

SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

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Recently I was at a clergy meeting when one of my colleagues stated that the church has three functions: Worship, Fellowship, and Service. I have read and studied so many books about strategic planning and discipleship

development, and I have never encountered such a simple definition of the function of the church. Simple, but true. We are indeed a unique group of people called the church. The Bible has many images of what the church is supposed to be. The book of Acts tells us all about the early church, their struggles, their successes, and their life together.

"Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Acts 2: 43-47.

We are a unique bunch. We are here to worship God, to have fellowship with God and one another, and to serve. That is what makes us different than any other organization, and there are many.

I can honestly say I really enjoy worshiping with you every week. We have a diversity that is very unusual in churches. That makes our worship unique, as worship is not the program I put together every week, but the joining of our praises, prayers, accents and most importantly, the gifts we bring. Yes, we do not always agree on how to worship, but regardless of our differences, we are able each week for an hour to focus on and praise God. We are a blessed church!

Our fellowship is pretty good too...great conversations around the tables each week and smiles everywhere. This church is a friendly church! We are interested in each other's journey. We care and support one another when needs arise. No doubt that we break bread and eat food with glad and generous hearts.

And then there is service.... I believe we strive to serve. We have in place ministries like our food pantry, and Operation Christmas Child. We are generous in supporting the church, and there are many helping hands ready when needed. However, I believe we can go the next step. We need to go out of our building and make ourselves available to our immediate community. I want our neighbors to be in awe of us. I want people to know us as the church who serves.

This is why I am looking forward to bringing a team from our church to UMARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) this summer. Nicole Morales, Briannah

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Morales, Kelly Aguirre, Angel Karpel, Moises Varas, Javier Varas, and I will pack up, fill our cars and drive all the way to Dover, New Hampshire for a week of service. Believe me when I tell you, this is no vacation. We will have long days of worship, fellowship and lots of service. UMARMY is a United Methodist organization that provides service opportunities around the country for youth and young adults. I know you will hear all about our mission trip when we are back, but in the meantime, I want to ask you to be a part of our team. I am counting on our community of faith to pray for each one of us, for our safety and for God to reveal Godself to each one of us in a new way. Also, I ask you to support us financially. It costs \$300 to register for this camp, which does not include gas, occasional ice cream, iced coffee or other articles we will need to bring.

I also ask you to help me think of ways we as the church can be involved in service projects in our own city. It will be fun to go to Dover, but New Haven is full of needs too. Please share with me your ideas, let us talk about the needs of the community and the ways we can fulfill them in the name of Jesus.

The early church did not have much, but all that they had was put to service for their Lord. Scripture tells us that they grew each day because of it; they engaged in worship, fellowship, and service as their response to the gift of grace and salvation provided by Jesus on the cross. Are you up for the challenge? I know you are!

Blessings,
Ximena

Dates to Remember:



Cleanup Day: Every first Saturday of the month

District Conference: May 6, 2018 West Hartford UMC 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Peace with Justice: Sunday, May 27, 2018 (Special Sunday UMC)

Administrative Church Council: May 8, 2018 7:00 PM

Finance Meeting: May 8, 2018 8:00 PM

Mother's Day: May 13, 2018

Mother's Day Breakfast: TBA

Pentecost Sunday: May 20, 2018 (wear something red)

Sunday School End of the Year Celebration Service: June 3, 2018

New York Annual Conference Event: (Hofstra University), June 7th to 10th (pastor Ximena will be at the Conference)

Father's Day: June 17, 2018

Father's Day Breakfast: TBA

Summer Worship schedule: 10:00 AM during 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 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
4/22/18	42	5			0
4/15/18	52	9			0
4/8/18	43	10	\$705	\$5	0
4/1/18	62	0	\$1836	\$187	0
3/25/18	46	6	\$711	\$10	0
3/18/18	52	8	\$615	\$90	0
3/11/18	43	9	\$1074	\$345	0
3/4/18	45	0	\$1268	\$117	0
2/25/17	39	5	\$1187	\$0	0



Join us for our Annual Pasta Dinner

Date: TBA

Dinner will be \$10 per adult, \$5 per 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 United Methodist Church.

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2018

When
May 6th
2:00pm - 4:30pm

WHERE
West Hartford UMC
1550 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06110

Key Note Address: **Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton**
"The Way Forward"

A time for straight talk and honest conversation with the bishop on the state of the church and the way forward.
Quality time for questions and answers

NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Alphonse J. Bickerton, District Superintendent

ATTENDANCE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

FOR:
PASTORS
DISTRICT LEADERS
CHURCH LEADERS

FOR ALL OF US THAT:

ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH.

WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS ON THE CHURCH'S NEW POSITION ON "HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE WAY FORWARD."

HAVE QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED.

WOULD LIKE OUR VOICES TO BE HEARD.

ORDER OF THE CONFERENCE:

2:00 - 2:30 Meal Served
2:30 - 3:00 Live band worship
3:00 - 3:20 The business of the district
3:30 - 4:30 Key note address

RSVP by April 30th, 2018
Marjoun Mohammed 914-615-2222



5/10 Sandra Guthrie
5/16 Charlene Tobias
5/29 Ximena Varas

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

Missions



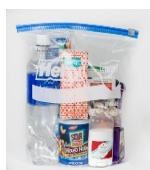
We serve God by serving others. Here is what you can do:



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. Next Special Collection is **Peace with Justice Sunday** on May 27, 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 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.



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 may also donate money to this ministry and we will shop for you!



U.M. ARMY is an acronym which stands for United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth. U.M. ARMY's mission is: "To provide Christ-centered missions that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth and young adults."

A team from Saint Andrew's UMC and the pastor will be going to the mixed age camp from July 15 to 21 to Dover, NH For more information, please go to: ne.umarmy.org/ or ask anyone of our team members: Nicole Morales, Briannah Morales, Kelly Aguirre, Angel Karpel, Moises Varas, Javier Varas, and Pastor Ximena. We need your prayers and your financial support!

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 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 Chair

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

As always, 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 continuing to work on a way to save money with our electricity with UI. Our clothing and furniture drive with Savers brought in \$323.71.

Effective April 1 we changed our insurance to Church Mutual and this will do two things that will help our church out. First there won't be a large payment in January during our large heating and snow removal bill time. Secondly it will save the church a significant amount of money, which will help in our efforts to balance our budget. And by lowering our operating costs it will allow us to invest in more ministries and missions to fulfill our call to help transform the world in Jesus Christ's name. 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.

Lastly, we received a letter from the New York Conference, which we belong to. It is a thank you for paying 100% of our Conference Apportionments. It is through everyone's help that we have been able to pay them and on time. I want to send out my personal thank you to Carolyn for keeping us on track financially for so many years, and to Brenda for continuing with that very important job.

Thank you and God Bless each of you.

John Quimby

Pastoral CARE

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.



Thanks to all who contributed to make Holy Week a wonderful one, and all the families who donated flowers to decorate our sanctuary. Special thanks to James Lawson for another amazing St. Patrick's celebration!



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



Congratulations to Crystallene Tobias and Nadia Cruz on your graduation from high school.

Congratulations also to Nicole Morales and Moises Varas on your graduation! Nicole graduates on May 5th from the University of Bridgeport, Magna Cum Laude (With Great Honor), with a Bachelor's in English, Creative Writing and Psychology minor,. Moises graduates on May 20th from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's of Arts in Media Production.

We are so proud of you all! Many blessings on your new beginnings.



Sunday School News

The Sunday School spent the month of March studying the Easter story. On Easter, the children gave a wonderful presentation of the song "Alive, Alive". After singing alone, they invited the congregation to join them. It was a joyous performance. After the service, the children were given flowering plants to take home. It was a great Easter for everyone. We welcome Vincent LaTulippe to the Sunday School and we are very happy when he brings his friend, Issac Dones. Viinny and Issac are terrific additions to our older class.

We also welcome Angelique Candelaria. Angelique has been attending the younger class. We love having you with us, Angelique.

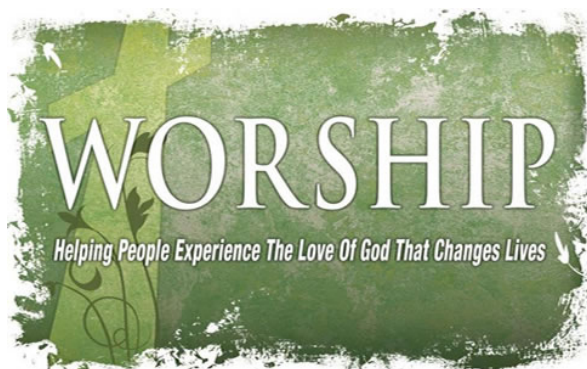
Children 4 years and older are invited to join Sunday school class the second, third and fourth Sunday of each month. Do you feel Called to be a substitute teacher? Please talk to Carl or pastor Ximena.



Special Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, Carol Trip, Brenda Burgos and Diana Grippen and their assistants, Joan Gans, 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 excellency. God bless you all.



We welcome Vinny LaTulippe and Haydyn Webster to the Acolyte program. They join Briannah Morales and Destiny Herrmann. It is such a joy to see our young people serving their church. Children seven and older are welcome to participate.



WORSHIP THE LORD WITH GLADNESS,
COME BEFORE HIM WITH JOYFUL SONGS

JOIN US

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30 AM

The readings in Acts from this point forward reveal the heart and diversity of the power of the Holy Spirit at work through and beyond the communities of disciples of Jesus. They make clear just how broad, deep, and high God's saving love reaches and seeks to reach through us, and so support the work of formation groups throughout these weeks to help persons, especially the newly baptized or confirmed, discern their spiritual gifts and identify directions for ministries they will begin pursuing after their commissioning into ministry in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit at this season's culmination, Pentecost.

4/29

And in the Power of the Holy Spirit, We Join the Outsiders...

Scripture:

Acts 8:26-40

5/6

And in the Power of the Holy Spirit, The Outsiders Join Us...

Scripture:

Acts 10:44-48

5/13

And in the Power of the Holy Spirit, Leaders Are Raised Up

Scripture:

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

5/20

And in the Power of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost: Proclaim Jubilee!

Scripture:

Acts 2:1-21

**Saint Andrew's
United Methodist Church**

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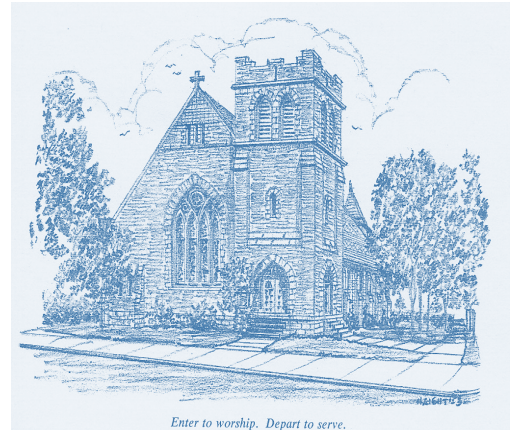
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May/June 2018