

# Saint Andrew's UMC Newsletter

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*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ Ephesians 4:11-12 (NRSV).*

Do you remember who brought you to church for the first time? I am willing to bet that most of us were brought to church by a family member or a close friend. I am also willing to bet that there was something that happens inside you that keeps you coming back. For some of you, something has shaken you out of the comfort of your pew to leadership. You heard that call in the voice of the pastor to step up into the nitty-gritty of being the church. For others that call is coming!

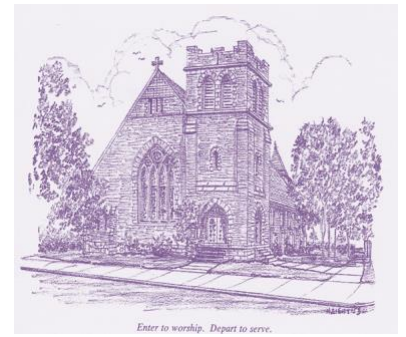
Without a doubt, there are lots of things to do to keep our church running, from the maintenance to the building, to the keeping up of our records, but have you ever stopped to think about why we do it? Our Book of Discipline states that "the church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world" That means that the whole purpose of us being here is so we have a place, a strategic base, for believers to worship, experience the Sacraments, and learn SO THAT they can go back into the world and change it. We believe that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can encourage people to profess Jesus as their savior and to live out their lives in a way that honor their relationship with God. We also believe the Holy Spirit equips us for this work. Quite powerful isn't it?

Every activity we do should point to that purpose, so that those who participate can grow in their discipleship. Our primary mission is providing the space so people can experience and grow in God's transformative love. We invite others to join us, we bring our kids, grandkids, families, and friends as a response of what we receive in God. Our mission starts in our relationship with God.

I think we all can agree that the world needs some help, and who better than us, the church, to roll up our sleeves and go spread God's love to our neighborhood. I am proud to see that our church is already living out our commitment to God. Here in our building, we host 70 children every day as we provide a safe and high-quality preschool for low-income families. Our building serves God beyond the Sunday services. And what about our youth, that last summer, spent a whole week, sleeping in the floor of a church, doing chores and engaging in mission through the UMARMY program. We are a powerful church! And we are changing the world in Jesus's name.

I want to make sure you know that you are important here! Your gifts are needed to build the Kingdom and transform the world, your presence, your prayers, your gift and your service are all we need to fulfil our mission. I am grateful for you and for the ways you are embodying God's love in the community. I look forward to more challenges together. So, are you ready to expand even more the walls of the church?

Ximena



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### Dates to Remember:

**Clean-Up Day** every first Saturday of the month

**UMCOR Sunday** March 31, 2019 (Special Sunday UMC)

**Administrative Church Council** April 2, 2019 7:00 PM

**Saint Patrick's Dinner** Sunday March 17 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

**Daylight Saving Time begins** on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 AM

**Pancake Sunday** March 3, 2019 after service

**Ash Wednesday** March 6 prayer service at 6:00 PM

**Palm Sunday** on Sunday April 14, 10:30 AM

**Maundy Thursday** April 18, 6:30 PM service includes a potluck dinner

**Good Friday** on April 19, 6:30 PM

**Easter Sunday** on Sunday April 21, 10:30 AM

**Easter Brunch** on Sunday April 28 after service

**SPRC/Pastor Parish Committee** meets Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM at church



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

## Our VitalSigns



The mission of The United Methodist Church is to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" (Matt. 28:18-20; Matt. 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.

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 in 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
2/3/19	33	0	\$1444	\$197	0
1/27/19	33	14	\$1676	\$24	0
1/20/19	0	0	\$0	\$0	0
1/13/19	38	9	\$907	\$40	0
1/6/19	34	0	\$1212	\$52	0
12/30/18	32	6	\$3100	\$0	0
12/23/18	53	17	\$868	\$121	0

### Finance Report

John Quimby, Finance Chairman

Thank you for your continued and faithful support which has allowed St. Andrew's UMC to do really meaningful ministries.

As you all know our annual Giving Campaign was held on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who have pledged in previous years and those that pledged during this Campaign. We also thank everyone that donates weekly to our plate. As we start a new year we continue to need your help in order to maintain a long future for our church. We will continue to need your help to be responsible stewards of St. Andrews and of all the buildings in our care for many years to come. This means shutting lights off when not being needed and making sure everything is locked when we leave. We have locked in an oil price quite a bit higher than last year so we are expecting higher fuel costs.

During this last year we have replaced the fluorescent bulbs with LED ones to save money on electricity. We also changed our insurance to a new company to save money. And we have changed our electric to a new supplier to help reduce the increased costs expected from our former suppliers. If anyone has any questions or issues related to their pledges or the church's finances please feel free to contact me. My home number is 203-248-1556.

Thank you and God Bless each of you.



### 2018 COLLECTION TOTALS

**10,623,776 SHOEBOX GIFTS** sent to 112 countries and territories

- Plus 24 hard-to-reach countries (not named for security reasons)
  - A record 3.96 Million Shoebox recipients participated in the follow-up discipleship program in 2018A
  - More than 2 million students made decisions for Christ in 2018 – the most since the program began in 2009
- On behalf of my family and ALL the children of the world we have helped. THANK YOU.  
John, Jocelyn and John M. Quimby



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



Here at St. Andrew's, we believe in the power of prayer! If you or someone you know needs prayers, please contact Ximena by phone or email.



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)



All who participated in our Souper Ball of Caring, \$120.50 was collected to go to our local food bank!



Pancake Day, also called Pancake Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras (French for "Fat Tuesday") is the last day of feasting before Lent begins on the following day, Ash Wednesday. It's called so due to the custom of eating pancakes on this day, a tradition that comes from a time when any remaining rich foods were eaten on the day before Lent to use them up, and fasting begins. Pancake Day is a moveable feast whose date is determined by Easter, and it's celebrated exactly 47 days before Easter Sunday. Join us for our Pancake Sunday Celebration on March 3<sup>rd</sup> after the service. A free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of this special fellowship.



March

Joseph McDonald 3/4, Lois Carpenter 3/10 and Joan Gans 3/30

April

Lola Copeland 4/4, Caroline Lopez 4/9, Ann Penington 4/9, Diana Grippen 4/25, Carolyn Pickup 4/25 and Phillipa Blake 4/29



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 throughout the year. The money collected goes 100% to a specific mission designated by the general church. For more information, go to UMC GIVING.com. Next Special Collection is **UMCOR Sunday, March 31, 2019**. 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 first Sunday of each month all the collected food items will be delivered to a local Food Pantry. Fall and winter months are always challenging, and food pantries are usually 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 kits. Praise God! Some ideas are: 1-gallon zip lock bags, socks, cereal bars, water bottles, tissues, soap, deodorant, shampoos, etc. You can also donate money to this ministry and we will shop for you!



### 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. **Next weekend is April 26-28 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 woman coming this spring! **For more information, talk to pastor Upcoming weekends: Tres Dias Men's 107 May 16 – 19, 2019, Tres Dias Women's 107 May 30 – Jun 2, 2019.**



**Join us for our Annual Saint Patrick's Dinner** on Sunday, March 17 from 11:45 PM to 1:30 PM. 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 to make a reservation by March 15. All proceeds will support the mission and ministries of St. Andrew's UMC.

Join us on April 28<sup>th</sup> right after the service for our annual Easter Brunch! Everyone is welcome! The Lord is Risen! Let's celebrate as church family.



Children 4 years old and older are invited to join Sunday school class the second third and fourth Sunday of each month.

### Sunday School News

With the Christmas activities over, Sunday School classes have returned to their regular lessons. The older class is finishing its work on the parables and the younger class continues to learn stories from the Old Testament. All children, ages four and older, are invited to join Sunday School.

### Acolytes

The Acolyte Program is going smoothly, thanks to the dedicated service of Destiny Herrmann and Vinny LaTulippe. They carry out their responsibilities very seriously and open and close the service with dignity and respect.



### 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.

We have several openings in our community to make St. Andrew's a vital congregation that makes disciples in Jesus' name. Consider serving in the following capacity or if there is another gift that you possess that is not listed, we invite you to talk to the pastor.

-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

-Sunday School assistant teachers

-Sunday's PowerPoint presentation leader



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, **by the deadline date, Sunday April 7**. 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 21, 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

Please note:

I wish to take my plant(s) home

I wish to donate my plant(s)



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Join us on Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> for a prayer service at 6:00 PM and imposition of the ashes.**

## HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us during Holy Week to observe the journey of the Cross. Every step, every service is designed to help you grow closer in understanding Christ's sacrifice so you too can resurrect to a new life on Easter morning. Invite others to join the journey to the cross.

**Maunder Thursday, April 18, 6:30 PM (service includes a potluck dinner)**

**Good Friday, April 19, 6:30 PM**

**Easter Sunday, Sunday April 21, 10:30 AM**

### SEASON OF LENT 2019: God on the Move,

**Exploring God's work through the travels and teachings of Jesus (adapted from series by Jessica LaGrone)**

Jesus didn't stay in one place for long. His earthly ministry was one of moving from one place and encounter to the next.

He also moved through every part of the human experience, encountering everything from temptation, to joy, to suffering and even death. This series helps us reclaim the movement of Jesus's ministry from temptation to condemnation, through his teaching and miracles and finally through the story of his death and resurrection. As we encounter the life and ministry of Jesus, we cannot stay the same. We ourselves are moved to grow and change as followers and imitators of the gospel. The confronting truth of Lent is that as we delve deeper into our own self-examination, we find that we are not alone. God still on the move in our lives, walking with us every step as we travel the road to Easter.

#### 3/10 **God Moves into the Desert**

*Jesus' temptation in the desert shows us that God has moved fully into human flesh and can identify with our every experience.*

**Scripture:** Luke 4:1-13

#### 3/17 **God Moves Past All Obstacles**

*Jesus won't let Herod's threats or the people's opposition keep him from fulfilling his loving purpose*

**Scripture:** Luke 13:31-35

#### 3/24 **God Moves Over the Fence**

*Instead of gazing at the grass on the other side of the fence, Jesus bring us back to focus on realities that will bring change and growth in our own backyard*

**Scripture:** Luke 13:1-9

#### 3/30 **God Moves down the Road**

*God is always running to meet us, even when we have squandered his grace*

**Scripture:** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

#### 4/7 **God Move us to Empty Ourselves**

*As Mary anointed Jesus with the scent of sacrifice, we are called to pour out ourselves for him*

**Scripture:** John 12:1-8

#### 4/14 **Palm Passion Sunday: God Move the Cross**

*Throughout his story Jesus has been moving in one direction, to the cross*

**Scripture:** Luke 19:28-40; Luke 23:1-49

**HOLY WEEK:** special services of Scripture and Music

#### 4/21 **Easter Sunday: God Move Out of the Tomb**

*Even the grave could not still Jesus. He is alive and active and moving in our lives and our world*

**Scripture:** Luke 24:1-12

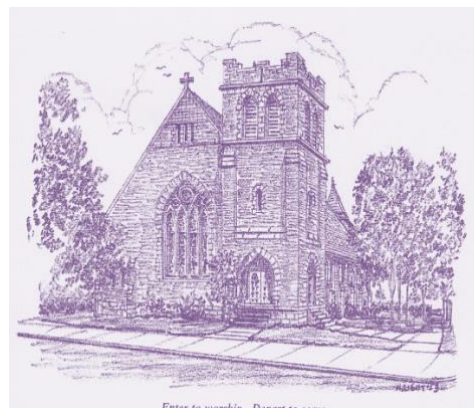
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**March/April 2019**