



FIRST AND SUMMERFIELD CHURCH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2010

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street New Haven, CT 06511

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A letter from Pastor Sara

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, said that “there is no holiness but social holiness.” Wesley expected Methodists to not only cultivate their personal spiritual well-being but also tend to the well-being of the social community as well. So in that Wesleyan spirit, I’d like to extend to you two important invitations to events that symbolize what our church is all about. I hope you’ll clear your calendar and join me for both of these.

The first event is on Saturday, November 20th. It is being held at Grace UMC in Manhattan. I hope you will join me for a day-long event “My Brother’s Keeper: People of Faith Confront Hate Crimes”. This symposium has been organized by several organizations in our Annual Conference: the Board of Church & Society, the Methodist Federation for Social Action, the Immigration Task Force, and Methodists in New Directions. The goal of the “Brother’s Keeper” day is to raise awareness about hate-motivated violence and to

provide resources to address this kind of violence in our communities.

Why is it so important that we need to have a big turnout to the Nov. 20 event? Consider this: a recent Public Religion Research Institute survey revealed that “65% of Americans believe that religious messages contribute to higher gay teen suicide rates and 72% think messages from places of worship contribute to negative views of gay and lesbian people”(from www.mindny.org, Oct. 23, 2010 posting). Yet even in our Annual Conference, clergy and laity alike consider hate crimes a non-religious issue.

At First & Summerfield, we understand the connections between what our church teaches and how those teachings can be enacted in the public sphere. Registration information is provided in this edition of our newsletter, or go online to www.mindny.org to register electronically. Talk to Pastor Sara about carpooling.

The second event is a theatrical performance happening right here in New Haven, in our very own sanctuary. We will be hosting the performance of an

original play, “Show Me the Franklins: Remembering the Ancestors, Slavery and Benjamin Franklin” by Amanda Kemp. Come see the play, hear the stories of the men and women who were owned by the Franklins, and consider the invitation to forgiveness that is at the heart of this one-act play.

The performance is about 40 minutes long, followed by a conversation with the actors and playwright about race relations in Colonial America and today. Admission is free. All we ask is that you bring food pantry items will be received at the door for Christian Community Action. The New Haven Friends Society (Quakers) and Christian Community Action are a co-sponsoring the performance. Older elementary children and youth will benefit from the experience just as much as adults, so invite your young friends. And consider helping as an usher for one of the performances.

Together, in the audience of a play about race or at a symposium on confronting hate, let’s put our social holiness into practice.

Peace,
Pastor Sara

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SAVE THE DATE:

Tues Nov. 30 7:00pm

Charge Conference

with the District Superintendent
Rev. Ken Kieffer



*All members of
FSUMC are
invited to attend.*

Charge Conference reports are due electronically to Pastor Sara on Nov. 15. Charge Conference is Nov. 30 at 7pm in Trinity Hall.



MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER

- Nov 3rd Trustees 6:30pm
- Nov 4th Sengbe Pieh 6:30pm
- Nov 8th Finance 7:00pm
- Nov 15th SPR 7:00pm
- Nov 16th Church Council 7:00pm
- Nov 30th Charge Conference 7:00pm

OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS...

With Gratitude

Dear FSUMC Family,
Thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls and thoughts. I came through the surgery very well and I could feel the Lord's spirit uplifting me every step of the way. When I wrap myself in the beautiful prayer shawl I feel the warmth and love of the church around me. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Please continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers as you are in mine.
Yours in Christ, Jean Link

Thank you so much for everything!

What a journey! I am excited to be expanding my career path at Yale University, but I regret that it will take me away from my position at First and Summerfield UMC. This has been my "home" since August 2007. It has been an honor to serve this congregation and a pleasure to work with Pastor Sara. I have been blessed with meeting such wonderful people along the way here and sincerely hope that I remain in your prayers as you will remain in mine. May the Lord's blessings abound in your lives and may you continue to do HIS work in as many ways possible.

All the best...

~ Mary Ann Fuentes

United Methodist Student Day

On November 28 we will take time to think of students who may be having a tough time finding the funds to prepare for useful work. United Methodist Student Day will provide us with the opportunity to give a hand to students. Here is a thought for the day:

"If you can give, they will achieve." We will need pastors for our churches, nurses for our care, teachers at all levels, persons with the skills we need in the 21st Century.

Be grateful that our connectional church helps us give a hand where it is needed.



FSUMC Book Club Our discussion of Stephen Prothero's "God Is Not One" ended on October 26. Many thanks to Katie Salisbury for coordinating and leading this great discussion series. More book discussions are planned in the future.

Update and thanks...

First and Summerfield's Church Family and Friends,

I have returned to Chattanooga and resumed my therapy. It will probably end, next month. I have been warned that my shoulder cracked up to the point where I will not reach 100%. I thank GOD it was not my head. My range of motion is at least 75% and I am thankful. I will start "tending" to myself like most people around 60. I have that red alcohol, folks swear on from the Dollar General, Pain meds, hot pads, cold pads, warm blankets, kind words, some walking, warm messages, new plans, etc. (Now, don't think I am that faithful to these remedies.) I am back at church and of course they are back at asking me to take on a project or two. I now know short cuts to planning the Christmas Dinner and a Simple Craft night. Pass on any that you might know. Thanks to all of you who "reached-out" It did not surprise me, because I know where my roots are. Stay in touch and I will do the same. My computer is not at its best, but it promises to be A-OK by the holiday.
Eva Johnson

A warm thank you to Van Selden and Marion Sachdeva for volunteering their time in the Church office this month. It was a great help! – Pastor Sara

In Sympathy

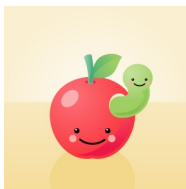
We extend our sympathies to Kristen Dunn & Michael Sullivan on the death of Kristen's father, Michael Dunn, earlier in October. Kristen was able to be with family in Florida last month. Please keep them in your prayers.

Rev. Wallace Trowbridge Viets



Our sympathies to the family of Rev. Dr. Wallace Viets. Dr. Viets died on October 6, 2010 at the Bishop Wicke Health Center in Shelton. He is survived by his wife Evelyn, and his children and grandchildren. Hesung Koh and Bob LaCamera were able to attend his funeral service at Nichols UMC on Oct. 23. Thank you for representing FSUMC that day. Condolences can be sent to Marian Viets, 68 Lewis Lane, Fair Haven, NJ 07704. Dr. Viets stayed in touch with FSUMC through our newsletter for many, many years. He served First UM Church, before the merger with Summerfield, from 1960 to 1966.

Family Fun Day on Saturday, October 16th, was a great success. We visited 2 orchards and loaded up on apples, pumpkins, donuts and cider. We also loved the big slide! Young adults and Sunday school families joined together for this day of fun and fellowship. The next Family Fun Day is Saturday, November 13th at 4pm, a Spaghetti and Game Night, for Sunday schoolers and their families. Come to Trinity Hall, bring some games to play and enjoy some delicious meatballs and spaghetti. Families are invited to bring salad, dessert, and beverages. Spaghetti, sauce, and meatballs will be donated to the meal.



ABRAHAM'S TENT

Abraham's Tent Overflow Homeless Shelter ministry of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries is getting ready for 2011: Our week is Feb. 14-20, 2011. Talk to Ad Tucker about volunteering. A planning meeting is coming soon!

Medical Students For Choice (University of Connecticut SOM chapter) cordially invites you to:

What Is Choice?

A panel discussion on the medical, ethical, legal, and religious choices in reproductive health & abortion. Thursday, November 4th, 2010 at 6:00 PM. Patterson Auditorium, University of Connecticut Health Center, 263 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT. Pastor Sara will serve as one of the panelists for this discussion.



Many thanks to Maggie Carr for guest preaching on Sunday, October 17th, while Pastor Sara and Chris were on vacation. We received a new member that Sunday, Chris Kuth. Welcome to the congregation, Chris. We're so glad to have you. Rev. John Carr assisted with the new member reception that day, thank you John!

HOLIDAY MINDFULNESS

Dear Friends,

The Christmas holiday season is fast approaching. Before you're overwhelmed, prayerfully consider alternative ways to celebrate the hope and joy of the season.



Consider the Fair Earth Bazaar at Mercy Center, Madison, CT. Friday, November 5th, 2010 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm & Sat, November 6th from 9am-4:00pm. Or make a donation to your favorite charity - like FSUMC or Heifer Project International -- in honor of a friend, relative, or co-worker. ~ Pastor Sara

HAITI 2010 Early Response Teams: Schedule

Total cost \$1,100

Application form available at www.nyac.com

Travel Dates for 2011

March 8 - 15
 April 5 - 12
 May 6-13
 June 17-24
 July 18-25
 August 19-26
 September 16-23
 October 21 - 28

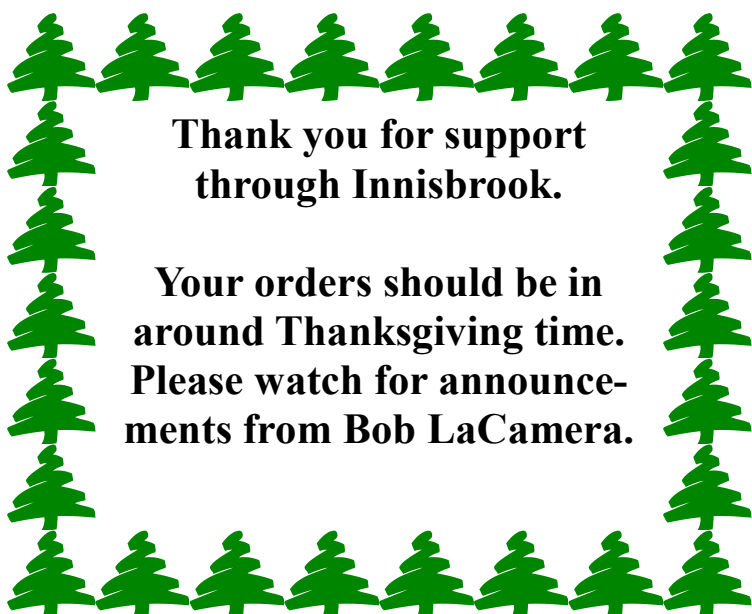
SAVE THE DATES: Sengbe Pieh

Next meeting is Nov. 4 at 6:30pm; and Jan. 6, 2011 at 6:30pm. The 10th Anniversary Sengbe Pieh Community Service Award Ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2011. This year, we'd like to honor a younger awardee, perhaps someone in their 20s to 40s for their community service work. Save the date, and start thinking of possible nominees for the community service award.

In case you didn't know, or want to tell your friends...



See link on website www.fsumc.org or look up First and Summerfield UMC at www.facebook.com. See you there!!!



Thank you for support through Innisbrook.

Your orders should be in around Thanksgiving time. Please watch for announcements from Bob LaCamera.



Show Me the Franklins!

Remembering the Ancestors, Slavery, and Benjamin Franklin

Performances by

The Theatre for Transformation

Meet Jemima, Peter, Othello, George, and King, all held in slavery by Benjamin Franklin. Through music, movement and sometimes humorous scenes, the play dramatizes how our ancestors might have experienced American Slavery and American Freedom. This play, by Dr. Amanda Kemp, offers a fresh perspective on Franklin, who died as president of the Abolitionist Society without ever freeing even one of his own slaves and gives an opportunity to remember and forgive.

Appropriate for ages 8 and up – Running time 40 minutes, followed by discussion

Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 4:00 & 7:00 PM

First and Summerfield United Methodist Church

425 College Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Free Admission

For the benefit of Christian Community Action we invite you to bring non-perishable food items or make a free-will offering at the 7:00 pm performance

Sponsors: New Haven Friends (Quaker) Meeting; First and Summerfield United Methodist Church; Christian Community Action; The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition



**My Brother's Keeper:
PEOPLE OF FAITH
CONFRONT
HATE CRIMES**

Saturday, November 20th, 2010
9am-4pm
Grace United Methodist Church
125 W, 104th Street, NYC

REGISTER NOW! The day will include Keynote speakers, a performance by Teatro Experimental, small group discussions, youth involvement, worship, and resources to combat hate violence in our communities. Registration is \$20 for adults. Youth are free. Checks are payable to MIND, and should be sent to My Brother's Keeper, St Paul & St Andrew, 263 W. 86 Street, NYC 10024.

Registration Form

First & Last Name _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____

Congregation: First & Summerfield

Registration fee: ___\$20 adult ___ youth free

Symposium poster: ___\$10 Additional donation to help meet conference expenses: \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to MIND and mail to:

My Brother's Keeper, c/o S. Sargent SPSA,
263 W 86 Street, NYC 10024



Thanksgiving Spirit needed:

Oct. 27-Nov 25

Hunger does not arise on Thanksgiving Day and then go away, defeated. The Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen's pantry is low on food. In addition to showing your generosity Thanksgiving Day, show how your Spirit of Thanksgiving is a year-round faith commitment by organizing a food drive immediately. D.E.S.K.'s food pantry needs *your* help specifically to fight hunger.

**Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen's
Most Needed Items:**

Large cans sweet potatoes, yams
Cans/packets turkey gravy
Mayonnaise
Hot sauce
Worcestershire sauce
Cake mixes: yellow or white
Sugar
Flavored bread crumbs
#10 can crushed tomatoes
Spices: salt, pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, cumin, dill, basil, oregano
Ziploc Bags-Quart and pint

Large cans chicken and beef broth
Large cans cranberry sauce
Salad dressings
BBQ Sauce
Ketchup
Cornstarch
Flour
#10 can spaghetti Sauce
Stuffing

We are asking for donations of donations of FROZEN turkeys, pies, and financial contributions as well. We are not able to accept cooked turkeys this year due to OSHA regulations, but will gratefully accept FROZEN turkeys. All FROZEN turkeys must be delivered on Sunday November 21st only. Please deliver to DESK, between noon and 4pm Sunday afternoon.

Volunteers are needed on Wednesday and Thanksgiving Day to prepare and serve meals; Package/deliver meals to the homebound; staying a short time to visit; Greet, mingle and dine with guests on site; Help to clean up afterwards. Latest info can always be found on the web: <http://downtowneveningsoupkitchen.com>.

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; Food pantry donations are received for DESK.

MONDAYS: Pray for Peace at our Peace Vigil held at Noon, front steps

1st TUESDAY, 5:30pm Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, 311 Temple St., 1st Tuesday of month, Nov 2nd.

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

Dates to Remember

SAVE THE DATES:

Wed Nov 3: Trustees meeting 6:30pm

Thur Nov 4: Sengbe Pieh Meeting, 6:30pm, Parlor

Wed Nov 8: Finance Meeting, 7pm. Budget Meeting

Sat Nov 13: Family Fun Day

Mon Nov 15: SPR Meeting, 7pm - Annual Pastor Evaluation Meeting

Charge Conference reports also due for Conference Booklet. All Committees and Teams need to submit a concise and accurate account of the work of your group for the year 2010. Thanks! Please email your report to the Church Office.

Tues Nov. 16: Church Council meeting, 7pm, Parlor

Sat Nov. 20: Hate Crimes Symposium, sponsored by Methodists In New Directions, Board of Church & Society—an Annual Conference-wide event. Place, Grace UMC, 125 West 104 Street, NYC

Thur Nov. 25: Happy Thanksgiving; Church office will be closed.

Sun Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent

Tues Nov. 30: Charge Conference with the District Superintendent Rev. Ken Keiffer. All members of FSUMC are invited to attend., 7pm

Sat Dec 4: Labyrinth retreat day, FSUMC

Sat Dec 11: Blue Christmas Service, FSUMC

Fri Dec 24: Christmas Eve, 5pm Worship

Sun Dec 26: First Sunday of Christmas

Fri Dec 31: Watch Night Service

Thur Jan 6: Sengbe Pieh Meeting, 6:30pm

**Daylight Savings Time:
November 7th.**

**Don't forget to set your clocks
back 1 hour!**



FSUMC: An inclusive, diverse, and reconciling congregation.

Are you planning a special day and need
a special place?

Consider FSUMC for your event.

FSUMC has been home to many weddings, concerts,
and family gatherings. Let us help you coordinate
the celebrations & blessings in your life.

Contact

fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net, call 203-624-2521,
or visit our website www.fsunc.org.



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New Haven, CT 06511

OFFICE HOURS:

Please call ahead in November

The FSUMC Monthly Newsletter is now delivered via e-mail. The December/January 2010-11 Newsletter deadline is Nov 19th. Send all submissions or requests to be put on our E-letter to fsmethodist@sbcglobal.net, or contact our office at 203-624-2521.