



St. Andrew

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are Building a Servant Community Seeking to be Christ's Hands and Heart.

180 24TH STREET WEST BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102 (406) 656-9256 STANDREWBILLINGS.ORG

Andrew's Net

Catching up On The Latest News

Holy Father, you are the Creator of the heavens and earth and you are faithful and worthy of all the glory and honor. Thank you for the blessing of a new month. I pray for joy, love, and laughter in abundance. Guide me daily to make wise decisions in May. Drawing near to me as I draw near to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.



PRAY FOR EVERYTHING



Notes

May 2026 Worship Schedule

Sunday May 3, 2026

Speaker: Rev. George Goodrich

Liturgist: Cynthia Kessler

Music: Jo Chatman

AV: Martha Krebill

Greeters & Ushers: Bob & Mary Wood, Don Johnson

Sunday May 10, 2026

Mothers Day

Speaker: Rev. Eric Basye

Liturgist: Sandy Welch

Music: Martha Krebill

AV: Brendan McCann

Greeters & Ushers: Sandy Welch, Mike Paterson

Sunday May 17, 2026

Speaker: Sister Mary Dostal

Liturgist: Dave Kimball

Music: Jo Chatman

AV: Kristin Kochner

Greeters & Ushers: Judy Anderson, Janie Wendland, Dave Kimball

Sunday May 24, 2026

Speaker: Stan Bayley

Liturgist: Cynthia Kessler

Music: Martha Krebill

AV: Brendan McCann

Greeters & Ushers: Stan Bayley, Annette Bayley, Cynthia Kessler, Jeff Kessler

Sunday May 31, 2026

Speaker: Rev. Doug Johnson

Liturgist: Bob Wood

Music: Jo Chatman

AV: Martha Krebill

Greeters Choice



May 2026 Calendar

May 1	Al-Anon – 7:00 PM Bluegrass Group – 7:00–9:00 PM
May 2	National Labyrinth Day Ceremony – 12:30–2:00 PM The Czechmates featuring Betty Whitting Concert – 3:00 PM
May 3	Piano Recital: Cherlan Orth – 4:00 PM
May 6	Office Closed Garden Committee – 10:00 AM Quilters – 12:00 PM
May 7	Office Closed Al-Anon – 8:00 PM
May 8	African Violet Sale Al-Anon – 7:00 PM Bluegrass Group – 7:00–9:00 PM
May 9	African Violet Sale Billings Climate Coalition Meeting – 9:30 AM Dab N’ Gab
May 10	Mother’s Day
May 11	Office Closed
May 13	Facilities Committee – 1:00 PM
May 14	Al-Anon – 8:00 PM
May 15	Dab N’ Gab Al-Anon – 7:00 PM
May 20	Bluegrass Group – 7:00–9:00 PM Writers Group – 10:00 AM Session Meets at 10 AM Quilters – 12:00 PM
May 21	Al-Anon – 8:00 PM
May 22	Al-Anon – 7:00 PM Bluegrass Group – 7:00–9:00 PM
May 27	Worship Committee – 11:00 AM
May 28	Al-Anon – 8:00 PM
May 29	Al-Anon – 7:00 PM Bluegrass Group – 7:00–9:00 PM

May Birthdays

24 Brent Long
28 Amy Kessler

Women’s Bible Study Summer Fellowship

May 19	Meet at Guadalajara’s Restaurant for lunch at 1 p.m. 1911 King Ave. W
June 16	Meet at church for pizza at 1 p.m.
July 21	Meet at 4B’s Restaurant at 1 p.m. 4907 Southgate Drive
August 18	Potluck salad luncheon at church at 1 p.m. Bring a salad to share

Announcing:

The Czechmates return to Billings for a concert of piano duets

On Saturday, May 2, 3 p.m. at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 180 24th Street West, Mary Apple and Betty Whitting will be playing piano duets by Dvorak, Beethoven, and Peter Warlock. While in Billings over a dozen years, the two church musicians put on numerous concerts and cantatas with the choir and soloists as well as piano or piano/organ duets. Now living in Sheridan, Wyoming, Betty and Mary have joined together again focusing on their Bohemian heritage with Slavonic Dances by Antonin Dvorak. The concert expands to include an early sonata by Beethoven and the 20th Century wild Capriol Suite by Peter Warlock. Come and enjoy an afternoon of dances followed by a light reception.

Earth Care Worship By Jody McDevitt

The Earth Care Team led a special Earth Week service on April 19, featuring a message told in drama with Earth (AKA Carol Mick) at the center of the drama.

Imagine the parable of the Good Samaritan, with Earth as the one beaten up and left at the wayside. The first person who comes near rationalizes that God wants humans to prosper, and then passes by with his nose in the Bible. A second person rides her bike nearby, frets over the Earth's condition, but settles for buying organic carrots and feeling good about herself. A third person takes greater notice. She prays for guidance, starts a community garden, and invites others from her church to engage in healing the earth. What an observer calls the "Jungle Jesus Revival Thing" turns out to be an Earth Care Congregation, an answer to Jesus' teaching to love God and love our neighbors--and to love our neighbor Earth.

The skit and other portions of the worship service were adapted from Mennonite resources. St. Andrew received recognition as an Earth Care Congregation from the PC (USA) again this year.



Great job Earth Care team!



Carol brought the whole world to church! With joy and a big heart for creation, she reminded everyone how much there is to love and care for right here on Earth.

WORLD LABYRINTH DAY at St. Andrew
Saturday, May 2, 12:30 pm
By Jody McDevitt

For several years, we have hosted an observance of World Labyrinth Day with a gathering of community people led by Sharlene Inglis, a certified labyrinth facilitator. This year Sharlene has planned a labyrinth walk with drum and flute led by Connie Johnson. This is an international movement, "a global act of contemplative activism," uniting labyrinth walkers around the world to "Walk as One at 1" in a rolling wave of peace. There will be handheld labyrinths for those who choose to use them instead of physically walking. Come join us, and invite others to be part of this moving meditation.



Saturday, May 9 at 2:00 PM
Workshop: Growing Food in a Changing Climate

St. Andrew Community Garden

Learn sustainable gardening best practices with a guided garden tour to follow.
Let us know if you can help provide refreshments.

I'm often asked, "What exactly is Homeward Bound?" when people see them on the schedule, and rather than try to explain it myself, I thought it would be far more meaningful to share the words of someone who's seen its impact firsthand.

Here to give us a glimpse into this special ministry is Mary Wood:

What is Homeward Bound?
By: Mary Wood

Homeward Bound is a Christian program that St Andrew and several of our members help support at the Montana Women's Prison. We provide a once a month two hour service that includes a lot of singing, Bible reading, and everyone sharing their thoughts about our verses for that evening. Twice a year we do a weekend. It is based on what many of us have done as a Walk to Emmaus or a Cursillo.

The women in the prison often feel like those of us on the outside don't know or remember that they are there. They are amazed that we are willing to take the time to let them know that God loves them.

St. Andrew also often provides the Garden Room for the team training. These are the women who go into the prison to share with the inmates. This is a very special group of people made up of volunteers from many different denominations and churches. We usually have 4 meetings before each weekend. We all love meeting in the Garden Room. They often check out the garden and if they have time walk the labyrinth. St. Andrew is a convenient location. We have 20-25 people at each meeting coming from all directions.

Thank you St Andrew for your help and support.

GARDEN GLEANINGS

by Dave Kimball

We are riding a weather roller coaster! Temperatures soar way above average and then dip way below. Spring weather is always an erratic time of change, but we are experiencing the extreme fluctuations that climate scientists predicted many years ago. Severe storms in the Northeast and Hawaii, severe drought with raging wildfires in the Southeast, and the recent Red Lodge fire are all indicators of a changing climate. And we are experiencing drought conditions in our region with low snowpack and potential low stream flows this summer.

We activated the pump and water system in the garden early this year to provide moisture for earlier plantings, as our growing season has increased by several weeks in recent years. This is the 24th year for the pump, and we keep our fingers crossed every year when we turn it on.

Changing climate is also impacting plant growth and gardening. Come hear a presentation on “Growing Food in a Changing Climate in Yellowstone Valley” on Saturday, May 9th, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Andrew. The speaker will be Anthony Samartano, the Yellowstone Extension Service horticulturist.

Yep, despite the climate chaos, we are getting on with growing food. We had a big crowd of gardeners turn out for the Spring Workdays to get everything prepared for planting. Jeff oversaw the planting of about 300 hills of potatoes, and radishes, beets, and other early seed crops are going into the raised beds. Last fall’s planting of garlic is up and looking great. Carla is now filling the greenhouse with plants to be transplanted to the Mission Garden.

The Johnson clan, led by Eric, Lilia, and Don, completed a major project of creating a new path around the entire outside perimeter of the plot garden. It not only looks great, but it will also help keep grass from spreading into the plots. Big thanks to them and others who participated in completing this.

The new arbor that marks the entry to the labyrinth, which was fabricated and installed by Duane, will be a feature of our National Labyrinth Day celebration on Saturday, May 2nd, at 12:30 p.m. Come join this event and invite your friends to join us.

Come wander through the garden and walk the labyrinth to enjoy this wonderful plot of urban agriculture.



Creating a new border path around the plot garden.



Spring Workdays preparing the raised beds.



Some of the potato planting crew.

St. Andrew Financial Update

Information provided by :Jeff Kessler

Everyone here at St. Andrew is deeply grateful for the faithful, diligent work that happens behind the scenes to manage our resources with care and integrity. We extend sincere thanks to our Treasurer, Jeff Kessler, whose thoughtful oversight, attention to detail, and commitment to transparency help ensure the financial health of St. Andrew. His work allows focus on ministry with confidence, knowing that resources are being managed wisely. Please see below for Jeff's report.

Cash/CD position as of March 31, 2026:

Checking account balance 39,043.03
CD USBank 3.50% (matures 04/03/26) 25,000.00
(renewed on 04/03/26 with 09/03/26 maturity date)
CD USBank 3.25% (matures 07/13/26) 55,000.00
Total 119,043.03

A CD purchase in the amount of \$20,000.00 is planned to occur before the end of April. The checking account balance is projected to be sufficient for the CD purchase and to fund foreseeable operational needs.

Operational Highlights for the three months ended March 31, 2026:

Actual YTD | Budget YTD | Variance
Income 47,332.54 | 29,320.00 | 18,012.54
Expenses 31,639.61 | 36,679.56 | (5,039.95)
Net Income 15,692.93 | (7,359.56) | 23,052.49
Estimated giving exceeded budget by 8,940.00 while contributions exceeded budget by 8,386.50.

Expenses for facilities were 2,948.54 less than budget due in large part to favorable weather conditions reducing utility and maintenance expenditures.

Mission giving in total was less than budget by 2,182.50 due to timing of Church mission giving. Overall results for the three months are very positive. We are mindful that results are dependent on timing on congregational gifts and such timing is difficult to predict.

We are blessed as a congregation and give thanks to God for everything that has been provided to us.

In Simple Terms

In everyday language, the church is in a strong and healthy financial position. St. Andrew currently has just over \$119,000 in combined cash and savings (including CDs), and is still able to set aside an additional \$20,000 in savings while continuing to cover regular expenses.

For the first three months of the year, giving has come in significantly higher than expected, and expenses have been lower than planned. This combination has resulted in a positive financial outcome, rather than the shortfall that was originally budgeted. Some of the savings came from lower facility costs, thanks in part to milder weather, and while mission giving appears lower right now, that is simply due to timing and not a reduction in commitment.

Overall, the church is doing very well financially. At the same time, recognizing that giving can vary throughout the year. Most importantly, these numbers reflect a generous and faithful congregation with so much to be thankful for, and continued trust in God's provision moving forward together.



St. Andrew

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