



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2017

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ **Early Informal Service in Outdoor Chapel 8:30 am**
- ◆ **Regular Service 9:30 am**
- ◆ **Sunday School 9:30 am through June 11**

We are on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

Through June 9:

9 am to 2:30 pm M - F

June 12 through August 25:

9:00 am to 1:00 pm M - F

Email:

office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Youth Ministries Email:

FUMCEG.youth@gmail.com

**Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor**

**Gail Welkey,
Administrative Assistant**

Dear Members and Friends,

Pentecost is the third great Christian festival. On Christmas we celebrated the birth of Christ, our Savior. On Easter we celebrated his victorious resurrection from death. And On Pentecost we remember Christ's giving of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 20, we read that after the disciples had discovered the tomb was empty and Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, he told her to tell the disciples that he was risen, which she did, but they did not understand. So on that first evening they were gathered in a house with the doors locked, because they were afraid - afraid of being killed, just as Jesus had been killed three days before. But suddenly Jesus was among them and he said, "Peace is with you."

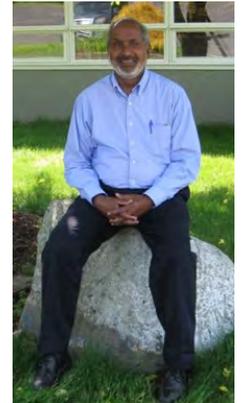
"Peace is with you." A greeting, yes but not just, "Hi, how are you?" Peace is a huge biblical word. It refers to wholeness, completeness, a divine healing that envelops people. It is a "peace that passes all human understanding" (Philippians 4:7), it is "Peace not as the world gives" (John 14:27)-not merely a lessening of conflict; not just a momentary break in the action—but the great relief and security and hopefulness that comes from being in the presence of the God of love. To this scared group of followers, the risen Christ begins by bringing the peace of God.

We might think that this was the climax, but actually it was only the beginning. Then Jesus continues, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." God the Father sent the only Son from heaven to save the world and now that Son says, "That's how I'm now sending you."

Can you imagine the disciples? Here they were, huddled in fear, hiding in a house with locked doors, just trying to save their own skins. And Jesus comes and says he is sending them to save the world. What a turn of events. The disciples were on the defensive, now Jesus sends them out on offense.

Defensive driving is a good idea. An attorney for the defense is important. In sports a good defense is essential but defensive Christianity is not a biblical idea. The posture of Christian disciples is not hiding in fear trying to protect themselves. No,

(Continued on page 2)



A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

disciples are sent. There may still be reason to fear; there may still be confusion. After all, if disciples are sent in the same way that Jesus was sent, that could be very frightening. But to be a follower of Jesus after his resurrection is to be sent. In fact, our word "apostle" means "one who is sent."

It's a bit like military basic training isn't an end in itself - it is for the sake of carrying out future missions. It's like being on an athletic team - practice is not the real thing; it's preparation for the real thing, the game. So too, as Christians, when we gather for worship and study, prayer and praise, these are not all there is to being Christ's followers. We, too, are sent. If this sounds like more than we bargained for, then you need to be sure to hear the rest of this passage.



After Jesus had told them that he was sending them, the Bible says that he "breathed on them." In the book of Genesis, in the story of God forming the first human beings from the dust of the earth, it says he "breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life."

Jesus breathed on those disciples and if that is not plain enough, his words told them what it means: "Receive the Holy Spirit." "Receive the breath of God." In that moment, the risen Christ raised those fearful, faithless followers to newness of life and a new boldness.

This is what Pentecost is: the giving of the Spirit, the giving of new life, from the Father through the Son. The Holy Spirit is what makes it possible for people to go when they are sent. The Spirit is God's active, personal presence that accompanies those who are sent. And the Spirit brings the content and the power for the task for which Christ's followers are sent. It simply means that we are all to share the Gospel of Good News of unconditional love and forgiveness of sins. If we do it, people will hear and believe, and if we do not do it, they will not hear and believe but will remain away from experiencing the wonderful love, grace, peace and forgiveness of God through Christ.

That is why it is so important that we hear this story today so that through this gospel story, Jesus can give us peace. We need to hear that Jesus can remind us again that he is sending us to proclaim the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins. We need to know that through his word, he again breathes the Holy Spirit, the breath of God, on us-recreating us as individuals and as a holy people, as his very own body, the church. Pentecost was the day that the church was born. The Spirit was given then, but that wasn't the end of it. That was only the beginning. The mission goes on as God's spirit today bestows Christ's peace, forgiveness and draws people together in Jesus' name.

As the capstone of the Spirit's work today we are offered Christ himself, his own body and blood, so that we might be this body in the world. Each one of us has life only by the constant gift of God's breath of life. Each of us has faith in Jesus Christ and is open for eternal life only by the ongoing work of God's Spirit through the means of grace. Each of us, by the gift of that Spirit, is a disciple of Jesus Christ sent forth into God's world, in the company of the faithful.

Go now in peace and serve the Lord!

Shalom,
Pastor Sundar

THE BELL is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780. June 2017, Volume 19, Issue 6. G. Herrick, **Editor**; S. Samuel, G. Welkley, **Editing Team**; J. Van Ornam, **Proofreader**; K. Van Buren, B. Van Ornam, **Production Team**; R. Reineke, **Photographer**

The Church Staff: Rev. Sundar R. Samuel, **Pastor**; Heidi Gran, **Director of Children's Christian Education**; Nick Morrow, **Youth Leader**; Jacqueline Krahforst, **Organist**; Bruce Wagner, **Choir Director**; Cynthia Reineke, **Coordinator of Embellishments & Children's Music Program**; Gail Welkley, **Administrative Assistant**; Christopher Chartrand and Elgin Scalzi, **Custodians**; Beth Berkun, **Lay Leader**; Zarina Khan, **Child Care Provider**; Cate Strebing, **Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany**; Finda Quiwa, **Regional Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, based in Freetown, Sierra Leone.**

WORSHIP AT FUMC FOR JUNE

This year the first Sunday in the month of June is Pentecost. The disciples and others, "...they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:1-4) Thus began what many Christians now consider the celebration of the birthday of the church – Pentecost.

As we celebrate Pentecost and begin a period of Ordinary Time, this is a good time to refresh our understanding of the days and seasons of the liturgical year.

There are six distinct periods of Christian observances. Each focuses upon a different aspect of the Christian experience and tradition. These periods or seasons do not necessarily occur on the same dates from year to year, but are related to the dates of the two principal Christian celebrations of Christmas and Easter.

- (1) Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas.
- (2) The Christmas Season includes the twelve days from sunset Christmas Eve (December 24) through Epiphany (January 6).
- (3) The Season After Epiphany begins January 7 and lasts until Ash Wednesday.
- (4) Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts until Easter.
- (5) Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21. The Easter Season is fifty days long and goes through the Day of Pentecost.
- (6) **The Season After Pentecost begins immediately after Pentecost Sunday and continues until the beginning of Advent. This season is known as Ordinary Time.** [emphasis added]

Edited from **A Dictionary for United Methodists**, Alan K. Waltz, Copyright 1991, Abingdon Press

June 4 Pentecost and our Confirmation Service, Holy Communion REMEMBER TO WEAR SOMETHING **RED** FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP AS WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST

June 11 1st Sunday after Pentecost Children's Day Look in the Sunday School news for more details about this special service. Our children will be leading us in worship. This will be the last day of Sunday School until fall. This is also Peace with Justice Sunday. This special day and offering is explained in more detail on page 8.

June 18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Father's Day Begun in the United States in the early 1900's, Father's Day has roots that go back to the Middle Ages. This is a day to honor fathers and celebrate fatherhood and its important role in our society.

June 25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost This last worship service in June is a time of preparation for the summer months, especially the **July 4th** holiday.

Pastor Sundar will be preaching for all the Sundays in June except the **11th** when the children will lead worship. Early worship will be held in the Chapel in the Woods at 8:30 each week. We will finish "The Genesis Project" focus on Pentecost. The new focus of these services will be announced soon.

Here is the lectionary for June:

June 4 Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

June 11 First Sunday After Pentecost *Trinity Sunday // Peace with Justice Sunday*
Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

June 18 Second Sunday After Pentecost *Father's Day* Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

June 25 Third Sunday After Pentecost Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday **June 4** is **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!** We have two (2) students who will be confirmed that day. The Education Committee is hosting a GARDEN PARTY during coffee hour to honor the confirmands and their families.

The 5th grade class has completed communion classes, and will be recognized during the COMMUNION SERVICE on **Sunday, June 4.**

CHILDREN'S DAY is Sunday, **June 11!** It is the day that the Sunday school plans and leads the service. Each class has been assigned a part of the service. The children and youth have been hard at work! We hope you can come and worship with us on June 11!

The **CHILDREN'S DAY PICNIC** is Sunday, **June 11** immediately following the Children's Day service. All are welcome!! Please look for the sign-up sheet for the picnic, to bring a dish to share.

We have chosen our Children's Christmas musical for December 2017! We will be presenting *The Perfect Gift*; Three Wise Men travel to Bethlehem Mall and the Star of Wonder Gift Shoppe seeking special gifts to present to the New King who they believe to be in Bethlehem. We are super excited! Sign-ups for the musical will be in the Fall!

CONFIRMATION CLASS 2017-18

There is a 2017-2018 Confirmation Class information meeting on **Monday, June 5th** at 6:30pm. The meeting is for parents and students interested in next year's confirmation class. Confirmation is for 8th - 12th graders who have not yet been confirmed. Please see Heidi or Pastor Sundar with questions.

CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in June.

Why Celebrate Children's Day?

- It is an affirmation of children and those who work with children.
- It is a celebration of the relationships we enjoy, past experiences, and rough spots we have gone through--the life we share together.
- It is a time to remember that our children are a gift from God as well as what God has done for our children.
- It is a time when kingdom priorities are made evident: "...and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6); "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it" (Luke 18:16-17). Children show us the way of joy, celebration, and love.
- It is a time for the inclusion of children in special and meaningful worship experiences to involve them in the life of the church.
- It is a time for modeling love and encouraging parents and teachers in their relationships with their children. Likewise, children model for us the ways that we can be open to the gifts of the Spirit.
- It is a time to rejoice in God's presence, guidance, comfort, power, companionship, and assurance--all of which are given to our children through the Spirit.
- It is a time to mark another year of healthy growth. Spiritual growth is celebrated much like a successful year of growth at the time of the harvest. The Holy Spirit is the agent of this growth, guiding young lives to the truth and instructing them in it.



Children's Worship Service

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

In the month of May we had a successful Overnight Camping Trip at the church on May 26-27 (see the picture on the right).

We will be ending this year with two final Friday meetings. The first will be **June 2** and the second will be **June 9**.

On a personal note, this is my last year as the Youth Leader. I would like to thank all those who supported the Youth Fellowship program, me, and the youth of this church by sharing your gifts, time, and talents with us these past 5 years. I know that I have been blessed in many ways from this experience. I hope that others have as well.



Blessing,
Nick Morrow

After **June 16** Nick can be reached at nlmorrow@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



You are invited to a potluck dinner, fun and games **Wednesday, June 7** at 6:30 p.m. at Lorraine Beals house. Her address is 527 Miller Road East Greenbush and her phone number is 518-650-6695 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

Your efforts this year to provide comfort for others was a great success. 39 large afghans were delivered to the VA Hospital to be given to patients to take home. 27 very small blankets and 20 tiny hats have been given to Albany Medical Center for the NICU babies. Many prayer shawls are now available in the cabinet for anyone to take for someone who may need some comfort. Please do take one.



Olive Felio

SUSTAINABLE HEATING FOR YOUR HOME



Most of us use more fossil fuels heating our homes than for our home electricity. Learn about Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems, presented by John Ciovacco of Aztech Geothermal, **Wednesday, June 7**, at 6:30 to 8:30PM at First United Methodist Church in East Greenbush.

-- Barb Spink, EcoTeam

JOSEPH'S HOUSE HOMELESS SHELTER MEAL

Are you available to help serve dinner at the Joseph's House Homeless Shelter on **Sunday, June 25th**? We will be preparing the meal at Joseph's House that afternoon. If you can help serve, we will meet at Joseph's House on Ferry Street in Troy at 4:45 p.m. to serve food and share dinner and conversation with shelter residents. Please contact Kevin Conley (253-4907, kconley1@nycap.rr.com) if you have questions or can help out.



SPRING 2017 THRIFT SALE REPORT



The Spring Thrift Sale had its high and very good points and only one disappointment. The high and good points are that all the restructuring and planning worked well. The sorting days were all covered and we even had a few extra people. A BIG thanks goes to the following people: Susie Calyer, Yvonne DeBellis, Cynthia Becker, Janet Schmidt, Carrie Larson, Betty Collins, Mary Smith, Heidi Gran, Karen Terwilliger, Mary McIntosh, Margaret Fitzgerald, Chris Scalzi, Kathy Van Buren, Patty Chartrand and anyone else I missed who just came in to help and put items out.

Sunday's setup helpers were: Fran Berger, John and Karen Peterson, Becky Sanderson's husband and step-daughter, Pat and Becky Frament, Nick Morrow, Susie Calyer, Kurt Schlacter, Fred Henson, Cynthia Becker, Victor Giso and Kevin Clark, all of whom put out tables and set up four classrooms.

Friday and Saturday the cashiers did their usual wonderful job. They were: Heidi Gran, Karen Peterson, Karen Terwilliger (both Friday and Saturday), Amber Beichman, and Margaret Fitzgerald. On Friday, our floor workers helped handle customer questions and kept items organized and tidy. They were: Mary McIntosh, Kathy Van Buren, Lorraine Beals, Janet Schmidt, Susie and Lucas Calyer, Margaret Fitzgerald and Laura Clark. All advertising was handled by Lorraine Beals - newspapers, Kurt Schlacter - road signs, and Bob Reineke - interior signs.

The need for more volunteers is still present. This concern has made the United Methodist Women reconsider if we will be doing thrift sales after the fall. All the help was greatly appreciated, but as the team leader, it concerned me greatly that we did not have enough help with cleanup. Those there to work the floor Saturday morning for the bag sale were: Mary McIntosh, Kathy Van Buren, and Susie Calyer. When it came time for cleanup, we had: Carrie Pierce, Karen Terwilliger, Joe McManus, Cynthia Becker, Ray Lemka, Lorraine Beals, Chris Chartrand, Jr. and myself, Patty Chartrand. The ages of the majority who helped pack and lift bags and boxes were 75 and up. Cleanup is essential to get the building ready for Sunday morning. Saturday is when we need the most help. We need younger people to be here when the sale is over to help with cleanup. 7-year-olds can put things in boxes and 10-year-olds can toss things in the dumpster. With enough workers it might only take an hour to complete. For those with younger children, feel free to bring them with you. There is always a job for the children to do.

The Spring sale made a profit of \$2,064.49, minus the dumpster rental of \$160. Everyone benefits from the money that is earned at the thrift sales. The youth are given scholarship money for camp and the UMW also gives money to support Vacation Bible School (VBS). Anyone who has had coffee or tea after church has benefitted from the thrift sales since the UMW supplies the coffee, tea, sugar and cream each Sunday.

We donate to other organizations who need help, too. People from the Cathedral of All Saints Thrift Store came and took some items for their store, books were donated to the East Greenbush library, the Red Book Shelf in Albany came to take books for children in Albany and five loads of things were taken to the Rescue Mission in Albany. Please consider donating your time at our fall sale - setup is on **Sunday, September 24**, and the Thrift Sale takes place **Friday and Saturday, September 29-30**, 2017. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

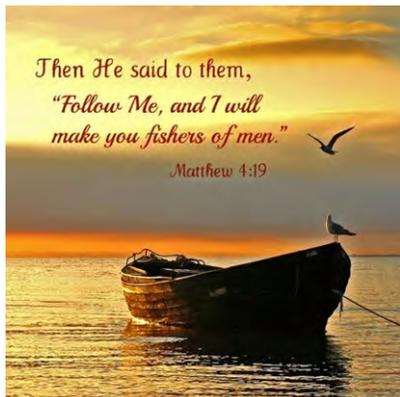
-- *Patty Chartrand and the UMW*

YOUTH LEADER LEAVING IN JUNE

At the end of this school year Nick Morrow will be leaving his position as Youth Leader. Nick has been with us for the past four years. During this time many of our youth have enjoyed his programs, activities, and benefited from his leadership. Nick will be taking this time to pursue other interests and future opportunities. Join us in thanking Nick for his work with our youth and wish him the best as he moves forward with future endeavors.

-- *Staff Parish Relations Commission*

Change The World Sunday A Success!



We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
 We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
 And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
 They will know we are Christians by our love

If we had a theme song for our **Change the World Sunday** event held on May 21 it could have been "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love". About 85 of us worked together with smiles on our faces to bring God's love out of the sanctuary and into the community. We were led by project coordinators Karen Terwilliger,

Heidi Gran, Nick Morrow, Kevin Conley, Floyd Hunt, Aleta Schweigert, Rachel GISO, Jessica Kurimsky, Janet Schmidt, Carrie Larson, Fred Henson, and Lorraine Beals. This year we cast our nets over a slightly larger area by adding a couple of new projects. St. Paul's Center in Rensselaer received a thorough kitchen cleaning by Kevin and Cindy Conley and Art Sanderson. Fred Henson and his helpers planted the new Luke Garden (Luke 12:27) located on the northwest corner of our church grounds. When established, this will be a wildflower meadow, designed to be a neighborhood demonstration project to benefit wildlife, particularly native pollinating insects. Other projects included visitations to the VA Center in Albany, local shut-ins, residents of Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in East Greenbush and Riverside Nursing Home in Castleton. Planting was done at Goff Garden, cards were made for Veterans, May Baskets and potted plants were assembled and delivered to nursing home residents. Three dozen prayer shawls and afghans were delivered to Veterans. Sixty lunches were prepared for and delivered to the Homeless at Interfaith in Albany. Participants returned to church at Noon for a delicious lunch prepared by Lorraine Beals and her crew. It was a productive morning as well as a very rewarding one. We appreciate all those who made this event a success including our supportive pastor Sundar Samuel, Bob Reineke, Gail Welkley, Chris Chartrand, Paula Deming and our project coordinators. We thank everyone who participated. Your efforts are helping to make a difference in our world! Please mark your calendars for our fifth anniversary Change the World Sunday on **May 20, 2018**.

-- John Schmidt, Event Coordinator

GOFF GARDEN MISSION

A **Big Thank You** to all who helped plant for the Goff Garden Mission. We appreciate how quickly it got done. Soon the need will be weeding and watering. Then in **July** and **August** the need will be harvesting and delivering to CoNSERNS-U food pantry. Please find an hour or so with the kids over the summer to do one of these tasks. Watch the garden grow into many pounds of fresh, nutritious veggies for our appreciative neighbors. **Sundays** after 9:00 AM and **Wednesday** evenings we are usually at the garden. But, we can arrange to meet you at a time that works best for you. The chalkboard on the shed in the Garden will have ideas of what needs to be done if you wish to just drop by anytime.



Save the Date: **Sunday, August 13, 9:00am Children's Harvest Day** - Pick veggies, have a snack, do a treasure hunt, enjoy the summer garden!!!

We will be doing a "Small Gardening" demonstration at the CoNSERNS-U food pantry. We give advice, plants, and seeds to help clients grow their own vegetables. If you are aware of anyone or any group who could benefit from this gardening help please contact Linda Marschner, Rickey Lettrick or Aleta Schweigert.



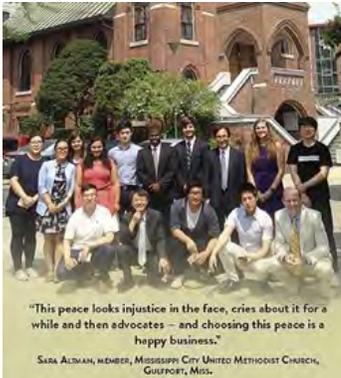
From the Editor

- Got Graduates? Hurry, no time to lose! If there is a recent or soon-to-be graduate in your family, please get their name(s) to the church office by **Wednesday, June 7**. Pastor Sundar would like to mention the graduates' names during the Children's Day Sunday service on **June 11**. All names received (even those received after the above deadline) will be included on a list in the Summer (July/August) issue of The Church BELL newsletter.
- Capital Pride 2017 is **Sunday, June 11**. The PRIDE Parade will step off at noon from the north/west corner of Washington Park. Come and join with folks from First UMC Schenectady for the parade. The PRIDE Festival in Washington Park will take place from 12 – 5pm.
- A reminder that Vacation Bible School, *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, Built for a Purpose* is planned for **July 31-August 4**. Registration forms are on the poster in the church foyer. Call the church office for more information, 477-9693.
- The Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society will gather for its first meeting at 10:30am on **Saturday, June 17, 2017**, at the Esperance-Sloansville United Methodist Church in Esperance. The meeting is open to all and free of charge (except for a donation to cover lunch). A program on Methodism in Schoharie County will be presented at noon during the spaghetti lunch, followed by an optional free tour in the area. For more information, see the bulletin board opposite the kitchen or contact the church office.



PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Rev. Roger Wolsey, Heritage UMC, told this story, this parable when he spoke one Sunday about Peace with Justice giving:



One day a man from a village was standing by a river and he saw a baby floating in the water. He let out a yell, dove into the water, swam out, grabbed the child, and swam back to shore. The next day another villager also retrieved a baby from the river. By the end of the week the villagers had pulled dozens of babies from out of the water. It was hard work. It was exhausting work. And it never seemed to end. Well one day, the man who found that first baby started to run up a path – not to the river. The people yelled, "Where are you going? We need everyone available to help out! He said, "I'm going upstream to see who keeps throwing these babies into the river and try to stop him!"

What does this powerful little story have for us? This is part of the answer from the Peace with Justice website: <http://www.umcsgiving.org/ministry-articles/peace-with-justice-sunday>

"It's about the difference between charity and justice. Charity is like committing those random acts of kindness - its those isolated acts of mercy that attend to certain specific needs, things like giving a warm blanket to a homeless person on the street; or serving a meal to a person whose hungry. Justice is more of a systemic thing. It's about reforming the societal context and conditions in order to more fairly correct things when the decks are stacked against certain kinds of people. Metaphorically, charity is like giving Band-aids to people after they've had a trauma, Justice is seeking to prevent those traumas from happening in the first place."

June 11 is Peace with Justice Sunday. Monies collected on that Sunday will support many efforts, "programs that seek peaceful resolutions while standing against the oppression of God's children." Take a couple of minutes to look at a video to see one specific program, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R-OXQMq6Lc>. A list of other programs can be found on the Peace with Justice website. Fifty percent of the money collected on **June 11** will remain with our Upper New York Annual Conference for local peace with justice ministries. And fifty percent is allocated to the General Board of Church & Society for grants to both U.S. and international special programs.

NEW YORK CITY TRIP RATED "POSITIVE" (BUT WET)



Participants (l to r) Joe McManus, Kathy Van Buren, Karen Terwilliger, Cynthia Becker, Susan (Becker) Denike, John Street Pastor Jason P. Radmacher, Nick Morrow, George Herrick, John Schmidt

Amtrak, NYC Subway, John Street UMC, a light lunch, Trinity Church, NYC Subway, Hayden Planetarium, the museum, NYC Subway, Amtrak. That was our New York City trip on May 13 in a nutshell. Just being part of this great group was special. Here are a few of the comments.

"...what a wonderful time we had on our trip to NYC. Even in the rain it was a memorable experience...I especially enjoyed the Planetarium...The old Methodist church was a wonderful treat, with a great speaking Minister, who knew so much history. Wow, are we lucky or what!!!

-- *Karen and Joe*

"The rain did not put a damper on our fun. The trip to John Street Church was great. Learned a lot about our Methodist beginnings. Looking at the church among the skyscrapers reminded me of the movie, 'Batteries Not Included,' where a small diner was in peril when high rise buildings were built around it."

-- *Kathy*

"Pastor Jason gave us a fascinating history of the John Street Church. I never realized that John Wesley was never a Methodist himself. Being able to see and hear the clock that Wesley gave the church as a gift was truly a unique experience."

-- *John*

CELEBRATE SKYE FARM CAMP'S 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY!

Please save the dates and join in one or all of these special celebration events!

Event #1: Family Camp: Memorial Day Weekend, May 26- 29.

Event #2: The Albany District and the Adirondack District are planning a joint "District Worship/ Picnic Event to be held 10 AM to 1 PM **Saturday, July 8** prior to the Open House. Stay tuned for more details.

Event #3: Open House: **Saturday, July 8**, 1 PM to 4 PM.

Event #4: Alumni Weekend: **September 1-4**

Event #5: Anniversary Banquet, **Saturday, November 4** at the Saratoga United Methodist Church

See the Skye Farm website for more information: <http://www.skyefarmcamp.org/>

THE LATEST FROM THE UNITED METHODIST NEWS SERVICE

To read the full text of each of the following articles, click on the links or go to www.umc.org/news-and-media, click on the search icon and type in the title of the article.

First, about the founder of the Methodist movement

Marking John Wesley's birthday in his words, A Commentary by the Rev. Robert J. Williams first published on June 25, 2012

As John Wesley, [the founder of the Methodist movement](#), grew older, he frequently commented on his birthday how he was still in good health and this was largely due to the way God had blessed him.

Wesley was born on **June 17, 1703**, while England was still using the Julian calendar. England adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752 and thus Wesley's birth date became June 28.

His birthday reflections give us a glimpse into how he viewed his life, health and ministry. On June 28, 1770, he wrote:

I can hardly believe that I am this entered into the sixty-eighth year of my age! How marvelous are the ways of God! How has he kept me, even from a child!...



Now, four articles related to the recent Judicial Council meeting in New Jersey

Consecration of gay bishop against church law, written by Linda Bloom on April 28, 2017

The consecration of a gay bishop violates church law, the top court of The United Methodist Church has ruled.

However, the bishop "remains in good standing," the Judicial Council said in [Decision 1341](#), until an administrative or judicial process is completed.

Ruling greeted with confusion, hope, written by Kathy L. Gilbert on April 30, 2017

At the end of the day, Bishop Karen Oliveto remains bishop of the Mountain Sky Area even after The United Methodist Church's top court ruled [consecrating a gay bishop violates church law](#).

Judicial Council said in [Decision 1341](#) the bishop would still be in "good standing" until an administrative or judicial process is completed....

The decision is being greeted with confusion, but also with hope that the Commission on a Way Forward has time to do its work on finding a path to unity.

Bishop Ough: 'The entire church is rightly watching', written by Sam Hodges on May 1, 2017

Council of Bishops President Bruce Ough, [addressing his episcopal colleagues](#) in a May 1 presidential address, spoke candidly of what would be lost if The United Methodist Church breaks up over homosexuality.

"Let's be clear, if we divide, nearly all our essential unifying institutional activities would be lost or severely diminished," he said....

"I don't even know how to begin to assess this cost!" Ough said.

Ruling on a gay bishop could be far-reaching, written by Heather Hahn on May 10, 2017

The Judicial Council's recent ruling against the consecration of a gay bishop likely has consequences for United Methodists far beyond one bishop.

The United Methodist Church's top court ruled on April 28 that the consecration of a ["self-avowed practicing homosexual bishop" violates church law](#).

[One example given in the article of "...beyond one bishop"] A key part of [Decision 1341](#) is that a "same-sex marriage license issued by competent civil authorities together with the clergy person's status in a same-sex relationship is a public declaration that the person is a self-avowed practicing homosexual."



A NOTE FROM MARY INGRAHAM

To Our Church Family in East Greenbush - My heart is full of thanksgiving for the outpouring of love and compassion and concern for Pastor Joe and our family! Joe was so blessed by the many cards you sent to him, the many visits you shared with him, those of you who came to have lunch with him - You have no idea how he was encouraged and blessed! We as a family have felt your support and caring and your concern. Thank you thank you thank you, all!!! May our Lord continue to bless you in these coming days.

With love!

Mary and Pastor Joe's Family
(Mary Ingraham)



WE'RE HAVING A VISITOR!

In case you are free on the 12th...Wayne Albertson will be visiting/coming home to our church in the morning of **Monday, June 12**. Wayne grew up in our church and went on to become a United Methodist Pastor. He is now retired and lives in Minnesota. Call the church office for the latest.