

SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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

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Many years ago, on a children's message, I taught the children the importance of how we spend money. I brought with me my checking account's record book and read it to them. After I asked them: Could you

describe me to someone that doesn't know me just by the way I use my money? They quickly answer yes! I remember the first thing they said was: "you don't like to cook!" I was surprised and when I asked how they came to that conclusion, they said, "There are several payments to restaurants." Another kid said, "You love your church." When I asked why, he said: "you give every month to your church." They also said, "You love Dunking Doughnuts!" (this one is self-explanatory). An older kid said, "You don't like to exercise." When I asked why, he said, "There is no gym membership!" They were accurate in their findings. The way we spend money does show our priorities. It was eye-opening to me because I do love to cook, and many of those restaurant bills were just because I didn't have the time to cook. I also discovered I was drinking way too much coffee. Jesus taught a great deal about the importance of giving. Matthew 6:21 states: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." A simple statement, most of us give to the things that are close to our heart.

Think about it, when it comes to charities, we usually pick those which are important to us. Each year I give money to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and the reason I do so is because my godson Matthew lives with type 1 diabetes. I love him, I have seen how difficult his daily routine is just to stay healthy, and I would love to hear that a cure has been found. I put my money where my love is...

The way we use our money also says a lot about our faith. As followers of Christ, we are encouraged to be intentional in our giving. We are called to give as a response to our relationship with God. Each time we give we act in faith. You have heard me say many times during the offering, "when we give, we are saying, "God, I trust you will provide for me." Giving is a spiritual discipline. It is the acknowledgment that we belong to God, and all we have comes from God. We trust, we share, we give thanks. We don't give out of guilt or obligation. We give because we have been given much more than we need. Philippians 4:19 reminds us; "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

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Giving extends beyond our earthly treasures, it also applies to our time. I don't know about you, but my time is my highest currency. I don't have much of it, so I need to make sure I use my time wisely. As followers of Christ, we are called to be intentional in all we do.

As we get closer to autumn, my calendar starts quickly to get busy. It is more important than ever that I keep mindful of the ways God wants me to expend my treasures. Am I too busy to be with my family? If a friend in need calls me, would I give my time freely? Have I volunteered? Do I have time to sit with God, pray, read scripture?

These and other questions are important in my journey of faith. These are the questions I need to bring to God and allow the Spirit to guide me as I offer myself to be a witness for Christ in the world.

I invite you to take a look at the way you expend your treasures to discover what you love, how you are using your gifts of time and money. Ask God for guidance in deciding what needs to improve.

For when you free yourself to give, you experience God in a new way.

Blessings,
Ximena

Worship Schedule

We are returning to our regular worship time at 10:30 AM starting September 2, 2018.

Dates to Remember:

Labor Day: September 3, building closed

Cleanup Day: every First Saturday of the month

Administrative Church Council: Tuesday September 4, 2018, 7:00 PM

Rally Day: Sunday School returns on September 9, 2018 during service

Safe Sanctuary Training: September 9, 2018 after service

Special Sunday UMC World Communion Sunday: October 7, 2018

Columbus Day: October 8, building closed

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 November 9 - 11, 2018 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 91 Church Street, Seymour

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: Men's retreat October: 11-14, 2018 & Women's retreat: November 8-11, 2018

For more information about all these retreat opportunities talk to pastor Ximena.



Safe Sanctuary mandatory training for Sunday School teachers, assistant and substitute teachers, Sunday September 9, right after service at fellowship hall. If you feel called to be a substitute teacher, please talk to Carol or pastor Ximena.



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
8/5/18	32	0	\$86	\$793	0
7/29/18	44	0	\$86	\$793	0
7/22/18	36	0	\$20	\$538	0
7/15/18	38	0	\$200	\$1485	0
7/8/18	37	0	\$65	\$1075	0
7/1/18	26	0	\$57	\$825	0
6/24/18	25	0	\$10	\$828	0
6/17/18	50	0	\$0	\$528	0



9/5 Rawle Nathaniel Lynch

9/11 Jocelyn Quimby

9/15 Claire Webster

9/23 Cheska Stamaría Bala

9/25 Crystalene Tobias

9/25 Cathalene Tobias

10/11 Jorge Varas

10/13 Carol Lawson

10/15 Timaya Sandra Lynch

10/17 Javier Varas

10/24 Ariana Marie Lopez

10/31 Mary Lou Adametz

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.



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 homeless situations around New Haven. We've distributed more than 100 bags. Praise God! Items may include socks, cereal bars, water bottles, tissues, soap, deodorant, shampoos, etc. You may also donate money to this ministry and we will shop for you!



Join us in our 2018 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.

Christmas is only 4 months away and we have to have the shoeboxes ready by mid-November. Please remember that stores are still advertising some deals for Back To School. That is the perfect time to pick up the school supplies we use in our program. Thank you to those that have purchased items towards our 100 box goal for 2018. As of now we have enough of the following: matchbox cars, 8.5 X 11 spiral bound notebooks, crayons, pencil erasers, pencils and washcloths. Everything else, we need more of. Included is a list as of 8-21, but please either check the weekly lists at church or contact John for an up to date list.

Items needed for Shoeboxes as of 8-21-2018:

65 large erasers	60 pairs of scissors	57 tooth brushes
61 wiffle or tennis balls	49 glue sticks	60 full size bars of soap
98 3" X 5" pads	25 individual packages of tissues	
80 stuffed animals e.g. bears at Dollar Tree stores		
42 bead necklaces e.g. 4 or 5 for \$1 at Dollar Tree stores		

Gift Ideas

Toys: small matchbox style cars, dolls, 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, markers, stamps and ink pad sets, 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).

Program does not allow toothpaste: used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

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

The church continues in a positive direction towards our goals of meeting our financial needs and our missions thanks to all of you. The reduction in our insurance payments has helped us pay for higher snow bills and higher electrical bills compared with last year. Please help us by turning off lights and fans that aren't needed. We are working on replacing our fluorescent bulbs in the hall with more efficient LED ones. When we lower our operating costs, savings such as changing the insurance company and the bulb replacements, it will allow us to balance our budget and invest in more ministries and missions to fulfill our call to help transform the world in Jesus Christ's name. Please continue to reward GOD with your tithings during the summer months. If you have any questions or issues related to your 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

New York Annual Conference
Mission/Vision/Core Values 2018

Mission: We strive to share God's love by creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God, and transforming the world through Christ.

Vision: We see strong leaders who develop vital congregations that eagerly make new disciples, actively nurture existing disciples, and passionately advocate for the needs and concerns of all people.

Core Values: The values that drive us are deep love for God and unconditional love for all people. We value collaboration and partnerships that demonstrate God's love to a world that divides and alienates. We value relationships that foster accountability, excellence, and an ability to engage in open, honest, and respectful conversations. We value the hope that we have in Christ that, when discovered, brings us a unity of purpose, a joy that enlivens our spirit, and a peace that surpasses all understanding.

(Approved by the Connectional Ministries Vision Team, January 2018)



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 Jamie Lawson and all the workers who have taken jobs around the church! Thanks to Moises Varas who has filled in as interim music director. Thanks to all who help organized our kitchen, especially the UMARMY team who spent several hours moving the old china to the parsonage.



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



Many thanks to the young people who served as acolytes over the summer. We appreciate your dedication.



Please bring your donations of individually wrapped candy for our annual Sunday School Halloween Party before October 21. Thank you!

Why Do I Volunteer? By Briannah Morales



To be honest, I first joined UMARMY because I was told to. I thought, it's just a week of helping and being with a bunch of strangers. As many of you may know, I'm not the most outgoing and talkative person, but as the days went on some of those strangers became friends, became memories, became something I could say I was a part of. It not only made me feel good, but made a difference to those around me. One thing I learned was that people need people. We all need each other and I think that's a big part of why my point of view changed. The UMARMY experience makes you reflect on yourself and think about how you want to live your life. Do you really want to sit back and wait until someone else does something? Or would you have the courage and strength to go out into the world and do something yourself? I volunteer because it's right. It's what I'd want someone to do if I was in the position of a client. I don't want to sit around waiting for someone else to fix something that's wrong when I have the tools to change it myself. And you shouldn't either. People out there need you, the world needs you. And it's up to us, nobody else, to help.



Sunday School News

Sunday School is back on September 9! Children 4 years and older and encouraged to register for our program. Classes meet the second, third and fourth Sunday of each month right after the children's sermon.

Summer vacation is quickly coming to an end and Sunday School will soon be starting up again. Our first day of classes is scheduled for Sunday, September 9, 2018 at 10:30 A.M. Everyone will meet in the sanctuary to begin our Rally Day activities and then go to classes. All children, ages four and older, are welcome to attend Sunday school. We will follow the same schedule as last year. The first Sunday of the month is a time for family worship, where everyone will attend the church service. On the second and third Sundays, we will study Bible lessons. The fourth Sunday will be dedicated to learning Christian music. If there is a fifth Sunday, it will be another opportunity to attend church with our families. We look forward to starting a new Sunday School year, and hope to see everyone on Sunday, September 9, at 10:30. Our annual Halloween party is in the planning stage. Watch for the date.

St. Andrew's Bible Study "The 12 Radical Teachings of Jesus."

Please mark your calendars. Beginning Sunday, September 16th, 2018 we will begin a Bible Study titled **"The 12 Radical Teachings of Jesus."** The study will be held during our "Coffee After Service Time." Hopefully it will happen like this: Get your coffee or drink of choice--- Find a seat at the designated study table---Get comfortable and hear about the radical teachings of Jesus. About a half hour or so later, smile that you learned something new about Jesus and what the Bible says. Simple as that. We have never done anything like this before, so hopefully **you** will make it successful. Each session has a Bible reading on the topic, what the world says about the weekly topic, what Jesus taught and a time for group discussion. I am looking forward to this study and hopefully you will too. If you want to purchase the syllabus, the cost is \$2.50. But, there is only enough material for 10 participants.

The study has 12 separate teachings. Each teaching stands independent of the others.

Here are the titles:

1. The last will be first and the first will be last. (Matt.20:1-16)
2. Do not be afraid. (Luke 12:1-34)
3. Don't do good deeds to be admired. (Matt. 6:1-18)
4. Love your enemies. No exceptions. (Luke 6:27-36)
5. Set your heart on heavenly treasures. (Matt.6:19-24)
6. It's the humbled who are exalted. (Luke 18:9-14)
7. Care for the one no one cares for. (Matt.25:31-46)
8. Forgive, even those you are sure don't deserve it. (Luke 6:37-42)
9. Your neighborhood is a lot bigger than you think. (Luke 10:25-37)
10. If you want to be kingdom people, be like little kids. (Matt. 18:1-5)
11. The good news isn't about human governments. It's about God's kingdom. (Mark 1:14-15)
12. It's better for us to be without Jesus living here. (John 15:26-16:15)

LOOKING TO STUDY THE BIBLE WITH YOU. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO COME---INCLUDING OUR YOUNG ADULTS. SEE YOU AT THE TABLE. SUNDAY, SEPT.16TH RIGHT AFTER SERVICE.

Fall 2018 Worship Series
A Faith that Works
Series by Magrey R. DeVega

The book of James stands unique in the New Testament for its no-nonsense, practical, proverbial wisdom. There is very little cryptic language or mysterious imagery in the way that it class people to live out their discipleship. For James, faith is neither radically privatized nor solely personal. It is to be expressed outwardly to improve one's relationship with others and to help those in need. This series will challenge the assumption that one should keep their faith to oneself and a culture that believe faith and religion has no value.

9/2 Just Do it! Be doers, not just hearers of God's commands.

Scripture: James 1:17-27

9/9 (Rally Day and Grandparents Day)

Body and Soul: The Body matters; using our physical means to meet physical needs.

Scripture: James 2:1-17

9/16 Taming the Tongue: The tongue is a small organ that can do great damage.

Scripture: James 3:1-12

9/23 The Good Life: Gentleness and wisdom are the key to contentment

Scripture: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

9/30 Powerful Prayer: Prayer is a healing balm for physical suffering and broken communities

Scripture: James 5:13-20

The Upside-Down Kingdom
Series by Magrey R. DeVega

The tenth chapter of Mark is a critical transition between the transfiguration of Jesus and the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. After the transfiguration Jesus elaborates on what following him would require. This ensuing journey towards Jerusalem contains a collection of teachings about the nature of true discipleship

10/7 World Communion Sunday (Special Collection for UMCOR)

Where the Children are Blessed: Jesus welcomes children, the lowest in society, and calls them great.

Scripture: Mark 10:2-16

10/14 Where the Last are First: A rich man asks Jesus how to inherit the kingdom and is saddened by Jesus's answer.

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31

10/21 Laity Sunday

Where the Least Are the Greatest: James and John argue over who will be first in the kingdom.

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

10/28 Reformation Sunday

Where the Blind can See: Bartimaeus shows honor where there would be shame.
 Jesus brings light to the darkness

Scripture: Mark 10:46-52

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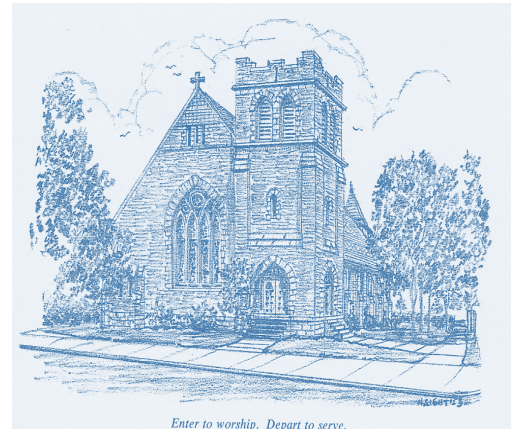
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September/October 2018