



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

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

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

## **At Church on Sundays:**

- ♦ Early Informal Service  
8:30am
- ♦ Regular Service 9:30 am
- ♦ Sunday School 9:30 am

## **Also on Sundays:**

- ♦ Worship at Hawthorne Ridge  
1:00 pm

## **Visit us on the Web:**

[www.fumceg.org](http://www.fumceg.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FUMCEG](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCEG)

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## **Church Office Hours:**

9:00 am to 2:30 pm M - F

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[youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:youthleaderamber@gmail.com)

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

Gail Welkley,  
**Administrative Assistant**

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and this death came to all people, because all sinned (fallen short of the glory of God). For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, result in justification and life for all" (Rom 5: 12-20).



A 55-year old individual from Hubei province in China may have been the first person to have contracted COVID-19, the disease caused by the new Coronavirus spreading across the globe. That case dates back to November 17, 2019, according to the South Morning China Post.

Scientists now suspect this coronavirus, SARS-Cov-2, originated in a bat and somehow hopped to another animal, possibly the Pangolin, which then passed it on to humans. The disease is now spreading between people without any animal intermediary. As of March 13, 2020 there were nearly 148,000 cases globally and more than 81,000 cases in Mainland China, with cases on every continent except Antarctica. Scientists are continuing to study the virus and work on treatment, including a vaccine. My prayers are with each and every one of you as we wait for this pandemic to come to a halt and a new vaccine made available world-wide to stem the global infections of this disease.

As your pastor I recognize that this a very difficult and stressful time for all of us, I want to lift up your spirit towards God's goodness, love and grace to sustain you physically, emotionally and spiritually. I want to share the good news of Christ's resurrection from his death on the cross on our behalf. This resurrection power is given to all of us through God's Holy Spirit who brings us new life, new hope and peace of heart and mind during this difficult period in our lives. Please keep in mind that your church family is here to support you during this health crisis. We have formed various teams who are working hard to be ready to help any and all of you who might want some help in the coming weeks and months.

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This April issue of the Church BELL is abbreviated and focuses on the current medical crisis and our Church's response to it. Changes in programs and activities are happening on a daily basis. No calendar is included. A link to the calendar is available on the church website. Our church is open, please keep in touch.

*A Reconciling Congregation*

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Our prayers are with you and we are all in this together as we pray and support one another through the strength God is providing us. During the next few weeks our schedules, our lifestyles, our resources might change drastically, but this I am confident that the God who loves is the same loving God, yesterday, today and tomorrow. The good shepherd will continue to take care of his flock and keep us safe from all harm, even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Enfold you and keep you safe.

The church family and I wish you and yours a blessed and glorious Easter. May love of God and the risen power of Christ enfold you and keep you safe.

Love and grace, *Pastor Sundar*

## WORSHIP AT FUMC IN APRIL

In this edition of The Church BELL, no lectionary is included. The Revised Common Lectionary is available at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>.

Please refer to the handout included in last month's Church BELL for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter service information. The 8:30 am services will be held in the outdoor chapel if there is no rain or snow. Dress for the weather. **There will be no services at Hawthorne Ridge, Rosewood or Riverside until further notice.**

We have added an online option for the Sunday 9:30 church service for Facebook users who are members of the **"First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush"** Facebook Group. Look below for log on instructions.

There are two Sundays after Easter in the month of April. The last one being **Native American Ministries Sunday**. For those who have pledge envelopes, there is a special envelope you can use to donate to this mission. You can mail it to the church as well as your other offering. Here is the link to watch an older but good video on Native American Sunday <https://vimeo.com/258714162>.

## How to Login to Facebook

You would use your normal Facebook login credentials to log in to Facebook on your computer, and using the search function, search for **First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush**, and select the group. If you are a member of that group you will get a notification that a Facebook Live session is starting and you will get an option to join the live session.

If you are not a member of the group, there is a button that will send a request to join the group. Follow that prompt and you will be added to the group.

While not everyone is familiar with Facebook, we believe this is the easiest way to allow our church family to hear the word of God and still maintain the suggested social distancing required by the current medical situation. Family members may be able to assist in getting this setup. Reach out if you have further questions.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be streaming Sunday School sessions online. See the directions under Worship on Page 2. On Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30 pm we began streaming Sunday School messages and activities for children and youth will be featured.

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

In person events are cancelled for the time being. As soon as we get the go to be together, we will meet again.

I want to remind you to "like" the youth group Instagram page and the Facebook page for daily devotionals for youth. I will also try to "ZOOM" to keep us connected.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As of this writing the Spring Thrift Sale is still on. It is scheduled for **May 1-2**. We will need volunteers during the week as well as on Friday night to straightening up for Saturday morning. WE NEED EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATION TO MAKE IS EVENT A SUCCESS. MONEY EARNED GOES TOWARD CAMPERSHIPS, SUPPLIES FOR THE KITCHEN, ETC.

## MISSIONS

### Volunteer Opportunity Ahead!

- ♦ Spring is here, and that means volunteers are needed as we begin our ninth year of caring for a two-mile section of Routes 9 & 20. Just show up on **April 4 at 8:00 AM at the church**. (Rain/Snow date: **April 11**). See John Schmidt with any questions. Thanks!
- ♦ Solar Energy is available from Common Energy. The church has signed up. If you wish to sign up please contact the Eco Team at [eco-team@fumceg.org](mailto:eco-team@fumceg.org) if you have any questions.



## INFORMATIVE AND TIMELY SHORT NOTES ABOUT OUR CHURCH AND BEYOND WITH A SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GENERAL CONFERENCE

- ♦ The Eco Fair scheduled for March 22 has been cancelled
- ♦ The April19 Styrofoam and shoe recycling have been postponed
- ♦ An up-to-date and informative article regarding the current medical crisis is online at Consumer Reports <https://www.consumerreports.org/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>
- ♦ Brendan Murtagh, Peer Minister, has big plans for the Fall. Watch for the May BELL for more details
- ♦ This from UMNews dated March 18. "With the coronavirus disrupting lives worldwide, General Conference organizers determined they have no choice but to postpone The United Methodist Church's top legislative assembly. The Minneapolis Convention Center—scheduled to host the 2020 General Conference — announced it is now cancelling gatherings of 50 or more people through May 10... [The General Conference organizers] ...decided the venue's announcement meant that General Conference could no longer go forward May 5—15 as planned. However, commission members do not yet know how quickly they can announce new dates..."

## CHANGE THE WORLD SUNDAY

**On Sunday, May 17, our church will be observing its seventh Change the World Sunday.** In today's world filled with fear, worry, poverty, crime and corruption, it's especially important to get involved and help to make a difference. Change the World Sunday is a world-wide event which seems to be gaining momentum. Congregations leave their pews, put on their work clothes and go out to share Christ's love.



Following a brief worship service participants will head out into the community to help others by visiting our veterans at the VA Center, or hosting a Moon Bee, where participants make and assemble sanitary napkin kits for girls who have limited access to such products in addition to a number of other projects in our larger community. All are welcome to join us as we continue to **Change the World!** Bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you.



*"Not all of us can do great things. But we can all do small things with great love."*

Mother Teresa