



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

APRIL 2011

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First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: 203-624-2521

Pastor: Rev. Sara Lamar-Sterling

Website: www.fsunc.org

Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

Friends, **Holy Week** begins April 17th with our Palm Sunday procession out on the Portico and front steps. If you'd rather not be a part of the procession, please take a seat in the Sanctuary and join in the singing as our palm-waving procession enters. Our Sunday school will sing for us. Many thanks to our Altar Guild for ordering the Eco-Palms from UMCOR again this year. They add to our re-enactment of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. This worship service will include some of the readings of the Passion narrative from the gospel of Matthew, too. If you'd like to assist as a reader, please talk to Pastor Sara.

Our **Holy Thursday** worship will be on April 21st, at 7pm at Center Church UCC. Our choir will sing at this ecumenical communion service. Park where you usually park downtown and walk to Center Church for worship. Many thanks to Rev. Sandra Olsen and her congregation for hosting our worship together.

Easter Sunday is April 24th. We will have our 10am worship in the Sanctuary. This year, we have the added privilege of celebrating the sacrament of baptism, an ancient practice of the Christian Church, with Tyjour and Cassandra and their family. Did you know that from the earliest days of Christianity Easter Sunday was a day to baptize new converts to the faith? Thanks to our baptism candidates, we will be participating in this joyful ancient tradition.

There's always a delicious meal on Easter morning at FSUMC. The **United Methodist Men's Easter Breakfast** will be held in Trinity Hall. Reply forms are available from the Church Office. The breakfast will start at 7:30am.

The **Sunrise Service at East Rock Park Summit** will be at 6:30am. Hamden Plains UMC and First Presbyterian Church, New Haven, will join us for this simple dawn worship service as we celebrate the resurrection. Pastor Sara will be

preaching and a special offering will be received for Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.

Please note that Sunday school will not meet on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday because we want the young folks to be a part of these special worship services.

I hope to see you at one or all of these important worship services. And may the God of all compassion be made real in your life during this holy time.

God bless you, Pastor Sara



Happy Easter

OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesdays & Wednesdays
10am-3pm
Thursdays, 3:15pm-5:15pm

Important Dates

- April 17 Palm Sunday; Membership & Evangelism 11:30am, Parlor
- April 21 Holy Thursday Worship, 7pm, Center Church UCC
- April 24 Easter Sunday; 6:30am Sunrise service; 7:30am Easter Breakfast; 10am Worship
- April 30 MIND General Meeting, 12-3pm, Memorial UMC White Plains, NY

Easter Flower Orders are due April 3rd.

Contact the Church Office if you need an order form.

The Men's Easter Breakfast will be on April 24th at 7:30am. Reservations are recommended, Please RSVP by April 17th. Adults are \$5; children are \$2. Make your check payable to FSUMC with "Easter Breakfast" in memo. Thank you!

2011 FSUMC Church Directory is available to church members electronically. Please contact the church office for a copy. If you find that there are any changes necessary, please let us know.

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries:
Annual Meeting April 6th

All are Welcome

Wednesday, April 6, 2011. Starting at 6:45 p.m. Coffee and Dessert; 7:15 Program begins

Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St James
57 Olive Street @ Chapel Street, New Haven
(Free parking available in Comcast parking lot across the street)

Please RSVP by April 1: icmoffice@yahoo.com
or 203 776-9526.

Program: Join us for a lively panel-led interfaith discussion on: **"Why We Do What We Do: the Necessity & Urgency of Interfaith Work Amidst Increasing Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and Xenophobia"**

Panel Moderator Reverend Scott Morrow, North Haven Congregational Church. Panelists: Omer Bajwa, Coordinator of Muslim Life, Yale University; Rabbi Dr. Herbert Brockman, Congregation Mishkan Israel; Rev. Dr. Rochelle Stackhouse, Church of the Redeemer.

**APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING: April 3
One Great Hour of Sharing (for UMCOR)**

Our eyes are sated with the pictures of the desolation in Japan, and our hearts sorrow for those who are suffering. So I am sure that you, like me, are grateful for the determination of the Methodist Church to alleviate suffering in any way we can. The United Methodist Committee on Relief promises that every cent you give to UMCOR will go to the designated project with no money spent on administrative costs. That is where the special offering we will take on April 3 comes in. This money helps pay the expenses to keep the work going.

So much of what UMCOR does is restorative in nature and requires long term work. UMCOR will be working alongside our partners in mission in Japan who will help us focus our resources on areas of greatest need. Wesley Center in Tokyo, for instance, which is related to United Methodist women, is able to care for a group of homeless.

I know many of you have seen firsthand what it means to have persons there for you when you are suffering a major disaster. I am remembering the days before the building of flood walls when the Mississippi River in Dubuque flooded its banks, and the major problems that caused those with places of work and homes along its banks. I helped my brother in South Carolina when Hurricane Hugo swept houses to sea and made others uninhabitable. I am not comparing what I observed there with what has happened in Japan, but it was a small reminder of what long time recovery requires and of gratitude that we at First and Summerfield can contribute some aid through the special offering we are receiving today. - Margery Dodge

Make checks payable to FSUMC with "OGHS" in the memo.

Our sympathies

We offer our sympathies to Reggie Jones on the death of his partner, Nadine, in March. Please keep Reggie in your prayers. Earlier this winter, Gabby Pianka's father-in-law, Walter Pianka, Jr., died; and Dru Cherry's mother, Elsie, died. Please keep their families in your prayers.

TSUNAMI RELIEF - UMCOR Advance #3021317

Here are some ways to help our neighbors in Japan, hit by a devastating tsunami and its aftermath.

You can give online or by mail to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Online: www.givetomission.org. When entering your personal information, scroll down to the section that says "Church/Local Unit Credit". Use the search option to find First & Summerfield so that your donation is recognized as a part of FSUMC.

By Mail: May your check payable to UMCRO with UMCOR Advance #3021317 Pacific Emergency, in the memo. Mail it to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, NYC, 10087. Please include a note identifying FSUMC as your home congregation. By Phone: Call 1-800-554-8583.

Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Usher Teams for April & May

We now have usher teams! Thanks so much to everyone who stepped up to this new initiative. Our usher teams will make for a more reliable way to plan and it will be less burdensome for our Usher Chair to coordinate.

Thank you all!

April 3: Deb & Van Selden

April 10: Jerry Rowley, Ad Tucker

April 17: John & Maggie Carr

April 24: Crew Smith, Dennis Jones

May 1: Kate Tinghitella, Dru Cherry

May 8: Betty Anderson, Eloise Rentz

May 15: Paulina Korankye, Nancy Davis

May 22: Sandra & Kirk Baird

May 29: Chris Lamar-Sterling, Leonard Lynch

HONEY BAKED HAMS COMING TO FSUMC

For the 1st 3 Sundays in April during Fellowship Hour, purchase \$25 gift certificates from Honey Bakes Hams. FSUMC receives 50% of each gift certificate sold.

This is a great fundraiser for FSUMC that puts a delicious meal on your table! Thanks for your support!

- Finance Committee

Reconciling Ministries / Methodists in New Directions news

FSUMC's RMN / MIND recognition Sunday is set for May 1st. This is a Communion Sunday, appropriate as we focus on God's love for all God's children through Jesus' love and sacrifice for all his brothers and sisters. Pastor Sara will be preaching; if anyone would like to participate in planning or taking part in the service, please see a member of the Social Justice team, such as Ad Tucker or Marion Sachdeva, during coffee hour.

The Covenant of Conscience, the grounding document to support MIND's Marriage equality initiative, needs more signers! Before Annual Conference in June! About a dozen of us, including the pastor, signed on at our congregational meeting in January, but at least that many more are requested from our congregation in order to show our true support for this ministry. To read background on the document, and the document itself, go to the following web site:

<http://www.mindny.org/mind-initiatives/marriage-initiative/>

To sign, please see petition sheet which will be available with Social Justice members after Sunday worship, or send email to the church office – fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net – with MIND in the subject line, and your name and Covenant of Conscience in the message. Thank you! - Marion Sachdeva



COOKING PARTY FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 16th
4pm in Trinity Hall

Come enjoy a time of fellowship,
learn some new recipes,
get introduced to great
cooking and baking tools,
and have fun
raising money for the Church!

Bring your friends, neighbors, and relatives.
The more the merrier.

For more information, talk to Gabby Pianka.

Can't come? Online order info
will be available soon!

For Youth & Children

Larry Anderson Camp & Conference Scholarship: Applications are now available for youth interested in attending summer camp or youth conference. Please contact the church office to receive an application. Applications are due April 15th.

NYAC SUMMER CAMPS

NYAC Summer Camp Program information is available at the church office for the following:

Camp Aldersgate - North Scituate, Rhode Island

<http://www.campaldersgate.com>

Epworth Center - High Falls, NY

<http://www.epworthcenter.com/>

Camp Quinipet—Shelter Island, New York www.quinipet.org

Kingswood Campsite—Hancock, New York www.kwcamp.org

Clarke Scholarship Fund for Graduating High School Seniors

You are invited to help FSUMC recognize and support the loyal youth of our church by providing scholarship money to graduating high school students who are going on to education beyond high school: i.e. College, Technical School, etc. The Scholarship Fund was established by gifts given to FSUMC in celebration of Faye and Mike Clarke's 50th wedding anniversary (married August 1956) and it is called the **Faye and Mike Clarke Scholarship Fund**. The Trustees manage this fund.

Make your check payable to FSUMC with "Clarke Scholarship" and mail it to the church office or drop it in the offering plate during worship.

Thanks for your support and generosity!



Organizing Meeting
Saturday, April 30, 2011
250 Bryant Ave., White Plains

Join us as we plan and prepare for our annual conference withness. We will start with food and fellowship and interweave worship and work (suggested \$5 donation to cover food expenses).

Please RSVP to DrBenz3@verizon.net.

See www.mindny.org for details, directions and all the latest news.

Save the date: June 10, Rev. Greg Dell

What's Happening at First and Summerfield UMC

SUNDAYS: Join us every Sunday at 10:00 am for our Weekly Worship Service, with Child Care;

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

1st TUESDAYS, Apr 5th 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St.

EVERY TUESDAY, Disciple 2 Bible Study, 7:05pm, Parlor

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

Dates to Remember

April 5	7:05pm Disciple II
April 12	7:05pm Disciple II
April 16	4pm Pampered Chef Party , Trinity Hall
April 17	Palm Sunday with Procession, starting front steps; 11:30am Membership & Evangelism meeting
April 19	7:05pm Disciple II
April 21	7pm Holy Thursday worship, Center Church UCC, Temple Street. FSUMC Choir sings at this service.
April 24	Easter Sunday, 6:30am sunrise; 7:30am Breakfast; 10am Worship
April 26	7:05pm Disciple II
April 30	12pm-3pm MIND meeting, Memorial UMC, White Plains



Calling All Singers:
Interfaith Cooperative Ministries and Choir Director Nathan Bayreuther, Director of Music, First Congregational Church, Madison, are looking for singers to be a part of an interfaith community choir. The Concert is scheduled for June 5th.

To volunteer, contact the ICM Office at 203-776-9526 or email them at icmoffice@yahoo.com.

The concert is planned to celebrate interfaith diversity and to support Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.



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

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New Haven, CT 06511

The FSUMC Monthly Newsletter is now delivered via e-mail. The newsletter is also available at www.fsumc.org under the NEWS link. The May 2011 newsletter deadline is April 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.