



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

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

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2020

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

Gail Welkley,  
**Administrative Assistant**

## Dear Sisters and Brothers,

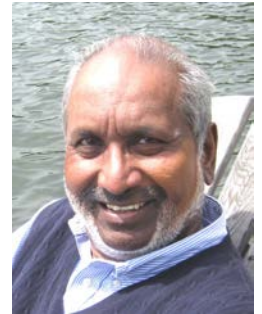
There are forty-six days from Ash Wednesday (02/26/2020) to silent Saturday (04/11/2020), the day before Easter, the day before our celebration of the resurrection. All around the world, people celebrate Lent as a time of reflection and preparation. We reflect on the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross, and we prepare ourselves to celebrate the awesome, life-changing joy of the resurrection.

Traditionally, we as Christians celebrate Lent by examining our hearts, repenting of our sins, and giving up something important to us as a way of identifying with Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. Theology professor Colin MacIver has some ideas of other things that we might give up for Lent. He begins with hot showers or mattresses or beds, because we've become so dependent on our own comfort. I can see some of you already starting to squirm. Next he suggests the audio equipment in our car, because we need more silent time to listen to God and examine our hearts. Next, he suggests Netflix, because we often use entertainment to numb our minds or waste time that could be used for better purposes. Then he suggests cutting out looking at our reflection in the mirror, because it encourages vanity and self-centeredness. Finally he suggests giving up control of our TV remote, because we hate giving up control of anything. [I can see some of you thinking, in the words of the old joke, "now he's quit preaching and gone to meddling."]

## Forty Days OF LENT

Last year, Twitter employees sorted through more than 44,000 tweets that referenced the word "Lent" and the words "giving up" coming up with the most popular things that people were sacrificing for Lent that year. Their top five in order were: social networking, like Facebook and Instagram, alcohol, Twitter, chocolate, and strangely enough, the fifth most popular thing to give up for Lent was, Lent itself. Obviously, not everyone likes the idea of self-examination and sacrifice.

Lent is an uncomfortable season in the church. It's supposed to be that way. For forty-six days, we are reminded of how much our sin separates us from God; neighbor and how far God would go to heal that separation. But first, I know one technological



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*A Reconciling Congregation*

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advancement that many of us would not give up for Lent. It's Google. It says that the average child asks 73 questions every day, half of which parents struggle to answer. Seventy-three questions each day. Among the most common questions are, "why do people die?" "Where do I come from?" "Why is the sky blue?" "What is God?" and "What does 'we can't afford it' mean?"

Let me stop right here and ask you a question. What if you had never heard of God before, had no concept of God, and someone read you Genesis 1 through 2:15, you would be overwhelmed by the goodness of God. You'd see God's goodness in creating this beautiful, orderly universe teeming with light and life. You'd see God's goodness in creating and blessing human beings with abundant food, fulfilling work and a personal relationship with God. I believe understanding the goodness of God makes the difference between believing in God and trusting in God. I suspect all of us believe in God. The problem is that many of us really don't trust God. What's the difference? Trust means giving up control of your life to God. Trust means obeying God's limits, even when you don't understand them. Trust means knowing that God doesn't owe you an explanation. When God withholds some blessing or allows some suffering or does not answer a desperate prayer in the way you want it answered, can you accept that situation with gratitude and cheerfulness? Trusting God means continuing to praise what you do know about God instead of questioning what you don't know about God.

On Nov. 21, 1990, Bill Irwin became the first blind person to hike the entire Appalachian Trail, a rugged wilderness trail that stretches more than 2,100 miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mt. Katahdin, Maine. Irwin didn't use maps or compasses or any technology to find his way. He counted on his guide dog, Orient, to take him over hills and into ravines and across rivers. Bill Irwin had been an angry, driven man with a drinking problem, four failed marriages, and was battling depression when he began losing his eyesight. A few years later, Bill became a Christian while attending an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting with his son. Bill prayed, "Lord, I'm so grateful for all You've given me and all You've done for me. If there ever anything I can do as a way of saying thanks to You, I want You to know I'll do it, whatever it is."



Not long after that, Bill felt God calling him to hike the Appalachian Trail. Bill wasn't an outdoorsman. He didn't care for hiking or camping. He was out-of-shape and not very athletic. And he was completely blind by now. Why in the world would he take on something so risky? To anyone who asked him for an explanation, Bill said simply that God has told him to. Bill would write later about the hike, "The first clear-eyed thing I had ever done was as a blind man," he wrote, "when I asked God to take charge of my life."

For Mr. Irwin, who died March 1, 2014 at age 73, the hike was an act of salvation. And whenever he got the opportunity, he quoted the first verse he learned as a new Christian, from Second Corinthians 5: 7: "for we walk by faith, not by sight." Think how much comfort this blind man took from that verse: For we walk by faith, not by sight." If you really understood the goodness of God, would you trust God with your life? Would it change your priorities or your attitudes? How could God use you if you handed over control of your life to God? This whole Lenten season is set aside for reflecting on the sacrifice of Jesus on your behalf.

Have a blessed Lenten Journey!

Grace and Peace  
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. March 2020, Volume 22, Issue 3. G. Herrick, **Editor**; S. Samuel, G. Welkley, **Editing Team**; J. Van Ornam, **Proofreader**; K. Van Buren, B. Van Ornam, **Production Team**; R. Reineke, **Photographer**; L. Heyer, **Mailing Coordinator**  
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**Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8.** Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

## WORSHIP AT FUMC IN MARCH

There is a lot going on in the church and in the community during the month of March. These thirty one days make up Women's History Month. We will celebrate the World Day of Prayer, Scouting Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, and UMCOR Sunday. It is the beginning of Spring and also the start of Daylight Savings Time. And we United Methodists mark the deaths of both John Wesley on March 2, 1791 and his brother Charles who died on March 29, 1788. Ash Wednesday was in February, Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter are all in April and that means all the days of March are part of the forty days of the season of Lent. All that in the month of March.

The 2020 theme for Women's History Month celebrates the women who have fought for woman's right to vote in the United States. In our United Methodist heritage there have been a number of women who have fought for the right to vote. They have included: Sojourner Truth (1797-1883), Frances Willard (1839-1898), The Rev. Anna Howard Shaw (1847-1919), Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955), Jessie Daniel Ames (1883-1972) and Dorothy Height (1912-2010).



The UM News article **6 Methodist women who fought for the vote** written by Heather Hahn begins with a great video that introduces Frances Willard. Church historians have called this red-headed reformer "the most widely known and loved Methodist woman since Susanna Wesley." The video is worth your time. <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/6-methodist-women-who-fought-for-the-vote>. The article goes on to introduce five other women including this, in part, about Dorothy Height:

"When the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his historic "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963, Dorothy Height was the only woman, besides Coretta Scott King, on the platform.

"When Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's first African-American president more than 45 years later, she was on the platform again....The "Godmother of the Civil Rights Movement" contributed to the 1964 ratification of the 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which outlawed poll taxes in state and federal elections. Her hard work also helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

John Wesley was a fan of voting. According to a 1774 journal entry, he urged Methodist Society members: "(1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy (2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and (3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side." Of course, not everyone could vote at that time, you had to be a land owner and you had to be a male.

Our church has formally encouraged voting. If you check the UMC Book of Resolutions 2004, you will find resolution #270 "Encouragement to Vote in Elections" first adopted that year. That resolution started right here in our church.

Included in this issue of The BELL is a card with a listing of all the worship opportunities at our church for this Lenten season. Also listed is the schedule for the Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon and Worship services.

There is more information about UMCOR Sunday on page 8 of this issue.

Pastor Sundar will be preaching all Sundays in the month with the exception of the early service on **March 1**.

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### The Lectionary for March:

- March 1** First Sunday in Lent Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
- March 8** Second Sunday in Lent Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- March 15** Third Sunday in Lent Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42
- March 22** Fourth Sunday in Lent 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- March 29** Fifth Sunday in Lent Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

### WHICH SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)



It's Lent and these forty days may be a good time to look at our spiritual gifts. That's the gifts listed in a number of places in the bible, for example, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. It begins: "To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit..." Discipleship Ministries has prepared *The Spiritual Gifts Assessment Inventory* tool which can help us learn more about our spiritual gifts, more about how we can help people learn how to use their God-given spiritual attributes. The assessment is available on-line. Try it at: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory> and then let's talk. We have a job for you in the church.

### SPECIAL STUDY GROUP LEADS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE



"*Faithful and Inclusive, The Bible, Sexuality and The United Methodist Church*" is a DVD that will form the basis for a study group looking at what will be a major area of discussion and decision-making at the General Conference sessions in **May**. *Faithful and Inclusive* allows participants to gain an understanding of how United Methodists can be both obedient to God's Word and fully welcoming to LGBTQ persons in the church. Rev. Rob Fuquay, a UMC pastor from Indiana, leads the discussion on the DVD. Two of the sessions are titled, "How United Methodists Interpret Scripture" and "The Jesus Ethic: What did Christ say?" Our study group will meet **six Monday evenings at 7:00 pm starting March 23**. The Tuesday morning study group may also watch and discuss this video. There is no text to read before the group meets. Come join us!

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ALBANY DISTRICT CELEBRATION OF LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

Calling all those who have completed Basic, are Certified Lay Servants, Certified Lay Speakers, Certified Lay Ministers, Pastors, and ANYONE interested in learning more about Lay Servant Ministries! It's that time of year once again, to renew acquaintances and make new friends; At our Lay Servant Ministries Celebration where we'll hear Rev. Stees speak of "Building Collaboration."

We'll eat, we'll worship, we'll celebrate Communion, and we'll remember Christ who joins us in union. So join us please, we hope you'll come. And bring a friend – not one – but some!

**Saturday, March 28**, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm (11:30-12:00 is get-acquainted time with lunch beginning at noon) at Faith United Methodist Church, 811 Brandywine Ave, Schenectady. Go to: <https://files.constantcontact.com/b2228041501/04a3c701-fe57-4095-a3ca-efe32da15320.pdf> for a registration form. The cost is \$7.00 and the deadline for registration is **Friday, March 13**.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

It has been a long and cold winter, finally some warmer weather is on the horizon. Also on the Horizon is Lent! We have many fun activities planned for the Sunday School kids. I am looking forward to the next 40 days, and hope you and your children are as well!



Each Sunday throughout March up until Easter Sunday School we will be learning about Lent, the Easter story and different Psalms in the Bible. This is subject to a slight change, as I have researched so many ideas for Sunday School, it is hard to fit them all into just six Sundays.

Please note that all Sunday School classes provide a snack most weeks to students, as it helps them to focus. Also, all children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and below will go to the new Sensory room (Room 8) at 10:15 to engage in Godly play centers, unless there isn't enough time.

We are still desperately in need of Sunday School teachers; you do not have to commit to every Sunday. If you know someone who would like to teach, please have them contact me. You must be at least 18 years old and willing to have a background check.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me either phone (518) 368-5724, or email ([egchristianedfumc@gmail.com](mailto:egchristianedfumc@gmail.com)). If you are not on the Sunday School email list and would like to be, please send me a message. Each week I send out updates.

Thank you,  
Amanda Trainor

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



Lenten season is fast approaching. I'm excited for the spring and the warmer weather. As we get ready for warmer weather there's a few dates to keep in mind.

**March 1** will be Junior Youth Group (3rd -5th grade). The time will be 11:00 am -12:30 pm. Please join us for activities, lunch and devotions. The mission project will be to paint kindness rocks to be placed around East Greenbush.

**March 6** is Kevin Clark's play. I would like to see the youth go as a group to support Kevin in his role. Please see Laura for tickets. The play starts **Friday, March 6** at 7:00 pm.

**March 13-15** is **Outword!** at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, New York.

**March 29** - Youth Group (6th grade through -12th grade) We will be helping the confirmands with the soup fundraiser and then fill Easter eggs for the following Sunday.

**April 5** - Junior Youth Group from 11:00 am—12:30 pm. We will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** after church plus pizza and making signs for our next mission project. There will also be devotions. (The Easter Egg Hunt is for all ages).

If you have any questions, please contact me. Email [Youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:Youthleaderamber@gmail.com).

God Bless, Amber

## "CHECK OUT" THESE NEW TITLES

The church library has new books to replace the ones that became moldy. Some of the new books are For Sabbath's Sake by J. Dana Trent; two by Missy Buchanan - Don't Write my Obituary Just Yet and Living with Purpose in a Wornout Body. Check them out and have a fun time reading.

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW sponsored Blanket Sunday was held on February 16. There is still time to donate for this worthwhile mission. The blankets cost about \$10 and they are used throughout the world for many natural or man-made disasters. Please make out your check to "United Methodist Women", on the memo line: "Blanket Sunday". We will send one check to Church World Service. The deadline for collection is **Sunday, March 15**. Thank you for your support.

The Ecumenical worship services and Lenten Lunches begin on **Wednesday, March 4**. Each church participating in these services and lunches take turns providing a meal after the service. Our church and the UMW will be providing the first luncheon on **March 4**. If you would like to donate a dessert for this event please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Assistance is also need to make sandwiches the morning of the lunch. You may sign up for this on the same sheet in the foyer. If you have any questions please see Kathy Van Buren (518-477-6292) or Mary McIntosh (518- 449-2746).



## FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Here is the **2019 End of Year Financial Summary for Church General Fund**:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Pledge Income	\$208,773	\$214,425	\$214,061
Other Offering Income	\$58,314	\$72,072	\$63,417
Other Income	\$39,067	\$39,127	\$32,804
Total Income	\$306,154	\$325,624	\$310,282
Total Expenditures	\$313,693	\$312,178	\$304,039

The Church General Fund is used to pay the church's expenses which include staff salaries, building utilities & maintenance, office supplies, program expenses and Interchurch support. The chart above is a snapshot of how the Church General Fund performed in 2019 and the two previous years. Although income from pledges and other offering income declined last year, there was only a modest increase in our expenditures for the year. Thank you again for the gifts to support the ministries of our church. The Finance Committee continues to monitor the church's financial outlook to ensure that the gifts given to our church are used wisely.

The Finance Committee is pleased to offer online giving, available at [www.fumceg.org](http://www.fumceg.org) or through the GivePlus app. An account can be setup easily with an email address. You can choose to donate from a checking account, savings account, or by using a credit card. You can make recurring gifts or a one-time gift for special mission funds or memorials. If you have any questions about online or app giving, please see the church website or ask anyone on the Finance Committee.

It takes all of us working together to support the ministries of our church. Again, we thank you for your gifts and continued support.

-- Colleen Rumsey, Finance Committee Chair

## WE'RE GOING SOLAR!



The church and parsonage are going solar! No, you won't be seeing solar panels on the roof, but we will be seeing savings in our monthly electrical bills. We have signed with Common Energy to supply electrical energy credits from their community solar farm. There is no up-front cost and National Grid will continue to provide back-up electricity when needed. Common Energy is building a launch page for church members who want to sign up for solar for their own homes. For each member that enrolls, Common Energy offers a \$50 incentive.

## ENDOWMENT FUND - 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Endowment Fund of the First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush provides an opportunity for members and friends to ensure that the ministry and missions of the Church continue now and in the future. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are intended to be in addition to regular giving by Church members.

Since inception in 1996, \$134,880.62 has been given to the Endowment Fund. \$150 was added in 2019 and is included in the above total. This year's gifts were added to the Endowment General Fund. Four people contributed gifts in 2019 in memory of Samuel Dulay, Mary Comstock, Noreen Haupt and Richard Pierce.



Each year the Endowment Fund transfers interest and dividends from invested funds to the Church to expand an existing program or to help start a new program. In 2018, the Church Council voted to support starting a monthly service for youth with a grant of \$2,200: half of the grant (\$1,100) funded from 2018 Endowment funds and half from 2019 Endowment funds. Interest and dividends from the Endowment Fund in 2019 totaled \$7,881.98. \$1,100 was set aside for support of the youth services, the remaining \$6,781.98 was used by the Church to support existing ministry and missions.

The total value of the Endowment Funds on December 31, 2019 was \$186,115.61, an increase of \$20,124.81 from the previous year closing of \$165,990.80. As of December 31, 2019, the General Fund in the Endowment was \$123,026.71, the Music and Worship Fund was \$51,143.52 and the Education Fund was \$11,995.38. In 2019 the three funds generated interest and dividends of \$8,062.88. Since inception, 23 years ago, the Endowment Fund dividends have contributed \$88,103.14 toward the ministry and missions of our Church.

Current members of the Endowment Committee are Kirsten Downer, Carl Eno and Michael Giso. The Chair of the Trustees, John Peterson and the minister, Sundar Samuel serve as ex officio members. Financial Consultant is Richard Daniels. We thank retiring member, Errol Fitzgerald for his service.

On behalf of the Committee and the church, we thank all those who donated to the Endowment Fund in 2019.

## \$\$\$ FOR EDUCATION



"GBHEM's (General Board of Higher Education and Ministry) Office of Loans and Scholarships provides millions of dollars in scholarships to students every year. *Finances should never be a barrier to answering your calling in life.* GBHEM is here to help as you follow the educational path that's right for you." Their listing of over forty scholarships at <https://www.gbhem.org/loans-scholarships/scholarships/list-of-scholarships/> should be checked with care. For example, there is a scholarship "For applicant over age 35 at any degree level". Another "For undergraduate or graduate level students with a minimum of one year of active membership in the UMC and a minimum 2.5 GPA." And another "Designated for graduating high school seniors entering their first year of undergraduate study. Applicants must have one year active membership in the UMC, be enrolled in a full-time degree program at any accredited institution, have a minimum 2.5 GPA and be pursuing a church-related career." And that is just three on the list of over forty scholarships. Use the link above for more information. Be sure to check all the details. **The fall 2020 application period opened January 3, 2020 and closes March 5, 2020.**

## ST PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE HOUSE - MARCH 20, 2020

Our fabulous St Patrick's Day Coffee House is a must on your **March** calendar. Celebrate with us at 7:00 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall...singers, poets, minstrels, storytellers, dancers abound. The snack table will be laden with delicious morsels and the audience is plentiful and lively! Our donated proceeds go to local families in need of food, medicine and other necessities of life.



## COMING MARCH 22 - ECO-FAIR

Don't miss the Eco-Fair on March 22 following the 9:30 service. We will have a table with a representative from Common Energy, the community solar provider selected for the church, and displays on a number of topics, including:

- How to estimate and reduce your carbon footprint
- Change your Diet - Recipes to try on Meatless Mondays
- Where do I recycle this? (resources for all kinds of items)
- Solar Panels on your Roof
- The Future Solution - Carbon Capture
- Impact of global warming
- Community solar: why and how to sign up for it
- Home energy audit: why and how to sign up for one
- Perils of plastics and how to reduce my use of them
- Electrify your Drive: Full Electric or Plug-in Hybrid
- Keep Your Clothes On: Waste in the Textile Industry

## HOW ABOUT HOUSTON IN MARCH?



Houston Texas will welcome the National Worship on Christian Unity (NWCU) 2020 **March 23-26**. The theme this year is "Welcoming All As Christ". Here is a chance to be a part of a great ecumenical experience. "The National Workshop on Christian Unity has advanced unity and reconciliation among various Christian communities for more than 50 years. The Workshop continues to be the only gathering of its kind at a national level in the world."



The logo tells a big part of the story of the NWCU. "The logo affirms the cross as central to Christian unity. On either side of the cross is the outline of a chalice, which represents the existing unity (although not complete) and the anticipated full communion, which is the goal of the ecumenical movement. The space between the chalice and cross suggests the hands of prayer embracing the reconciling cross."

On this year's program, among others, is The Rev. LeKesha Womack from the AME Zion Church who will be the Opening Worship Preacher and Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño from the California-Nevada Conference (UMC) who will be one of the Plenary Speakers.

Go to <http://nwcua.org/> for more information and for registration directions.

## UMCOR SUNDAY

You can skip reading the paragraph below. Just watch the video at: [http://s3.amazonaws.com/WebsiteUMCGiving/video/UMCOR\\_SUNDAY\\_Overview\\_Video\\_Lo6.mp4](http://s3.amazonaws.com/WebsiteUMCGiving/video/UMCOR_SUNDAY_Overview_Video_Lo6.mp4)

Jesus turns the definition of "neighbor" upside down when he tells the story of the Good Samaritan. What makes a person our neighbor is not that he or she lives close by, is a member of our faith community, or even whether we know the person at all. Jesus defines neighborliness as an action motivated by love, available to anyone and everyone we encounter who is suffering. If we recognize the need, we are called by God to respond as a neighbor. Jesus makes the "neighbor" all who heard the parable – all of us.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has answered God's call to be a neighbor for nearly 80 years. Thomas Kemper, Global Ministries' general secretary, describes UMCOR's 1940 founding as "a powerful Wesleyan tradition of concern for the vulnerable."

Your gifts on **UMCOR Sunday, March 22**, helps lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to share God's love with communities everywhere.

## I SAID TO MYSELF, "SHOULD I?"

In the October issue of The Church BELL we ran this picture with the caption, "What is it about this picture that is of significance to The United Methodist Church?" Meet Rev. Maggie Proshek, Rev. Ricky Harrison and Rev. Taylor Smith (l to r) all of North Texas Conference UMC. All three were ordained last summer, Proshek as a Deacon (note the sash) and Harrison and Smith as Elders (note their sashes). Their photo accompanied an article, "Number of elders under 35 dropping" posted last September 19 by UM News. The picture helped highlight the concern for the lack of young people accepting a call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. The good news is there are men and women who are asking themselves, "Should I answer the call?" --- and saying "yes".



## A PROGRAM THIS MONTH FROM THE NYSCC

The New York State Council of Churches (NYSCC) will sponsor a seminar, **Who Is My Neighbor?** in **March**. The seminar is designed for the local church and church leaders to "refocus on your mission and love your neighbors well" and to "build relationships and lead in your communities to address attitudinal, structural, planning challenges like Not in My Backyard, zoning rules, and outdated comprehensive plans, which often prevent cities from welcoming people of all races and incomes." When and where? **Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 9:00am-5:00pm**, New England Congregational Presbyterian Church in Saratoga Springs. More information and to register, go to <https://nyscoc.org/events/9-am-4-pm-who-is-my-neighbor-seminar-in-saratoga-springs/>.

## CLIMATE REALITY PRESENTATION



The Climate  
Reality Project

On February 9, Paul Fisk from the Climate Reality Project gave an informative and compelling presentation on climate change, the increase in severe weather events and challenges facing the world today and future generations. He described carbon capture and other methods to address these challenges and stressed that the question is *whether we have the will to undertake them*. Mr. Fisk provided a list of changes that individuals can make in their daily lives to reduce their carbon footprint, such as joining a community solar project, getting a home energy audit, eating sustainably and composting food

waste. Information on each of these topics will be presented on **Sunday, March 22** at our Eco-Fair. Those who missed the presentation may want to attend one to be held at the East Greenbush Library on **Wednesday, March 25** at 6:30 p.m.

## CORNERSTONE CAMPUS MINISTRY BAKE SALE and MORE

Satisfy your sweet tooth for a good cause! On **Sunday March 1**, members of Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry at the University at Albany will be hosting a bake sale at our church. Get your favorite baked goods – pies, breads, cookies, brownies, and more! Eat up for a good cause! The money raised will underwrite the cost of the ministry on campus including worship, bible study, Java and Justice and much, much more.



If you haven't already seen the video of the Cornerstone Campus Ministry team and their trip to Florida in January to do some rehab work — take a look now. The students are not just book worms. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kP5zZr8II5M&feature=youtu.be>



## Some short notes and maybe some suggestions...bits from the editor and staff

⇒ The Upper New York (UNY) delegates, who are headed to General Conference from **May 5-15, 2020**, are welcoming small groups and individuals to come and speak with them on **Saturday March 14, 2020**, at the UNY Conference Office in Liverpool, NY. But you can speak to one of those people right here in our church. Our own Rachel Giso is a member of the delegation for General Conference. Speak to her now for more information and with any questions you may have. Ask her if it is a "snap" to get ready for the conference.



⇒ "**The Upper New York Advocate**, a popular quarterly publication of the Upper New York Conference, will only be printed for certain issues and all other issues will be published digitally but not printed.

"The latest issue of the *Advocate* is our first fully digital issue. The winter 2020 issue of the *Advocate* focuses on reaching people in new places and looks at various ministries that reach out to area homeless, children, and other individuals outside the church walls." (from the Upper New York Conference Weekly Digest | Feb. 19, 2020)

⇒ Maybe it is the teacher in me but I think **March 18's** suggestion is an excellent idea. The Random Act of Kindness calendar is on the bulletin board next to the furnace room door in the church foyer. -G.E.H.

⇒ Just published is a report of the *2019 Special Sundays Church Participation*. The United Methodist Church celebrates six Special Sunday offerings throughout the year. In 2019, 75 churches of the 915 churches in the Upper New York Conference contributed to all six offerings. FUMC East Greenbush is one of the 75. Cheers for our church.

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE A SUCCESS



On Friday, January 31, 2019, we successfully completed our Churches 6th annual Red Cross Blood Drive, the last 2 drives in memory of Lee Pierce. Thanks to all the volunteer donors from Church and walk-ins from as far away as Pittsfield, we went over the Red Cross goal of 27 units and ended the day with 29 units of blood. Most



donors commented on the delicious home baked cookies and the friendly atmosphere. All knew the critical need for life giving blood.

A special thank you to Carrie Pierce, Chris Chartrand for set up; bakers Carrie Pierce, Karen Peterson, Kate Henson, Herb Lamb, Janet Schmidt and Pat Eno; and greeters Shawna Lambert, Beth Duncan, Deb Samuel and Karen Terwilliger.

The 7th Annual Blood Drive will be held **January 22, 2021**...the 4th Friday of January. PLEASE SAVE the DATE.



"Prayer is where the action is." -- John Wesley

