

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



On September 29th, Phillipa, Claire, Diana, Jorge and I attended the first District Academy, a training day designed to empower and support lay and clergy leaders of the district. I hope you're curious enough to ask

what they learned!

The presenter was Rev. Karl Valters. Pastor Karl, after a difficult time in his ministry as a small membership church pastor, decided to write books sharing his findings. We learned many things.

He began explaining three undeniable realities of church ministry:

Reality #1: 90% of our churches are under 200, over 80% are under 100

Reality #2: 99.9% of pastors will pastor a small church for at least some time in our ministry

Reality #3: You can lead a small church well, without settling for less

What does this mean? For starters that most people still choose a small church as their home church. There are many reasons why, but the most common is that in a small congregation people can foster transformative relationships. Many times we feel because we are small we cannot do ministry as a megachurch. Rev. Karl stated that small churches are not a problem, a virtue or an excuse. We are still the Body of Christ in the world.

This event made me reflect a lot on our church; since day one I strongly believe that we have a blessed congregation with everything that we need to transform this part of God's world. We are the best-kept secret in our area! We have committed members that have kept this congregation alive and strong. We have numerous gifts among our members that make our congregation unique. We have hearts full of passion for Christ and the mission of the church. WE ARE JESUS' CHURCH.

It is with that conviction in my heart and mind that I lead this church. It is with joy that I see God's hand in our community, we are all growing in the love of God and love to each other. We are growing in leadership and commitment. We are being challenged in ways that we have never experienced before so we can fully respond to our call.

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As we evaluate this year, I invite you to celebrate with me our mighty church and all the things we have done over the years to represent Christ. I also invite you to envision a future of a church that is active in the community, engaged and growing. I challenge you to think on ways you can help me to make St. Andrews a well-known place for the community where people know that Jesus' disciples are active. Our task is always to invite new disciples into our midst. Our job is to love and care for our community. We need to stop thinking we are small and powerless because we serve a God that is powerful and with God all is possible!

I look forward to seeing how God will transform us in 2019!

Ximena

Dates to Remember:



- Cleanup Day:** every First Saturday of the month
- Women's Fellowship Dinner:** November 3, 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall
- Church Annual Conference:** November 5, 7:00 PM Faith UMC, North Haven at 6:30 PM
- Election Day:** November 6
- Laity Convocation:** Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Operation Christmas Child Packing Party:** Sunday, November 11 after church
- Thanksgiving Day:** November 22 (building closed 11/22 and 11/23)
- Special Sunday UMC United Methodist Student Day:** November 25
- Administrative Church Council:** Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 PM
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:** December 24, 2018 6:00 PM
- Building Closed:** December 24-December 31



You are cordially invited to attend our Church Conference on November 5, 2018 at Faith UMC, 81 Clintonville Rd, North Haven, CT. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester will be presiding and we will have the opportunity to worship with our brothers and sisters: UMC of Branford, Clinton UMC, First and Summerfield UMC, First and Wesley UMC, New Haven Korean UMC, Handem Plains UMC, and Faith UMC. Fellowship with a light supper will be available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



You are cordially invited to our first women's fellowship dinner on November 3rd at 6:00 pm at our church. Please RSVP to Claire Webster by November 1st at (203) 606-6457



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
10/14/18	39	20	\$786	\$10	0
10/7/18	42	12	\$1224	\$102	0
9/30/18	37	8	\$664	\$15	0
9/23/18	36	10	\$1188	\$99	0
9/16/18	41	25	\$898	\$65	0
9/9/18	35	3	\$886	\$10	0
9/2/18	29	0	\$885	\$77	0
8/26/18	38	0	\$968	\$100	0
8/19/18	38	0	\$790	\$0	0
8/12/18	37	0	\$1344	\$0	0



- 11/11** Yvonne Lynch
- 11/25** Lucille Drummond
- 11/26** Guillermo Morales

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

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 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**, Sunday November 25, 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 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.

Thank you to everyone in the church for the support both with items and money towards our Operation Christmas Child program. For the second year in a row our goal will be 100 boxes. That's **100** children that will receive a box of items that wouldn't have received anything for Christmas and that will have the chance to learn about Jesus.

If you may recall when my family delivered the boxes in 2016 we were challenged to bring 100 last year. We were able; thanks to God and to your help we met that challenge. 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 the help of God and all of you, we will raise the additional money needed to complete this challenge. I pray that with God's and your help we can again meet those challenges. As of the date I'm writing this we have most of the items needed. What we really need is the money to ship the boxes (\$9 per box). 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 11 we will have our PACKING PARTY after the coffee hour in the hall, where people will pack the boxes for the children, also on Saturday morning November 10. 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

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

Thank you from the whole Finance Committee 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 I write this our annual Giving Campaign is in full swing with the Commitment Sunday to be held on Oct. 28th. Thank you to all who have previously pledged and those that are pledging during this Campaign. We also thank everyone that chooses to donate weekly to our plate. If you haven't pledged yet there is still time. As we finish up this year and go forth into a new year we need your help in order to continue this vital and healthy church into the future. We need your help to be responsible stewards of the St. Andrews community and all the buildings in our care for many years to come. This means making sure everything is locked and lights are off when not needed and 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 can 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.

As an example of our financial obligations we locked in a price of \$2,649 per gallon of heating oil for this winter. This is considerably higher than last year. With the amount of fuel we use during the year that will equate to approximately \$2100 additional dollars to heat the church and hall. While some of that extra will be paid for by the Daycare we will still see our expenses increase. Please help us to conserve heat by not keeping outside doors open for longer than needed.

Thank you,
John Quimby



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 our chairs and leaders who through the year give generously their time to ensure that all our ministries and work areas are in place. This church would not be the same without you



Are you interested in becoming a member of our church or want to learn more about us? Please contact the pastor!



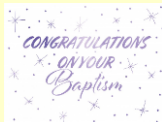
Here at Saint Andrew's, we believe in the power of prayer! If you or someone you know needs prayer, please contact the pastor by phone or e-mail.



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



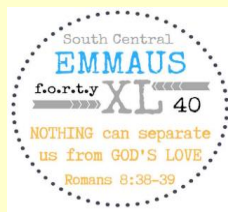
We thank the young people who serve as acolytes every week. Their participation in the worship service is greatly appreciated.



We welcome to our church family Vincent Matthew Latulippe Jr. who was baptized on October 7. May God bless you all your life!



Christmas Brunch will be served Sunday, December 23rd, immediately following the worship service.



Keep in your prayers the South Central Emmaus XL, the team and candidates, preparing for the next high school retreat on November 9 – 11 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 91 Church Street, Seymour. 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



Sunday School News

The Sunday School meets the second, third, and fourth Sunday of each month. The first two sessions are for Christian education and the third is a time for learning Christian music. The younger class is being taught some of the stories found in Genesis. The older class is studying the parables of Jesus. In December, we will study the Christmas story. All children, ages four and older are welcome to join us.

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

Please mark your calendars. Sunday, September 16th, 2018 we began a Bible Study titled "**The 12 Radical Teachings of Jesus.**" The study continues during our "Coffee After Service Time." It happens 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. If you want to purchase the syllabus, the cost is \$2.50. But, there is only enough material for 10 participants. You are all welcome to join us.

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 RIGHT AFTER SERVICE.



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 9, 2018**. 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 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)

November 2018 Worship Planning Series

Gift of Love: Giving from the heart

By Magrey R. DeVega

This series explores different dimensions of giving in love. It begins with Christ's call to love God and love one another, especially recognized in the lives of the saints. It continues with the extravagant generosity of the poor widow, whose contribution made a sizable impression on Jesus. It offers a compelling view of the Christian community in Hebrews, in which all members are responsible for the encouragement and nurturing of one another. It concludes with the grand vision of Jesus as the king of all creation, whose return and ongoing presence calls us to love, courage and persistence.

11/4/18 – All Saints Sunday – **The Greatest Commandment:** *We love God and others with our whole selves.*
Scriptures: Mark 12:28-34 & Revelation 21:1-6

11/11/18 **The Greatest Gift:** *The widow in her offering gives sacrificially.*
Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

11/18/18 **A Community of Love:** *In response to Christ's sacrificial love, we gather to encourage one another in love.*
Scripture: Hebrews 10:11-25

11/25/18 – Christ the King Sunday – **The King of Love:** *We live and love in the now and not yet kingdom of God.*
Scripture: Revelation 1:4b-8

Advent – Christmas 2018 Worship Planning Series

Living "In Between": We wait in the liminal state between Christ's first and second comings.

By Robert Dannals

Advent is an in-between time of year. It is not just between Thanksgiving and Christmas, though that is when it occurs. Advent is all about what was and what is to be, about what has already happened and what has yet to occur. It's a time of anticipation, of expectancy. To live the Christian journey with expectancy at a most basic level is to be a resident of two worlds. We live fully in the here and now, with all the joys and sorrows, victories and setbacks of incarnate life. We love, laugh, get tired, and make mistakes, hurt, rejoice, and grieve in the journey through this wonderful creation and re-creation given us by God. And we live in anticipation in the life to come, having entered into the near end of the eternal journey through the waters of baptism and belief, faith, and practice. We are in between the coming of Christ and his coming again, living the "now" with hopeful expectancy that empowers us and sustains us.

12/2/18 **Looking for the Fig Tree:** *The coming kingdom means new life*
Scripture: Luke 21:25-36

12/9/18 **Repent and Follow:** *Shifting our direction and priorities enables reception of new life.*
Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

12/16/18 **What then shall we do?** *Repenting means choosing to love differently*
Scripture: Luke 3:7-18

12/23/18 **Can they hear us singing?** *We magnify the Lord in our own day.*
Scripture: Luke 1:39-55

12/24/18 **Salvation from the Margins:** *As God meets us on the margins, we're committed to meet others there too.*
Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

12/30/18 **The Sound of Silence** *Thinking about Jesus' silent years remind of how God works slowly in us.*
Scripture: Luke 2:39-52



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Phone:

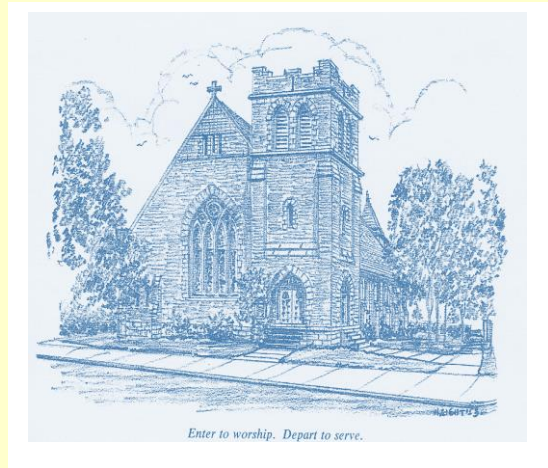
(203) 467-0117

E-Mail:

office@standrewsnh.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/churchofsaintandrews



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