



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

JULY & AUGUST 2011

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

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From Pastor Sara

Now that it's summertime, our church schedule slows down a bit for these two months. Sure, we continue to gather for worship on Sundays, but fellowship hour is on hiatus till the fall. This helps us conserve resources of time and energy. Our Sunday school takes a break until the fall school year, and the Choir finds some time to rest and renew, too. In an effort to conserve energy during these quieter months, we even shorten our business office hours. Only Tuesdays and Wednesdays will the Church office be open.

We have a slower pace but ministry never really slows down. In fact, with the number of folks in the hospital, in a rehabilitation center, recuperating from surgery or illness at home, or mourning the loss of a loved one, we need to keep our prayer disciplines steady throughout the summer. We need to stay connected to one another with phone calls, cards, visits, and always, with our prayers.

Being the body of Christ in the world is not

an easy task. It takes energy, enthusiasm, and a daily commitment to love God and our neighbor in all that we do. Being the hands and feet of Christ is not a once a day or one hour a week task. Being God's people is an every day of the week, every week of the year, 24/7 commitment. It's a commitment that we live out in our spiritual disciplines, in our personal and professional lives, in our interactions with one another and with folks who aren't a part of a community of faith. Our Christian lives aren't lived vicariously through the pastor, but in the real, embodied life of a community of faith that prays together, works side by side, challenges the powers and principalities of this world, and envisions a future of hope, sacrifice and love, as one people, one body.

Summer is a great time to contemplate our future, to pray with open hearts, for the powerful guidance of God's Holy Spirit among us, and to follow courageously wherever that Spirit leads. So far, FSUMC, we've been

on this road together for the last four years, since July 2007, when I was first appointed your pastor. I look forward to continuing on that Spirit-led path with all of you and all who come to FSUMC.

Peace,
Pastor Sara



August 21st,
11:30am-3pm
Ft. Hale Park,
under the
Pavilion.

We'll bring the hot dogs, burgers and the fixings; you bring salads, drinks, and desserts.

Invite your friends!



Happy 4th
of July!

July 3rd Worship

On July 3rd, we'll be worshipping with the congregation of University Church in Yale (Battell Chapel), here in our sanctuary. We'll begin 10am fellowship time in Trinity Hall. FSUMC will provide beverages and paper products; Battell will provide the donuts and cookies. At 10:30am, we'll hold a worship service with communion; professional child care provided by our staff, Gabby Pianka.

Our theme: Sing a New Song, which is exactly what we'll do, together, ecumenically!

Vacation Bible School August 22-25, 9am to 2pm.

Extended day program is 2pm-4pm. Registration due Aug. 1. Ages 4 to 10. Held at First Presbyterian Church, 704 Whitney Avenue. We need you to make it happen!

Donations of nut-free snacks for all the children to enjoy (goldfish crackers, animal crackers) Cost is estimated \$30/child for art supplies, excursion costs. If cost is a concern, please talk to Pastor Sara.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
10am-3pm

PARISH HALL BUILDING HOURS:

Monday-Friday
8:30am—4:30pm

FSUMC T-Shirts Coming Soon!

Membership & Evangelism is having FSUMC T-shirts designed. These cotton/polyester shirts will be available soon for about \$10-12/shirt, in a variety of sizes. Support FSUMC by wearing your T-shirt often and help get the word out about our community of faith.

Women’s Forum Meeting July 22

All the women of FSUMC are invited to a Women’s Forum planning dinner on **Friday, July 22, at 6pm**, at the home of Ad Tucker. Please bring a salad dish to share; hot dogs will be provided. We’ll be discussing plans for the fall retreat and other ministry plans. Please talk to Ad Tucker if you need directions.

Congratulations to our Business Manager, Gina Reed, on her daughter Alaina’s graduation from East Haven High School on June 28th. Way to go, Mom and daughter!

Summer Schedule at FSUMC

Office Hours The office will be open Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am-3pm, and closed on Thursdays and Fridays.

Disciple 2 Bible Study is on break in July and August. They’ll begin meeting again on September 6th at 7:05pm. New participants welcome in September!

Choir is on break in July and August. They’ll start rehearsing again on August 25th at 7:15pm. During the summer, we invite all of our musicians to share their talents in worship. Talk to Bob Girard if you have musical talents to share in our worship.

Fellowship Hour is on break for July and August. We’ll reconvene Fellowship Hour in the fall.

DESK is on break June 23 to July 10. FSUMC does not serve again until AUGUST 2. Please mark your calendars and see you on Tuesday, August 2nd, 5:30pm-7pm, at 311 Temple Street, lower level. Don’t forget to wear a hat!

Our sympathies

We offer our sympathies to the family of Mary Blanford, a longtime member of FSUMC. Mary died at her home on Tuesday evening, June 21st. A memorial service will be held at FSUMC on Saturday, July 30 at 11am, with a reception to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Mary’s two favorite charities: the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of CT at 306 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457; or to PEO Educational Fund for Women, c/o Tracy Blanford, 245 Russell Street New Haven, CT 06513. Please make your check payable to PEO with “Educational Fund” in the memo. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to this same address.

There will be a reception after the memorial service, so if you are available to help with set up and clean up, please contact the Church office. Thank you for your help.

Counting Teams for July & August

July 3 Melissa Bryan, Michael Sullivan
July 10 Joan Burns, Scott McLean
July 17 Nancy Davis, Crew Smith
July 24 Volunteers needed
July 31 Melissa Bryan, Michael Sullivan

August 7 Joan Burns, Scott McLean
August 14 Nancy Davis, Crew Smith
August 21 Volunteers needed
August 28 Melissa Bryan, Michael Sullivan

Please check your summer schedule to see if you’re available for the date listed above. If not, please make arrangements with a substitute and let Melissa, Financial Secretary, know. Thank you all for your dedication to our counting team ministry!

Usher Teams for July & August

Here’s the list of Usher Teams for the next two months. Many thanks to these faithful volunteers! If you’re unable to usher on your assigned date, please find a substitute and contact the Church Office with the volunteer’s name for the bulletin. Thank you all!

July 3: Kate Tinghitella, Dru Cherry
July 10: Betty Anderson, Eloise Rentz
July 17: Paulina Korankye, Nancy Davis
July 24: Sandra and Kirk Baird
July 31: Chris Lamar-Sterling, Leonard Lynch
August 7: Deb & Van Selden
August 14: Jerry Rowley, **Volunteer needed**
August 21: Volunteers needed
August 28: Crew Smith, Dennis Jones

Contact Usher Chair Dru Cherry for more information. Usher training is planned for late summer to review all the tasks for the position. If you’d like to become an usher, or you’d like to step down from an Usher team, please talk to Dru Cherry.

Stay in Touch with Rachel & Check in With Next Year’s Intern Kara

Rachel Duncan is biking across the US this summer. Stay in touch with her at <http://headonyonder.blogspot.com>. Rachel won’t be returning to FSUMC this fall. Why? Because she got a job pastoring a Church! She’ll serve Canaan UMC, in Canaan, CT, starting this fall. Congratulations, Rachel!

Next year’s YDS Intern, Kara Scroggins, is spending the summer in Haiti on a reforestation project. Her updates from Haiti will be posted on our FSUMC Facebook page. Check it out!

New York Annual Conference 2011 – report from Marion Sachdeva, FSUMC lay delegate
Wednesday – Friday, June 8-10, 2011

The Conference theme this year was “For Such a Time as This: We are Heart-Warmed United Methodists in Mission”. The spirit of God was present with and through us in many ways and places during this conference, warming our hearts through word and song and showing us opportunities for mission beyond our church walls.

Worship: Every day saw spirit-filled worship services with exciting music / singing led by Jorge Lockward, beautiful liturgical dance by the Rev. Tisha Jermin, and powerful sermons by the Bishop and other preachers.

The Memorial service for clergy who had died since last Conference (which included remembrance of the Rev. Wallace Viets, a former pastor of our church) was especially moving for me, as I was not able to attend last year’s service during which my Dad was one of those remembered, and my heart included him in this service.

Thursday’s “Jubilee” worship service celebrated the clergy retiring this year, including our former pastor Taka Ishii and his wife Jeannette Bassinger-Ishii, and our former District Superintendent George Engelhardt. George and his wife Caroline (in service at the resource center at Yale Divinity School) were also honored at the dinner of Methodists for Social Action, for their lifetime work for civil rights and social justice.

Friday evening’s Ordination service was beautiful and moving (also very long!). With the laying-on-of hands for those in the Conference achieving various levels of church pastorship, they were told “The Bishop gives you the authority, but only God gives you the anointing” – the blessing for this task, through the Holy Spirit. Among those presented for ordination, commissioning, or recognition were Vicki I Flippin, our former Seminary Associate, now an “elder” – i.e. full pastor; and Paul Fleck, a member of our church while in Div. School, now an “elder candidate” (next to last step). Prior to this service, several of us MIND members stood at the doors of the Arena and handed out blue armbands to be worn by willing clergy and lay members, signifying “Tears of joy for those who will be ordained this day! Tears of sorrow for those who cannot be, because of their sexual orientation; and for our beloved church, deprived of their service in ministry.” About half of the newly-ordained pastors on the stage wore the blue armbands with their white robes.

Decisions made: As the lay delegate representing our congregation, my task, besides paying good attention to all that transpired, was as a voter, for:

1. Lay delegates to the 2011 United Methodist General and Jurisdictional Conferences, both of which meet every 4 years. General Conference “is the highest legislative body” of United Methodism and “is comprised of delegates from all of The UMC’s Annual conferences (in the U.S., Africa, Europe, and Asia) numbering no more than 1000 in total, equally split between clergy and lay delegates. Every Annual conference has a minimum of 2 delegates.” (Ours has 10 -- 5 clergy & 5 lay delegates.) General Conference considers and decides on plans, programs, budget and policy statements for the whole U.M. Church for the upcoming 4 years, and possible revisions to the UMC law book (the Book of Discipline) and Constitution. This election is a serious responsibility, as these delegates represent our Conference, in its full diversity. The layperson G.C. delegates we elected are a fine group of folks, including Jorge Lockward, Fred Brewington, Carolyn Engelhardt, Marva Usher-Kerr, and Rashid Warner. (See www.nyac.com for a full listing of delegates).

The votes were taken using hand-held devices that tallied votes almost immediately. Candidates had to receive more than 50% of the total votes in order to be elected, so we had to vote many times before arriving at the final set of candidates. This process took up a lot of time; clergy took much longer than lay delegates to reach conclusions, but they had many more candidates to pick from. Pastor Sara was one, and I’m sorry she was not elected; it is a very political process and appears to require many tries and years of lobbying.

2. Petitions submitted for action to and by our New York Annual Conference and the General Conference. I participated in the legislative section for “Advocacy”, in which petitions were presented on issues including : Divestiture of Conference funds from corporations which profit from violence between Israel & Palestine, solidarity with unions and the working class, immigrants rights and support for the socially marginalized (Paul Fleck has been active in this area), maternal health initiatives worldwide, prohibition of gun-show sales without background checks and of high-capacity ammunition magazines, and removal of UMC policy of full participation in church life being available for heterosexual persons only, through marriage-equality in churches in our NY Conference, and removal from the Book of Discipline of all the references about “homosexuality” by the General Conference. This last issue is raised at Annual Conference every year, and Bible verses are lifted up by those with differing views on the issue. But Bible verses can be taken out of context and used to support or put down any imaginable issue. Methodist Founder John Wesley gave us 4 cornerstones on which to base our understanding of God’s will and Spirit: Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience. Informed by all of these, exclusion of anyone, because of the way God created them, from marriage or ordination in the Methodist Church, is seen by many in our Conference, and our congregation, as limiting of God’s spirit and love.

All the petitions passed, either directly in the Advocacy legislative session, or later by a majority of the entire body on the floor of the Conference.

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Other inspiring events: Thursday morning in the Arena opened with a presentation on “Heart Warmed United Methodists” by Jerry Eyster, lay speaker from Westport UMC, in which he reflected, through the life and writings of John Wesley as well as the life story of his own father, on true happiness, the basis of which is love and social connectedness inspired by God, our social holiness.

Connecticut District breakfast, with presentation led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Ken Kiefer. Rev. Kieffer shared “stories of hope” that had been shared with him in various churches in our district, then opened the discussion to those gathered at the event, to share their stories. Almost all the stories focused on help from members of local church families for those in need.

The Rev. Greg Dell’s speech at the MIND luncheon: “Celebrating intolerance. When intolerance by word or deed is directed at persons because of their identity (for instance their sexual orientation, race, or gender) -- that intolerance should not be tolerated; it must be opposed by word and deed. But when intolerance is directed at the actions or words that are dehumanizing or destructive of God’s gifts of diverse identities, it must be celebrated.” Throughout his ministry Rev. Dell stood up for civil rights and defended the marginalized without regard for cost to himself. Though now retired due to Parkinson’s disease and not having given a public lecture for a few years, he spoke with passion and conviction, and left his audience inspired to continue this work. For his full remarks, see www.mindny.org.

Display tables surrounding the auditorium provided information on opportunities for study, other UMC ministries, and long- and short-term mission– such as the Volunteers in Mission, through which Pastor Sara and other members of our congregation have served in Haiti. Beautiful shawls in many colors were sold to support a mission building schools in Ecuador, and were bought and worn by many women gathered in the chilly arena.

I missed the presence of Ad Tucker (CT district lay delegate but absent due to back surgery), my usual “conference buddy” when I attend the Friday sessions each year. But I was happy to meet up with long time friend, and former FSUMC member, Janice Samoeil, who attended as lay delegate from Hamden Plains UMC, and greatly enjoyed her company during conference sessions. I am also very grateful for her giving me a ride home.

This was my first experience attending Conference for the full program and as a voting delegate, although I regularly attend the Friday MIND luncheon and afternoon events. I was sorry for the reason for my attendance as our lay delegate – filling in for Wanda Harris due to her sister’s death – but grateful for the opportunity to participate fully in this event, in which the life of our United Methodist Church is lifted up and the connections between all our individual congregations are experienced as God’s family members, as we shared God’s Spirit and praised God together.

These are just the Conference highlights as I experienced them; many more organizational and inspirational activities took place during these few days than I have covered here. If you would like more detailed coverage, I would be happy to share the many resources I encountered at Conference. Respectfully submitted, Marion Sachdeva

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GROVE STREET CEMETERY

Did you know that First & Summerfield has a plot available at Grove Street Cemetery? We do! The plot is located on Cedar Avenue. In the photo, Pastor Sara is sitting at the open plot, in the shade of a cedar tree. The plot can hold either 1 coffin or 4 boxes of ashes. The plot is available to active members of First & Summerfield United Methodist Church who faithfully participate in our community by their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.



If you’d like to purchase this plot, please submit your name to Trustee Denny Burke in writing by **Monday, August 1st**. The Trustees will have a drawing on **Sunday, August 7th after worship** to select someone by casting lots (see Acts 1:26). The cost is \$6500, made payable to FSUMC Trustees by **Friday, August 12th**. A Quit Claim will be required to complete the purchase of the plot, including notarized signatures of purchaser and a Trustee. Plenty of other plots are available directly through Grove Street Cemetery, if you are interested.

Trustees are planning to repaint the Orange Room at the bottom of the College Street stairs. It will become the **Mint Green Room**, available for community use. Volunteers are needed Saturday, July 9 at 9am. Food and beverages will be provided. Wear your painting clothes and bring any supplies you might have. Talk to Chris Lamar-Sterling to volunteer. It’ll be a fun time!

FSUMC’S INVESTMENT POLICY: At our annual Church Conference in November 2010 with our District Superintendent, Rev. Kieffer, we were encouraged to develop a written investment policy for the Endowment and other funds that are administered by the Board of Trustees. To this end, the Trustees established a subcommittee to draft this document. The members of the subcommittee are Kirk Baird, Denny Burke, and Pastor Sara. They plan to present a written policy to the Board of Trustees this fall, that will eventually be ratified by the Church Council before the end of 2011. The purpose of the policy is to simplify our work, make one set of guidelines for everyone to follow, and improve the stewardship of these funds to the glory of God. Questions or ideas, please speak with Kirk or Denny.



The MIND annual picnic & pool party is July 16, 12 - 5pm, at 11 Thomas Way, Central Valley, NY. Our hosts Shirley and Robin not only have a pool, they also have a labyrinth and horseshoes and an outdoor theatre space. Plus plenty of room for frisbees. Plan to bring the kids. Please RSVP to www.mindny.org so we know how much food to make. See you poolside on July 16th!

Covenant of Conscience Update

If you haven't signed on in support of the same-sex marriage Covenant of Conscience, there's still time. A sign up form is available at the back of the Sanctuary. Have friends in other UMCs? Invite them to sign, too. The broader the circle of supporters, the stronger the message for inclusivity and equality in the UMC!

Consecration Sunday Team

This fall, we'll host our 2nd annual Consecration Sunday stewardship program. The Finance Committee decided to use this program for 3 consecutive years. Our first year was a success so we look forward to another good program this September.

Our team members are Deb Selden, Chairperson; Marion Sachdeva, Bob Hancock, Melissa Bryan, Van Selden, and Maggie Carr. Our special guest preacher will be Rev. Dr. William Shillady, Executive Director of the United Methodist City Society of NY. A great team for a great program as we consider how to faithfully manage all God's good gifts so that we use these gifts to transform ourselves and the world around us.

FSUMC COMMUNICATIONS

Did you know that we have a Facebook page for our church? Check it out!

The Church Office sends a weekly email update. If you are not receiving these or you would like to be added to the email list, please email Gina at fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net.

Newsletter updates: Please get materials in by August 18th for the September/October newsletter.
Thanks! - Membership & Evangelism

Volunteers In Mission: Check out the new VIM page at www.nyac.com. Volunteers for tornado relief in Missouri, Alabama, and Massachusetts are needed. Teams are being formed on a revolving basis, so contact Rev. Joseph Ewoodzie, and lend a hand to our neighbors in need.

Save these Dates

Summer Church Picnic,

August 21st, 11:30am-3pm

Ft. Hale Park, New Haven, under the Pavilion
We'll bring the hot dogs, burgers and the fixings;
you bring salads, drinks, and desserts.

Fun for the whole family —
Invite your friends!

September 25, 2011

Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. William Shillady
Executive Director of the UM City Society, NYC,
joins us for worship & special programming
at 10am.

FSUMC FUNDRAISING CONCERT

October 15, 2011

7pm

Tickets \$10/person

With the Cobalt Rhythm Kings

Café Wesley: food and beverages offered

Start selling tickets now! Bring your friends for a
fun night of great music!



Cook & Care Walkathon
Sunday, October 16, 2011
www.cookandcare.org

DESK fundraiser—Sept. 11
BBQ at Lighthouse Point



Abraham's Tent 2012: tentatively Feb. 13-20 at FSUMC!

United Methodist Men's Annual Retreat: Usually held in October at Stony Point Retreat Center. Stay overnight, or just attend the Saturday session. Talk to Bob Hancock for more information.

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, 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St. Next Date: Aug. 2nd

Dates to Remember

- July 3 Worship with the congregation of Church of Christ in Yale, held at FSUMC. 10am fellowship time; 10:30am worship with communion.
- July 9 9am, Painting party, Trinity Hall.
- July 16 MIND summer picnic & pool party, Central Valley, NY, 12-5pm.
- August 1 Vacation Bible School Registration due today.
- August 2 DESK, help serve dinner, 5:30pm, 311 Temple Street.
- August 21 Church Picnic, following worship, Fort Hale Park, New Haven.
- August 22-25 Vacation Bible School, held at First Presbyterian Church, 704 Whitney Ave. Register now!
- August 25 7:15pm Choir Rehearsals reconvenes. Ring Church door buzzer to enter.
- September 6 Disciple 2 Bible Study reconvenes, Tuesday at 7pm, in the Parlor.
- September 18 New Member Sunday, 10am.
- September 25 Consecration Sunday Celebration Worship & Catered Luncheon.
- October 15 Fundraising Concert with the Cobalt Rhythm Kings, at FSUMC, 7pm.

Sacrament of Baptism

If you haven't even been baptized and discern that this is the next step for your faith life, contact Pastor Sara. The UMC practices baptism for children and adults; no matter our age, we're all children of God!

Reception of New Members

Are you interested in joining FSUMC as a member? Save the date, Sunday, September 18th to join with your membership vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. A new members' class will be held on an evening in early September. Contact Pastor Sara if you're interested.



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

First & Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street

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 Newsletter link. The September/October 2011 newsletter deadline is August 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.