



at the Corner

January/February 2021

Community Thanksgiving Lunch 2020



**“GRAB
N GO”**

**Thank
you
CTL
Team!!**

More on pages 6 and 7



FOR INFORMATION ON ZOOM ONLINE EVENTS,

INCLUDING BIBLE STUDY AND SUNDAY WORSHIP, GO TO COME2CORNERSTONE.ORG



**Cornerstone
Community
Church**

718 West Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06850
203-866-3707
office@come2cornerstone.org
www.come2cornerstone.org

Office hours:
Monday to Friday, 10am-1pm

Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel

Lay Leader
Pat Bobwich

Council Chair
Jay Silvester

Office Administrator
Pamela Toason

Church Musician
Joy DeJaeger

Trustees Chair
Bruce Root

Finance Chair
Andy Trowbridge

Pastor-Parish Relations Chair
Emily Gayton

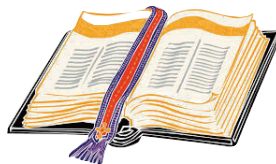
Treasurer
Gwen Hong

Worship Chair
Lyra Richards

**Cornerstone Early Learning
Center Director**
Debra Horton

Editors, At the Corner
Nancy Kenworthy
Lynn Russo

Lectionary



February 14

Transfiguration Sunday
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 17

Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21

1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

March 7

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

March 14

UMCOR Sunday
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 21

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

March 28

6th Sunday in Lent
Palm Sunday
Liturgy of the Palms
Palm 118:1-2, 19-29
Mark 11:1-11

Cornerstone's **vision** is to be a space open to all persons to experience God's grace and love, and to share that love with others, through acceptance, service, and witness, as followers of Jesus Christ.

Cornerstone's **mission** is to embrace and nurture everyone we meet as we build together the body of Christ and express God's love by our witness in the world.

If you have news or concerns you would like communicated to the church, please have your information to Nancy Kenworthy by the first of the month for the following month's issue.



Leadership and Goals for 2021

On December 5, 2020, the leaders and Members of Cornerstone came together via Zoom to look at the Goals from 2020 and revise and establish the goals for 2021. With all we have going on we felt that we would continue to work on most of our goals but make additions as necessary.

GOALS FOR 2021

Cornerstone Community Church, located at 718 West Avenue, Norwalk, CT 08650, is a United Methodist congregation that is focused to ensure the legacy of Methodism remains in Norwalk.

We are a growing congregation determined to become “The Community Church”.

For 2021 Cornerstone intends to focus on growing our membership, strengthening our faith and deepening our commitment to serving the community of Norwalk and ultimately becoming the community church.

- Cornerstone will be a Christ-centered Church.
- Cornerstone will be a multiethnic congregation, where all our members and guests will feel their culture and ethnic background is celebrated and welcomed.
- Cornerstone will be a radically hospitable and welcoming church by ensuring all members have an opportunity to put their faith in action.
- Cornerstone will increase its membership by 25 members by December 2021.

The Church Council is the executive agency of the Charge Council of the Church as per the Book of Discipline, ¶244. This means that between meetings of the charge conference, the church council is the group of leaders that guides and furthers the ministry of the congregation. The church council exists to create and supervise the strategic plan and goals for an effective congregation.

The church council as a group should reflect the character and population of the congregation. (So be sure to help nominate individuals who can represent you and your vision for our church.) Decisions made by the council will shape the future and demonstrate for everyone how God’s kingdom comes in the immediate community.

The work of the church council is to envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate a congregation’s ministry and mission. According to this guidance, I am resetting the tone of the Church Council. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and will work to envision, plan, and monitor the ministry of our church through the specific ministry areas of the church.

Reporting will look different, with the expectation that Ministry areas will be evaluated in line with our SMART Goals of 2021 (as stated above).

The Administrative Council members of the Church Council are:

Chairperson: Jay Silvester

Secretary: Nancy Kenworthy

Lay Leader: Pat Bobwich

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Jay Silvester

Membership Secretaries:

Cleotilde “Ludi” Gabagat, Arlene Trowbridge

Church Treasurer: Gwen Hong

Assistant Treasurer: Jennifer Finley-Brown

Financial Secretary: Lynn Russo

Chairperson to Finance: Andrew Trowbridge

Chairperson of PPRC: Emily Gayton

Chairperson of Trustees: Bruce Root

Chairperson of Worship: Lyra Richards

The Administrative Council and Church Council are one and the same. The Administrative members are those that are the chair persons of the Resource ministries of the church: Trustees, Finance, Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and, because of the importance of Worship for the function of the church, the Worship Chairperson.

The full Council will meet Quarterly, March, June, September & December, while the Administrative Council will meet monthly. However, all meetings are open to the membership of the church.

Sincerely,

Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel



Lent Begins on February 17

For our Lenten study this year, Pastor Liz will present a sermon series on *The Grace of Les Misérables*, by Matt Rawle.

From the book description:

Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you've read the novel, seen the Broadway musical, heard its soundtrack, or seen the several screen adaptations, you already know the power in the story. In the six-week Lenten study *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. In keeping with his previous works, Rawle brings us to the intersection of Church and Pop Culture by drawing parallels between the iconic story and musical and our Christian calling, inspiring us to both understand our faith and live it out in the world.

Purchase your copy for \$10 at church office.

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Here are this year's lay servant courses for Lent, including one taught by Rev. Elizabeth Abel, from the NY-CT District Lay Servant Committee:

The NY-CT District Lay Servant Committee is offering 5 Advanced Courses during the Lenten season—some will be held on Sundays, and others on Mondays. All will be held via ZOOM.

The registration forms can be found here:

<https://www.nyac.com/eventdetail/nyct-lay-servant-course-class-leaders-zoom-14965636>

Sunday classes will begin on February 21, 2021. Sunday classes are:

Class Leaders (led by Rev. Elizabeth Abel) from 2PM-4PM <https://bit.ly/3jO2wlp>

Dancing with Words (led by Marie Bell and Betty Miles) from 3PM-5PM <https://bit.ly/374nAoO>

Polity, Practice and the Mission of the UMC (led by Rev. Dr. Jessica L Anschutz & Rev. Jeffrey L. Hooker) from 3PM-5PM <https://bit.ly/2OlizBv>

Monday classes will begin on February 22, 2021. Monday classes are:

Leading Worship (led by Patsy Boisvert & Rev. Linda Willey) 7PM-9PM <https://bit.ly/2LDFfMp>

Living Our UM Beliefs (led by Dale Borchert & Rev. Jody Spiak) 6PM-8PM <https://bit.ly/2LGMwLy>

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021

Please contact the district office if you have questions: 914-615-2233

Join us for a

ZOOM WATCH PARTY

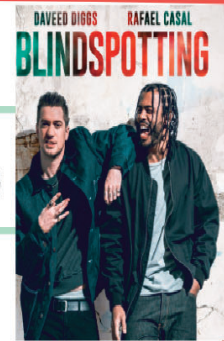


WHITEWASH

February 21, 2021

12:30 pm

Rated G



BLIND SPOTTING

February 26, 2021

7:00 pm

Rated R

Hosted by



Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel, Pastor

&

The Church & Society Ministry

Zoom Login:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/570308618?>

[pwd=azRFQ2YwS1l5ZU9QMxV2dHVqQ0tmQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/570308618?pwd=azRFQ2YwS1l5ZU9QMxV2dHVqQ0tmQT09)

Meeting ID570 308 618, Password: JesusSaves



Community Thanksgiving Lunch 2020

Continued from page 1...



On November 22nd 2020 we held our 21st Community Thanksgiving “CTL” Lunch! Despite a pandemic, our volunteers came out in droves to rally around our community and Cornerstone to say YES to community, giving and sharing God’s love!!!

The CTL committee pulled off a miracle and shifted our thinking to enable this event! We brainstormed new ways of thinking about the CTL tradition with 800 “Grab n Go” meals ~ YES 800!!!! Our famous chef Chicken Joe was central, with 70 turkeys cooked and meals packed!

But without a committee in full steam, Zoom style, this year’s event would not have been! And to honor our tireless champion Susan Maddox, we knew cancelling the event was not an option!

Please a big THANK YOU to the CTL committee which met regularly, worked tirelessly and supported this mission! And THANK YOU to all of our faithful CCC folks for volunteering, supporting, donating and praying for us!!

Please join us for the 22nd CTL 2021!! As they say..many hands make for light work!

We are grateful for our CTL committee. Here are just a few of their talents and contributions:

Susan Maddox: Susan was with us for first half of 2020 as advisor and chief motivator. We were honored to dedicate our 2020 luncheon to Susan!

Pastor Liz: Chief champion and spiritual guide

Mary Jo Colman: Co-chair, volunteers, sponsorship, logistics, coordination

Christina Wyclif: Tech support, volunteer site

Tina Pinto: All-around helper, food procurement

Lynn Russo: Graphic artist, flyer design, sponsor flyer design, press release

Carol Solheim: Sponsorship letters and distribution, inventory, street signs

Cheryl Warner: Street signs, cleaning services, sponsors..

Emily Gayton: Key sponsor procurement..

Andy Gayton: Building and site support..

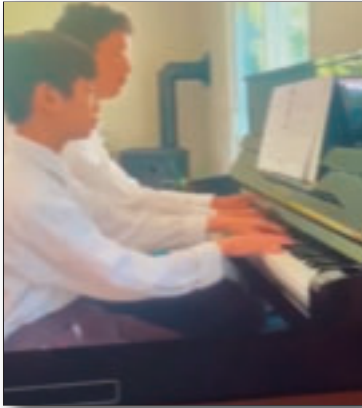
Gwen Hong: Financial and budget support..

Merary Cardona: Food procurement, translation.

Jay Silvester: Tech support, music, site support..

Pam Toason: Administrative support and champion..

With Gratitude,
Patricia Bobwich
Co-chair and coordinator
CTL Committee



Keyboard Stars

Just before the Christmas rush, Colin and Jake Hong participated in the annual Playing by Heart piano recital produced by Kyong Hee Cho's students. Every year, her most advanced students perform to raise funding for local charities. This year they benefited Person-2-Person and Griffin Health. Colin and Jake were by far the bright stars of the show. Jake played the Grande Valse Brillante by Frederic Chopin. Colin played the third movement of the Piano Sonata No. 14 in C Sharp by Ludwig van Beethoven. Both pieces require great technical and expressive skill, and they carried it off with precision and passion. Thanks to both young men for the beautiful music and for their discipline and dedication.

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Please pray for: Family of Ed Sisson, Suki John in hospital, Praveen John and family, Patti Yarnold, Frantz Telo with COVID, Wendy Finch, Scott Trowbridge, Beverly Sweeney, Georgette Williams, Amber Fogarty, Lillian Webb, Allie Oravez, Lorie Kristof, Fred Anderson, Franklin and Evet Roberts, Peg Anderson's sister Lee Benencaso, Mae Pennington's granddaughter Katie Mitchel, Gavin Kantzas, Jennifer Finley-Brown's coworker Christopher Talcouch, Lynn's friend Jo with cancer treatment, Betty Bardes' great-grandson Brinley, Chris Radu 's mother Shirley Lewis, the Mehle family on the passing of Owen's brother Don, Owen and Cheryl Mehle's friend Charles Marcucci, Claire Odiermo, James Sampson, Chris Chang, Kon Swee Chen, Ludi Gabagat's sister Corazon Capilitan, Patty Quick Wise and Tony Wise with COVID, Jennifer Trowbridge's friend Ernie Young, family of Jim Wilson, family of Sue Vicencio – friends of the Gabagats, Annaliese Hersom's granddaughter Avery

4 WAYS TO GIVE TO CORNERSTONE:

By Mail:
Cornerstone Community Church
Attention: Gwen Hong
718 West Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer):
Download the form from the Friday blast

Venmo: Search for
@Come2Cornerstone

Online: Add Cornerstone as a
payee through your online banking

Joanna Gentle, one of our newly confirmed members, is a freshman at Norwalk High School. Her essay won third place in the Norwalk Public School competition for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. In honor of African American History month, we print it here.

Have We Changed?

Joanna Susan Gentle January 14, 2021

As seen from the title we will be asking a very important question, Have We Changed? Now to explain the question I have asked you, this revolves around the topic of Racial Equity and specifically in this essay Racial Equity towards people of color in America, and if we have achieved the amount we like to claim we have. Throughout this, I will be providing what I was taught in school, what I have had to teach myself, and lastly the present-day problems. Before I start I would just like to say that this may be uncomfortable but I believe it is necessary to advance and educate.

To start us off we will be mapping out what we were taught from a young age in school. Our timeline was that slavery was a very dark part of our history as a country but it ended when the 16th president signed the 13th amendment in 1865. There still wasn't true equity though, so people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks had to fight. They won, and that's where we stopped learning about people of color's history in America. Sure there might have been a lesson here and there, but that is all that we know from school. We were taught this history and were told that this was in our past and that we overcame it, but is that true?

Now, this is the part where we get uncomfortable and dig deeper into the whole world of issues we weren't taught in school. One example is the "absent father" stereotype. This harmful stereotype is rooted in slavery. When slaves gave birth to children, fathers were extremely involved, so when masters took away their children it was extremely traumatic. Over time they became distant towards their children so it would not hurt as much. Now

many may argue this history is not suited for young people. This is true but we still were not even taught about African American heroes such as Robert Smalls and Cathy Williams, who are still deemed as too inappropriate to be taught to children and people who continued to study American history. So if you wanted to learn about these things, you had to do it on your own.

Lastly, the present is the most important. I am going to share how I realized what I thought I knew was wrong. About 4 months ago, I was walking home from school as I did every day, and some person is walking in front of me with headphones and is listening to music. I see a car pull up and some person rolls down their window and says extremely racist and disgusting things to the person in front of me, who didn't even hear the things being said. I'm standing there in shock after the person drives off. I have never experienced something so blatantly racist. Although this incident felt so unreal to me, even though it has happened for decades.

Now that we have discussed what I initially thought, what I had to learn, and lastly what currently happens, I think it's time to ask ourselves this question. *Have We Changed?* To whoever is reading this, ask yourself this question when you see someone clutch their bag around a person of color for no reason. Ask yourself this question when you see racist hate crimes with your own two eyes in the year 2020 and can't do anything. And finally, ask yourself this question as you walk down the street or as you get pulled over and not wonder if you will be judged by the color of your skin and not the content of your character.





Cornerstone Early Learning Center

718 West Ave Norwalk Ct 203-831-8349

Full Time/Part Time Full Year Childcare

Ages 6 weeks - 5 years old

Mon-Fri 7:30am to 5:30pm

We have immediate openings for

Infants, 2's, Preschool

We accept Care 4 Kids

**Following Office of Early Childhood and CDC cleaning
and sanitizing procedures daily**

CELC is State Licensed

Staff members are CPR/First Aid Certified

Director: Debra Horton

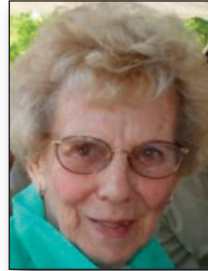
www.happykidsatcelc.com

IN MEMORIAM

Jim Wilson

Jim Wilson passed away in December, 2020, after a courageous battle of many years with Parkinson's disease. Jim was a long-time member of First United Methodist Church in South Norwalk, then of East Avenue United Methodist Church, and finally of Cornerstone Community Church, UMC. As long as he was able, he never missed the Sunday morning adult class. He was a faithful member of the FUMC choir, and an active participant in the church's softball team. Quiet, dependable, considerate, and dedicated, he will be greatly missed.

Allie Barrett Oravez



Allie Barrett Oravez, age 95 and a lifelong resident of the area, was called home on Sunday, February 14, 2021. Born in Georgetown, CT on March 28, 1925, she was the daughter of Harry and Mabel Nichols Barrett. The very last of

her generation, Allie was predeceased by her loving husband, Charlie, as well as her 10 siblings and their spouses. Allie will be lovingly remembered by her numerous nieces and nephews, especially those children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of her twin sister Olive, of whom she was equally a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Allie will be greatly missed by all! The family will announce a memorial service at a later date.

Ed Sisson

Also, on February 10, 2021, Ed Sisson passed away. Our prayers go out to his family. He will be greatly missed.

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Confirmation Service

On December 26, 2020, Cornerstone held a special service to confirm our newest members and to receive a new adult member into our congregation. Earlier in the year, Eva Abel, Joanna Gentle, Jake Hong, and Daniel Silvester, worked very hard in the confirmation class led by Pastor Liz. Their essays were published in a previous issue of "At the Corner." Despite social distancing and building closure, we were able confirm them after Christmas. In the same service, we received into membership Jennifer Finley-Brown, who has been a faithful member of the weekly Bible study group throughout the year and who is now serving as our assistant treasurer.



Letter from Bishop Bickerton

On January 15, 2021, Bishop Bickerton wrote to the churches in the NYAC. Here is a condensed version of his letter.

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

Do you feel as saturated and overwhelmed as I do? Many of us had been hoping that with the turn of the calendar, 2021 would open up a more peace-filled, hopeful pathway for our life and work. And yet, as we all are painfully aware, it has been anything but that. And as a result, it makes many of us wonder, how much more we can we absorb and address?

In the Council of Bishops and in our Cabinet, we have been focusing much of our conversation around the work of Susan Beaumont. In her book, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*, Beaumont centers much of her thinking around the word "liminality." Liminality is defined as, "A quality of ambiguity or disorientation that occurs in transitory situations and space, when a person or group of people is betwixt and between something that has ended, and a new situation not yet begun."

"We must break the cycle of racial injustice and declare the actions of those who carry confederate flags above their heads and hateful racial attitudes in their hearts as unacceptable in this 'land of the free and home of the brave.'"

I write this message in the midst of a number of significant "betwixt and between" times. That number seems to be growing, not lessening. The struggle is that every one of them deserves a front-page headline. The deeper struggle is that with each additional issue that arises, the well-being of our hearts and souls is threatened.

The complication is that, depending on your particular passion, there is no consensus on which one should rise to the level of being the most important. There is not one issue that is of lesser importance than another. We are "betwixt and between" what has ended and what has not yet begun.

1. We are "in between" an event that has threatened our democracy on the one hand and an event celebrating the success of our government when there is a transition of power. The insurrection against our government last week in Washington that resulted in loss of life, fear over our security, and the clear realization of how easy it is for people to be swayed by an opinion even if that opinion is wrong is absolutely intolerable and unacceptable. As promoters of and believers in the Christian faith, we have a responsibility to "renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, in whatever forms they present themselves," and repent of our sin when we ourselves fall victim to these forces. We affirm these statements every time a baby is baptized, or a new member joins one of our churches. It is time for us to go public with our beliefs, especially in this time of liminality. I urge every United Methodist to reaffirm your membership vows and find the courage to denounce these actions as unacceptable based on what we believe. We can no longer afford to be afraid to speak the truth about the forces of evil in our midst.

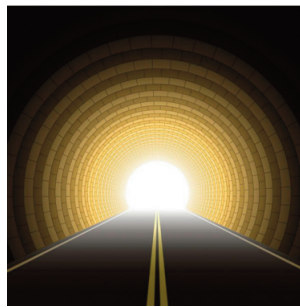
2. We are "in between" an event that demonstrated the depth of white supremacy on one hand and an event that remembers the greatest champion of racial equality and justice on the other. All of us watched in horror throughout 2020 each time an act of racial injustice took place on national television. And each time a subsequent protest took place, we watched in disbelief how the protesters were treated. It sickened me last week to watch how differently the rioters at the capitol were treated. If those in attendance had been persons of color, the scene would have been far different. That clear reality speaks to the depth of racial disparity that exists in our country. We are far away from where we need to be in this place that we boast as being the greatest country in the world. ... We must break the cycle of racial injustice and declare the actions of those who carry confederate flags above

their heads and hateful racial attitudes in their hearts as unacceptable in this “land of the free and home of the brave.”

3. We are “in between” a pandemic on the one hand that has claimed over 385,000 lives in the past 10 months and a vaccine on the other hand that will enable us to put this deadly disease behind us. There is no doubt that as we embarked on a New Year there was a naïve hope among many that we could somehow return to some form of normalcy, especially in our local church ministries. And yet, that time has not yet arrived. The infection rates continue to rise, the deaths continue to mount, and the effective distribution of the vaccine continues to be beset with one complication after another.

I know too that we are “all over the map” in terms of our responses. Some churches have re-opened with strict and appropriate protocols. Others have re-opened and had to close once again due to members becoming infected. Some have set long-range goals of not reopening at all until spring or later. Others have been consumed with reopening immediately out of increased pressure and frustration. Some of you have dreaded a potential word from me about mandatory closures while others of you have longed for a word from me about those mandates. There are several things I can share with you today:

- We continue to monitor developments within the States of New York and Connecticut each day and are committed to following their guidelines and protocols.
- We know that with the current process of regional guidelines there are standards for reopening that are different depending on the context of your church. We are urging each church, and I am directing each District Superintendent, to be aware of the specific regional guidelines in each area of our Annual Conference.
- I have contacted the State of Connecticut volunteering our churches there as potential inoculation sites for the vaccine.
- In places where there is conflict/debate about next steps, I and the cabinet are committed to coming alongside the pastor and lay leadership team to provide support, real time information, and guidance. Please do not be afraid to ask.



We absolutely must stay focused and determined as we wade into this next very critical phase on the journey to eradicate this virus. Let us do everything we can to ensure the health and safety of all of the people under our care.

4. We are “in between” a period of extreme stress in our mental, physical, and spiritual lives on the one hand and a time when we can heal and repair our fractured lives on the other. In recent weeks I have grown increasingly concerned about the health and well-being of those of us in leadership. Leaders all across this Annual Conference, lay and clergy alike, have not only had to deal with the personal issues that have burdened us in this “liminal” season, but also had to bear the heavy load of ministering to those under our care. The weight has been heavy, and the toll has been great.

My urging in this letter is for each of you to ... employ the words of the Apostle Paul in Colossians 3:12-14:

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

These days are complex and far from easy to navigate. I wanted you to know that I pray for you and am concerned about you. We have bold pronouncements to make. But we also have tender souls to tend. Let us go about our work embracing that delicate balance and acknowledge the depth of emptiness we feel when we just don’t know what to say or what to do.

The blessings are all around us. My prayer is that they will be revealed to you in a way that will bring you hope and encouragement.

Be well and stay well.

The Journey Continues . . .

Thomas J. Bickerton

Resident Bishop

Operation Andrew

One of the most effective ways to grow our ministry and church is through relationship evangelism. This strategy helps us as believers to impact our city, family, friends, and coworkers with the Good News. All of us know people who could use and need Jesus and are not plugged into a local church. Let's all do our part by praying for, inviting, and bringing others to our church so they can get the Good News and receive a touch from Heaven.

We can see through the Word of God that this was a pattern that Jesus' disciples used when they first had an encounter with Jesus, and since it worked for them it can definitely work for us.

John 1: 40-42 Amplified Bible

40 One of the two who heard what John said and [as a result] followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first looked for and found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means the Christ). 42 Andrew brought Simon to Jesus.

1. Look Around...Your mission field is right where you live, work, or go to school. List names of individuals you know who need Jesus Christ; pray for them regularly.

2. Look Up...God changes people through prayer. Pray each day for those on your list; God will give you opportunities to share His Love.

3. Look Out...for ways to cultivate friendships; earn their confidence. An invitation to dinner, lunch, or to go for a walk together. These spaces can open the way to talk about Christ.

4. Look Forward...Begin to talk with each person on your list about attending a church service or service event. We will host a friends and family event where we can invite others to worship with us.

5. Look After...those who respond to Christ or show any interest in the Gospel. They need your encouragement. Continue to love and pray for those who do not respond. Remember to encourage all of those on your list to attend your home church regularly if they do not already have a home church.

Operación Andrew

Una de las formas más efectivas de hacer crecer nuestro ministerio e iglesia es a través del evangelismo de relaciones. Esta estrategia nos ayuda como creyentes a impactar nuestra ciudad, familia, amigos y compañeros de trabajo con las Buenas Nuevas.

Todos conocemos personas que podrían usar y necesitar a Jesús y no están conectados a una iglesia local. Hagamos todos nuestra parte orando, invitando y trayendo a otros a nuestra iglesia para que puedan recibir las Buenas Nuevas y recibir un toque del Cielo.

Podemos ver a través de la Palabra de Dios que este fue un patrón que los discípulos de Jesús usaron cuando tuvieron un encuentro con Jesús por primera vez y como les funcionó a ellos, definitivamente puede funcionar para nosotros.

Juan 1: 40-42 Biblia Ampliada

40 Uno de los dos que oyeron lo que dijo Juan y [como resultado] siguieron a Jesús fue Andrés, el hermano de Simón Pedro. 41 Primero buscó y encontró a su propio hermano Simón y le dijo: "Hemos encontrado al Mesías" (que traducido significa el Cristo). 42 Andrés llevó a Simón a Jesús.

1. Mire a su alrededor...su campo misional es el lugar donde vive, trabaja o estudia. Enumere los nombres de las personas que conoce que necesitan a Jesucristo; reza por ellos con regularidad.

2. Buscar...Dios cambia a las personas a través de la oración. Ore todos los días por los que están en su lista; Dios te dará la oportunidad de compartir Su amor.

3. Estar atento...Formas de cultivar amistades; Ganarse su confianza. Una invitación a cenar, comer o dar un paseo juntos. Estos espacios pueden abrir el camino para hablar de Cristo.

4. Hacia adelante...Comience a hablar con cada persona en su lista sobre asistir a un servicio religioso o evento de servicio. Organizaremos un evento de amigos y familiares al que podremos invitar a adorar con nosotros.

5. Cuidar...Aquellos que responden a Cristo o muestran algún interés en el Evangelio. Necesitan tu aliento. Continúe amando y orando por aquellos que no responden. Recuerde animar a todos los que están en su lista a asistir a la picardía de su iglesia local si aún no tienen una iglesia local.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2020 Report By Cheryl Mehle

Cornerstone's small and dedicated group of women have continued to support UMW in spite of the pandemic, masks and social distancing. Thank you for your contributions in 2020 for Cornerstone UMW.

We have not had a meeting this year, nor have we been able to have the two semi-annual rummage sales to serve church members and the community.

In spite of COVID-19, the women have continued with their pledges, which, along with money from the 2019 fall rummage sale, enabled us to maintain our UMW's 5-Star status with the District for another year. 5-Star status is achieved by giving to five designated district funds: Pledge, Special Mission Recognition, In Memory of, World Thank Bank Offering and Mission Recognition.

The "In Memory of" fund recognized Susan Maddox and Grete Nyrop, two devoted and dedicated members of UMW and Cornerstone Community Church. Susan was our unit's UMW President and Church Treasurer and Grete was leader of Women's Bible study and coordinator of Fellowship/Ushers for the Church.

Both dear members contributed to the growth of UMW and the Cornerstone Congregation and are greatly missed.

On Saturday, October 10, Arlene Trowbridge, another member, attended the District meeting via Zoom and is our liaison with the UMW District President.

Women's Bible Study has continued meeting Tuesday's 10:00 AM - noon through Zoom. Two of the books we studied were "Made for a Miracle" and "Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation." The latter was a challenge but Pastor Liz helped work our way through it!

In December we studied "Almost Christmas," exploring peace, love, joy, and hope in the Advent season.

As of September, the balance in UMW bank was \$4369.66. We sent \$1,705.00 to the 5-Star Fund, leaving a balance of \$2,664.66. In January we sent \$1,200.00 to Family and Children's Services "Giving Fund" that *The Hour* sponsors. The current balance is \$1,464.66.

Pledge cards and saving boxes are available for 2021 pledges.



CONNECT: Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut

CONNECT is a collective of churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and civic organizations from New Haven and Fairfield Counties—representing more than 20,000 people from different races, faith backgrounds, and living in both cities and suburbs—that have joined together to take action on social and economic justice issues of common concern. CONNECT has made an impact on issues as varied as gun violence, health insurance rates, police reform, immigrant rights, and more.

On January 12, Cornerstone’s Church & Society Committee took part in the January Assembly for CONNECT.

One objective is to help Connecticut pass the Clean Slate Law in 2021.

Today in Connecticut, hundreds of thousands of people live as second class citizens due to the burden of a criminal record, many times decades after they have served their time and returned to our communities.

Criminal records present barriers to employment, housing, and higher education: 9 in 10 employers use background checks; 4 in 5 landlords use background checks; 3 in 4 colleges use background checks. Connecticut also has over 500 laws and policies in place impeding people with criminal records from professional licenses and other opportunities to rebuild their lives and successfully re-enter and contribute to our communities.

Clean Slate is a racial justice issue.

- In Connecticut, black people are 9.4x more likely than white people to be incarcerated, and Latinx people are 3.9x more likely to be incarcerated than white people. The effects of this systemic racism will persist for decades to come without Clean Slate.

Clean Slate improves public safety.

- When people's records are erased, they gain access to jobs, housing, and higher education. Recidivism rates dramatically decrease as a result. That makes everyone safer.

from CONNECT website: <http://www.weconnect.org/clean-slate-2/>

A criminal record should not be a lifetime sentence! The solution is Clean Slate, which would automatically expunge the criminal records of people who have served their time, returned to our communities, and remained crime-free for a period of time. Five states have already passed Clean Slate laws. You can read the bills before the Connecticut legislature here:

- SB 403 (2020) <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2020/TOB/S/PDF/2020SB-00403-R00-SB.PDF>
- SB 691 (2019) <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/FC/pdf/2019SB-00691-R000832-FC.PDF>

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You can contact your state legislators here:

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https://www2.cbia.com/ga/Norwalk_CT_Legislators/-A2,-A,-ANorwalk

Lucy Dathan, House District 142 New Canaan, Norwalk, Lucy.Dathan@cga.ct.gov, 860.240.8585

Bob Duff, Senate District 25, Darien, Norwalk, bob.duff@cga.ct.gov, 860.240.0414

Chris Perone, House District 137, Norwalk, Chris.Perone@cga.ct.gov, 860.240.8585

Travis Simms, House District 140, Norwalk, Travis.Simms@cga.ct.gov, 860.240.8585

Stephanie Thomas, House District 143, Norwalk, Westport, Wilton, stephanie.thomas@cga.ct.gov, 860.240.8373

Terrie Wood, House District 141, Darien, Norwalk, Terrie.Wood@housegop.ct.gov, 860.240.8700

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Vigil for Justice and Unity

On January 12, the Norwalk Democratic Town Committee held a Vigil for Justice and Unity. Pastor Liz was one of the speakers. Here is what she said and the Prayer for Truth, Justice, and Unity that she offered.

“Last week, as many communities of faith were celebrating the end of the Christmastide season and the Epiphany of Christ, our hope was interrupted by the insurrection at our nation’s Capitol building. As a US Air Force Veteran whose career and duty was Security Forces, I found myself in disbelief as to where those were who were to be protecting this National Resource, personnel, and property. The example of the actions of Officer Eugene Goodman, who deterred the mob from Senate Chambers is what I was expecting from the door.

“I have to admit my anger at the situation, and acknowledge my responsibility in my current role as a pastor, to offer hope at a time of such chaos. Even those who are nonbelievers have read, or at least heard, the Genesis story of a creator God that brought forth order from chaos and light from darkness. It is my hope and my charge that those of you who are standing here today by joining us in heart, be encouraged that you have been created to be an instrument of change and a vehicle of hope.

“As a Black American, I honestly can say I am not surprised about the actions of those involved, but I also have faith that all is not lost. Hope is our faith in action. It is not based on a wish or a dream but based on the values of truth, justice, and unity. It requires action on all of our parts not to sit idle and watch what is happening, but to be intentional in the way we work together. We must share in love for one another and care for each other and honestly recognize our role and station in being the light in the darkness.

“It is because of my faith that I can have hope that we can still begin again, and this is the right time to start.

“At this time let us pause for a moment of silence as we remember those who have lost their lives, especially Officer Brian D. Sicknick, who passed on Thursday evening from injuries sustained while on duty during the assault on the Capitol; and Officer Howard Liebengood, who died by suicide on Saturday. He was among those who responded to the rioting at the U.S. Capitol on January 6.

“We also take this space for those who have lost their faith, lost their hope, or have lost their way during this time.”

“Let us pray,

Creator God, we come before you with our hearts lifted up as we survey ourselves in the midst of this storm. We look to you, from where our hope comes from, to encourage us to be bold in our knowledge of our purpose in the pursuit of reconciliation and restoration.

We pray that you bind us together with cords that cannot be broken, with love that restores and in truth that unifies. Let us be a community who comes together to heal and create the beloved community that you so intended. Let not our differences divide us but challenge us to grow into a stronger community and individuals, that can stand together always in truth. Convict in us a spirit of peace and justice for you in honor of your Holy name. Amen.”

Plastic Bottle Caps

We have collected 14,760 bottle caps since March. Please continue to donate.

We are collecting hard plastic bottle caps such as:

- Water bottle caps
- Milk and juice jug caps
- Medicine bottle caps (labels removed)
- Detergent bottle caps
- Hair spray & spray paint caps
- Toothpaste tube caps
- Apple sauce pouch caps
- Flip-top caps (ketchup, mustard, etc.)
- Spout caps (mustard, etc.)
- Shampoo & conditioner caps
- Ointment tube caps
- Peanut butter jar caps

We are not collecting larger, more flexible plastic lids such as:

- Yogurt lids
- Cool whip lids
- Butter lids
- Cream cheese lids



DONACIONES DE BOTELLA

Hemos recolectado 14,760 tapas de botellas desde marzo.

Continúe donando.

Estamos recolectando tapas de botellas de plástico duro como:

- Tapas de botellas de agua
- Tapones para jarras de leche y jugo
- Tapas de frascos de medicamentos (sin etiquetas)
- Tapas de botellas de detergente
- Tapas de laca y pintura en aerosol
- Tapas de tubo de pasta de dientes
- Tapas de bolsa de salsa de manzana
- Tapas abatibles (salsa de tomate, mostaza, etc.)
- Tapones de boquilla (mostaza, etc.)
- Tapas de champú y acondicionador
- Tapas de tubo de ungüento
- Tapas de frascos de mantequilla de maní

No estamos recolectando tapas de plástico más grandes y flexibles como:

- Tapas de yogur
- Tapas de látigo frías
- Tapas de mantequilla
- Tapas de queso crema

BOOK YOUR VACCINE HERE:

<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccinations>

**Connecticut's Vaccine Appointment Assist Line
877-918-2224, seven days a week 8:00am-8:00pm**

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021 FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>14 FEBRUARY 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Barbara Amodio</p>	<p>15 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>PRESIDENT'S DAY: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>16 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:30p Finance Committee Mtg. on Zoom 7:00p Administrative Council via Zoom</p> <p>Birthdays: Yhon Acosta</p>	<p>17 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Birthdays: Jovan Joseph</p>	<p>18 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>19 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>20 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>
<p>21 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 12:30p Zoom Watch Party: Whitewash 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>22 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Solomon Wyclif</p>	<p>23 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Nominations and Leadership Development Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p>24 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p>	<p>25 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>26 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Zoom Watch Party: Blindspotting</p>	<p>27 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>
<p>28 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Chris Radu</p>	<p>1 MARCH 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Trustees Mtg. on Zoom</p> <p>Birthdays: Vinny Pepe</p>	<p>2 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Emily Wallmann</p>	<p>3 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p>	<p>4 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:30p Church and Society Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p>5 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>6 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>
<p>7 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom w/at-home communion 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>8 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Stevenson Telo</p>	<p>9 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Finance Committee Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p>10 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p>	<p>11 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>12 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>13 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>
<p>14 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>15 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>16 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Church Council mtg. on Zoom</p> <p>Birthdays: Rachel Gabagat</p>	<p>17 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p> <p>Birthdays: Judith Eve Johnson</p>	<p>18 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>19 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>SAVE THE DATES! MARCH 28: PALM SUNDAY APRIL 4: EASTER SUNDAY</p>	<p>20 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>



718 West Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06850

Disciple Bible Study

DISCIPLE is a program of Bible study aimed at developing strong Christian leaders. The study examines the Old and New Testaments, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. Disciple: **Into the Word; Into the World** is the second study in the four-phase Disciple program and is prepared for those who are graduates of Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study. This study emphasizes the rhythm of coming to God and going for God, of being in the Word and in the world individually and corporately. This study understands the growing Christian as under discipline in community and in ministry to the world. Disciple: Into the Word Into the World approaches all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service.

Into the Word; Into the World es el segundo estudio del programa Disciple de cuatro fases y está preparado para aquellos que se gradúan de Disciple: Becoming Disciples Through Bible Study. Este estudio enfatiza el ritmo de venir a Dios y de ir por Dios, de estar en la Palabra y en el mundo individual y corporativamente. Este estudio entiende al cristiano en crecimiento como sujeto a disciplina en la comunidad y en el ministerio al mundo. Discípulo: Into the Word Into the World aborda todas las experiencias de la vida como oportunidades para un testimonio fiel y un servicio.

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https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDVDIxTwpM8SQnw32mKrBNoSixX2Gm5mF9cbcdCA8NZnkulg/viewform?usp=sf_link
Or with the church office
Registration fee: \$40