

# SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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## Be Our Guest!

One of my favorite movies of all time is "Beauty and the Beast." I clearly remember the first time I saw it in 1991: it was a revolutionary film, like most

Disney films, about the story of a smart, peasant girl that wishes for more in life, but sacrifices herself to save her father only to discover love.

You can only imagine how excited I was when I found out that Disney had come out with a new "live" version in 2017. My daughter, my granddaughter and I were in the movie theater on the first day of showing. One of the songs of this beautiful tale is "Be our guest." Belle, the main character, finds herself trapped in the beast's castle, the beast is upset at the fact that Belle would not join him for dinner; ordering that she not eat anything unless it's with him. The servants of the castle, now converted into household appliances due to a curse, ignore their master's instructions and put together a spectacular dinner, with dancing and singing, where they invited Belle to be their guest.

It wasn't until I saw the live film that I realized something. In their excitement, the singing and dancing, the characters never let Belle eat. One plate is paraded after another without her actually touching it...she was the guest and she ended up being distracted by the show, but went to bed hungry...funny how even though they had the best intentions they completely missed their task of feeding the hungry girl!

We also receive guests very often, don't we? If you have been paying attention, we have had many "visitors" in the recent months. People that come to our church on Sunday mornings looking to be spiritually fed: some of our guests, are just passing by and there is "something" (A.K.A the Holy Spirit) that nudged them to stop and check out our church. Some have had a pretty tough day or week or month or even year; they are in desperate need of Sanctuary, and "something" brought them to us. Some have been hurt by the church, and are looking for a new congregation to start fresh. Some are on vacation. Some we continue to see often, and some never returned...all of them are our guests, and all of us, each needs to make sure that by the time they leave, they are not just spectators of a fancy show, but have been fed spiritually. Here are some dos and don'ts when it comes to welcoming our guests:

- It all starts at the parking lot! Make sure when you come to church that we have space in our front parking lot for our guests and people with special needs. If you can, do park in the back.

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- Do make sure our doors are open, and the church is clean! There's nothing that says we don't want you here like locked main doors and an untidy sanctuary. Don't expect someone else to clean after you!
- When you see a new face, do make a point to go and say hello! Not all at once of course, but make sure to introduce yourself to the guest and tell them we are glad they are here. Invite them to sign our book and fill a connection card.
- Do not! Single out guests during the announcements by asking them to stand up or say their names. This can be pretty embarrassing for people who are shy. Some of our guests have already pushed themselves enough to give us a try; don't do anything to make them uncomfortable. If you are tempted to single out a guest, remember that you can always go to them after service, introduce yourself and express that you are happy they are with us.
- Do make yourself available to answer questions and show them our church. People need to know where the bathrooms are, where we have fellowship, show them our children's corner and invite them to use it as needed, inform them of our Sunday School program, etc.
- Don't ignore our guests during fellowship time, spend time with them, get to know them.
- Do invite our guests to fellowship time, but most importantly tell them we hope we see them again!

Friends, we are a blessed church, the Holy Spirit is nudging people in our direction and it's our responsibility to greet them and make them feel welcomed, loved, and accepted. That task begins in the parking lot and has to do with all we do during Sunday mornings. From worship to fellowship, we are all responsible for treating our guests as the most important people in the room, after all Jesus died for them! That makes us incredibly lucky to have them as our guests!

Blessings,  
Ximena

**Dates to Remember:**



- Clean-Up Day:** Every first Saturday of the month.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Happy Independence Day:** Building Closed!
- Finance Team Meeting:** July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the parsonage.
- Administrative Church Council:** July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the parsonage.
- Church Picnic at Lois McDonald's House:** August 13<sup>th</sup> after Church Service.
- Choir Practice** will resume August 27<sup>th</sup> 2017.
- Summer Worship Schedule:** 10:00AM for July and August.



The mission of The United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Matthew 28: 18-20; Matthew 22: 36-40). This mission is achieved through vital congregations that equip and empower people to be disciples of Jesus Christ in their homes and communities around the world.

**Our Vitalsigns:**

The Vitalsigns Dashboard is a tool developed by Brick River through GCFA. This tool allows you to track your weekly worship attendance, professions of faith, small group participation, missional participation and financial giving for your congregation.

It is a tool designed to help congregations follow their progress on the goals that they set for each year, based upon

Date	Worship Attendance	Small Groups Attendance (week)	Pledges & Offerings	Charitable Giving	New Members
6/11/17	69	0	\$912	\$20	1
6/4/17	71	0	\$1270	\$172	3
5/28/14	46	12	\$887	\$0	0
5/21/17	53	14	\$803	\$0	0
5/14/17	45	9	\$766	\$0	0
5/7/17	106	3	\$1987	\$97	0
4/30/17	49	0	\$1305	\$43	0
4/23/17	40	6	\$765	\$0	0
4/16/17	56	0	\$1362	\$0	0



**Prayer for Our Congregation:**

Dear God, I thank you for all of the ways you are present in my life, especially today, I thank you for Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church and all of the ways you are present among us. Lord, I pray for all of the leaders in my church today; I ask that you guide us to be the church you want us to be. Transform us, O Lord, so we can truly be your hands and feet on earth.

Lord, I pray for the health and growth of Saint Andrew's UMC. I ask that you heal our hearts and give us a courageous spirit so that we can reach out to the ones that need to hear the Good News.

Lord, I pray for my brothers and sisters who are not yet in our midst; Lord, send us all of the people that no one else wants, but whom you are calling to follow you, and help us to welcome them as you have welcomed us.

Send your Holy Spirit to us so we can transform the world in Jesus' name; give me the strength to love you with all of my heart, soul and mind, and to love my neighbors as myself. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

the goal-setting challenge initiated by the Vital Congregations work. It is a response to the Call to Action to focus on fostering and sustaining an increase in the number of vital congregations effective in the mission of The United Methodist Church.

**The Cat and the Tiger by Diana Grippen**

The boy he looks at the cat  
There's more to life than that!  
Soft, round, gold fur and oh-so-fat.

The cat she has her due  
Seems contented it's true.  
Warm happy pet, for you she will mew.

The boy he feels the call  
The jungle and life and all,  
And the echoing roar of the tiger fills him with awe.

Black, gold that hunts its own food,  
Smug survivor who plays for blood,  
Law of the jungle he knows, overrules.

The boy he looks at the cat...  
Cat rug I will not be that  
Black, gold, powerful jewel  
One a man cannot rule  
I'd rather be the tiger.

**Missions**



**We serve God by serving others. Here is what you can do:**



**Connectional Giving** — all of us giving together — allows United Methodists to do together what we cannot do alone.

We join in with United Methodists around the world in 6 special collections through the year. The money collected goes 100% to a specific mission designated by the general church. For more information, go to [UMCGIVING.com](http://UMCGIVING.com). Every first Sunday you can donate to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund -- this money is used by the pastor to help with immediate needs in the community.



**Food Pantry Collection** -- non-perishable items are collected during the month. Every first Sunday of each month all of the collected food items will be taken and delivered to a local Food Pantry. Fall and winter months are always challenging, and Food Pantries are always empty.



**Days for Girls International** is a grassroots non-profit creating a more dignified, humane and sustainable world for girls through advocacy, reproductive health awareness, education and sustainable feminine hygiene, because no girl should go without.

The poverty cycle can be broken when girls stay in school, which is a huge challenge in some countries. Not having sanitary supplies means Days without school and isolation. Days for Girls gives Days back to girls, Days that can change their lives. Our church will be joining the CT district and the New York Annual Conference this year to support the Days for Girls program. For \$20, one Kit will provide sustainable feminine hygiene for one girl for 3 years! Please make checks payable to the Saint Andrew's UMC (write Days for Girls in memo line).



Join us in our 2017 Operation Christmas Child campaign. Help us fill many boxes full with hope and joy for children all over the world. We will be collecting small toys, school supplies and \$9 per box so they can be shipped around the world.



**RAISE THE ROOF** is a Connecticut District Mission Project in Partnership with the South Congo Conference.

Bishop Kainda Katembo has reached out to the Rev. Wayne Lavender, pastor of Faith UMC in North Haven and director of the Foundation 4 Orphans, requesting the construction of a new orphanage for 80 children in the city of Lubumbashi, DRC. The newly proposed and designed orphanage for 80 children will consist of 5 buildings. The roofing for these dorms will be tin. Each building will need 80 sheets of tin: cost to install each sheet of tin (including purchasing of the tin, nails and labor) will be approximately \$50. Our church will join our District on this project. Please make checks payable to the Saint Andrew's UMC (write Raise the Roof in memo line).



**Hope Bags:** We are looking for items to fill Hope bags to share with people in a homeless situation around New Haven. So far, our members have distributed more than 100 bags. Praise God!

Some ideas are: 1 gallon zip lock bags, socks, cereal bars, water bottles, tissues, soap, deodorant, shampoos, etc. You can also donate money for this ministry and we will shop for you!

**Finance News**



The General Council on Finance and Administration is proud to be in partnership with Tribute to present [UMCmarket.org](http://UMCmarket.org) -- the online portal designed for United Methodists to shop online at a variety of retailers who will donate to your local church or other United Methodist entities, to help you raise funds for ministry. Visit [umcmarket.org](http://umcmarket.org), establish your free online account and support our church.



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support our church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our church. Make sure you select Saint Andrew's UMC as your organization!



- |                               |                              |                             |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Donna Francis</b> 7/3      | <b>John Quimby</b> 8/1       | <b>Jennifer Arvelo</b> 8/18 |
| <b>Elizabeth Braddon</b> 7/13 | <b>Joshua Cordero</b> 8/5    | <b>David Guthrie</b> 8/28   |
| <b>Mark Rockefeller</b> 7/14  | <b>Destiny Herrmann</b> 8/6  | <b>Willie Tart</b> 8/29     |
| <b>Norma Ryan</b> 7/22        | <b>Elizabeth Harlow</b> 8/12 | <b>Mark Lillie</b> 8/31     |
| <b>Rawley Lynch</b> 7/25      | <b>Moises Varas</b> 8/13     |                             |
| <b>Nicole Morales</b> 7/29    | <b>Carol Tripp</b> 8/17      |                             |



One of my joys is to spend time with you. I see most of you on Sundays, but Sundays are usually very hectic; unfortunately I don't get to do that as much as I'd like. Some of you I don't get to see much. That is why I would like during summer to invite you to have coffee (or tea, or soda, or lunch or ice cream or a walk or whatever you'd like) with me. No agenda, just a time where we can meet and talk about what is important to you. This invitation is for all of you! And I am hoping you will take me up on it. Please call me at (203) 278-1568 or email me at ([Ximena.varas@nyac-umc.com](mailto:Ximena.varas@nyac-umc.com)) letting me know you want to have coffee with me and we will make the necessary arrangements. Looking forward to spending time with you!

Love,  
Pastor Ximena



To the choir for the music that enhanced our worship service! We look forward to having you back in September. To all who worked on our Tag Sale, especially Jamie for organizing us!



Are you interested in becoming a member of our church or want to learn more about us? Please contact the pastor!



Here at Saint Andrew's, we believe in the power of prayer! If you or someone you know needs prayer, please contact the pastor by phone or e-mail.



Pastor Ximena is available for talks, prayers and visits; in fact, she would love for you to invite her to visit. Please call her office, cell, or send her an e-mail to set up an appointment. Let her know if you or a loved one is in the hospital.



Receive updates, prayer requests and what is happening in worship every week; subscribe to our mailing list by emailing us, [office@standrewsnh.com](mailto:office@standrewsnh.com)



Please sign up to bring snacks and/or drinks for the coffee hour. The sign-up sheet is on the refrigerator in the kitchen. Contributions are greatly needed and appreciated!

Sunday school will be on a break until September! Children are encouraged to attend and participate in worship during the summer. Joyful noises and giggles are always welcome.



Congrats to Briannah Morales and Cathalene Tobias for graduating from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade!



Blessings to Briannah Morales and Nadia Cruz on confirming.



**1 Corinthians 12:12-14 'The Voice'**

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body is one whole made up of many different parts, and all the different parts comprise the one body, so it is with the Anointed One. <sup>13</sup> We were all ceremonially washed through baptism<sup>[a]</sup> together into one body by one Spirit. *No matter our heritage—Jew or Greek, insider or outsider—no matter our status—oppressed or free—we were all given the one Spirit to drink.* <sup>14</sup> *Here's what I mean: the body is not made of one large part, but of many different parts.*

Our church functions well when all the parts do their job, the vitality of the church lays on Disciples of Christ, like yourselves, willingness to share your gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the transformation of our community in Jesus' name.

We have several jobs open in our community. My hope is that you will consider sharing your time and your talents with us.

- Nursery Teacher and Assistant: provides care for children under 4 years of age during worship. The nursery teacher and assistant need to follow our Safe Sanctuary policies
- Altar Care: in charge of decorating the altar depending on the season and theme of worship, change the colors of the altar, buy and set the communion elements weekly.
- Administrative Assistant: assists the pastor with administrative tasks like printing bulletins, inserts and other office duties.
- Adult Group Leaders: organizes and facilitates small faith group formations that would meet at different places and times during the week.

If there is another gift that you possess that is not listed we invite you to talk to the pastor. We are all needed to make St. Andrew's a vital congregation that makes disciples in Jesus' name.

## Summer Worship Guide 2017

### Upside Down: A Different Way to Live

This sermon series gives us the opportunity to spend four weeks exploring what it means to live differently as a follower of Jesus. Using the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 5, this series introduces us to the radical teachings of Jesus, and—rather than dismissing them as extreme teachings—helps us live them out in a lifestyle of countercultural love and grace.

#### 7/9 Happiness Redefined

The series begins with a study of the Beatitudes, in which Jesus reverses our typical understanding of happiness, showing us the blessings that come in the midst of grief, hopelessness, and humility

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:1-12

#### 7/16 You Can Change Your World

This week explores what it means to be salt and light in the world, embracing our role in the world-changing work of Jesus.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:13-20

#### 7/23 A Higher Standard

This week, we will see how Jesus raises the bar on our basic sense of right and wrong, calling those who follow him to a higher standard.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:21-37

#### 7/30 Love the Ones You Hate

The final week will be a powerful invitation to examine and transform the way you relate to others through the radical teachings of Jesus.

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:38-48

### Imagine the People of God

*I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old ones shall dream dreams, and your young ones shall see visions. -- Joel 2: 28-32*

What does community look like that is living out its call to be the "people of God?" In this four week series, we are asked by our inspirational theme song to "Imagine the People of God" that care, share, believe, receive, seek, dream and change. Readings from the Epistle letters to early Christian communities will help us enter into this conversation that is as old as Christianity itself. Let's come together to imagine and create better relationships, better family, better church, better world!

#### 8/6 Imagination

The words of our theme song, "Imagine, imagine the people of God..." point us to an innate gift we are share from God—the gift of imagination. Made in the image of God, we are endowed with the ability to create, to dream, to re-form and form a new and right way of being with each other. In this first week of our series, we will affirm this beautiful gift and begin to "imagine the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love" in our communities.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 3:16-21

#### 8/13 Compassion

Our theme song continues with an image of a community of compassion, "caring, sharing God's love in the world." Indeed, from the early Hebrew practices of leaving the gleanings of harvest for the poor, to Jesus' commission to care for "the least of these," compassion is the true measure of a community as the Body of Christ. The scriptures ask us, "is your heart tender and compassionate?" What will be answer? And what will we discover about how good life can be when compassion is at our core?

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:1-10

#### 8/20 Transformation

Just because we can imagine the people of God as the idyllic description of our theme song, does not mean that we are there yet! These words from the song, "seeking the way of Jesus Christ, trusting the courage to change," remind us that this is a process of moving in the direction of a better community. The good news is that we are not just endowed with imagination, but we can rely on the courage God gives us to be the change we want to see in the world.

**Scripture:** Romans 12

#### 8/27 Fruition

Our last worship experience in this series invites us to reflect on the fruits of our imagining the "kingdom of God"—the family of God—in right relationship. What does it look like to be a community who is "believing, receiving, becoming God's love," and who can sing with exuberance, "we are your people, O God!" Our scripture from Galatians offers up an image of what this looks like and we offer our lives in "loyal commitment" to this vision.

**Scripture:** Galatians 5:13-23

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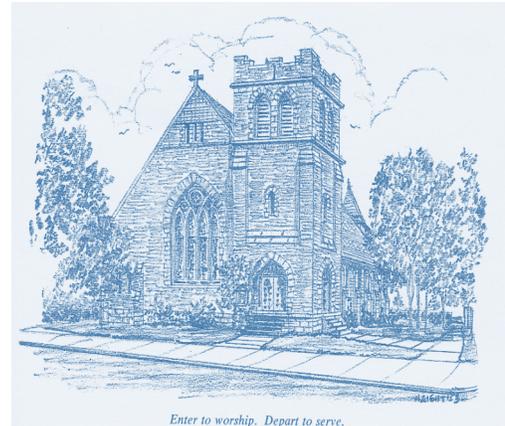
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