

SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

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I don't like to wait; I don't like to wait. I hate waiting in traffic, or in a long line in the store. I am terrible when I must wait to give a gift to someone I love. I don't like to wait.

Regardless of my dislike of waiting, this past couple of months has been a month of waiting. I waited and waited and waited for my granddaughter to be born and I waited each day to hear the news that my grandfather, the best grandfather I could ask for, had gone to live his eternal life.

Both waitings happened at the same time, both brought joy and anxiety, both taught me a lot. Usually we associate waiting with doing nothing, like everything stops while we wait, but my recent waiting experience has shown me that waiting is full of actions and possibilities. My waiting time became an unexpected gift. As I waited for Rose to be born, I was given the opportunity to forget about the rest of the world and be with my daughter. We had 3 nights of labor (yes 3!), where Ximena and I could spend time together; some of that waiting was just the two of us, which in a large family like ours is not that often. As we waited, our mother-daughter bond became stronger.

As I was thinking about my grandfather and his journey, many days I felt I was so far, so useless, but then I realized that because I was far and doing "nothing," I was the best candidate to pray; so, I did. I prayed for him, for my grandma, for my aunts and uncles that were caring for him, for my whole family in Chile. What began as a petition for help from God became a prayer of thanksgiving, for my grandpa's life, for the blessing of having him in my life. As I waited and I looked at pictures, and I remembered phrases that grandpa use to say, the wait became the best way I could honor his life. I was "there" with him as I waited.

There are many things we wait for in life, some we wait short periods of time and some we wait for a long, long time, so much that it seems like it will never happen. Some waits are insignificant and some are life changing. Some are constantly in our minds and

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others we don't even remember we are waiting.....like lent.

Lent is a time of waiting. In the church we wait 40 days (without counting Sundays!) to reach that beautiful Easter Sunday. We wait for the beautiful flowers on the altar, for the pretty Easter dresses, for the Easter family meals and the Easter chocolate eggs. We wait and wait and wait to hear "Christ is Risen" again and again. For some of us this is an impatient waiting; for some, we have done it every year so we don't really think about it. But this waiting time is a time full of blessings and opportunities.

As we wait for Christ to be risen in our lives, we prepare ourselves to receive once again His gift of Grace. As we wait for Easter Sunday we examine our personal journey of faith, not to feel guilty but to correct and adjust the journey that brings us to Christ. We encourage and nurture one another, we remember that in our baptism we became family and we rejoice in the hope and promise of Easter morning! We freshen up on those spiritual practices that we may have forgotten about or we may even we go back to church on Sundays. We wait, we actively, passionately, intentionally wait.

That is my hope for all of us this Lenten season. So, what are you waiting for?

Blessings,
Ximena



Dates to remember:



- Clean Up day:** Every First Saturday of the month
- Administrative Church Council:** March 5, 2017 after worship
- Saint Patrick's Dinner:** Saturday March 18th from 5PM to 7PM
- Daylight Saving Time** begins on Sunday, March 11th at 2AM
- Palm Sunday:** Sunday April 9, 10:30AM
- Maundy Thursday:** April 13, 7PM potluck dinner starting at 6:00PM
- Good Friday:** April 14, 7PM
- Easter Sunday:** Sunday April 16th at 10:30Am
- Easter Brunch:** Sunday April 23rd after the service
- Pasta dinner:** Saturday April 29th from 5PM to 7PM
- District Conference:** Sunday April 30, Meriden First



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 Vital Signs:

The Vital Signs Dashboard is a tool developed by Brick River through GCFA. This tool allows you to



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.

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 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
2/26/17	32	3	\$760	\$0	0
2/19/17	28	5	\$999	\$0	0
2/12/17	0	0	\$0	\$0	0
2/5/17	37	0	\$1059	\$169	0
1/29/17	42	0	\$806	\$15	0
1/22/17	38	8	\$712	\$25	0
1/15/17	40	9	\$701	\$13	0
1/8/17	22	5	\$853	\$0	0
1/1/17	33	0	\$591	\$74	0
12/24/16	47	0	\$0	\$0	0
12/18/16	37	13	\$727	\$35	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 **March 26, 2017, UMCOR 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.

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 by creating donations.



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!

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 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).

Birthday Celebrations



MARCH

- 02 Floyd Brown
- 04 Joseph McDonald
- 10 Lois Carpenter
- 30 Joan Gans

APRIL

- 04 Lola Copeland
- 09 Ann Penington
- 09 Caroline Cordero
- 25 Diana Grippen
- 25 Carolyn Pickup
- 29 Phillipa Blake
- 30 Sison Ligaya

Anniversary Celebration
March 05 Jorge & Ximena Varas



To all who participated in Souper Bowl of caring Sunday. With your help, we were able to raise over \$100 to tackle down hunger in our area.

To Jamie Lawson for preparing our Mardi Gras brunch
To Norma Ryan and Pastor Liz Braddon for covering for Pastor Ximena while she was on vacation



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.



Children 5 years and older are invited to join Sunday school class the second, third and fourth Sundays of each month. If you feel called to be a substitute teacher, please talk to Carol Tripp or pastor Ximena.

Notes on Sunday School by Carol Tripp: The Sunday School meets for classes on the second and third Sunday of each month. On the fourth Sunday, we have our Christian music class, with the help of Janet Dey. The first Sunday is a time for everyone to attend the worship service.

The Sunday School is studying heroes and heroines of the Bible. We studied the story of Esther, which reminded us that even in the middle of a difficult situation, God can work through us so that His ultimate plans are accomplished. We learned that even though things may happen around us that seem to go against God's way, God's plan will come to be. After reading about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we realized we have to be different when others are doing wrong. We have to believe God has a better way of living and we should live God's way. The story is a reminder that God is always with us. We look forward to learning about more heroes and heroines of the Bible in our future lessons.



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: Many thanks to Briannah Morales, Brenda Herrmann, Destiny Herrmann, and Cathalene Tobias for making the Acolyte program such a success. They do an excellent job and we appreciate their dedication.



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!



Join us for our Annual Saint Patrick's Dinner on Saturday March 18th from 5PM to 7PM. Dinner will be \$15/adult, \$7.50/children under 10 and free for infants under 2. Please call (203)467-0117 or email office@standrewsnh.com to make a reservation by March 15th (all proceeds will support the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's Methodist Church).



Join us for our Annual Pasta Dinner on Saturday April 29th, from 5PM to 7PM. Dinner will be \$10/adult, \$5/children under 10 and free for infants under 2. For more information, call (203)467-0117 or email office@standrewsnh.com (all proceeds will support the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's Methodist Church).



Join us on April 23 right after the service for our annual Easter Brunch! Everyone is welcome! The Lord is Risen! Let's celebrate as church family.



Time away with the Lord is fundamental for our Christian Journey. Here are some opportunities:

Emmaus for Youth

An Emmaus weekend offers young people of high school age a short course in the Christian way of life. Those who come to an Emmaus weekend experience Christian community, and a time of reflection and insight into their own lives. There is uplifting music, a chance to meet and get to know new friends, and opportunity to know oneself, others, and God on a deeper level, and to share the joyful and loving relationship that is central to the Christian experience. The total cost is \$45. Scholarships are available. The next weekend is April 28 to 30, 2017 at Nicholls UMC in Trumbull.

Tres Dias for Adults

Tres Dias is a community of Christians, from many denominations, supporting one another in our faith journey. On a Tres Dias weekend you will find yourself being drawn into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. What's more, you will be empowered to make an impact in your church, your home, even your workplace! A weekend retreat is a full three-day (typically Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon) experience which includes fellowship, music and activities to help strengthen your relationship with your fellow Christians, the Church and Jesus Christ. A wonderful thing you will discover about the weekend is that it takes the basics of Christianity and makes them personal for you. The opportunity to focus on Christ, for three days, in a loving and open environment, makes your faith come alive! Upcoming retreat for men and woman coming this spring! **For more information, talk to the pastor.**



Operation Christmas Child (Shoebbox Program): As many of you may remember, our church was challenged by a volunteer at the drop-off location last November to up our goal to 100 for 2017. That is an increase of 25 boxes, and on behalf of the children that will receive these gifts, with everyone's help, I'd like to try and meet that goal. Listed below are the items we have and the number of each.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 |

On behalf of my family may God bless all of you as you help our church help children get some gifts, maybe the first they ever got, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John, Jocelyn and John M. Quimby*

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.



To purchase one or more plants to help decorate the church on Easter morning, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or give it to Carol Tripp **by the deadline date, Sunday April 2**. Each plant will cost \$10 and may be paid with the order.

All checks should be made payable to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. Please print as neatly as possible, and indicate whether you wish to take your plant following the service on Sunday, April 16, or donate it.

Please note that each plant donated is for one name or one couple's name (as in "John and Jane Smith.") Please do not list more than one name/couple's name per plant donated.

Your Name: _____
(as you want it to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin)

Telephone # *(in case of a question)* _____

Number of Plants: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I would like to donate: ___ daffodils ___ hyacinths ___ tulips ___ lilies

- I wish to take my plant(s) home
- I wish to donate my plant(s)

LIVING OUR BAPTISMAL CALLING
Lenten Worship Series



Lent is popularly known as a season for individual self-examination, penitence, and "giving something up" as a spiritual discipline. It seems to be primarily inwardly and negatively focused. It's commonly seen as being about what's wrong with me as an individual and what I'm willing to do to improve myself.

While self-examination and some individual work are part of the work of Lent, the early church developed Lent to be primarily "other-focused." Lent was created as the final leg of intense preparation and support for people who had chosen to learn to live the way of Jesus. It was, we might say, a kind of finishing school for those preparing for baptism and lifelong Christian discipleship.

Join us during lent to remember the calling we received at our baptism and how we can fulfill our role as disciples of Jesus.

March 1, 2017

Ash Wednesday

Remember, you are dust. We gather to acknowledge our mortality and our sinfulness, and to seek God's mercy and guidance for the season of intensive formation and reformation in the way of Jesus that lies ahead.

Scriptures

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 5, 2017

Lent 1: Renounce

We walk the way of temptation with Jesus and learn from him what it means to continue to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.

Scriptures

Matthew 4:1-11

March 12, 2017

Lent 2: Accept

Through powerful image of new birth and the biblical story of the serpent in the wilderness, Jesus shows Nicodemus and us what it takes for us to accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

Scriptures

John 3:1-5, 14-17

March 19, 2017

Lent 3: Confess

In an encounter with a woman at a well in Samaria, Jesus confesses he is the Messiah, and she not only embraces this, but leads others to make the same confession.

Scriptures

John 4:5-15, 25-29, 39-42

March 26, 2017

Lent 4: Nurture

The response of the crowds to Jesus' healing of a man born blind says much about how our congregation can actively "nurture one another in the Christian faith and life, and include these persons now before you in your care," or fail to do so.

Scriptures

John 9:1-12, 24-25, 35-41

April 2, 2017

Lent 5: Believe!

The faith we confess, and the faith that transforms us, is more than intellectual assent to a theological construct. It is to stake our lives on the Triune God, and so join Martha's confession, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into this world."

Scriptures

John 11:1-15; 20-27; 31-35; 38-45

Join us during Holy Week to observe the journey of the Cross. Every step, every service is designed to help you grow closer in the understanding of Christ's sacrifice so you too can resurrect to a new life on Easter Morning. Invite others to join you on the journey to the cross.

Palm Sunday, April 9, 10:30am
Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:00pm
potluck dinner starting at 6:00PM
Good Friday, April 14, 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday April 16, 10:30am

**Saint Andrew's
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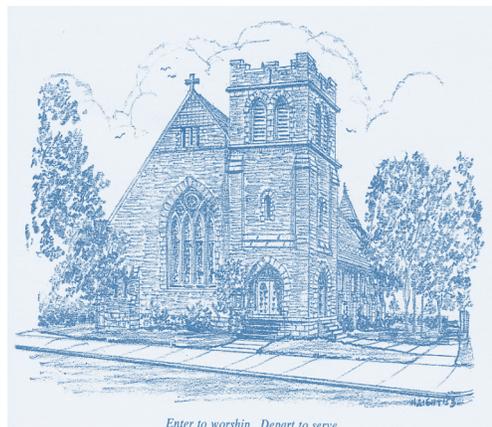
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March/April