us and hopefully, bring us closer to Him.

Each Sunday, we will explore a particular Christmas hymn that will be the basis of the sermon. We will listen to a version of it, hear a sermon based on it, and then sing it together. And of course, we will be singing many more of our beloved Advent and Christmas hymns found in our hymnals and praise books throughout the month.

Here's the 'playlist':

Nov. 30: 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'

Dec. 7: 'Once in Royal David's City'

Dec. 14: Sounds of the Season Music Sunday, 9 + 11:09 am

Dec. 21: 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' (ONE, 10 am Service)

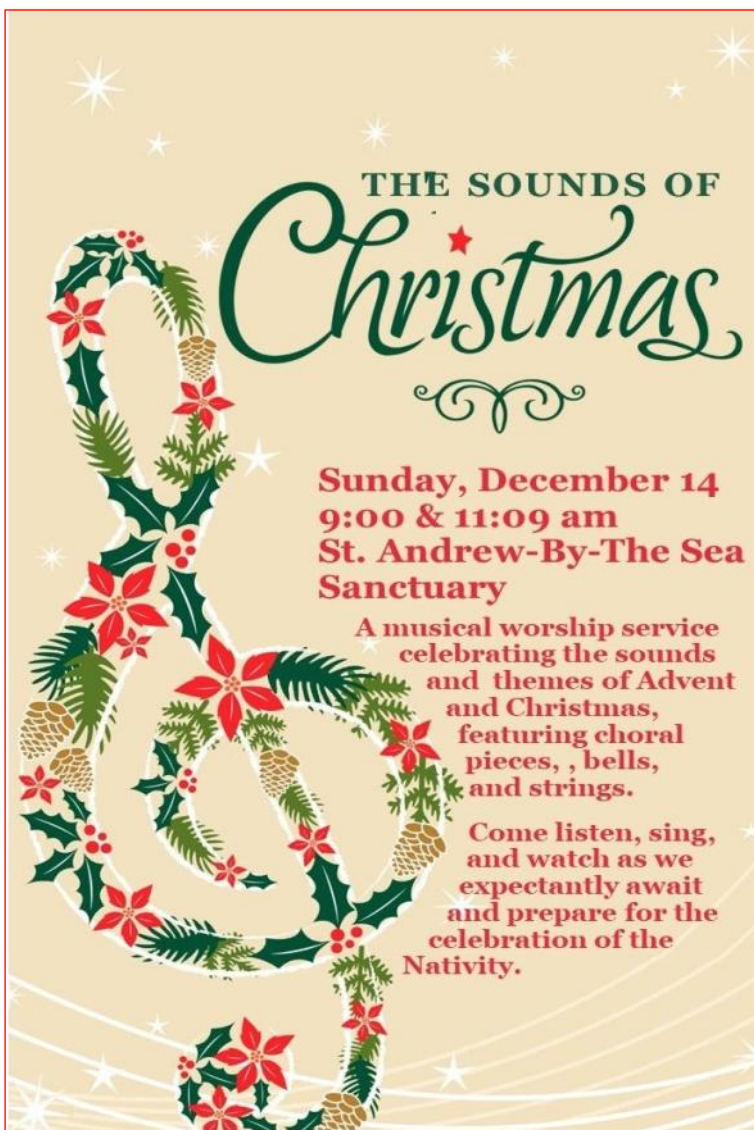
Dec. 24: 'Joy to the World' - Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion services, 4 pm and 6 pm

Dec. 28: Christmas Hymn Sing service (ONE, 10 am Service)

In addition to Sunday mornings, there are other ways to *'repeat the sounding joy'* as part of St. Andrew this season – read on for more!

Grateful to be on the journey with you,

*Jonathan*



## MORE MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS...

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited to welcome new members to all of our musical groups. If you have a love for music, we encourage you to consider joining one of our ensembles. Your participation will enrich our community and help us continue to make beautiful music together.

### *Seaside Chancel Choir*

The Seaside Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 PM in the music room. There are no auditions required, and you do not need to be able to read music to take part. Everyone is welcome to join, regardless of musical background.

### *Seaside Bell Choir*

Our Seaside Bell Choir is growing, but there's room for you! No previous musical experience is necessary—if you can count to four, you can play! Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn something new!

### *Instrumentalists—Share Your Talent!*

If you play an instrument or any kind, please consider joining our Music Ministry. Your unique gifts can help bring our worship services to life and inspire our congregation.

Contact Music Director Bruce Gale with your interest at [bruceghhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:bruceghhiumc@gmail.com)

## SOUP KITCHEN HOLIDAY SEASON EVENTS

As the holiday season unfolds, our dedicated Soup Kitchen volunteers continue to 'Distribute God's Gifts' to our South Island guests every Tuesday and Friday in the Celebration Center.



### NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

#### *St. Francis Women's Club Event*

In November, the Soup Kitchen welcomed 45 members of St. Francis Women's Club to a "Let's Make an Amazing Meal" event. Collaborating with Second Helpings, Tricia Rawls demonstrated how rescued food can be transformed into delicious meals. Additionally, Nick Nicholson shared his impactful video, "A Morning with the St. Andrew Soup Kitchen," capturing the heart of our service. A sample Harvest Table was displayed, and St. Francis generously gave both food donations and a monetary contribution.

#### *Volunteer Appreciation Lunch*

Days later we hosted our second annual Soup Kitchen Volunteer Lunch to honor the weekly dedication of over 70 volunteers. The Celebration Center was transformed into a beautiful dining venue, and 50 volunteers attended, enjoying an exceptional meal provided by Sea Pines Resorts, a valued partner. The abundance of food allowed us to share leftovers with our guests the next day. During the event, we revisited Nick's inspiring video and reflected on our mission. Volunteers spoke at an open mic, sharing their experiences and expressing gratitude for one another's service.

#### *Thanksgiving Lunch*

Our Thanksgiving lunch, held on Friday, November 28, featured leftovers from the Community Thanksgiving Dinner—another example of how the Soup Kitchen resourcefully provides nourishing meals using rescued food.

### UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

#### *Christmas Grace Fiesta*

Soup Kitchen volunteers will prepare lunch for over 300 guests at the Christmas Grace Fiesta on December 7. Helpers are still needed for serving, cooking, and cleanup. If you are able to assist, contact Tricia Rawls ([trawlsoki@yahoo.com](mailto:trawlsoki@yahoo.com)).

#### *Annual Soup Kitchen Christmas Party*

On December 19, we will host our annual Christmas party, featuring a festive sit-down meal for 100 guests. Santa will make a special appearance, distributing books, teddy bears, and gift bags. Donated Christmas bikes will be given to both adults and children; if you have bike to contribute, please reach out to Tom Sharp. ([Thomasosharp@gmail.com](mailto:Thomasosharp@gmail.com))

For adult guests, a fun white elephant-style gift table will be set up. Using a lottery system, guests will choose gifts from a large selection of items, including new or gently used household items, gift cards, beach chairs, toys, books, art supplies, etc., anything suitable for a white elephant exchange. Additionally, guests will receive a Piggly Wiggly gift card for food purchases.

#### *Ongoing Needs and Appreciation*

We continue to need paper and plastic grocery bags. Paper bags are provided to our partner, Deep Well, while groceries are distributed in plastic bags. Donations can be brought to the church office during the week or to the narthex on Sundays.

The continued support and generous donations from our congregation are deeply appreciated. These gifts help families reduce expenses so they can allocate more income toward housing and transportation. *Thank you!*





As we come to the end of 2025 we wanted to share a brief financial update. Through October our giving totals \$825,274, an amount that is ahead of 2024 giving but below the budget we established for the year. Our staff has done an excellent job of keeping YTD Expenses (\$855,933) below budget by over \$27,000 but a gap of \$30,659 still exists between Giving and Expenses. St. Andrew By-the-Sea is blessed, and we continue to bless those around us who need our support.

Please help by fulfilling the pledge goal you made for 2025 and considering an extra gift to help us close the gap as this year comes to a close.

On behalf of all the members of St. Andrew By-the-Sea we thank you for gifts of time, talent and treasure in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

*Robert Dietz, Finance Chair*  
*Sarah Coffin, Church Council Chair*

GIVING AT A GLANCE (January - October 2025)			
	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Contributions	\$800,702	\$868,000	(\$67,298)
Operating Revenue and Expenses (January - October 2024)			
	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Revenue	\$825,274	\$883,210	(\$57,936)
Expenses	\$855,933	\$883,210	\$27,277
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$30, 659)	\$0	(\$30,659)



As you are aware, there are two important staff positions that will be open upon the retirement of Connie Borgianini, Director of Christian Education, and the relocation of Anna Musselwhite, Director of Family Ministries. SPPRC has concluded that consolidating the two roles, creating a new position, Director of Faith Formation, would help cultivate opportunities that more fully address our vision as we move forward. The individual who fills this role will have the overarching, all-encompassing responsibility to develop, direct and guide faith formation activities for ALL ages and stages within our church family. By all measures, it will require a specialized skill set and, as such, we plan to utilize the Methodist connectional system to provide guidance and options during our search.

We appreciate your patience. We will update you periodically as the process evolves.

*Linda Jennings and Andi Argast, Search Committee Co-Chairs*



## Children + Youth December Events

### CHRISTMAS GRACE SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Youth and children are serving at Christmas Grace on Sunday, December 7! This will be a fun afternoon dedicated to serving our local community and spreading Christmas cheer. Please arrive by 1:00 pm to help set up. Contact Anna or Roxanne (purdyroxanne@icloud.com) if you have not been assigned a role and you want to serve.

### FAMILY MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

All youth and children are invited to a Christmas Party, happening at the Dobbs home on Sunday, December 14, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Come for a festive night complete with a white elephant gift exchange, Christmas-themed games, delicious food, and plenty of fun. This event is especially meaningful, as it will be Anna's final night with the kids—their presence will make it all the more special. Please bring a holiday treat to share, and RSVP to Anna if you plan to attend and to get directions.

### CHRISTMAS EVE HELPERS

We would like some of our youth to serve as scripture readers and communion servers at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service. If you'll be in town and would like to help, please email Pastor Jonathan at jethhiumc@gmail.com.

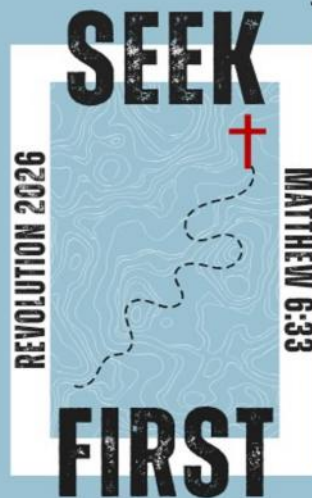
Contact Anna Musselwhite, Director of Family Ministries, with any questions about children's or youth activities, or if you'd like more info on how you can serve in this exciting area of our church. [annamhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:annamhhiumc@gmail.com) or text 843.642.2747

## Join Us For Revolution 2026!

**Jan 30-Feb 1st**

Each year at Revolution, more than 1,000 youth experience a powerful weekend of worship, music, and messages focused on sharing God's love in a relevant way.

Join St Andrew and scan the code for a life changing weekend getting to know UMC youth from across the state!





*Watch for photos and reports of the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Grace Fiesta, and other holiday events in the January 2026 issue of the Fisherman Newsletter.*



## South Carolina Conference

### The United Methodist Church

News from SC Annual Conference: Four amendments to our UMC constitution have been ratified and become effective immediately.

The four amendments passed at the 2024 General Conference, held in Charlotte. But because they changed the UMC constitution, they required ratification by at least two-thirds of the total voting members of all the annual conferences combined. To clarify, that does not mean a two-thirds vote at each annual conference is needed but rather two-thirds of all 127 annual conferences around the world.

The amendments are as follows:

1. **Regionalization:** This package of amendments creates new regional conferences that will each have equal power to adapt portions of the UMC's Book of Discipline within their respective regions.
2. **Inclusiveness of the Church:** This adds the words "gender" and "ability" to Paragraph 4, Article 4, of the UMC constitution to categories that cannot be used to exclude membership in the denomination.
3. **Racial Justice:** This strengthens Article V of the UMC constitution by explicitly recognizing the church's role in combating racism, racial inequity, colonialism, White privilege and White supremacy.
4. **Educational Requirements for Clergy:** This amends Section VI, Article IV of the UMC constitution, which establishes the educational requirements for clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.

"The ratification and certification of these constitutional amendments mark a defining moment in the continuing renewal and unity of The United Methodist Church," said Bishop Tracy S. Malone, president of the Council of Bishops. "These amendments reflect the church's rich diversity and deep commitment to live more fully into our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and strengthens our world-wide connection to serve faithfully and inclusively in every context."

More information can be found by visiting this link:  
[umnews.org/en/news/new-united-methodist-church-structure-ratified](https://umnews.org/en/news/new-united-methodist-church-structure-ratified)

*Submitted by Merryll Dietz, Lay Member to Annual Conference*

### Church Council Update

In 2017, Pastor Neil Yongue asked me to serve as Church Council Chair. At the time I told him that I envisioned three things happening on my watch if I said 'yes': (1) he would retire and we would have to get used to a new pastor after many years of his leadership; (2) our church would have to figure out our stance on the LGBTQ issue that was continuing to brew; and (3) we would likely have to undertake a capital campaign in order to fund the building of a church in Bluffton.

Well, I got two out of three – he retired, and we did have to decide if we would remain with the UMC. What I missed was a global pandemic, a parade of pastors, a battle royal over Bluffton, and my evergreen contract renewal until the end of this year!

December 8 will be my last Church Council meeting as Chair. It has been quite a ride and I have been blessed with good support and counsel from our pastoral parade, the many who served over the years on Church Council, other stalwart leaders in our church, my faithful husband, and of course our Lord and Savior. Thank you all for being there, for helping me, and for serving so graciously.

We survived COVID and learned the new skill of on-line worship and meetings by Zoom. We grew spiritually from all of the pastors who served St. Andrew during this time.

We made a difficult decision regarding our Bluffton connection, but still helped launch a new church of believers and then re-oriented St. Andrew to focus our outreach efforts... resurrecting Christmas Grace on the South End, expanding our missions and using our hands and feet to serve others.

We resolved to remain with and uphold the United Methodist Church, seeking to genuinely welcome and embrace all who enter our buildings without regard to the color of their skin, their ethnic background, their identity, and diversity. I am very proud of all the volunteers, staff and congregants who make this church truly a family that strives to live our lives as Christ would have us to do. I look forward to seeing St. Andrew continue to flourish.

While the role has occasionally been challenging, the opportunity to create warm and lasting friendships, to influence our future, and to grow as a leader has been without equal. But, all good things must come to an end. I shall continue to volunteer and serve and witness. Most importantly, I urge everyone to be as supportive of our new Council Chair, Bob Dietz, as you have been to me. Steeped in Methodist discipline from his time in the New Jersey conference, financially astute from his professional career, and devout in his faith and service – not to mention being an excellent singer – Bob is more than capable of taking on this role.

Thank you, and God Bless everyone!  
*Sarah Coffin, Church Council Chair*





## Short-term Study Options Beginning in Early January 2026

### We Believe: How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith Seekers Class

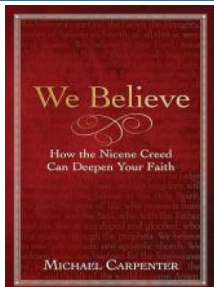
Sundays, Jan. 4 - Feb. 15

10:15 - 11:00 am

Room C111, Celebration Center

Discover how the ancient Nicene Creed can transform your spiritual journey in Michael Carpenter's empowering book, *We Believe: How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith*. Personal anecdotes and practical insights guide you to a profound connection with God. Dive into six chapters, covering the Nicene Creed sequentially, that unpack the essence of it, enriching reader's faith and deepening their understanding of Christian beliefs.

For more, contact Kerry at [christedhhiuic@gmail.com](mailto:christedhhiuic@gmail.com)



### Joy Class

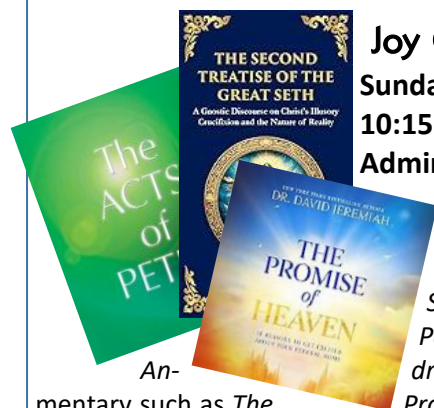
Sundays, beginning Jan. 11

10:15 - 11:00 am Hybrid

Admin Bldg. Conf. Room

Through ancient Christian writings, such as *The Second Treatise of the Great Seth* (a gnostic book), *Acts of Peter*, *Acts of Paul*, *Acts of Andrew*, *Acts of Thomas* and *com-Promise of Heaven* by David Jeremiah, this class will continue an in depth look at the history and development of Christianity and beliefs.

For more information and Zoom link, contact Wes Warren at [wwarren23@aol.com](mailto:wwarren23@aol.com)



Interested?

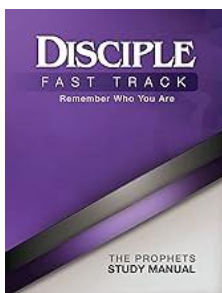
### Disciple Fast Track 3 Remember Who You Are: The Prophets

12 weeks for 1 hour

Dates & Times TBD by group

We are trying to gauge interest in offering this 12-week study immerses readers in the Old Testament Major and Minor Prophets (except Daniel). The prophets are continually calling hearers and readers back to their God and to a sense of who they are as a people "set apart." Designed to establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke for God, daily reading assignments draw also on the books of Deuteronomy through Chronicles. Readers will encounter "The Word of the Lord," with comments on Scripture and amplification of meaning.

If you are interested, contact Kerry at [christedhhiuic@gmail.com](mailto:christedhhiuic@gmail.com)



### NEW! Games Fellowship Group

Do you enjoy playing games—card games, board games, parlor games? Several people would like to start an inter-generational Games Group for fellowship time in the Celebration Center. Days and times to be established based on feedback.

Interested? Contact Lorena at [bestlorenadream@gmail.com](mailto:bestlorenadream@gmail.com)



### NEEDED! Dining Out Coordinator

The *Dining Out* drop-in group is always well attended and a lot of fun, but it needs someone to take on the coordinator role. These gatherings give people a chance to connect outside of church. Each month, the coordinator picks a local restaurant, sets the date and time (avoiding conflicts with church events), sends details to an ever-growing email list, and makes the reservation.

If you'd like to help coordinate, or to join the group, contact Kerry at [christedhhiuic@gmail.com](mailto:christedhhiuic@gmail.com).

## Fellowship Friends

Tuesdays at 10:00 am via Zoom

**Fun and engaging topics of discussion along with spiritual encouragement and support**

Email [jaygraves@hotmail.com](mailto:jaygraves@hotmail.com) for a Zoom invitation.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can still participate via telephone.

Call Jay at 843-342-6322 for directions on how to do this.

*Everyone is invited to join in!*





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## *Connect with us!*

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[standrewbytheseaumc.org](http://standrewbytheseaumc.org)  
[standrewbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:standrewbythesea@gmail.com)

Church Office Hours  
M-F 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

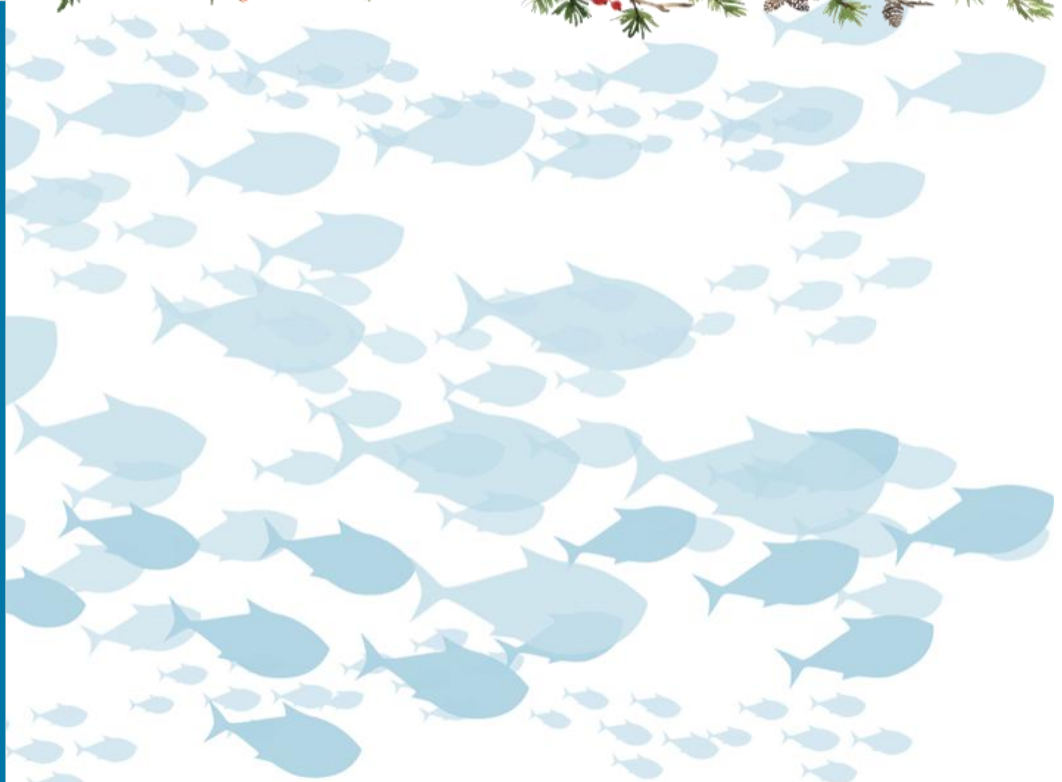
### SUNDAY WORSHIP

In-person + Online  
9:00 am Traditional Worship  
11:09 am Modern Worship

Rev. Jonathan Tompkins  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Frank E. Lybrand  
Associate Pastor

Find us on all your  
favorite platforms



*St. Andrew By-The-Sea is an open, nurturing body of Christian believers seeking God's guidance as we minister to others.*