

Sunday School 9:15 – 10:15 am
 Sunday Worship 8:30 am & 10:30 am

St. Timothy ELCA is a community of faith creating
 connection through the love of Jesus Christ

395 Valley Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470
sttimothynj.org

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Pastor

Director of Music

Office Manager

Church Office Email

Phone: (973) 694-8316

The Rev. Kimberly Cooper

Caroline Parody

Deb Califf

st.tims395@yahoo.com

Church Council

Josh Abrahamson	(201) 274-4093
Ken DeAngelis ..President.....	(201) 289-0641
Laura Dec	(973) 835-2348
Colleen Duffy ..Secretary.....	(973) 280-9773
Andrew Gaffney	(973) 634-7902
Cindy Gaffney	(973) 694-1595
Fallon Goskowski	(862) 485-2651
Marie Johnsson	(303) 667-2251
Valerie McGrath	(973) 628-1987
Karen Sajban ..Treasurer.....	(973) 229-4624
Eddy Schloesser ..Vice President..	(973) 402-1464
Barbara Westerberg	(973) 696-1471



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7 pm AA	2
3 8:30 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am ** No Coffee Hour 1pm AA	4 9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands 7 pm Boy Scouts	5 1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/ Holy Communion	6  7 pm Caroling 7 pm Bell rehearsal	7	8 7 pm AA	9 10:30 am Bookworms 
10 8:30 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am ** 11:30am Coffee Hour 1pm AA	11 TIPS deadline 9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands 7 pm Boy Scouts	12 1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/ Holy Communion 7:30 pm Council	13 Poinsettia deadline 10 am Angels Circle Needleworks 7 pm Choir rehearsal	14	15 7 pm AA	16 Jesse Tree deadline – bring your Angel Gifts tomorrow to church!
17 8:30 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Christmas Pageant 11:30am Coffee Hour 1pm AA	18 9-11:30 am Heart 'n Hands 7 pm Boy Scouts	19 1 pm Meditation w/Movement 2 pm Bible Study w/ Holy Communion 7 pm Christian Ed Committee	20 7 pm Bell rehearsal	21	22 7 pm AA	23
24 9:30am Advent Worship No Coffee Hour 1pm AA 5:30 & 10:30pm Christmas eve SERVICES	25 Office CLOSED 	26 Office CLOSED	27 7 pm Choir rehearsal	28	29 7 pm AA	30
31 Hymn Sing 9:30am Worship No Coffee Hour 1pm AA 			 DEADLINES: 11: TIPS contributions 13: Poinsettia orders 17: Jesse Tree Angel gifts			** Regular Sundays 9:15am Sunday School Adult Forum Adult Christian Ed Confirmation Class



*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

It's hard to start Advent, the time that we look forward to Christ coming, with the land of his birth at war yet again. I don't mean "yet again" as in the area has been under war and turmoil for thousands of years. It hasn't actually had much more war than most other parts of the world. The idea that Muslims and Jews or Arabs and Jews have been fighting since the days of Abraham or Mohammed is false. There have been periods of hundreds of years that people have lived in peace and harmony with one another in "The Holy Land."

What I mean by war "yet again" is based on the conflict surrounding the founding of the modern state of Israel in 1948. Earlier in the century, the British and French empires assumed control of the area. Before that, the Ottoman empire, and before that the Mamluks, Crusaders, Arabs, Byzantines, and Rome. (It was Rome that labeled this area of the world Palestine.) In the early part of the 20th c. the British Empire promised the area to the Arabs for their support in WWI, but then, after the war made an about face and issued the Balfour agreement establishing a Jewish homeland in the Palestinian area. When the world saw what happened in the holocaust of WW2, the newly formed United Nations supported a new state of Israel.

The Jews needed a homeland in a safe place, but instead European colonial powers with the guilt of a Jewish genocide on their shoulders, gave away Arab land to make it happen. It didn't turn out to be a safe place at all. There has been a whole lot of war ever since. Palestinians have been having their homes and land stolen. Israelis have been bombed in their buses and shot on their way to work. The violence keeps happening because each group keeps doing the same things over and over and over. The Israelis promote immigration of Jews and set them up on stolen land. The Palestinians become desperate enough to lash out from a position of less power, which depending on one's point of view, is either guerilla warfare or terrorism.

Even if Israel succeeded in destroying the land remaining to Palestinians, they still wouldn't be truly safe, because they are surrounded by Arab countries and Muslim countries with whom they have a very fragile peace. And the same United

Nations that gave them the land in 1948, is now pointing to *their* actions as war crimes and attempted genocide. Peace is proving elusive for a people that have been treated atrociously for a very long time.

I, honestly, don't know if the Israelis and Palestinians are ever going to be able to find peace. They want the same land. I don't have any answers, but I am confident that God loves every single person in the midst of this conflict. The Jews are still the people of God and Jesus Christ came into the world out of love for the world. So, while I don't have faith in the people living in "The Holy Land" to fix the mess, I do know that Jesus is always with the suffering.

This Advent, as we think about Jesus being born a Palestinian Jewish baby 2,000 years ago, we also have to be thinking and praying about all the Palestinian and Jewish babies being born today. The fact that the conflict is decades old and so incredibly complicated doesn't give us a pass from praying and doing what we can to work toward peace. We can't just look away, because we don't understand or because it makes us uncomfortable. Jesus never looked away from pain. He didn't avoid pain. He confronted it head on and, in the face of it, loved people.

It seems impossible – ridiculous even – but, love is the only possible answer. You can't bring about peace on earth, but you can love people. You can pay attention to the suffering in the world and do your own little bit. As Jesus's birthday looms close, focus on what you can do to make a difference. It's probably more than you realize.



Church News

December 6th

Mark your calendar to be a part of this annual tradition of spreading Christmas cheer among the homebound members of St. Timothy. We will meet at the church in the evening before departing to select locations. In the case of rain (or snow), we will carol on Saturday, December 9th instead.



Poinsettia Sale through December 13th

Orders are now being accepted for Christmas poinsettia plants which will adorn the Saint Timothy altar for Christmas and then be available to take home after services.

You may select either red or white blooms.

Make a dedication “in memory of” or “in honor of” the special people in your life.

Price per plant is \$7.50, so two for \$15!

[Click here](#) on the electronic version to complete the online order form! Otherwise, there are paper copies in the narthex; simply place in the collection plate or put in the Church Secretary mailbox cubby.

Jesse Tree - Angel Gifts Reminder!


There may still be tags available! Please check in the Narthex or contact Karen or the church office.

Please return wrapped and tagged gifts
(avoiding large bows and ribbons for packing purposes)
by the Sunday Dec. 19th 10:30 service.

Thank you!

Please contact Karen Sajban (973-229-4624)
or ksajban@gmail.com with any questions.





December 10th Shine a Light

The Wayne Clergy Council is excited to bring this opportunity to St. Timothy teens and adults. The opportunity to experience the traditions of alternate faith communities to gain a better understanding of what sets us apart while shining a light on what draws us together.

The first event in the series will take place at Temple Beth Tikvah on Sunday, December 10th from 12:00 to 2:15pm. All teens in grades 9 through 12 and adults are invited to register. Share in the tastiness of Jewish “ethnic” foods as a respectful discussion of Jewish heritage ensues.

Advent Youth Group Fundraiser



In need of childcare as you prepare for the busy holiday season? Our Youth Group (including adult advisors) will be offering an Advent Parents Night Out in December with tons of fun planned to occupy your little ones!

Contact the office for details on date and times.

A freewill offering is humbly requested.

We're equipped and happy to include the wider community, so if you have friends, family or neighbors who might benefit, please share the information:

Church Office: 973.694.8316

Office Hours 9am-12pm Monday-Friday

December 24th Worship Services



9:30am celebrates the 4th Sunday of Advent

5:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service

10:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service



Free for the taking!

Christmas cards are available in the Fellowship Hall for your personal use. Feel free to help yourself. If you need more, contact Barbara Kaplan at 973.341.7920



December 31st Worship

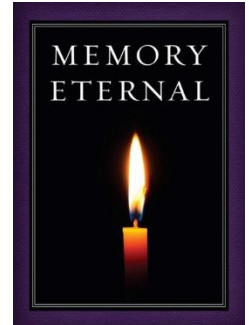


CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

Here's your chance to ensure your favorite tunes are part of a Christmas liturgy this year. Songs for the single 9:30am 12/31 service will be selected via Hymn Sing ballots. [Click HERE](#) on the electronic version of TIPS to submit your suggestions online. Beginning Sunday, December 3rd, paper forms will be available in the narthex, along with a collection box, and the link will be included in bulletin announcements and eblasts.

2024 Flowers & Candles

Sign-ups are now available for calendar year 2024 for sponsorships for both Sunday Altar Flowers and weekly sanctuary Eternal Candles. See the bulletin board near the interior steps into the church for the paper version. [Click HERE](#) for flowers and [HERE](#) for candles if you prefer to enroll online.



Flowers and Candles are a touching way to remember & celebrate our dear family and friends by noting life events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, Confirmation... or any other date that has special significance that you hold close to heart!



NEW for 2024... if you prefer to donate your floral arrangement rather than taking it home, the Altar Guild will make arrangements for your blooms to be given to worthy recipients, such as the sick or homebound of the congregation.

2024 Wall Calendar

sponsored by Vander May Funeral Home

In Psalm 19:2, the psalmist writes, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands.” In other words, the wonder and beauty of the natural world reflect our majestic Creator; nature itself becomes a cathedral where the faithful heart is drawn past what is seen into the realm of the unseen God.



Each month, catch a glimpse of these qualities accompanied by an inspirational Bible quote allowing for the glory of God to be reflected in his creation and our spirits to be lifted into his presence.

Pick up your lovely spiral bound, 10 1/2-inch x 18 1/2-inch calendar in the narthex or on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Heart 'n Hands Monthly Collection

This month's product is travel size medicated powder.

See drop-off information in H'nH section under "Missions"



Looking Ahead...

Meeting News



The Worship Committee planned out services through the end of the year during their November meeting, therefore they will NOT meet in December.

The next scheduled meeting will be
Tuesday, January 23, 2024

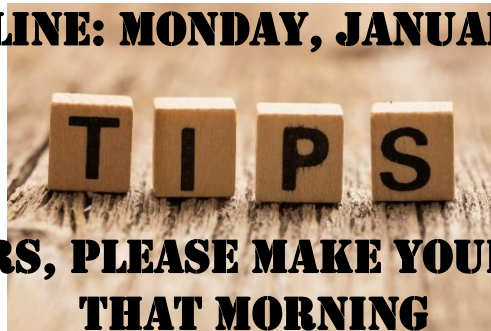
Friday Night Line Dancing ~ January 5th

We're taking a holiday break for December, but will be back in force and ready to shake our booty in 2024! From January through May, we will gather regularly on the 1st Friday of the Month!



You know the drill: Shoes or boots that can slide on the tile floor;
meet at 7pm in Fellowship Hall; and don't forget your water & snacks!

DEADLINE: MONDAY, JANUARY 15TH



**ALL CONTRIBUTORS, PLEASE MAKE YOUR SUBMISSIONS BY
THAT MORNING**

The Bulletin Board

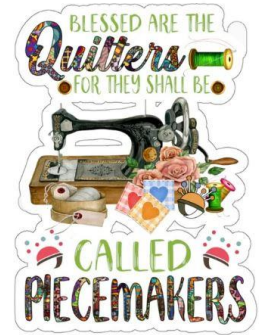
Angels Circle & Knitters/Crocheters

Next meeting date is December 13th. This is the *only* meeting date this month.

Have a Merry Christmas! --Barbara Kaplan



Nellie's Knit (and crochet) Group will also meet on the 13th; same time ~ 10am; same place ~ Fellowship Hall.



Adult Book Group



Art & Sandy's discussion group will be taking off for the month of December. The group will pick up again in January.

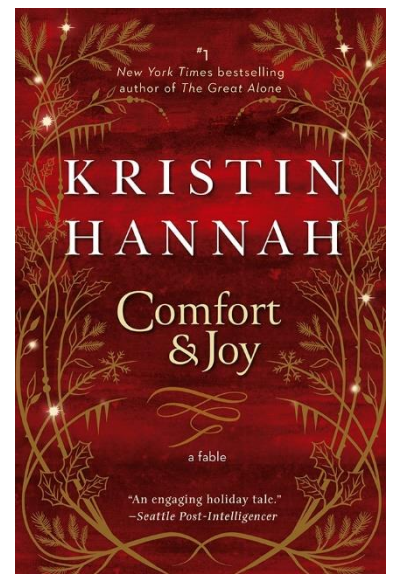
Bookworms ~ December 9th

In this modern-day fairy tale, *New York Times* bestselling author Kristin Hannah gives us a very special gift: the heartwarming story of a woman at a crossroads, caught between two lives, who finds a second chance at happiness. *—from the author*



For Bookworms information, contact Barbara Westerberg at 973.696.1471 on how to join in the friendly discussion.

Happy reading!



Communion & ~ Every Tuesday



The essence of practicing faith in the Lutheran way is through Word and Sacrament. In addition to worship on Sunday mornings, you can also engage in the bible readings for the upcoming week and receive communion on Tuesdays at 2pm. Anyone is welcome to join us for a less formal gathering in the parlor.

Pastor Kimberly also arranges for home visits to provide pastoral care and to administer Communion to those unable to receive the Sacrament either on Tuesdays or Sundays. Please call or text her or contact Deb in the Office if you would like to schedule a time for yourself or a loved one.

Meditation with Movement ~ Every Tuesday

Join us Tuesday afternoons at 1pm. Bring your own water bottle. The cost is \$30 per month, cash only, but pay as you go. Enjoy the companionship and reap the wellness benefits! We are open to all... not just church members, so tell your friends!

There will be no session on December 26th.

Sunday School ~ Every Sunday, September to June

Wow! Advent time is here again at St. Timothy! Each week, at the Jesse Tree, two Bible stories will be told to our Sunday School children through ornaments that they will color and hang on the branches each Sunday. The Jesse Tree is the Advent Tree of "Hope and Expectation". If any of you would like a copy of the ornaments, please let me know.

Come join our Sunday School as they perform "A Very Mixed-Up Christmas Pageant" in the Sanctuary on Dec. 17 during the Sunday School hour. This contemporary spin on a traditional nativity play will be a great way to remember the "Reason for the Season".

A weekly offering has always been part of our Sunday School classes. When our children learn how to give at a young age, they will likely carry that practice into adulthood. Our offerings are an act of worship where we respond to the grace, love and mercy of God. Each of our classes will have a basket for offerings. If you still have envelopes from the past, feel free to use them. If you do not have envelopes, no worries, we have more. If you have any questions, you can always ask me.

In His name,
Laura Dec

Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 3 – Advent season begins
- Dec. 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 16 – Parents Night Out
- Dec. 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday School Christmas Pageant during the Sunday School hour
- Dec. 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent
9:30am combined service only
NO Sunday School Classes
5:30pm & 10:30pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight services
- Dec. 31 – **NO** Sunday School Classes
- Jan. 7 – Sunday School Classes Resume



December

Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1 Benjamin Pardalis	12/14 Vincent Venturelli
12/1 Janet Romaine	12/15 William Muschko
12/2 Ryan O'Mealy	12/21 Carol Labadie
12/3 Craig Beyer	12/21 Anno Rocko
12/3 Ethan Gaffney	12/21 Julie Suarez-Hayes
12/5 Ellen Grexa	12/22 Roberta Jankiewicz
12/5 Marie Johnsson	12/23 Anya Cooper
12/8 Victoria Amico	12/26 CJ Beyer
12/8 Frank Scillieri	12/29 Sarah Riotto
12/9 Karen Kong	12/30 Holly Peterson
12/11 Lora Inciardi	



12/13 Barbara & Richard Koegel
12/28 Barbara & Richard Westerberg
11/30 Valerie & Mark McGrath

Should you be on this list, and you're not??

Please email Deb at st.tims395@yahoo.com

or call the office at 973-694-8316!



Update on our Syrian family



I delivered a shoe cubby to Mohammad and family (thank you Colleen Duffy) and ended up visiting for much of the day. Conversation was much easier as their English is much improved. Amani was quite proud to greet me and son Ahmed was a non-stop chatterbox telling me about all his toys in English 😊

Talked with Mohammad about his job a little, he likes it but is of course frustrated he does not have more hours. Correction on the company name, he is actually working for Portabella Fashion Company making men's suits, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

I learned of a few other talents they have that may have employment possibilities. They've filled the apartment with plants; Mohammad has quite the green thumb and expressed interest in working in agriculture (garden center?).



Amani crochets and showed me clothing she made for the kids. (see pics) Very talented. I said she could do Etsy and sell online.

Anyone have ideas how she might go about selling her clothing?



They had a doctor visit scheduled for Amani to deal with an allergic reaction (rash) so I offered to take them. Nothing too serious. It of course took longer than expected and I was invited for dinner but took a raincheck and promised my wife Nancy and I would visit together soon.

Guests are always welcome!

Thank you, Cliff Konnerth 201.757.4086 or ksnacs@msn.com



Since October 15, 2023, gifts have been given to a new sub-fund, The Pastor's Discretionary Fund, in loving memory of: Carol J. Cook

During this month, Memorial Funds were used to purchase hardware for our sound system mics – stand, gooseneck and cable. This equipment was put to good use during the singing of “A Little Jazz Mass” on Reformation Sunday, and we thank Bob Davidson for all that he did to enhance the system.

We are pleased that there have been additional paybacks from St. Timothy members who received Schleer and Flanders educational loans. We encourage all recipients of these loans to set up payment schedules, so that we can continue to assist our young people with the high cost of college. Gifts to the Schleer and Flanders Loan Funds are always appreciated, as well!

No Memorial Garden pavers were purchased this month, so our paver total stands at 116.



The price of a paver is \$300.00. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words “Memorial Garden” on the memo line. Pavers may be engraved with the names of deceased loved ones, or left blank for future engraving. Paver application sheets are available in the narthex. See Pat Winters for further information or assistance. The Memorial Garden is self-supporting; gifts are welcome at all times!

We also welcome contributions to the fund for restoration and enhancement of our Church organ. This work is on-going. Checks may be made to St. Timothy Memorial Fund, with the words “Organ Repair” on the memo line.



We are grateful to all who have given to the St. Timothy Memorial Funds – the General Memorial Fund, the Music Fund, the George Laubscher Monday Morning Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, the Eternal Light Candle Fund, and the Flanders/Schleer Scholarship Loan Funds – and for those faithful repayments to the loan funds.

Heart 'n Hands Mission



Thank you for supporting our year-round personal care kits campaign. We have provided hundreds of care kits each month and hope to repeat this in 2024. We appreciate all monetary contributions and donations of travel size toiletries that allow us to continue this vital mission. This month we are asking for donations of travel and full size medicated powder.

On Sunday, November 5, three St. Timothy youth assembled 253 dental care kits in 45 minutes. Gloria Cooper, Caroline Corbett, and Maggie Cooper were a great team, organizing an efficient assembly line that would have impressed Henry Ford himself! And as you see, they had more than a little fun doing it. Thank you Gloria, Caroline, and Maggie for your support.



We are currently accepting donations of winter clothing, coats, boots, hats, gloves, and scarves. We especially need children's coats, and also welcome donations of blankets and sleeping bags.

Please look for the new edition of our Heart 'n Hands Newsletter coming to your inbox this month. If you're not receiving it and wish to be added to our mailing list, or if you'd like a printed copy, please contact Cathe Davidson at info@heartnhandsmisson.com.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Would you like to be part of a prayer chain? If you are interested, please contact me at the number listed below.

Here's how it works: When someone calls me with a request you will be contacted to pray for that person, you will then pass the request on to one other person who will do the same. These requests will not be published.

To ask for prayer, call me and I will start the prayer chain. Requests can be as simple as "please pray for my neighbor who has to move into a nursing home?" or it can be "please pray for my daughter Ann". Feel free to give as many or as little details as you feel comfortable. Your request will be on the list for 4 weeks unless you call to continue.

Those calling with requests will be asked if it is confidential or if it can be shared. If you get my answering machine, you can simply say something like 'this is for prayers' and leave a phone number and I will call you when I get home.

Please call for any additional information,

Barbara Westerberg ~ 973-696-1471



WIN Food Pantry

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Currently the Pantry is serving 170 clients, of which 50 are families with children. Here's how YOU can help:

Donations: Nutritious, non-perishable food-[click HERE](#) for current needs. Consider sugar-free, gluten-free, and no-salt food items for our families with members who have dietary restrictions.

Supermarket Gift Cards: Donations of Shoprite gift cards, in denominations of \$10 or \$20, are useful to the pantry in a variety of ways and are always welcome.



Volunteer: You can also donate your time and talents as well as encourage your religious or service organization to work with us to become better informed about the needs in our community.

Dedications: If you would like to make a donation "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" please add all of the pertinent details into the "notes" section of the online donation form or as an enclosure with your check if being sent by mail. This information should include the person's name and address of where you would like an acknowledgement card sent, as well as your own name and address.

The food pantry hours are:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Tuesdays: 9:00 to 11:00 am

Thursdays: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Fridays: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

*Food donations may only be brought to the pantry
on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
during normal business hours or by appointment.*

Call us at 973.595.1900 first to be sure someone will be there.



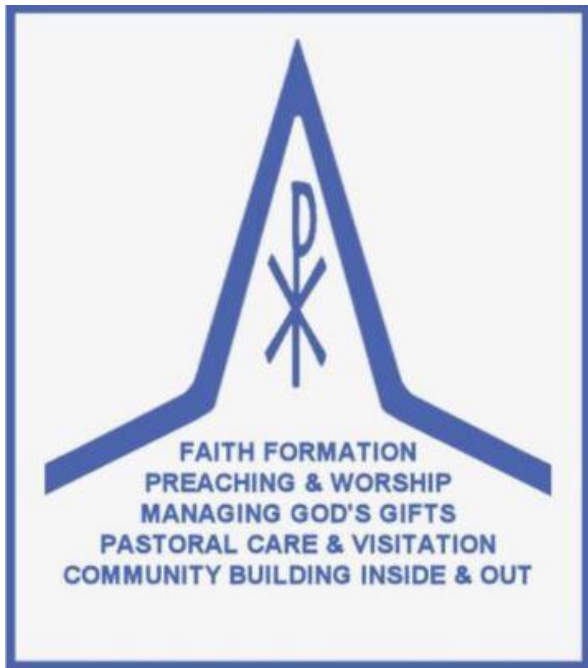
Day the light of
Christmastide
shed its
cheering ray
O'er thy homestead,
and abide
With thee every day.

E.A.L. Knight.

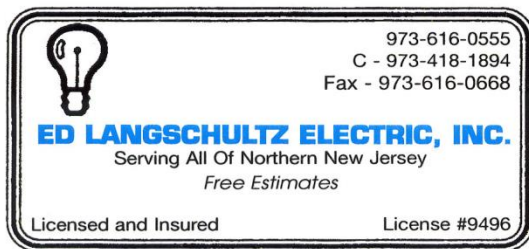


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St. Timothy Business & Service Directory



BUSINESSES



Evalyn Johnson's Granddaughter:



LeashNLather@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/LeashNLather

505 Saddle River Road
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

Tastefully Simple

Laura Dec, Consultant
Midnightangel2@optonline.net
www.tastefullysimple.com

Simplified Lifestyles through
Convenient & Unique Gourmet Foods

(973) 835-2348

ID# 0059231



Sandy's Art Studio

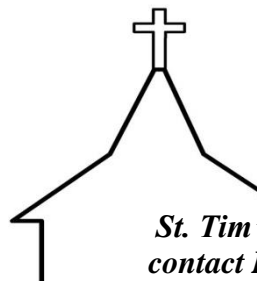
Come join us and experience the joy of art!

- Oil painting • Pen & Ink •
 - Color Pencil • Drawing • and more •
- We get kids to think out-of-the-box, learning creativity

Age 5 to Adult

1st lesson free • Wayne, NJ

Call: 973-956-7654 • Email: kittykay2@yahoo.com



St. Tim's Business/Service Listing
contact Deb Califf at 973-694-8316
or email at st.tims395@yahoo.com