



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 7

SUMMER 2017

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ Early Informal Service in Outdoor Chapel 8:30 am
- ◆ Regular Service 9:30 am
- ◆ Sunday School resumes September 10

We are on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

June 12 through August 25:

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

Resuming August 28:

9 am to 2:30 pm M - F

Email:

office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Youth Ministries Email:

UMYF@fumceg.org

Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor

Gail Welkey,
Administrative Assistant

Dear Members and Friends,

Criminologists tell us no person enters and exits a room without leaving something of themselves behind. There will be a fingerprint, a footprint, a trace of hair, a thread of clothing or some DNA evidence that we have been there and done that.

A few days ago we received word that Deb's mother passed away peacefully at home with some of her children by her side. We will be leaving to go to Rockland, Maine to celebrate her long life and share with each other and the community precious memories of the evidence that she has lived her life very productively.

I want to raise a few questions with you who are seeking to be disciples of Jesus Christ: *What kind of footprints are you leaving on the sands of time? What difference will it make that you have crossed the stage of life? How will you be remembered?*

Disciples follow Christ. Disciples love one another. Day-by-day disciples try to make a difference in their world! That is the point of Jesus' simple *similes* that form the scriptures in St. Matthew 5: 13-14. (v13 "you are the salt of the earth..." v14 "you are the light of the world...")

During the next eight weeks many of us will be traveling long distances to exotic places. On our journeys, some of us will be savoring some foods that have hidden in them salt-based preservatives, like our favorite fast foods! We will also enjoy a lot of sunshine; many of you will intentionally sit in the bright and hot sun to get some tan for your *bodies*.

So, what did Jesus mean when he said, "You are the salt of the earth and light of the world?"

I believe Jesus calls all of us to be salt of the earth people - people who live in various communities, who are moral, stable, dependable, solid folk who have as much concern for others as they have for themselves.

I remember my father far from being perfect. But, he was a salt of the earth kind of person. Orphaned at age 6, he could have lived his days resentful. Instead, he got an education, got a job, married my wonderful mother, and together through the

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A Reconciling Congregation

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years, they dug out a living that seemed to be plentiful. He could borrow money on a handshake, cut a deal on his word, and come Sunday, taught Sunday school, ushered, counted the offering and later he was ordained as a deacon in the Anglican Church. He was as honest as the day is long, as straight as an arrow shot from a bow, as moral as any man who ever walked the face of the earth.

Salty people preserve society. Salt was to the ancient world what canning, packaging, and refrigeration are to our world. You can't walk down the streets of Old Jerusalem even today without a leg of lamb slapping you in the face, or a salted fish looking you in the eye. Salt kept meat from spoiling. Without it all of life becomes rotten and rancid.

Salty people ask questions like "Is it better to be lucky than it is to be responsible?" From game shows to church bingo's, the world has gone crazy over the hope of getting something for nothing.

Salty people ask the question "Can the wealthy ignore the poor and ever be secure?" Most of the time you and I live in a world of work and commerce. It is a world that honors people for being attractive and productive. It reveres winners and scorns losers. It rewards independence and deprecates dependence. Many of us have done quite well in that world. Some of us have a very hard time believing that everybody else is not just like us. But they are not. Not everyone has your intelligence. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have your health. Not everyone got the breaks that you have gotten in life. Not everyone has the same family background that you have. Not everybody has a spouse who has helped make you what you are today. That is why we must hear the cry of the needy.



The second *simile* is like the first. "*You are the Light of the World.*"

A city set on a hill shall not be hidden. Our entire family loves lighthouses. When we are in Maine we make a point to visit one lighthouse along the ocean. Every time I stop by one, I find myself humming that old song that I learned as a child.

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy from His lighthouse evermore,
But to us he gives the keeping of the lights along the shore.
Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman you may rescue, you may save.*

What am I trying to say? I'm trying to say some people will never find their way home to God. Some people will never be rescued from a stormy sea. Some people will never land safely on the other side, unless our feeble lamps are burning bright. You are the light of the world. You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

In all your journeys remember the God of everlasting love goes before you to protect, preserve and guide you. Remember you are the salt and the light of the earth.

Shalom,
Pastor Sundar

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WORSHIP AT FUMC FOR THE SUMMER

This issue of The Church BELL covers those two warm summer months of July and August. Much of the regular church program is relatively quiet over these weeks. For example, there is no Sunday School program. But our Sunday worship schedule continues at both 8:30am and 9:30am. Early worship at 8:30 in our Chapel in the Woods will continue a focus on "The Power Points of Life" through the service on **July 30**. Then on **August 6** we will begin a new series, "The Quest for Christian Values". There will be **no early service** on **July 2**, 4th of July weekend, nor on **September 3**, Labor Day weekend. Holy Communion for those Early Services will be celebrated on the following Sundays, **July 9** and **September 10**. We continue to look for lay men, women and youth to lead one of these early services. If you are interested or if you have someone to suggest to lead, speak with Pastor Sundar or George Herrick for a list of open dates and topics.



Pastor Sundar is planning to preach all Sundays through the summer at our regular 9:30am worship services.

If you are going to be away this summer, try locating a United Methodist church where you will be traveling using "Find-A-Church" (<http://www.umc.org/find-a-church/search>). Let us know about your experience.

Summer is a planning time. Three years ago your help was solicited. It's time to do it again. "Haven't you ever wished the Pastor would preach a sermon focused on your favorite bible verse, one that would help answer a pressing societal question, one that would clarify the meaning of a biblical story or a sermon that would very definitely challenge the people in the pew to thought or action?" Yes, you say? "Take a moment and write down your ideas, your concerns and/or your suggestions and send them on to Pastor Sundar." Your input makes planning more productive.

Here is the lectionary for the summer:

- July 2 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
- July 9 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67; Psalm 45:10-17 or Psalm 72; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
- July 16 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 25; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
- July 23 Seventh Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
- July 30 Eighth Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
- August 6 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
- August 13 Tenth Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
- August 20 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost** Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28
- August 27 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost** Exodus 1:8 – 2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
- September 3 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost** Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW wishes everyone a happy, safe and wonderful summer.

We are taking a break until September when we will get very busy. Events coming up in the fall are the Coffee Houses, the Thrift Sale (**September 29-30**), Brooks BBQ (October), and the roast beef dinner (**November**).

There will be a Thrift Sale Team meeting **Sunday, August 27** after the worship service.

The CLOVE RUN is **August 12** at the Castleton Elementary School. There will be a 10 mile race, 5K race, and 1 mile Family Fun Run. Race time is 8:00 am for the 10 mile race, 9:00 am for the 5K race, and 8:30 am for Family Fun Run. Registration online: finishright.com. Volunteers are needed; contact Patty Chartrand at 518-732-2940 or pjdc560@gmail.com. Cash donations can be made out to CRRC (Castleton Road Racing Commission), Box 42, Castleton, NY 12033. The proceeds go to The Anchor in Castleton.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPRC)

Happy Summer Everyone! The staff at FUMC has certainly earned some well-deserved R-and-R. Put your feet up, relax, and enjoy friends and family. Thank you for all you do for our church community. This year has brought us several changes. We wish Nick Morrow and Bruce Wagner well on all their future endeavors. The summer months and fall will be busy for the Staff Parish Relations Commission. We will be hiring for our Youth Leader and our Choir Director. **If you know anyone that may be interested please contact either of us with the information.** See you in September.



-- Deb Rubenstein (druben@nycap.rr.com)

-- Tom McLaughlin (dustymcl@nycap.rr.com)



CHURCH LIBRARY

Do you like to read on the beach or at a campsite, maybe in a hotel room? That is great! Did you know the church has a library full of interesting books to read for young and old and everyone in between? Check it out! The library is next to the nursery, across from the Youth Lounge.

SENIOR LUNCH

On **Wednesday, July 12** at 12:00 noon the Membership and Evangelism committee will again host a Senior Lunch in the Fellowship Hall. We will have summer-type goodies to dine on and also entertainment. All are welcome. Please contact Mary McIntosh (518-449-2746) or Sue Lemka (518-477-9875) to let us know you will be attending.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) 2017

VBS 2017 will be held **Monday, July 31 - Friday, August 4** from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM here at our church, FUMC East Greenbush. There is no cost to participate. The program is for children entering pre-K through 5th grades. Registration forms can be found in the foyer and online at our church website: www.fumceg.org.



Volunteers and supplies are needed! Students in 6th-12th grades and adults are needed to serve as leaders and assistant crew leaders. If you or someone you know is available for even just one day, please speak to Rachel Giso or Jessica Kurmisky, or sign up on the volunteer sheet in the foyer.

Also needed are gallon-size paint cans, PVC pipe scraps, toilet paper rolls, flat cardboard plus any amount of spray paint in red, yellow, blue, orange, purple or green (primary colors). Thank you so much for your support!

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR JUNE 2017

Finances Update. The Finance Committee would like to provide an update on the current finances of the church as we start this summer. Through the end of May, the church has received \$116,280 in income but spent \$124,773. Please see the chart below to compare our May income and spending in 2015 and 2016. The church’s income has dropped slightly in 2017, partially due to the Endowment income (approximately \$4,200) being no longer counted as income in the budget. Additionally, the church’s spending is slightly lower this year due to the delay of a payment to the Trustees of \$2,417. As you take time away this summer to travel, please keep our church’s finances in your thoughts and prayers.

	Income Through End of May	Spending Through End of May	Money Spent Over Income Received
2015	\$109,971	\$128,032	\$18,061
2016	\$118,546	\$129,720	\$11,174
2017	\$116,280	\$124,788	\$8,508

Online Giving. Online giving has grown since being introduced at our church. Members who choose to donate online have the option of paying for their gift with a credit card or their checking account. When a member uses a credit card, a fee (2.75%) is charged by the online giving program (Vanco) that is in addition to the overall fees that they charge for using their service. Members who use a credit card have the option of helping to offset the credit card fee. If a member donates to our church using a checking account, the additional credit card fee isn’t charged. The Finance Committee is glad that we are able to offer online giving as an option. As a member who chooses to give online, I have found that it is very easy to use and convenient. I no longer have to look for my check book Sunday mornings or get to church and realize I have forgotten my envelope. Also, the online donation can be done as a one-time or recurring donation (weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly or annually). The frequency options allow me to donate on the same schedule that I would have used if I gave during offering at church. We wanted to ensure that members understand the two online giving options and the additional fee charged for members who use a credit card.

Stewardship Campaign. The Finance Committee has begun planning the 2018 Stewardship campaign. The kickoff continental breakfast and start of the campaign is tentatively set for **Sunday, October 22**. The campaign will ending on **Sunday, November 12**. The Committee will be looking for volunteers from other committees to help speak about how the gifts that people donate are used at church, in our community and beyond. Please keep the Finance Committee in your prayers as we plan for the next Stewardship campaign.

Very truly yours,
Colleen Rumsey
 Stewardship & Finance Committee

SOCIAL MEDIA – FOR OUR CHURCH?

Len Finke, Chairman of our Administrative Council began a recent email message with the line, “At a recent meeting there was some discussion about reaching people, especially younger people, through social media.” He went on to share some thoughts about Facebook and its potential use in our church. Should our church have a Facebook page? Would it be an important way to reach some people in our church family? What are the pro’s and con’s of using Facebook in our church? What do you think? You can share your ideas with Len - and through him, the Administrative Council - by contacting him directly or through the church office.



MAKING MUSIC

Our organist Jacqueline Krahfurst has two requests. **First**, she is looking for a small group of instrument players for one **Sunday** worship service during the summer. (There are nine services in **July and August** so we could use more than one group.) "We will need to have a few times to practice. Anyone interested please leave me a message in [my] office folder or email me @jkrahfo@gmail.com." **Also**, she is attempting to get a teenage group of singers together for one Sunday service for which they will learn a popular song from KLOVE. "We will need to have a few practices to get ready to sing as a group." If you are interested, contact her as above. (Want to suggest a name? She can contact that person.)



GOFF GARDEN MISSION SUMMER HELP



Save the Date: **Children's Harvest Day is Sunday August 13, 9:00 -11:00.** Pick veggies, have a snack, do a treasure hunt, enjoy the summer garden! Join us for 15 to 20 minutes during this time to show the children how our church is helping our community.

Summer means the need for help to weed, water, harvest, and deliver to CoNSERNs-U Food Pantry. Please find some time 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 at the Garden will have ideas of what needs to be done if you wish to just drop by anytime.

Thank You,
Linda Marschner, Rickey Lettrick or Aleta Schweigert

CALLING GARDENING ANGELS!

We are really in need of more *Gardening Angels* in all of our Memorial Gardens to have them looking optimal this summer. When they have tender loving care they are very beautiful and admired by all who see them in their prime.

Your tender loving care and assistance in keeping our Church Memorial Gardens looking their best this summer would be greatly appreciated. If you have a moment and see something that is in need of some extra care (weeding and/or watering) at the Church Memorial Gardens, especially the Memorial (parking lot) Island and the plantings around the Gilligan Road sign for the church, please feel free to participate in the *Gardening Angel* experience.



The Memorial Gardens at the Memorial Courtyard, the planting around the Hays Road sign for the church, and the plantings outside of the Fellowship Hall entrance are currently maintained, however, if you would like to help out in these specific areas please contact either Kate Henson and/or Linda Marschner.

Thank You in Advance to all of our Church's *Gardening Angels*!

NEW COMMUNION PREPARATION TEAMS WANTED

Holy Communion is celebrated the **first Sunday of each month**. A Communion Preparation Team buys the bread and juice, prepares the communion bread and the glasses of grape juice on Saturdays, and on Sundays after church, washes the glasses and puts them away. Receipts for the bread and juice are given to Mary McIntosh so that they can be reimbursed. It takes about 1/2 hour to prepare the bread and glasses for Sunday and about 1/2 hour to wash the glasses and put them away on that Sunday. If we had two (2) more teams, each team would only be assigned two (2) Sundays a year. Please contact Mary McIntosh, who is the coordinator for Communion Preparation at 518-449-2746 for further information. Thank you.



CRAFT WORKSHOP

The Craft Workshop will resume on **Tuesday, September 12** and continue through **Tuesday, October 17**. The time will be 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM.

Thank you for continuing the making of Christmas Tree ornaments that Ruth Ostrander provided for many, many years. Samples and supplies will be available.

Call me at our new phone number, 518-784-2014, for more information.

-- Betty Collins

OUR GRADUATES

We wish to congratulate all our young men and women for their hard work. Please take time to pray for them as they continue on their life's journey. Young people are a very important part of our church family. We wish them Godspeed.



Dan Christman graduated from Shenendehowa High School and plans to attend Adirondack Community College this fall. Dan is the grandson of Ed and Dottie Young.

Alexander Maggiacomo graduated from Shenendehowa High School. He plans to attend the University at Albany, majoring in Computer Science. Alexander is the grandson of Floyd Hunt.

Shay Nolan graduated from Columbia High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society. He is going to East Carolina University to study accounting. Shay is the son of John and Sharon Nolan.

Madylin Partridge graduated from Hollis-Brookline High School in New Hampshire, and plans to attend Dartmouth College this fall. Madylin is the granddaughter of Ed and Dottie Young.

Mitchell Smith graduated from Orchard Park High School in Orchard Park, NY. He plans to attend Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA in the fall and will be majoring in Finance with a Masters in Data Science. Mitchell is the son of Brian and Kimberly Smith, and the grandson of Mary and the late David Smith.



Grant Beals graduated Magna cum Laude from Ithaca College's School of Humanities and Sciences with a degree in Writing and Theatre Studies. The degree was awarded in December. Grant is the son of Steve and Lorraine Beals.

Walker Manning graduated from St. Olaf College in May. He is the son of Audrey (Pierce) Manning and Ken Manning, and grandson of Carrie and Lee Pierce.

Leah May graduated from the University at Albany with a degree in Physical Therapy. She is the granddaughter of Olive Felio.

William B. Noll graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a B.S. degree in Nuclear Engineering. He has accepted a position at Savannah River Nuclear Solutions in Aiken, South Carolina. His parents are Richard and Paula Noll; and his grandmothers are Susan Jodoin, and Yvonne Noll DeBellis.

Alyxe Perry graduated with a Bachelor's degree from George Mason University. She is the daughter of Robin and Jim Perry, and granddaughter of Sue and Ray Lemka.

Katie Schmidt graduated from Western New England University with a degree of Pharm. D., as a pharmacist. She is the daughter of Kathy and Erich Schmidt.

Sarah Moore Wagner, daughter of Bruce and Janet Wagner, graduated with B.S. in Nursing, Magna Cum Laude, from SUNY Plattsburgh, in May 2017.

Emily White graduated from Western New England University. She is the daughter of Danny and Barbara (Becker) White and granddaughter of Cynthia Becker.





SKYE FARM CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
1884 E. SCHROON RIVER RD., WARRENSBURG, NY 12885
CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN 2017

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

- ☞ Albany District and Adirondack District Joint Worship/Picnic, 10 AM to 1 PM, **Saturday, July 8** prior to the Open House. Worship on the waterfront begins at 10:30 AM – live music, Skye Farm’s drama group, message and Holy Communion. Potluck Meal begins around 11:30 AM. Hamburgers/rolls/beverages provided. After the meal join in the Open House festivities!

You must RSVP TO CARRIE BOYER by **Monday, July 3**.....AT THE ADIRONDACK DISTRICT: 518- 480-4866 or adirondackdistrict@unyumc.org.

- ☞ Open House: **Saturday, July 8** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come tour the camp, meet the staff and participate in special activities.
- ☞ Alumni Weekend: **September 1-4**. Come for all or any part of the weekend. The 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held Saturday afternoon and evening with the Saratoga United Methodist Men serving a chicken BBQ. Save the date! To register for this event, go to www.skyefarmcamp.org.
- ☞ A special Anniversary Banquet to celebrate 75 years and share the future vision for Skye Farm, **Saturday, November 4** at Saratoga United Methodist Church. Registration for this event will be available at www.skyefarmcamp.org.

For questions and further info: please call Skye Farm at 518-494-7170.