

SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

Website: standrewsnh.com E-mail: office@standrewsnh.com Phone: (203) 467-0117



They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42).

You cannot talk about faith without talking about commitment. After all, the church is not just a club you go to once in a while, but the Body of Christ you belong to. Each one of us has been called to be part of our church family, and together we grow our faith and knowledge of God.

Scripture tells us that God heard the cries of God's people while living in oppression in Egypt and God delivered them in unexpected ways. I mean, if you really think about it, Moses, was probably the least qualified person for the job. God chose him and provided the support system (a church) that Moses would need to complete his task. The fascinating thing was the first act that the Israelites did after crossing the Red Sea was to worship God. None of them said, well this was nice and went their way. They stuck together to worship God.

Many many many years later the story of unexpected deliverance was repeated. Jesus, the Emanuel, dwell among God's people, teaching them to live in a way that worshiped God. Those who encountered Jesus were forever changed. And just like the Israelites after crossing the red sea, they gathered together to worship.

In the book of acts we read the beginning of the Christian church. Simple, ordinary people gathered together in houses and worshiped God. They told each other how Jesus changed their lives, and the teachings they had learned, they shared with one another their struggles and their joys, they prayed together, they broke bread together, they supported one another as a community united in Jesus.

That is what church is all about, a group of ordinary people dedicated and committed to Jesus' teaching.

In our tradition, each time we have a baptism or we welcome a new member within our midst we promise to be committed to St. Andrew's UMC. We pledged to support the congregation with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. This pledge is how we worship God within the context of

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our church family. That is why it so important we stay committed in all these areas.

It is in prayer that we can communicate with God. Being regularly present, in worship and other church activities, is what make us a community centered in Jesus. Sharing a portion of your financial gifts and your spiritual gift is how we grow as a community. Service is the way we love God. Our witness allows us to share our story of faith and invite others to know this remarkable God we worship. All of these we do because God loved us and saved us first. It is our response and commitment to God for God's grace we have received.

As we start thinking of a new year I invite you to reflect on your commitment to God. Which areas are the most challenging for you? Are you struggling with your prayer life? Maybe you have not come to church in a while and need to get back in the habit? Do you need new ways to serve? Do you struggle to fulfill your monetary pledge? Do you have a hard time witnessing your faith? Whatever it is, know that ST. ANDREW'S IS YOUR CHURCH FAMILY and we can build each other up and grow in faith together. God has put us together so we can fulfill our task in the Kingdom, we are each other's' support system. Talk to me and we will find a way to achieve your commitment to God.

We are the church because God so loved the world, that God sent his begotten son so whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Let this truth move you as the people of God of all generations, and let your response be to worship God with all that you are and all you do. Let it be so.

Blessings
Ximena

Dates to Remember:



- Clean-Up Day** every First Saturday of the month
- Thrift Shop** every First Saturday of the month, 9 AM to 12 PM
- Church Annual Conference** on November 5, 2017 at 1:00 PM
- Election Day** on November 7, 2017
- Laily Convocation** on November 11, 2017
- Operation Christmas Child Packing Party** on Sunday November 12th after church
- Thanksgiving Day** on November 23, 2017. Building Closed.
- Special Sunday UMC United Methodist Student Day** on November 26, 2017
- Finance Team Meeting** on Thursday November 30, 7:00 PM
- Administrative Church Council** on Tuesday December 5, 2017, 7:00 PM at the parsonage
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** on December 24, 2017 6:00 PM
- Building Closed** from December 25th to December 30th

Believe.

Believe in the transformative power of love.
 Believe in the promise of peace on earth and that all people, regardless of their differences, can find ways to share this place.
 Believe in the spirit of Santa Clause, a spirit that lives in children's eyes and the hearts of those who offer others gifts just because.
 Believe in the importance of family that makes us who we are.
 Believe that those who are no longer able to stand next to us still stand by us – they are there when our hearts ache and when our hearts soar with joy.
 Believe in the connection between the infinite and the infinitesimal nature of the universe.
 Believe that light can always conquer darkness; that light shines within us all, and it can be shared with others.
 Believe in justice and truth as the only path to true freedom – both political freedom and personal freedom.
 Believe there is good in everyone.
 Believe that silence is holy and can show us answers to questions we never realized we had.
 Believe that music moves us to joyful tears, and laughter that lifts a wounded heart, is the sound of silence.
 Believe that acting out of kindness is always better than acting out of necessity, because what is most needed is kindness.
 Believe in embracing joy and wonder and beauty in all its forms.
 Believe in hope, for it makes all things possible. Believe in the power of Christmas.



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 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
10/15/17	45	10	\$1362	\$112	0
10/8/17	42	6	\$835	\$19	0
10/1/17	36	0	\$1653	\$379	0
9/24/17	32	0	\$806	\$300	0
9/17/17	38	4	\$603	\$0	0
9/10/17	39	8	\$989	\$141	0
9/3/17	40	0	\$1170	\$103	0
8/27/17	39	0	\$676	\$5	0



November

- Rhoda Sta. Maria 11/7
- Yvonne Lynch 11/11
- Lucille Drummond 11/25

December

- Eli Arvelo 12/9
- Lois McDonald 12/12
- Ximena Varas 12/14
- Morris Penington 12/19

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 Special Collection is **United Methodist Student Day** on November 26. 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 1st Sunday of each month the items will be 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. Packing Party will be on 11/12.



RAISE THE ROOF is a Connecticut District Mission Project in Partnership with the South Congo Conference. Bishop Kainda Katembo has reached out to 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.

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!

Letter from Finance Chairman

Thank you for your faithful support which has allowed St. Andrew's UMC to do really meaningful ministries. We prayerfully thank God for each one of you and your generosity because it is only with your responses that our ministries can be successful. God has brought us together to utilize our gifts and resources for Him.

As read this our annual Giving Campaign was held on Oct. 29th. Thank you to all who have pledged in previous years and those that pledged during this Campaign. We also thank everyone that chooses to donate weekly to our plate. If you still haven't pledged there is still time. As we finish up this year and go forth into a new year we need your help in order to maintain a vital and healthy church with a long future. We need your help to be responsible stewards of this community called St. Andrews and all the buildings in our care for many years to come. 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.

Honoring our pledges helps us fulfill our obligations in God's name and now is a good time to catch up if you are late with your pledges. It is only with your help that we will be able to fulfill our operational obligations and be a vital church helping to serve the community. The Finance Committee makes the church budget based on the pledges we receive.

Thank you,
John Quimby



Thanks to everyone who keeps our church and grounds in the best shape possible, and to Ralph and Morris for processing our bottles and cans.



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.



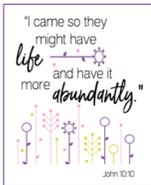
Pastor Ximena is available for talks, prayers and visits; in fact, she would love for you to invite her to visit. Please call her office, cell, or send her an e-mail to set up an appointment. Let her know if you or a loved one is in the hospital.



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



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!



Keep in your prayers the South Central Emmaus XXXVIII team and candidates, preparing for the next high school retreat on November 10 – 12, 2017 at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Naugatuck. Pray for Javier and Moises Varas who will serve on the team. For more information or to sign up as a prayer angel visit www.southcentralemmausct.com



You are cordially invited to attend our Church Conference on November 5th at 1:00 PM. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester will be presiding. Potluck brunch will be served. Bring a plate to share. Everyone is encouraged to attend.



Sunday School News

The Sunday School has started a study of Moses. We have learned about the birth of Moses and his encounter with the burning bush. Christmas activities will interrupt our Moses lessons for a while. A music session was enjoyed by all on the 4th Sunday of October. Sunday school meets the second and third Sunday of each month and the music activities occur on the 4th Sunday. All children, ages 4 and older, are welcome to participate.

Acolytes

All youth, grades 3 and higher, are encouraged to serve as acolytes at the Sunday service. See Briannah Morales or Carol Tripp to sign up.



1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (The Voice)

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. We were all ceremonially washed through baptism 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. 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.



Thank you to everyone in the church for the support both with items and money towards our Operation Christmas Child program. We exceeded our original goal last year of 70 boxes by completing 75. That's 75 children that received a box of items that wouldn't have received anything for Christmas and had the chance to learn about Jesus.

When my family delivered the boxes last year we were challenged to bring 100 this year. As of today we are really close to all the items we need (Please see the Pastor Ximena's weekly emails and the copies on the side table.). Also the cost of shipping went up from \$7 per box, where it has been for some years, to \$9 per box, another challenge added to our program. With God's help and all of us we will raise the additional \$392 we need as of today to complete this challenge. There are envelopes on the side table for those people that are able to put a few dollars in towards the shipping costs. Please put your name on the envelope so we can add your donations on your annual statement for income tax purposes.

On Sunday, November 12 we will have our PACKING PARTY after the coffee hour at the Parsonage where people will pack the boxes for the children. Also, on Saturday morning November 11, I could use some help setting up the tables and making the boxes. Please let me know if you can help. If you have any questions please call John at 203-248-1556.

Thank you and God Bless You.
The Quimby family



To purchase one or more plants to help decorate the church, please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate, mail it to the church, or give it to Carol Tripp **by, December 10, 2017**. Each plant will cost \$10 and may be paid with the order. **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 Friday, December 24, or donate it.

Please note that each poinsettia 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 Christmas Eve Bulletin)

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

Number of Plants: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Honor of: _____

I wish to take my plant(s) home

I wish to donate my plant(s)

Worship Guide
A Season of Saints
Worship Time 10:30 AM

11/5 All Saints Day

This service kicks off the series in conversation with the Epistle reading for All Saints and Charles Wesley's paraphrase of that reading in his hymn "What Are These Arrayed in White?" What they are and what they wear are clues for what God longs for all of us to become: beloved saints-- and what it takes for us to become them.

Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17

11/12 Stories of the Saints

What is the primary distinguishing mark of the stories saints tell? They are stories of deliverance, stories of salvation, and never stories merely of personal or family accomplishment. How will God help you tell your story the way the saints do?

Scripture: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

11/19 Thanksgiving of the Saints

What is Thanksgiving Day like where you are? More importantly, how shaped by Thanksgiving, and in particular the Great Thanksgiving, the thanksgiving of the saints, is your life? How might a life of thanksgiving for God's mighty acts of salvation, unfolding from day to day, give you strength to tell the story of the saints and wear the clothing of the saints with confidence and joy?

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:7-18 (also Deuteronomy 26)

11/26 United Methodist Student Day (Special Sunday UMC); Christ the King, Shepherd of the Saints

So far, we've talked mostly about ourselves as saints or potential saints. Today, at the end of one church year and the cusp of the next, we speak and sing primarily of the one around whom the universe itself pivots, Christ the King, Shepherd of the saints. Christ, our Shepherd-King gathers and makes saints from the most marginalized, damaged, abused, abandoned people on earth, leading the saints to eternal life now and in the new creation.

Scriptures: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 & Matthew 25:31-46

**12/3/17**

Advent 1 — Come Down Home

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

12/10/17

Advent 2 — Home Is Where We Meet

Scripture

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

12/17/17

Advent 3 — Joy Is Our True Home

Scriptures

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

12/24/17

Advent 4 — God Makes This World a Home

Scripture

Luke 1: 46-55

12/24/17

Advent 4 — God Makes This World a Home

Scripture

Luke 1: 46-55

12/24/17

Advent 4 — God Makes This World a Home

Scripture

Luke 1: 46-55

Christmas Eve — A Manger for the World
Candlelight service

6:00 PM

**12/31/17**

After Christmas 1 — Going Home Again

Scripture

Luke 2:22-40

**Saint Andrew's
United Methodist Church**

1230 Townsend Avenue
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Phone:

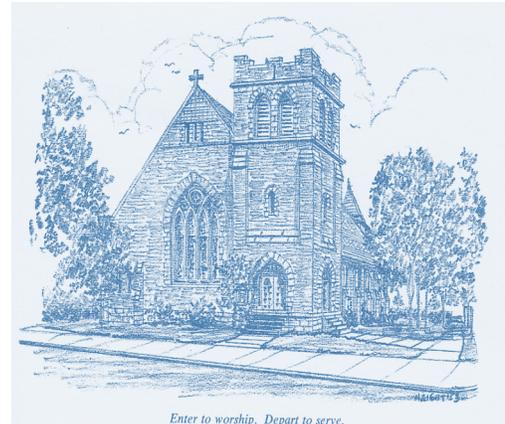
(203) 467-0117

E-Mail:

office@standrewsnh.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/churchofsaintandrews



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