

SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Saint Andrew's United Methodist Church, 1230 Townsend Avenue, New Haven, CT 06513

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They went fishing! After all that happened, they went finishing! Don't believe me, take your Bible and read the gospel of John, Chapter 21.

After living the most life changing events, learning from Jesus himself, seeing him perform the most amazing miracles, sharing many meals, many stories, they witness his arrest, they look closely at his persecution and walk with him to the cross. They saw him die. They saw the empty tomb. They saw Jesus resurrected, they touched his hands and side...and they went fishing...

I chuckle as I review the events because that is such a human thing to do. No matter who we are, or what we experience, there is something that will always push us to go back to what we know and those things that make us comfortable.

They were fishermen, they found comfort in that, fishing and the water. In a way, it makes sense that they will go back to do what they know. And Jesus knew it because it is there where he finds them again. A similar experience happens to us each year. Through Lent and Holy Week, we retell the most amazing life changing story, the story of our faith. We go all the way to the cross and on Sunday morning we rejoice with Alleluias as we celebrate the resurrection, and then we come back to business as usual. We go back to whatever it is that is comfortable and known to us, we go back fishing.

The Good News is that the same Jesus that looked for the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias and cooked them breakfast (who knew he could cook!) is the same Jesus that searches us in our hiding spots.

Easter is not just a day, it is not just a liturgical season (50 days from Easter, all the way to Pentecost Sunday) it is a way of life for us that call ourselves Christian.

Jesus died for you! Yes, you! But most importantly Jesus resurrected for you! PRAISE GOD! Jesus took upon himself the job of restoring your relationship with The Father. That is the gift of Easter, a gift that you can

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choose to open or ignore, a gift that you can store away or allow to transform your life.

We are called to claim the mystery of the resurrection and live out an Easter life full of hope for the future, with the certainty that at the end God wins and we get to celebrate together, not because of who we are or what we have done, but because of who God is and what Jesus has done.

It is my prayer that all of us allow Jesus to meet us right where we are, in the comfort of our everyday life. Let him show you what an abundant life looks like, let him nurture you and strengthen you so you can follow him as a faithful disciple.

No business as usual for us, instead a life transformed by the power of Jesus.

May it be so.

Ximena



May

Sandra Guthrie **5/10**
Charlene Tobias **5/10**
Ximena B. Varas **5/29**

June

Irene Bailey **6/3**
Dorey Boutwell **6/5**
Ross Grippen **6/7**
Junette Cole **6/10**
James Lawson **6/16**
Jennifer Miessau **6/18**
Jesse Carpenter **6/23**
Janet Dey **6/23**
Jean Smith **6/27**

Dates to Remember:

Clean-Up Day: Every first Saturday of the month
Administrative Church Council: May 2, 2017, 7:00 PM at the parsonage
Mother's Day: May 14, 2017
Bishop's Day at the District: May 16, 2017
Pentecost Sunday: June 4, 2017 (wear something red)
New York Annual Conference Event (Hofstra University): June 7th to 11th (pastor at the Conference)
Sunday School End of the Year Celebration Service: June 11, 2017
Peace with Justice Sunday: June 11, 2017 (Special Sunday UMC)
Father's Day: June 18, 2017
Pastor's Vacation: June 19 to July 3 (call Philippa Blake, Diana Grippen or Ralph Pickup for emergencies)
Summer Worship: during July and August worship will begin at 10:00 AM



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

**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.

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 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.

Date	Worship Attendance	Small Groups Attendance (week)	Pledges & Offerings	Charitable Giving	New Members
4/16/17	56	0	\$1362	0	0
4/9/17	51	9	\$1186	\$5	0
4/2/17	45	12	\$1077	\$102	0
3/26/17	41	6	\$844	\$32	0
3/19/17	34	6	\$1029	\$26	0
3/12/17	35	9	\$669	\$0	0
3/5/17	37	0	\$1312	\$77	0

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. **Next Collection is on June 11th, Peace with Justice Sunday.** 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
Donations Needed

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).



RAISE THE ROOF is a Connecticut District Mission Project in Partnership with the South Conao 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 -- 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, 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, 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!

Finance Committee

With your faithful support, we have been able to do really meaningful ministries at St. Andrew's UMC. We thank God for each of you and your generosity because it is only through your responses that our ministries can be successful. God had brought us together to use our gifts and resources for Him.

During our annual campaign, last year Pastor Ximena asked that each of us support St. Andrews through prayer, presence, service, witness and giving (both spiritually and financially). All of these ingredients are indispensable to maintain a healthy and vital church. We need you in order to sustain the ministries of our church for many years to come. We need your help to be responsible stewards of this community called St. Andrews and all the buildings in our care. This means making sure everything is locked and lights are off when we leave. It also means we depend on your pledges and financial giving to ensure the growth of our community. We know we can count on your faithfulness because we know your gifts are given to advance God's Kingdom.

Finance Committee (continued)

Look for a change to our annual giving program in October. The Finance Committee voted to change to a calendar year (Jan. to Dec.) with our pledges for two reasons. First, it will allow all of you that pledge a certain amount weekly or monthly to better keep track of how you are doing. Secondly, it will make it easier for us to keep our books in order.

If anyone has any questions or issues about their pledges, please contact Lucille. If you have any other financial questions regarding our church please contact me.

In Jesus' name Thank You.

John Quimby



To all readers, singers and decorators who helped make the Holy Week services special
To all who honored a loved one with flowers this Easter



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

Acolytes: We appreciate the work done by Briannah Morales and Destiny Herrmann, serving as acolytes. They open the weekly service with dignity and respect. Thanks also to Brenda Herrmann for helping the girls.



Children 5 years and older are invited to join Sunday school class the second, third and fourth Sundays of each month. Our last Sunday School day for this year will be June 11. We will see you back in September!



Special Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, Carol Trip and Diana Grippen and their assistants, Joan Gans, Brenda Burgos, Lucile Clancy, Ross Grippen, Brenda Herrmann and Janet Dey. We couldn't do it without you! A Special recognition to Carol for running our program with excellence. God bless you all.

Easter Flowers



The sanctuary looked beautiful on Easter, thanks to the gorgeous flowers purchased by parishioners. The thirty lilies, tulips, hyacinths and daffodils, along with 25 primroses for the children, were a lovely sight and really added Easter joy to the service. Our thanks to everyone who purchased flowers in memory or honor of special people.

We send our sincere thank you to those who worked so hard to make the wonderful display of flowers occur: Ralph and Carolyn Pickup, Morris Penington, Lynn Stowe and Carol Tripp.



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!

Bishop's Day at the District takes place on May 16, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. -- 7:15 p.m. at Waterbury UMC, 250 Country Club Rd., Waterbury, CT 06708. Laity and Clergy are invited to join the Bishop for dinner that evening. Reservations will be required. The Laity will also have some time for conversation after dinner.



Operation Christmas Child (Shoebox Program): If you read the article from the last newsletter you would know that our church was challenged by a volunteer at the drop-off location last November to up our goal to 100 for 2017. Thank you to those that have purchased items towards that goal. Listed below are some of the items we have and the number of each. Thank you for your support.

109 Matchbox Cars	70 Pkgs Tissues
53 Bead Necklaces	16 Stuffed Animals
50 Toothbrushes	31 Soaps
12 Pencil Sharpeners	11 Glue Sticks
36 Pencils	6 Washcloths
85 Pencil Erasers	5 Boxes Crayons (24 Count)
100 3" X 5" Pads	7 2" Balls

Gift Ideas

Toys: small matchbox style cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils, crayons (24 pk) or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Hygiene Items: toothpaste, individually wrapped bar soaps, combs.

Other: Hard candy and lollipops (individually wrapped), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries).

DO NOT INCLUDE: used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

The Great Fifty Days of Easter: Living as Baptized Disciples of Jesus Christ Worship Series

The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year.

The Easter Season focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the gifts from the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

Lessons from the Acts of the Apostles replace readings from the Old Testament because the early church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness to the Resurrection.

May 7, 2017 Awakening to Baptism

Scriptures

Acts 2: 42-47
1 Peter 2: 19-25
John 10: 1-10

May 14, 2017 Becoming One with Christ

Scriptures

Acts 7: 55-60
1 Peter 2: 2-10
John 14: 1-14

May 21, 2017

Becoming One with Each Other

Scriptures:

Acts 17: 22-31
1 Peter 3: 13-22
John 14: 15-21

May 28, 2017

Becoming One in Ministry

Scriptures:

Acts 1: 1-11
Ephesians 1: 15-23
Luke 24: 44-53

June 4, 2017

Pentecost-Confirmation Sunday

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13
Acts 2: 1-21
John 20: 19-23

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United Methodist Church**

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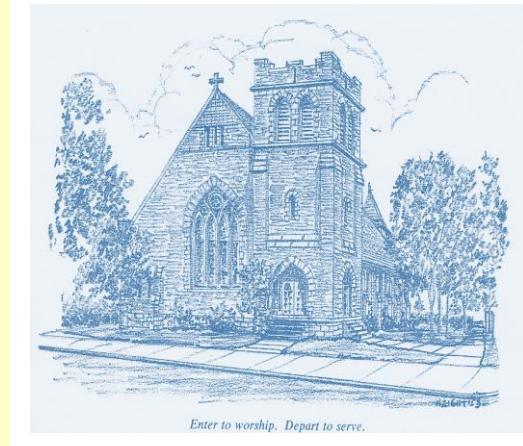
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Enter to worship. Depart to serve.

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May/June 2017