



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2020

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ Early Informal Service
8:30am - Outdoor Chapel
has moved to the Choir
Room
- ◆ Regular Service 9:30 am in
the sanctuary and
 - ◆ Via Facebook
- ◆ Sunday School to be
determined

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www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

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youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor

Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

Dear Members and Friends,

Soon, we begin our stewardship program titled:
"Excel in the Grace of Giving."



Giving Generously

Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20: 35). Jesus wanted us to know that the act of giving returns more to us than what we give. We reap what we sow (2 Corinthians 9:6). If we sow generously, we will reap much. God uses our generosity to build God's kingdom and to strengthen and bless us as givers. Giving is a privilege and a joy that can change our lives. When we practice first fruits giving and give generously, we **excel in the grace of giving**.

What we do with God's money demonstrates our spiritual maturity. Some of us share sacrificially with God and others, others give proportionately from our incomes, and still others hoard what we receive. God wants us to be channels of God's blessings, and God enriches us so we can be blessings to others.

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9: 11).

If we do not share, we become terminals who hoard, rather than channels who share God's gifts. We get no satisfaction except for fleeting happiness in possessing the things of this world. By refusing to share, we deprive ourselves of the joy of giving.

Prayer: Lord, Your Word tells me that I reap what I sow. Grant me faith so I will continually honor you with my thoughts, words, and actions. Help me to do your will by being obedient to your Word. Help others see you through me. In Christ's name I pray. **Amen.**

Blessings on your stewardship journey!

Pastor Sundar

A Reconciling Congregation

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held Monday, November 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Our new District Superintendent Debbie Earthrohl will be present and will preside at the meeting.

Last year we held a **Church** Conference at which all members of our church were eligible to vote. This year we will have a **Charge** Conference where only members of the Church Council are eligible to vote. A reminder, anyone can attend the charge conference; it's just that the voting is limited to members of the Church Council. It is anticipated that the meeting will also be live streamed on Facebook.

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

November 1 – All Saints Day – Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22,
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 8 – Joshua 24:1-3A, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18;
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15 – Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22 – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23;
Matthew 25:31-46

November 26 – Thanksgiving Day – Deuteronomy 8:7-18; Psalm 65; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15;
Luke 17:11-19

November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent - Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37



POINSETTIAS

Can You Believe It's Already Time To Order Poinsettias? You can help to fill the sanctuary with beautiful, flowering poinsettias for Christmas and also honor or remember special people in your life. We are offering 6.5" size plants, available in RED, WHITE, PINK OR MARBLE for \$12.00 each plant. You can order by either calling the church office, or writing your order on the sign-up sheet on the long table in the foyer. Please make checks payable to the "United Methodist Women." Orders must be received in the church office no later than Tuesday, December 1."

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS OCTOBER 31. DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR .



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. November 2020, Volume 22, Issue 10. G. Herrick, **Editor (on sabbatical)**; S. Samuel, G. Welkley, **Editing Team**; J. Van Ornam, **Proofreader**; K. Van Buren, (Interim Editor) B. Van Ornam, **Production Team**; R. Reineke, **Photographer**;
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SUNDAY SCHOOL

In order to keep density down in church on Sunday's we will not be able to hold traditional Sunday School services. Instead, Sunday School will be hosting a special Friday Night Alive service twice a month for families. Service will take place in Fellowship Hall starting at 6:30 pm and go until approximately 7:15 pm. This month we will have a service on November 13 and November 20 (due to Thanksgiving). We are asking that parents stay with their children for the entire length of the service to ensure masks are being worn and children don't wander outside of Fellowship Hall. If you are not comfortable attending in person please let me know and I will be happy to send you the lesson to do at home. We ask that when you come in you sign in at the front of the sanctuary and have your temperature taken before walking back to Fellowship Hall with your child.



There will be confirmation class this year as well. The details have not been finalized yet but will be within the coming weeks. If you are interested in your child confirming this year please let Sunday School know as soon as possible. Confirmation class will most likely be done via zoom again this year.

Last but not least, Pastor Sundar is working together with the Sunday School Program to plan a special outdoor live nativity in lieu of the traditional children's Christmas Eve service this year. If you or your children would be interested in volunteering to dress up for the live nativity please let me know!

God Bless, Amanda Trainor

Youth Group

Youth Group will meet after Friday Night Alive.

November 13 Junior Youth Group (3rd-6th Grade) We will meet to complete a mission project. The Mission Project can also be brought home and returned back.

November 20 Youth Group (7th-12th Grade) will meet to complete a mission project. The Mission Project can also be brought home and returned.



If you can not make it to the Friday Night Alive but would like participate in the Mission project please contact Amber at youthleaderamber@gmail.com to have a mission bag dropped off at your house. Please look for more emails about what the mission project will be.

Blessings, Amber Telford

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

On October 10 we held our annual Brooks Chicken Barbecue. It was a huge success. We sold out! We profited \$2,151.75, our highest total so far. Thank you to Herb and Ann Lamb for making all the brownies as well as helping the day of the barbecue. We would also like to thank Karen and John Peterson, Bill Bronk, Mary McIntosh, Stephanie Lamb, Cindy Reineke, Lorraine Beals, Janet Schmidt, Amber Telford (Biechman), and Kathy Van Buren.



Our next monthly meeting is November 2 at 7:00 pm. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

Calling all church members:

Youth Group will be collecting signed Christmas Cards for USASOA, these cards will be distributed in care packages for soldiers.

All cards will need to be collected by November 20 .

Please send the card only - no envelopes, keep the envelopes for your personal use.

If you are making Christmas cards, do NOT use glitter or any other product that could come loose when we open the box or envelope in which you mailed us your cards. Our office is within walking distance to the United States Capitol and security is of paramount importance these days.

The USASOA is also collecting for care packages. Here is a list of items if you wish to donate to the soldiers.

THE HEROES LIST

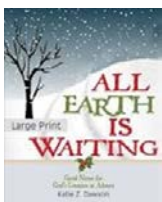
1. socks (boot style. Not concerned with color so white is fine)
2. soap
3. tooth brushes
4. tooth paste
5. razors (disposable works just fine)
6. mouth wash
7. floss
8. deodorant
9. Q-tips
10. foot powder/spray
11. chap stick
12. band aids
13. cough drops
14. clothes pins
15. trail mix
16. beef jerky
17. instant coffee (no K cups please)
18. baby wipes (we have no shower facilities since we are in a remote location)
19. snacks (no chocolate or anything that will melt)
20. letters and notes of support.



All donations can be left in the dedicated wood boxes in the lobby. Everything will be collected by November 20.

BOOK STUDY GROUP CONTINUES

On Monday, November 23, we will be starting a five-week Advent study of **All the Earth is Waiting** by Katie Z. Dawson. This is the same book that the Tuesday morning group just completed. The Monday sessions will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by Kevin Conley. Group members will decide whether to meet in-person or via Zoom. Sessions will be 60-90 minutes in length and will include prayer, bible readings and questions for reflection that are listed in the book or added by participants. **All the Earth is Waiting** explores themes that are timeless: hope, joy, peace and the responsibility to care for the earth in preparation for Christ's return. If you can join



us, please provide your name and email address to the office (office@fumceg.org) by November 16. A \$6.00 donation is requested for each book.

Finance Committee Update – 2021 Financial Commitment Campaign

Thank you for your continued support of the First United Methodist Church in East Greenbush this year. We are facing unprecedented challenges and have quickly changed the way we worship together and share our ministries. Even during these difficult times, our ministries and worship have continued. For example, our worship services have been the “anchor in the storm” during these turbulent times for me. Our church could not have made these quick changes to the way our ministries are provided without your generous giving.



The next year brings continued challenges to our church as we face uncertainties. While we are grateful for the generous giving over this past year, we know that the next year will be difficult as we deal with reduced income due our inability to hold services and use our building to its full capacity. We urge you to consider making a pledge to the church during this Campaign. Your commitment through your pledge enables us to plan for next year and demonstrates your commitment to our church. You may return your pledge card to church any Sunday from November 8 through Commitment Sunday on November 22 or send it to church by mail. Online giving is also available at <http://www.fumceg.org> or through the GivePlus App. Even if you give online or through the App, please complete and return a pledge card.

Finally, the Finance Committee would like to receive 2021 budget requests from staff members, Ministry Chairs and Committee Chairs submitted by Friday, October 20. Requests can be left in the Finance Chair mailbox in the Church office or emailed to me at colleenmrumsey@gmail.com. If you are unsure about the amount you requested for your budget item for 2019, please feel free to contact me.

We are blessed to be a part of the wonderful fellowship that flourishes here at the First United Methodist Church in East Greenbush. We are so grateful that this fellowship has continued during this difficult time. We need your continued support to fulfill God’s ministry.

Colleen Rumsey, Finance Committee Chair

MISSIONS

Crop Hunger Walk

On October 18, 9 adults and youth from our church joined 12 others from Emmanuel Reformed Church for the Castleton Crop Hunger Walk. Walkers from our church raised \$2,673 thanks to your support and the initiative of the walkers, including: Fran Berger, Neal Calvin, Tammy Markell, John and Jennifer Schmidt, Hannah and Elizabeth Daly, and Cindy and Kevin Conley. One-quarter of the money raised by the walk supports The Anchor Food Pantry and the remainder of the funds go to Church World Service programs nationally and globally. Thank you for your support!



Battery and Styrofoam Recycling

Following the last collection effort, a small truckload of Styrofoam and over 80 lbs. of batteries were delivered for recycling. **However, a number of batteries were corroded and needed to be trashed while others needed to be individually cleaned because they were contaminated by the corroded batteries. Please do not retain batteries any longer than necessary.** Our next recycling date will be Sunday, January 3.



Leading the charge for recycling™

MISSIONS (cont'd)

River Sweep

Our church is a member of the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition ([CRICCC](#)). On October 17, volunteers from several faith communities joined in River Sweep, a yearly event organized by Riverkeeper to clean up the Hudson River. Riverkeeper reported they collected over 27,000 pounds of trash from the River's shores at 65 Sweep projects from New York City to Watervliet! At Hudson Shores Park in Watervliet, 39 volunteers, including John Schmidt and Cindy and Kevin Conley, collected over 1100 pounds of trash (which included 5 tires, a camp chair, lots of metal pieces, quite a bit of plastic, a comforter, many pieces of clothing, fishing line, ropes, pottery shards and 5 bags of glass). This project fit nicely with CRICCC's mission to work in solidarity to mitigate the climate emergency and to preserve and restore natural resources and biodiversity for present and future generations.



Project Drawdown

In February, we heard and were moved by Paul Fisk's presentation on Climate Reality. You are invited to another presentation by Mr. Fisk. He will be speaking about Project Drawdown via ZOOM at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 10. What is Project Drawdown? While many environmentalists orient themselves towards achieving "net zero emissions" of greenhouse gases, Project Drawdown sets a higher goal: actually reversing climate change by helping the world reach "drawdown"—the point where levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and actually start to go down. Drawdown challenges us to examine our lives, explore the various solutions to the climate crisis, and determine the unique contribution(s) we can make to preserve life on this planet. We can reverse global warming, and Project Drawdown helps us develop a blueprint for action. If you would like to receive an email invitation to the ZOOM presentation, please send your request to eco-team@fumceg.org



Education matters—Please give generously on November 29

The United Methodist Church believes that every person has the right to education and that the responsibility of educating young people rests with the family, faith communities, and the government. On United Methodist Student Day, we have the opportunity to support scholarships and low-interest loans that help young leaders achieve their dreams.

Morgan Murdock, a 2018 graduate of North Carolina State University, was a Gift of Hope scholar. According to her, when we give on United Methodist Student Day, "You are reminding and encouraging students of all majors and walks of lives to remain constant in their faith and to continue to uphold the great qualities that The United Methodist Church has instilled in us. The church has shown me so much unconditional love over the years in many forms, and this was a very meaningful form of that love. I was encouraged to pursue more in my community and remember the church that helped make me who I am."



As a child who experienced being bullied, Benjamin Carlson found refuge in his church. As a college student, the Gift of Hope scholarship offset some of his college expenses and he says it "reinforced my understanding that The United Methodist Church supports [its] students."

As a community of faith, let's make this United Methodist Student Day the most successful yet. We have the opportunity to contribute to the development of young people like Morgan and Benjamin. Together, we can help propel the next generation toward success. (Source: <https://www.resourceumc.org/>)

MISSIONS (cont'd)

Helping hands needed for Nov. 7 project in Rensselaer

The former Rensselaer UMC is being renovated, with dreams of opening for worship and community outreach once cleaned out and repaired. There is a lot of debris to be removed. We have a dumpster scheduled for 8:30 AM Saturday, November 7 and need willing hands to help us load it! Where: 16 Washington St. Rensselaer, NY. (Exit 3E from 787 toward Rte. 20. 2nd left at light; Church is on the right past corner) Equipment: Face mask, work gloves, hand truck/dolly if you have one Please contact Sharyl Backus at sharyl.backus@gmail.com if you are willing to help!



Give the Gift of Shelter this Holiday Season

Decorate your home this holiday season with a handcrafted, locally sourced, fresh wreath. For just \$25, you'll get a beautiful, double-sided, 22"-24" wreath topped with a gorgeous bow. All while providing shelter, food, and support to local families experiencing homelessness.

3 Ways to Order:

- Online at bit.ly/2020wreathsale
- Call us at 518-434-2910 and ask for Charlee
- Scan the QR code below!

Delivery:

- Due to COVID-19 all orders will be delivered to your local address at no extra charge.
- Pick-up will *not* be available.



All payments are due at the time of order. Orders must be received by November 6, 2019.

