

# SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

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But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. *Isaiah 53:5*

I must confess that some days my head and my heart are overwhelmed by the never-ending bad news I hear. Shootings have become a weekly event, so much so, that no one seems to be surprised anymore. Drug overdoses are sky high in New Haven. Gang violence has taken the lives of so many young people. Hate groups are on the rise. Racism is alive and well. Sex trafficking happens right in our backyard (yes here in CT)! One of every four children go to bed hungry each day in our state. And let's not even begin talking about diseases, we probably all know someone who is battling cancer or other life-threatening diseases. Depression and anxiety are affecting more people and at a younger age. The world is a mess!

On our first week of Lent, I mention to you that from the moment we are born we are exposed to evil and sin. Each one of us is affected by sin. The sins we commit and the sins that others commit. We are so surrounded by sin that we don't even see it anymore. We have grown so comfortable with it that we cannot imagine a life without it. It numbs our mind and hearts and when evil strikes, if any, our response is to offer our thoughts and prayer.

Sin has taken over the world but will never win.

We were not created to be people controlled by sin. We were created to follow the one who has overcome the world and conquered sin. That is our Good News. That is what we will be celebrating in just a few weeks.

Jesus's life, death, and resurrection were the price paid for our salvation and our healing. You and I can claim that healing, can come to God and ask for it. It all begins with the awareness of the constant need we have for Jesus.

Healing comes in all types of shapes and forms. Sometimes it is the cure for a disease, sometimes it is the restoration of a relationship. Sometimes it is the peace that we feel when there is nothing we can do for those we love.

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Healing is action. From responding to the call to feed God's children, to actively engage our officials to advocate for a safer and just country for all. Healing is empowering and powerful. It changes who we are from the inside out, and it helps us to become what God intended for us in our creation.

This journey of lent we have been focusing on healing, the healing we need personally, as a community. My prayer is that you claim the healing that was promised to you and allow Jesus to heal you. Let Jesus open your eyes, mind, and heart to a different way of life, where sin has no power, and love transforms us. The Love that overcame the darkest sin of the world and gave us a new life.

Somedays I am overwhelmed by the world, but then I remember that Jesus overcame the world, so I can have an abundant life and, In His name, I may bring healing to a broken world. Thank you, God, for the gift of Jesus!

Ximena



**Dates to Remember:**



- Clean-Up Day:** Every First Saturday of the month
- UMCOR Sunday:** March 11, 2018 Special Sunday UMC
- Native American Sunday:** April 15, 2018 Special Sunday UMC
- Administrative Church Council:** TBA
- Saint Patrick's Dinner:** Sunday March 18 from 12:00PM to 2:00PM
- Pasta Dinner:** TBA
- Daylight Savings Time:** Sunday, March 11 at 2:00AM
- Palm Sunday:** Sunday March 25, 10:30AM
- Maundy Thursday:** March 29, 6:30PM service includes a potluck dinner
- Good Friday:** March 30, 7:00PM
- Easter Sunday:** Sunday April 1, 10:30AM
- Easter Brunch:** Sunday April 8, after the service



**Join us for our Annual Saint Patrick's Dinner** on Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> from 12PM to 2PM. 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](mailto:office@standrewsnh.com) to make a reservation by March 15<sup>th</sup> (all proceeds will support the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's Methodist Church).



**Join us for our Annual Pasta Dinner (TBA).** 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](mailto:office@standrewsnh.com) (all proceeds will support the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's Methodist Church).



Join us on April 8 right after the service for our annual Easter Brunch! Everyone is welcome! The Lord is Risen! Let's celebrate as church family.



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
2/18/18	19	4	\$1173	\$0	0
2/11/18	29	0	\$1114	\$5	0
2/4/18	40	0	\$1407	\$244	0
1/28/18	48	8	\$600	\$5	0
1/21/18	35	5	\$529	\$10	0
1/14/18	31	8	\$909	\$55	0
1/7/18	28	0	\$1547	\$265	0
12/31/17	31	0	\$720	\$0	0
12/24/17	81	8	\$696	\$266	0



- 3/4** Joseph McDonald
- 3/10** Lois Carpenter
- 3/30** Joan Gans
  
- 4/4** Lola Copeland
- 4/9** Ann Penington
- 4/9** Caroline Lopez
- 4/25** Carolyn Pickup
- 4/25** Diana Grippen
- 4/29** Phillipa Blake

## 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 United Methods 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). Next Special Collection is UMCOR Sunday, March 11, 2018 & Native American Sunday, April 15, 2018. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



**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.

## Music Ministry Report

Once again, I would like to thank you and all the members of St. Andrews for allowing me the privilege to be your Music Director. We began the new year all ready to serve and then many of our choir caught "the bug."

Slowly but surely we regained our health and now are back to our regular members. At this time we have 6 committed members with several others who readily sing with the choir as needed or their health allows.

Beside our choir, Moises has been very willing to add support to our music and is also learning to lead in music. Hopefully, soon he will have the opportunity to lead our congregation in song just as he has in choir. Jamie has also been regularly playing bass. Janet has agreed to help whenever her studies allow, and she also works with Carol in Sunday school to do music once a month. We are blessed to have so many gifted musicians in our congregation.

Ross and Diana added to our worship service with a lovely rendition of "Without a Song." Luis offered his vocal gift in a contemporary song titled "I Can Only Imagine." Janet sang "Amazing Grace Our Chains are Gone" while Moi filmed it for one of her university assignments. (Praise the Lord and our congregation for allowing her to not only add her gift of music to our worship but to use our sanctuary as part of her assignment. (Her grade was 94!) And Matt, a brand-new member to our church, played trumpet on Christmas Eve. I cannot write this without adding that Javier wrote new words to 'Halleluiah' and sang it for us as part of our Christmas Cantata. WOW!

Looking to the future, in 2018, both the old well-loved hymns and new contemporary songs will continue to be part of our music. As your music director, I welcome any suggestions or requests as to selections you would like to hear either played or sung – organ or

piano. We will again have special music for Lent and of course Easter Sunday. To my ears, nothing is more beautiful than the fullness of a pipe organ playing "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today."

I was only supposed to write a short paragraph, but I got carried away bragging about the gifted people we have in our congregation. And as a choir director always does---ANYONE who would like to sing with us is welcome even if someone has told you that you can't sing. God can work miracles.

Submitted by,  
Norma Ryan

## 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 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!

## Letter from Finance Chair

Thank you everyone for continuing your support, which has allowed St. Andrew's UMC to continue to do really meaningful ministries. I thank God for all of you because it is only with your responses that our ministries can be successful. God continues to bring us together to utilize our resources and gifts for Him.

As we continue with a 2018 we still need your help in order to maintain our church and have a long future. We need your help to be responsible stewards of St. Andrews and of all the buildings in our care for many years to come. Besides shutting lights off when not being needed and making sure everything is locked when we leave it also means we depend on your pledges and financial giving to ensure the growth of our community. With your help we will be able to fulfill our operational obligations and be a vital church helping to serve the community. We are working on a way to save money with our electricity with UI and we will be having our clothing and nick-nack drive on March 24. We will be bringing bags of clothes and other items to Savers in Orange. Please help out any way you can. We are also having our Insurance costs looked at for ways to save some money. If anyone has any questions or issues related to their pledges or the church's finances, or ideas on how we can be thrifty with our finances please feel free to contact me. My home number is 203-248-1556.

Thank you and God Bless each of you.

John Quimby



Jamie Lawson and his crew for keeping our facilities clean and safe; Nicole Morales and her crew for helping organize the parsonage; all who have helped get the tag sale stuff ready.



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.



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!



### 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.



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.



### Sunday School News

The Sunday School meets the second and third Sunday of the month for lessons, and the fourth Sunday for singing Christian songs. All children, ages four and up, are welcome to attend. During March, we will be studying the Easter story and in April, we will return to our study of Moses.

### Acolytes

The acolyte program continues under the excellent supervision of Briannah Morales. Her assistant, Destiny Herrmann, does a wonderful job also. We now have a new member, Vincent. Vincent was trained and is performing the duties of an acolyte. See Briannah, Destiny or Carol Tripp for information.



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. Next weekend is April 20 to 22, 2018 at First UMC of Shelton.

### 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 women coming this spring!

**For more information, talk to pastor.**



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 March 18**. 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 1, 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)

## Lent 2018 Holy Vessels

"But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." -- *2 Corinthians 4:7*

Each of us is created a precious vessel of God's love. Each of us has experienced hurt in some way, bringing a sense of brokenness. To move toward healing is to offer the gift of life and wholeness (or wholy-ness), not only for ourselves but also for others as we come to see each person as a Holy Vessel and as we come to desire that wholeness for all of creation. The image of a vessel in the form of a beautiful glass container and the image of broken glass in the form of tumbled beach glass is a visual metaphor upon which the message of healing out of brokenness is developed.

**3/4 Stories** -- "Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'" -- *John 4:10*

Those who collect beach glass often become "archeologists." Each precious piece has a story. Often the glass is very old and one must take time and care to find the truth behind it. Today we acknowledge the power of truth-telling--of claiming and telling one's own story as a path to healing. We hear one woman's story - the Samaritan Woman - and how she came to understand that her own worth relied on no one but her own well of living water inside, given by God. Beach glass has a frosty finish that clears and shines when it comes into contact with water. What becomes clear for us as we dare to claim our stories and when our brokenness is met with living water?

**Scriptures:** *Psalm 16 & John 4:1-42*

**3/11 Different Pictures** -- "I am the Lord who heals you." -- *Exodus 15:26b*

Beach glass is often used in mosaic work. On this morning we celebrate that what sometimes feels "stained" can become "stained glass" and, together with the gift of community, can create new and different pictures of our lives--different than the ones drawn for us or imprinted upon us without our permission. What is the whole picture of ourselves that we can claim? What stereotypes do we have of others that rob us of the image of God in them--their worth as holy vessels?

**Scriptures:** *Exodus 15:26 & Ephesians 2:1-10*

**3/18 Restoration** -- "For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission." -- *1 Corinthians 9:17*

How do we make something beautiful out of the process of healing and the difficult work of accountability and binding together that which has been torn apart? How do we claim the promises of God for reconciliation and restoration, and make signs of that promise to each other? Pieces of fine copper wire are often used by artists to make a pendant out of beach glass. The youth (or other group) give each person a pendant that they have made. Then congregants are invited to exchange this creation with others--letting go of the treasure, gifting others. It isn't easy--this act of trusting another with a sacred gem once again--but it is part of the healing.

**Scriptures:** *1 Corinthians 9:15-24 & Luke 10:25-37*

## Holy Week 2018 Worship Series

### Love Leads the Way

Holy Week is the heart of the church's ritual, theological, and missional life. Everything we do in worship, doctrine and mission is grounded in, leads to, and springs from this week. The life and mission of Jesus meet their fullest test. Jesus stares directly into the face of the structures of sin and the powers of death and remains true to his calling and the work of God's kingdom. Jesus is executed by crucifixion. Three days later, God raises Jesus from death in sure and certain pledge of raising all who are found in him. Everything is here. Life, sin, love, death, life and love overcoming sin and death. This week remembers, enacts, and participates in the hope of the renewing of all creation, starting with our lives and loves, here and now.

That is why these eight days from Passion/Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday include more worship services for the whole congregation than any other time of the Christian year. Many United Methodists will participate in at least five distinct services during these eight days: Passion/Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, a sunrise service on Easter Sunday morning, and a "main" Easter Sunday service.

We invite you to take the journey together with the body of Christ, Christ leading the way for us. And to do so confident that love leads the way...even through this.

### The Main Services

**3/25 Palm/Passion Sunday** recapitulates the beginning and the end of Christ's final week in Jerusalem. We move from a triumphal procession and its stirring of hope as our entrance rite to hearing of a very different kind of procession, a forced march with a crucifix, to conclude it.

**3/29 Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday** marks the last conversation Jesus has with his disciples, a conversation grounded in what he calls a new commandment (mandatum in Latin, hence our English word "Maundy"). He illustrates and underscores the new commandment by washing their feet: "Love one another as I have loved you."

**3/30 Good Friday**, or Holy Friday as it is known in nearly every non-English-speaking culture, we witness the execution of Jesus, recognize our ongoing complicity with the powers of death, and are called to enter the Great Silence of all creation in response to the death of its God and Maker.

**4/1 Easter Sunday** is the principal Easter Sunday morning service of word and sacrament celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and kicking off the Easter Season of 50 days (through the Day of Pentecost).



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, March 25, 10:30AM**

**Maundy Thursday, March 29, 6:30PM -- service includes a potluck dinner**

**Good Friday, March 30, 7:00PM**

**Easter Sunday, Sunday April 1, 10:30AM**

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**March/April 2018**