



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2012

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511

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Message from Pastor Sara

As the new year begins, we often consider what resolutions we'd like to make. It's hard to keep these resolutions, especially if we don't share them with someone who will help us maintain accountability. If you're thinking of making a resolution, ask a trusted friend or family member to help you and support you.

A long-time Methodist tradition for the new year has been the Wesleyan Covenant Service and the well-known Covenant Prayer. The prayer is reprinted for your reference. I invite all of us at FSUMC to make a daily practice of praying the Covenant Prayer as a resolution for 2012. It's not an easy thing to submit to God's direction in our lives, not at all, but as Jesus promised his disciples, "my yoke is easy and my burden

is light." That's one of the upside down truths about our faith: accepting the yoke of discipleship means we are denying the self and living for God. That isn't an easy thing to do; it may even create conflict with family or friends as we respond to God's guidance to act and think and live in different ways. But the consequences are deep peace within, compassion towards ourselves and all life on earth, and the overflowing of God's grace and mercy in us and through us.

This new year will be what we make of it, no matter what struggles and joys we encounter. Let's walk this path together, trusting one another and our God to be with us on the journey.

Peace be with you, Pastor Sara

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

O God, I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, O holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant that I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Interested in an accountability group? Consider being a part of the Disciple 2 Bible Study of Luke & Acts this Feb-June. See p.2.

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Jan 4: Trustees, 6:30pm. Officer elections!
- Jan. 12 Annual Reports 2011 due!
- Jan 18: Annual Meeting for Church Council & Finance 7pm, Parlor



Snow Cancellations

Winter is upon us again. The snow cancellation policy for FSUMC is as follows:

If the City of New Haven declares a parking ban at the same time as a scheduled church event, the event will be cancelled. This includes Sunday Worship. Even if the parking ban is up at 10am, services will still be cancelled. Please refer to your local radio or television for more details on area weather closings.

Church Office Hours in 2012

Starting January 3rd our new church office hours for the Business Manager will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 4:30pm. There will also be a one to two hour check in on Thursday afternoon depending on the work load for the week.

Prayer Shawl Ministry @ FSUMC—Marion Sachdeva

At the start of November I attended the annual Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering in Hartford. It was a beautiful sunny day, but attendance was lower than expected, due to many folks' power outages at home caused by the Oct. 29 storm. I sat with 2 women from a merged Baptist-Congregational church in New Britain, and one from New York. (There was only one man in the gathering.) There was also one attendee from Virginia, but those who had come the farthest were a group of 4 women -- the rector and 3 lay members -- from Canterbury Parish in England! Those attending were making shawls in various patterns, and I got some good help with interesting but still simple shawl patterns.

Now that the cold of winter is settling in and the time for snuggling down with wool is here, it's a good time to try again to get our "Stitch & pray" group reactivated. This activity has given so much pleasure to both the makers and the recipients of the shawls & scarves, it would be a shame for us to drop this ball of yarn. Surely there are more folks in our congregation who enjoy knitting and crocheting and could share that enjoyment to give comfort to others. As scheduling group meetings has been a problem, once we get started we could just connect monthly after church rather than hold formal meetings. In January during fellowship hour after Sunday worship I'll be available to offer instruction in knitting or crocheting basic prayer shawls, for anyone interested in starting or resuming this ministry.



Disciple 2 Bible Study

Last year, we trekked through Genesis & Exodus, and plan to resume the study, with the books of Luke and Acts, starting February 7th at 7pm. This will lead us through the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and the life of the early church, during the times of the church year, such as Lent, when we focus most closely on these events, making the study even more meaningful. We are looking for more members to join in this time of meditation on and sharing understanding of God's working through history and in our lives today. So don't be surprised if a fellow FSUMC member approaches you with an invitation to join in, and please do consider it. The group meetings are one evening per week for 1 1/2 hours. Copies of the study guide chapters will be available. If you'd like to learn more about this bible study program or you have other ideas for small group studies, please talk to one of our Lay Leaders or to Pastor Sara. —Marion Sachdeva

Human Relations Day-January 15th, 2012

This January, participate in the Human Relations Day special Sunday offering. This offering, begun in 1972, supports Community Developers Program, related to the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM); United Methodist Voluntary Services Program, GBGM; and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program, General Board of Church and Society. Human Relations Day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other. Contributions strengthen United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico and encourage social justice and work with at-risk youth.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Rev. Piscatelli at Faith UMC, 81 Clintonville Rd. North Haven, will be offering an 8-week bereavement support group on Monday nights from 6pm to 7:30pm, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 27, Mar 5, 12, 19. The group will include both support and grief education. This is open to anyone regardless of religious affiliation. To register please contact Rev. Piscatelli at faithumc1955@sbcglobal.net.

"ABRAHAM'S TENT" Feb. 6-13, 2012

Our church will serve as Abe's Tent, hosting up to 12 homeless men specially selected by Columbus House staff, on Monday evening Feb. 6 through Monday morning Feb. 13, 2012. Nancy Davis and Marion Sachdeva, coordinators for our church, are now soliciting volunteers, and will hold **in-house orientation and training sessions on January 25 at 5:30pm and Sunday, Jan. 29 after church**. Opportunities for volunteering include cooking and serving supper, staying overnight with the guests, serving breakfast at 6 AM, light clean-up each morning after the guests leave, and heavier clean-up on Monday Feb. 13. Please see Nancy or Marion to volunteer or for more information.

Year End Giving & Fundraising

By the end of the year 2011, we disbursed dividend income from Essie Pitts Fund to the following organizations: \$500 DIM-CHEX; \$200 Interfaith Cooperative Ministries; \$200 to CT Food Bank. Thanks for supporting these ministries! We also supported the Bishop's Partners in Mission from our current expense budget. Thank you! Updates on December fundraisers will be available by Jan. 18th.

Women's Forum Luncheon

Saturday, Jan. 14th, 12:30pm

All the women of FSUMC are invited to a dutch-treat luncheon on Sat. Jan. 14th at Szechuan Delight, 1720 Dixwell Avenue at 12:30pm. Please RSVP by Jan. 11th to the Women's Forum Co-Chairs Wanda Harris and Dru Cherry or email drucherry@att.net.

UMC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES STUDY

Mark your calendars! Kara Scroggins, our Divinity School intern, will be offering a four-week study on the United Methodist Social Principles, starting in January. The Social Principles articulate what the Church says about social issues relating to the Natural World, the Nurturing Community, the Social Community, the Economic Community, the Political Community, and the World Community.

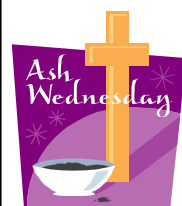
The study group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm, on January 10, 17, 24, and 31. Stay tuned for additional information about a follow-up weekend field trip to the UM General Board of Church and Society in Washington, DC, after we've completed our study! Talk to Kara, or send her an email at karascroggins@gmail.com if you have questions.



Black History Month—February 2012

We are planning to focus on health issues that impact black communities here in the US throughout the month of February.

Special musical guests Pan Jam & Lime Steel Band joins us on Feb. 26th at 10am worship, followed by the annual Ethnic Heritage Luncheon in Trinity Hall. Bring a potluck dish to celebrate your heritage. For more info, please talk to Wanda Harris.



February brings the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday worship on February 22nd at 7pm. We'll share the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion as part of the service. Lent is a 40-day period for reflection to revitalize spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and daily scripture study. Join us for a meaningful worship service to begin our Lenten journeys together. Rev. Sandra Olsen and Center Church UCC will join us for this service; we'll join them in their sanctuary for Holy Thursday worship on April 5th.

Our sympathies to the family of Vivian "Pat" Nocerino, who died on December 2, 2011. A funeral was held on December 6 at Bennett & Beecher Funeral Home, officiated by Pastor Sara.

FSUMC 2012 Lay Leadership Report

*Names that are **in bold** are new nominees, beginning a 3-year term. Class listed signifies the year in which service ends. All terms are for 3 years, January 1 to December 31.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	Van Selden Class of 2012
Vice Chair	Bob Hancock Class of 2014
Secretary	Kate Tinghitella Class of 2012
Membership Secretary	Staff
Co-Lay Leaders	Edna Echevarria, Dru Cherry Class of 2014
Member of the Annual Conference	Wanda Harris Class of 2013
Alternate	Marion Sachdeva Class of 2013
SPPR Chair	Sandra Baird Class of 2012
Finance Committee Chair	Van Selden Class of 2012
Intern's Committee Chair	Pastor
Membership & Evangelism Chair	Deb Selden Class of 2014
Treasurer	Business Manager
Financial Secretary	Melissa Bryan Class of 2013
Altar Guild	Maggie Carr Class of 2012
Women's Forum	Elected by Women's Forum
United Methodist Men	Elected by UMM
Sunday School Team Coordinator	Katie Salisbury Class of 2012
Lay Leadership Committee	Pastor Sara Lamar-Sterling
Trustees President	Elected by Trustees
Trustees Treasurer	Elected by Trustees
Pastor	Pastor Sara Lamar-Sterling
Ex-Officio: Director of Music Bob Girard	Seminary Intern Kara Scroggins

2012 FSUMC Church Directory is available to church members electronically. If you haven't received your copy or need to request a printed version, please contact the church office. If you find that there are any changes necessary, please let us know.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chair, Van Selden

Treasurer – Business Manager	Financial Secretary – Melissa Bryan
Co-Lay Leaders –Edna Echevarria, Dru Cherry	Council Chair – Van Selden
Council Vice-Chair –Bob Hancock	Member of the Annual Conference – Wanda Harris
SPPR Chair – Sandra Baird	President of Trustees – Elected by Trustees

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Officers elected by Board.

2012	2013	2014
Eloise Rentz	Kirk Baird, Treas.	Scott McLean
Wanda Harris	Denyse Burke	Modestine Vaughn
Bob Hancock		

Altar Guild – Chair, Maggie Carr

2012	2013
Rosalie Abouo	Eloise Rentz
Sandra Baird	
Maggie Carr	

LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE: Chair, Pastor

2012	2013	2014
John Carr	Bob LaCamera	Lay Leader
	Deb Selden	Mary Ntiri

Social Justice Team: Chair, Ad Tucker

Sunday School Coordinator: Katie Salisbury
Sunday School Teachers: Jean Ahern
 Lisa Brandes, Sarah Burns, Edna Echevarria, Scott McLean, Amber Moren, Van Selden, Modestine Vaughn, Katie Salisbury.

STAFF PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS: Chair, Sandra Baird

2012	2013	2014
Marion Sachdeva	Sandra Baird	Bob LaCamera
Crew Smith	Ken Borst	Lay Leader

Archives Team: Ad Tucker, Bob LaCamera, Bob Hancock, James Halttunen.

YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL INTERNS COMMITTEE: Chair, Pastor

2012	2013	2014
John Carr	Margery Dodge	Alana Abbott
Denny Burke		
Sandra Baird		

We're looking for a new Usher Chair.

Would you like to coordinate our ushers? We have 8 usher teams, several alternates to fill in, and an established schedule for our usher teams, so this has become a much easier group of volunteers to coordinate. Please talk to Pastor Sara or Dru Cherry if you'd like to be the Usher Chair.

MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM: Chair, Deb Selden

2012	2013	2014
Dru Cherry	Gerry Rowley	Chris Kuth
Betty Anderson	Edna Echevarria	Ad Tucker
Ex-officio: Usher Chair	Sunday Hospitality teams	Coordinator

What's Happening at First and Summerfield UMC

SUNDAYS: Join us every Sunday at 10:00 am for our Weekly Worship Service; Food pantry donations are received for DESK

MONDAYS: Pray for Peace at our Peace Vigil held at Noon

1st TUESDAYS, Feb. 7: 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St. Volunteer with scott.mclean@quinnipiac.edu

THURSDAYS: 7:15pm Choir rehearsal. Ring College Street "Church Office" buzzer to enter.

Dates to Remember

Tues Jan 3rd: DESK, our night to serve, 5:30pm at 311 Temple Street, lower level.

Wed Jan 4th: Trustees Meeting, 6:30pm

Sun Jan 8th: Epiphany Sunday

Tues Jan. 10th: Social Principles Study begins, 7pm, Parlor

Thurs Jan 12th: Annual Reports 2011 due from all committee chairs!

Sat Jan 14th: Women's Forum Luncheon, 12:30pm at Szechuan Delight, 1720 Dixwell Ave, Hamden. RSVP needed!

Sun Jan 15th: Human Relations Day, Worship Service, 10am

Wed Jan 18th: Annual Meeting for Finance Committee & Church Council, 7pm, Parlor

Wed Jan 25th: Abe's Tent Training Session, FSUMC, 5:30pm

Sun Jan 29th: Abe's Tent Training Session, FSUMC, 11:30am

Sat Feb 4: District Resourcing Days – Cheshire UMC, 10 a.m. - Noon

Tues Feb 7: Disciple 2 Bible Study begins, Tuesdays at 7pm

Sun Feb 12: District Resourcing Days — First UMC, Torrington, 3-5 p.m.

Wed Feb 22: Ash Wednesday Worship, 7pm

Sun Feb 26: Pan Jam & Lime Steel Band, 10am, and Ethnic Heritage Potluck Luncheon, 11:15am, Trinity Hall

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.—Martin Luther King Jr Service

When: January 13, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Congregation Mishkan Israel, 785 Ridge Road, Hamden, CT

Details: Join Congregation Mishkan Israel and Interfaith Cooperative Ministries for an evening service honoring Martin Luther King Jr.



*FSUMC: An inclusive,
diverse, and reconciling
congregation.*

**First & Summerfield
United Methodist Church
425 College Street
New Haven, CT 06511**

January
Special Offering:
HUMAN
RELATIONS
DAY
Jan. 15th

The FSUMC Monthly Newsletter is now delivered via e-mail. The newsletter is also available at www.fsumc.org under the NEWS link. The March & April 2012 newsletter deadline is January 18th. Send all submissions or requests to be put on our E-letter to fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net, or contact our office at 203-624-2521.