



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

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

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2020

## At Church on Sundays:

- ♦ Early Informal Service  
8:30am - Outdoor Chapel  
weather permitting
- ♦ Regular Service 9:30 am in  
the sanctuary and
  - ♦ Via Facebook
- ♦ Sunday School to be  
determined

## Visit us on the Web:

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

**Phone:** (518) 477-9693

**Fax:** (518) 477-4336

## Church Office Hours:

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

## Email:

[office@fumceg.org](mailto:office@fumceg.org)

## BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:

[editor@fumceg.org](mailto:editor@fumceg.org)

## Youth Ministries Email:

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

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

Gail Welkley,  
**Administrative Assistant**

*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*

September 20, 2020

## "Excel in the Grace of Giving"

On Sundays November 8, 2020, November 15, 2020, and November 22, 2020, our worship theme will be "Excel in the Grace of Giving." I hope you make every effort to be present on all three Sundays in person or on Facebook Live! During the Second Sunday, we will introduce a giving challenge titled "Give Plus One."



As your pastor, I hope and pray that the messages offered will help us in our journey as faithful and generous stewards. By the power of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are molded and transformed into stewards who follow God's ways and become more Christ-like in our giving. As Christians, we are motivated to give by the gift of God's grace through God's son Jesus Christ. With hearts filled with God's love and grace, we can give faithfully.

Giving is our faith response to God's gifts. God wants us to give willingly and cheerfully out of hearts filled with love and gratitude for our present and eternal lives. We also give out of obedience because God's Word directs us to give. The Apostle Paul said, "*But just as you excel in everything... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us... see that you also excel in this grace of giving*" (2 Corinthians 8:7). Just as Apostle Paul urged the people in Corinth to give, we are urged to "*excel in this grace of giving.*"

The themes of the Sunday morning during these three weeks will be

"Overcoming Greed" (Ecclesiastes 5: 10-20)

"More Blessed to Give" (Acts 20: 3)

"Receiving through Giving" (St. Luke 6: 38)

Please bring your commitment forms to church on Commitment Sunday, November 22, 2020, or return it to the church office at your convenience.

God's peace is with you!

*Pastor Sundar*

*A Reconciling Congregation*

## LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

Over the next two months Pastor Sundar will be taking some well-earned vacation time. He will be away for two Sundays in October and one in November. The leaves are showing their bright colors, the air is getting cooler and the church program is getting back into full swing. However, COVID-19 is still creating limitations. Here is the worship part of our church program.



**October 4 – World Communion Sunday.** With the cooler weather, Early Worship Service will move inside and gather in the Choir Room. Pastor Sundar will lead worship and celebrate Holy Communion at both services.

*Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalms 19 (UM750); Philippians 3-4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46*

**October 11** – Pastor Sundar leads both services

*Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UM829); Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14*

**October 18 – Laity Sunday** in The United Methodist Church. George Herrick will be leading both worship services.

*Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99 (UM819); 1Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22*

**October 25 – Reformation Sunday.** Carol Walkley will lead worship at both services.

*Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (UM809); 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46*

**November 1—All Saints Sunday.** (Daylight Saving time ends) Len Finke will be leading both services. As there will not be an elder present, Len will lead us in the celebration of a Love Feast at the 9:30 am service only.

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22 (UM769); Matthew 5:1-12

**November 8** – Pastor Sundar returns and leads at both services. We will celebrate All Saints Sunday and celebrate Holy Communion at both services.

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

### ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

**Our Annual Charge Conference will be held Monday, November 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Our new District Superintendent Debbie Earthrowl 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.

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**The Church Staff:** Rev. Sundar R. Samuel, **Pastor**; Amanda Trainor, **Director of Children's Christian Education**; Amber Biechman, **Youth Leader**; Jacqueline Krahforst, **Organist**; Herb Lamb, **Choir Director**; Cynthia Reineke, **Coordinator of EmBELLishments & Children's Music Program**; Gail Welkley, **Administrative Assistant**; Christopher Chartrand, **Custodian**; Beth Duncan, **Lay Leader**; Scott Bogart, **Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany**; Mozart M. K. Adevu, **Missionary**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP

We have missed everyone so much. We cannot wait to get into the swing of things and be able to meet with each other again.

For the Fall and Winter months we will be doing things a little differently, trying to meet and gather safely while being together.



While we are all learning different routines we will be starting Youth Group in October. Yay! We are approved to meet together.

We will be doing Friday Night Alive with Sunday School two Friday's a month. After Friday Night Alive we will be meeting with the Youth Group or Junior Youth Group to do a mission project together in the Fellowship Hall. We ask that everyone socially distance and wear a masks.

**October 9 Friday Night Alive** at 6:00 pm. The junior Youth Group ( 3rd Grade - 6th Grade) Mission Project 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm. Parents must stay with junior youth group.

**October 10** Youth Group ( 7th Grade- 12th Grade )

**October 23 Friday Night Alive** 6:00 pm. Youth Group ( 7th Grade- 12th Grade) Mission Project 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm .

There will be more information about the mission projects and a sign up list to go out. Detailed information will be sent.

God Bless,  
Amber & Amanda

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Our first ever held outdoor flea market was a huge success. We had 31 venders.

October 10 is our annual Fall **Brooks Barbecue**. If you who cannot make it to the BBQ on Saturday, come to the church after services at about 10:30 am as we always have leftovers to sell. Please endeavor to attend as this is our only major fundraiser this year. We were unable to have our spring and fall thrift sales due to the COVID-19. Please come to support the United Methodist women with this fundraiser. Money raised from this event goes to aid our youth in going to camp and donations to local missions. While the success of the flea market brought in some funds, it was only a quarter of the money we usually make with the thrift sales.



## TIME FOR THE Cross and Flame to Go"

"Time for the Cross and Flame to Go" is the title of an article on the **United Methodist Insight** forum. The suggestion is to replace the United Methodist Church logo, the cross and flame, as it reminds many of cross burnings. This logo was adopted at the Uniting Conference in 1968. Read more at

<https://um-insight.net/perspectives/time-for-cross-and-flame-to-go/>.



## MISSIONS

### Wildfires, Hurricanes and Climate Change

Raging wildfires and slow, rainy hurricanes are devastating large parts of the U.S. Scientists say that, due to climate change, fires are more widespread and storms are more destructive and one major cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels. We can and do respond to the destruction by contributing money and flood buckets, but that does not get at the root cause.



As Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post writes, "I understand it is difficult to focus on a slow-moving crisis such as climate change with so many immediate crises - the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic meltdown, the protests over systemic racism - dominating the headlines and buffeting our lives. But the urgent cannot be allowed to obscure the existential...Climate change is not some future threat. It is here right now - and steadily getting worse."

What can you do? One action that you can take is to sign up to get your electricity from a clean renewable source such as solar, as do a dozen fellow parishioners, the church and the parsonage. If you choose community solar, there are no upfront costs, panels will not be located on your property, you can cancel at any time with a 90 day notice, your utility company (e.g., National Grid) will continue to deliver your electricity (even when the sun doesn't shine) AND you save 10% on the costs of your electricity use. In addition, if you join using the [church's link](#), both you and the church will receive a \$50 incentive when you are successfully linked to the solar farm. It takes only minutes to sign up. Granted, changing the source of electricity for your house alone will not halt climate change, but it is one step. As Nelson Mandela "We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in our hands to make a difference." If you have questions about community solar, please contact Kevin ([e.kevin.conley@gmail.com](mailto:e.kevin.conley@gmail.com), 518.253.4907).

### FLOOD & DISASTER RELIEF BUCKETS - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The FUMCEG Missions and Social Responsibility Committee has begun its annual campaign to support communities in the aftermath of a disaster by supplying relief volunteers with 'flood buckets' that will contain the necessary items to begin their cleanup efforts. The impact of Hurricane Laura, combined with the ongoing wildfires across the west coast, underscores the imperative need for support and assistance for communities across the country.



In coordination with UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief), we are helping to enable those affected to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up from floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and wildfires. Sunday, October 25 has been tentatively scheduled as the date for us to prepare our flood buckets. For more details about how to support the needs of the the affected communities and donations for the buckets please refer to the Sunday Worship Memo and Sunday service bulletin. You can also contact Justin Naef with any questions. [justinnaef@gmail.com](mailto:justinnaef@gmail.com)





## MISSIONS (cont'd)

### Crop Walk

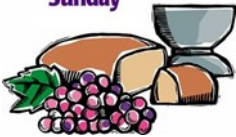
Will you join the Castleton Hunger Crop Walk this year? The Walk is not just about raising money, rather it is publicly affirming our commitment to stand with those in need. It will be held on October 18 at 12:45 p.m. Because of COVID-19, we will wear masks and keep appropriate distance between walkers. Also, rather than assemble at Emmanuel Reformed Church, we will meet in the parking lot on Boltwood Avenue behind Riverside Nursing Home. We will start with a prayer and picture and set out on the 3.2 mile walk. There will also be a 1 mile walk. One quarter of donations raised from the Hunger Crop Walk is directed to the Anchor Food Pantry in Castleton. The rest supports Church World Service programs in the United States and across the world. If you can join the walk, please let us know (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518.253.4907). If you cannot join the walk, please consider making a donation to support a walker or the team at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/castletonny/fumceg>. You may also donate by check made out to "CWS/CROP" and mailed to the church or dropped in the offertory plate.



### World Communion Sunday

On October 4, World Communion Sunday, we celebrate world unity. Sacrificing something, being generous, can lead to incredible things. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college, or for those people of color who haven't historically had access to resources that make higher education possible, the road toward education has often been unwieldy. A portion of every gift is given to international or national students such as these who are often overlooked. God promises that He will take care of and reward the generous. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38 NIV). Our gifts on World Communion Sunday empower tomorrow's leaders and change us.

World  
Communion  
Sunday



Note: [Source: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/world-communion-sunday-pastor-and-leader-kit>]

### Hudson River Sweep

From 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on Saturday, October 17, we will be joining other members of the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition (CRICCC) in the ninth Annual Riverkeeper Sweep. On this day, volunteers from Brooklyn to the Adirondacks will be sprucing up natural areas to enhance visitor experience and reduce impacts on wildlife. Our church is one of CRICCC's 22 faith communities that are taking action to preserve the earth. CRICCC is a local coalition whose members learn and share ways to save our natural heritage. Volunteers are needed to help CRICCC collect litter in Hudson Shores Park in Watervliet. It could be a great family activity and you may be surprised by this hidden gem of a park. A couple hours commitment will make a big difference in a facility that has gorgeous views and great river access, but could use some help. Why not stop by and 'pitch in'? Please contact Kevin (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518-253-4907) for more information.



## Handiwork Mission Projects 2020

**Spending More Time At Home Now?** We can use our time, talents and treasures from home.



Knit, crochet, sew items for the needs of others: **A. Hats**- any size, color, style for children with cancer – Thanksgiving delivery **B. Tiny hats and blankets** (15" by 15" to 17" by 17") for preemies at NICU Albany Med **C. RED Scarves** (60" by 6 -8") for Foster Kids in College for Valentine Day **D. Afghans/quilts for VA** patients and residents (4' by 4' or 6' by 4') **E. If you sew- "Angel Gowns"** for Stillborns made from wedding gowns **F. Face Masks** to share

**G. Eco friendly shopping bags** – idea uses tee shirts. We can supply materials to you for any of these projects. **New to handiwork? Loopity Loop yarn** is available for finger knitting which anyone any age can do! Please contact me for assistance Aleta Schweigert 518-479-3182

## SKYE FARM FALL FESTIVAL

Want to see Skye Farm in all its fall foliage glory? Would you like to enjoy apple cider and a piece of cranberry crud by the lake? How about hopping on a wagon ride around camp? On **Sunday, October 4 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 pm**, we're hosting our first Family Fall Festival!



Outdoor, socially distanced activities will include wagon rides, camp games, a special scavenger hunt, and more! We'll have items from the camp store available, a bake sale with favorite Skye Farm goodies, and a rummage sale down at the barn. It's going to be great!

Too far for a day event? Come and stay in a cabin or lodge for a night or two and enjoy the festivities on Sunday afternoon! Register for this **free** event to let us know you're coming at <https://skryfallcampbrainregistration.com/>.

Each carload of people arriving for the festival will complete a brief COVID-19 screening form and have their temperatures checked. Festival-goers and staff will wear masks whenever 6ft distance cannot be maintained. Thank you for helping to keep our Skye Farm community safe!

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated September 15 through October 15, was created to promote the history, culture and contributions of Hispanic/Latino whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Communities mark the achievements of Hispanic and Latino Americans with festivals and educational activities. Hispanic Heritage Week was first observed under President Lyndon Johnson, but President Ronald Reagan extended it to a month long celebration in 1988.



Hispanic and Latino Americans represent almost one-fifth of the total U.S. population, making it the largest ethnic minority group. Hispanic influences are tightly knit in the fabric of American life—art, cinema, food, literature, music and politics. While Hispanic children learn about their roots this month, everyone can benefit from learning about Spanish history and culture.

## CORNERSTONE CAMPUS MINISTRY



The Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry Fall Fundraiser was held virtually Wednesday evening, September 23. After the program, Chaplain Sandy Damhof made her initial report to the ministry board, "Great job tonight team! I think it went amazingly well! Good energy! Inspiring!" She said we had raised \$13,335. of which \$830. came in that night. The auction had raised \$1,000. and was expected to collect more before it closed that Friday night. Added together, that put the ministry close the event's goal of \$15,000. for the fundraiser. One of the highlights of the event was the interview by our former Peer Minister Matt Barry speaking to SUNYA alum Kareema Pinckney Partin. They both talked about how they got involved with campus ministry and their later experiences with the program. Kareema, who is black, spoke of Sandy's efforts to ensure diversity in Cornerstone. She also told about her mission trip to New Orleans and how important it was to her. She had some thoughts for the current student leaders and then this for the Congregational Partners (like out church). "Thank you so much for the support." One of the last lines in her comments, "Being a Christian has no color." Campus Ministry Board Treasurer had the last word, the ministry can always use your financial support, especially this year with the limitations posed by corvid-19. The event ended as it began, with music and prayer.



- Who said, "(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."? Have you registered to vote this year? Our East Greenbush church has actively encouraged voting for a number of years. We even had a resolution to do so in The UM Book of Resolutions that reached all United Methodist Churches. Oh? Who spoke the quote? John Wesley..

- The Albany District Day of Celebration of Lay Servant Ministries has been **postponed** until the Fall of 2021 because of ongoing concerns with the CoVID-19 pandemic. We expect news of a new date after the first of the New Year.

## ANNUAL BROOKS BARBECUE

OCTOBER 10, 2020

SERVING FROM 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

*\$13.50 FOR FULL DINNER INCLUDING 1/2 CHICKEN, COLT SLAW,  
ROLL BUTTER AND A BROWNIE*

*\$7.00 FOR A HALF CHICKEN ONLY*

TAKE OUT ONLY

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR RESERVATIONS AT  
518-477-9693

ORDERS TAKEN UNTIL 3:00 PM ON OCTOBER 10.


WALK-INS WELCOME

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Names are kept on the prayer list for one month. If you would like a name continued longer than this, or if there are any additions or deletions to the list, please inform the church office. Please help us keep our prayer list up to date.

### LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

#### PRAYER LIST



Ava Grace; Lin Burns' daughter, Heather; Scott Bogart, Peer Minister; Kevin Conley's sister Sandy, also Beverly and the Lorenz family; the D'Ambrosi Family; Claudia Emrick's grandson Tim Barnes and her friend Shirley Black; Gene in North Carolina; Paula Deming's friends Karen and Carmella; the families of Amanda Trainer and Amber Biechman on the death of their grandmother, Margaret Ditschler; Joan Frier; Naomi Garner, granddaughter of Joe Bradley; Tracy Haines; Tracy Haines' sister, Gail; Mary Flowers' friend, Gunnar Walmet; Yvonne Hitchcock's daughter, Pam; Mary Ingraham; Shawna Lambert's sister-in-law, Cheryl Lambert; Mary McIntosh's sister, Linda Springs; Betsy and Bill McNulty; Jean Michaud (Cheryl Macomber's mother); John Moore; Susan and Henry Naef's friend, Nan Coonrad; David Nardacci; John Peterson's brother Bob; Nancy Prue; Doug Reynolds; Sherri St. Louis; Deb Samuel; Dona Sander (Jean Sheviak's aunt); Art Sanderson's brother-in-law, David Collins; Mary Smith's granddaughter in California; Nellie Smith; Nellie Smith's nephew, Charles Beigle, her sister, Louise Wells, and her son-in-law, Stephen Burnette; Karen Terwilliger; Fred Van Ornam; Maria Vintimilla

Please keep in your prayers the students, teachers, staff, and administrators of schools at all levels as they begin the school year. We also remember the residents of Rosewood, Riverside, and Hawthorne Ridge, where our church has done services in the past.

#### NURSING OR ASSISTED LIVING HOMES

Donald Jukes—Loudonville Assisted Living, Room 202, 298 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211

#### MILESTONES

##### Deaths

Cherie J. Dominski  
died September 22, 2020

##### Births

Olivia Jenson, born September 1, 2020  
Daughter of Chris and Nicole Jenson

##### Baptisms

Karissa Lynn Willis, daughter of  
Katherine and David Wills



The hardcopy of this issue of the Church BELL has the church calendar printed on this page. The up-to-date calendar is available on our church website.

Go to <http://www.fumceg.org>, then on the right under **Calendar of Events**, click on **View Church Calendar**