



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 5

MAY 2019

Sundays at FUMC:

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

Also on Sundays:

- ♦ Service at Hawthorne Ridge - 1:00 pm

We are on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

Phone: 518-477-9693

Fax: 518-477-4336

Church Office Hours:

9 am to 2:30 pm, M - F

Email:

office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only)

Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Youth Ministries Email:

youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor

Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

We interrupt this Pastor's Message space to give Pastor Sundar a break after a very busy Lenten and Easter season. He will return with a regularly scheduled message next month!

WHO CARES?

When we think about **changing the world**

for the better, who comes to mind? Most

of us probably think of Jesus Christ,

Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa or Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. among others. We

are fortunate to have had so many leaders

who have sacrificed so much to make our

world a better place. As our church

prepares to participate in our sixth annual

Change the World Sunday, on May 19,

we need to remind ourselves that we are not expected to be a Mother Teresa. Our

goal is to simply spread God's love to someone. A smile, a

handshake or a hug. Just letting someone know that we care.



Last year on **CHANGE THE WORLD SUNDAY**, the EmBELLishments brought their music to the residents of Riverside. More important than their beautiful music was the message they brought: we care about you. A young boy passed out potted plants to residents of Rosewood Rehabilitation Center and entertained them which brought smiles to their faces. Yes, the plants and the comedy were appreciated, but again, the message of caring that Matthew brought was appreciated even more. At the Veterans' Center, veterans were given handmade cards and flags. They had opportunities to share their stories with visitors. Some had difficulty holding back tears of gratitude. Do you think that maybe Jesus had this in mind when he said "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40) Jesus tells us

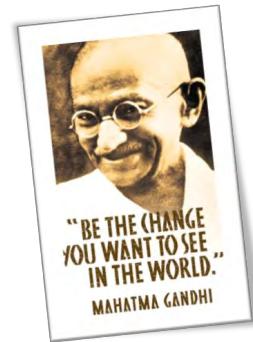
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A Reconciling Congregation

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that we are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. He commands us to let our good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise [our] heavenly Father. (Matthew 5:13-16) "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Matthew 10:40)

On **May 19**, we will again have many opportunities to share God's love and be the light of the world. ***Visiting Veterans, the sick and the elderly, preparing potted plants, making May Baskets, preparing meals for the Homeless and for our volunteers, building playground benches for underprivileged children, working in the Luke Garden, and learning how to care for animals are all activities that our project coordinators have been preparing for you to participate in.*** Sign up in advance on the bulletin board outside the kitchen, join us for a brief worship service at 9:30am, and then go out with us to spread the love. Let's make a difference; let's be the change!



WORSHIP AT FUMC FOR MAY

In planning worship and other activities in the church for the month of May, the church-wide agency, *Discipleship Ministries*, suggests we keep in mind the following special days in the month of **May**.

All Month Christian Home Month In 1992 the General Conference adopted a resolution that read, in part, "we believe that families in our world, at this hour, stand at a critical juncture, in the midst of destructive pressures that are daily taking their toll; and that The United Methodist Church has the opportunity, potential, and responsibility to respond to the urgent needs of families". The resolution continued by declaring "the month of May Christian Home Month, with emphasis upon family worship in the home, worship and program planning in the congregation, and prayer on behalf of families." This idea continues today as part of our church's Social Principles.

All Month Asian Pacific American Heritage Month This annual celebration had its beginnings in 1978 when President Jimmy Carter signed into law a Joint Resolution proclaiming Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. Later, in 1990 President George W. Bush used his signature to change the week to a month - a month to celebrate Asian and Pacific Islanders culture and heritage.

May 6-12 Christian Family Week This week is celebrated as a lead into Mother's Day. Gray UM Church in Tennessee suggests, "While every week should be Christian Family Week,

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and every day should be a day to honor our mothers and our fathers, why not take advantage of the recognition and plan a special family time together – a time when the whole family is present – and get away for some time to reconnect with each other and with God.”

May 12 Festival of the Christian Home/Mother’s Day Most of us already have much good information about this special day. Remember it is more than just a special meal.

May 18-19 Change the World Weekend See page 1 for more information.

May 19 Heritage Sunday This is a special Sunday that “*provides an opportunity for reflection on heritage, celebration of where the Church has been, how it understands itself as it shapes us today, and the meaning of Christian conferencing. Heritage Sunday calls the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God.*” Note this Sunday is about more than just the Aldersgate experience.

May 24 Aldersgate Day This special day recalls “*the day in 1738 when Church of England priest John Wesley attended a group meeting in Aldersgate, London, where he received an experience of assurance of his salvation.*” It was a key event in Wesley’s life.

May 27 Memorial Day We should already have a wealth of information about this day.

May 30 Ascension of the Lord Start rereading at Acts 1:6 and then continue on with a few verses beyond that to better understand the meaning of these words.

Pastor Sundar will be in the pulpit three of the Sundays in May. He will be away Memorial Day weekend.

Our Muslim friends and neighbors will be celebrating their holiest month in the Islamic calendar, the month of Ramadan, starting the evening of **Sunday, May 5**. For most adults and older children that means fasting from sun-up to sun-down for a month.

Here is the lectionary for May:

May 5 **Third Sunday in Easter** Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-9

May 12 **Fourth Sunday in Easter** Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 19 **Fifth Sunday in Easter** Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 26 **Sixth Sunday in Easter** Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5;
John 14:23-29

THANK YOU!



This hand-carved, single-piece mahogany wood plaque modelled in many ways on Leonardo DaVinci’s painting **THE LAST SUPPER**, was donated to our church by Drs. Samuel and Violetta Dulay. They are long-time members of the church and it is with great sadness we have learned they are moving back to their homeland in the Philippines where they continue to minister to those who are in need of medical attention. We will miss them very much and thank them for their generous gift.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



On **Sunday, May 12**, the Sunday school will host a MOTHER'S DAY STORE. Sunday school children can choose a gift for their mom to take home. There is no cost for this event.

Sunday, May 19 is **CHANGE THE WORLD SUNDAY**. Children in 5th grade and below must join a project with an adult. It is ok for an adult to take a friend's child as well as their own. Sign up for the projects are on the bulletin board by the kitchen. **Let's Change The World!**

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS has been working hard this year, they have a few events to attend before their confirmation service on **Sunday, June 2**. Confirmation students will be taking a day trip to New York City on **Saturday, May 18** to visit John Street UM Church, "the oldest United Methodist congregation in America."

Mark your calendars! CHILDREN'S DAY is **Sunday, June 9**. It is the day the children plan and participate in the service. We have some wonderful things planned. It is also Pentecost Sunday. Wear your red!

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

This year is flying by! Can you believe it's May? Before we know it will be Summer Vacation and I'll be at the Beach, actually I will be working all summer while some youth will be at Youth 2019, or at Skye Farm and/or having the best summer ever! As you are making your plans for the Summer, let's talk about May.

May 3rd & 4th - Is the UMW Thrift Sale. I encourage all youth to sign up to help with the Thrift Sale. I will be there on **Friday, May 3rd**. Please see the times at the sign up table in the lobby.

May 5th is Emily Clark's Car Wash. Emily will be hosting a Car Wash in efforts to fundraise for **Youth 2019**. Emily will need her fellow youth to help her wash cars. Cars will be washed right after church service. No car is too big or too dirty for our youth!



May 10th All Youth will be going to see Emily Clark in **Brothers Grimm!** Need a ride to Averill Park, meet me at the Church at 6:00pm. Seats are limited. Look out for future emails on ticket prices. Can't make it Friday Night with the Youth Group to see Emily perform, she will also be performing Saturday night.

May 12th Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, especially the Youth's moms. I appreciate your hard work and dedication to the youth group. Your support means the most.

May 19th is Change the World Sunday!!!! Please sign up for your activity. There are so many great choices!

May 24th is **Friday Night Alive** at 7:00 pm with a game night right after.

May 31st will be an All Youth Game Night! Learn new games, and some old ones, to play with your friends.

June 1st Town of East Greenbush Garage Sale - We will also be hosting a vendor/garage sale on this day as well. I am looking for volunteers to make and sell baked goods for the youth's table. I am also looking for youths/parents help to run this day.

Would you like to have a Garage Sale but not at your house? Come rent a spot here at EG FUMC! Email Amber for more information.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



MONTHLY MEETING

Thank you to all who helped served lunch at our recent UMW Albany District meeting.

On **Monday, May 6** the UMW monthly meeting will be held in Room 16 at 7:00 pm. This is after the Spring Thrift Sale and will be a short meeting.

The Thrift Sale is **Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4**. There is always a need for workers to sort the donated items. There is a signup sheet on the table in the foyer for workers. If you have some free time please sign up or just show up **the week of April 28**. Workers are needed those days and of course for cleanup on **Saturday, May 4**. The sale ends at 12:00 noon on Saturday. The Thrift Sale report will be posted on the UMW bulletin board.

Thursday, May 23 will be Paul Hartnagel's Memorial Service. The UMW will need some cookies and a cake for the reception after the service. There are about 50 people expected to attend. There is a need for kitchen helpers. Please contact Patty Chartrand at pjdc560@gmail.com or 518-308-9538 if you would like to help.

PLANT SALE FOR FOOD PANTRY AT THRIFT SALE

We will be selling indoor and outdoor plants at the Thrift Sale. **We need donations** of plants. You may want to thin out your irises, or hostas, or herbs. This is a great way to use them. We will be collecting items on **Friday, May 3**. **All proceeds will be used to purchase Vegetable Seeds and Transplants for CoNSERNS-U clients.** We will provide a "Small Garden" demonstration for them. (See page 6 for more information.)



ACTIVE SHOOTER AWARENESS TRAINING

Active shooter training is scheduled for **Monday, May 13** at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. James Phelps, from the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Department, will conduct the training. All are invited to attend. Teens are welcome and need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you have any questions please contact Carrie Larson at 518-732-2098.



WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Special session of General Conference was held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The results of some of the votes taken at the conference were sent to the Judicial Council to rule on their constitutionality. That group met on April 23-26 and has now issued their rulings. So, where are we now as we look toward the next regular meeting of General Conference in 2020?

For reporting on the Special Session, go to UMNS United Methodist News Service at www.umnews.org. Scroll down their website to find the stories that can help answer your questions. Also check their site for reporting on the results of the Judicial Council deliberations.

For the reaction of The Reconciling Ministry Network, check <https://rmnetwork.org/statement-on-judicial-council-decision-1378-re-traditionalist-plan-and-exit-plan/>. And for the reaction of the Methodist Federation For Social Action, look at <https://mfsa-www.brtsite.com/article/judicial-council-ruling-12799396>.

CARING MINISTRIES

WARM PROJECTS FOR 2019 - AFGHANS AND HATS

Thanks to all the busy knitters, crocheters, and quilters. Please bring afghans and quilts that have been made to church by **Sunday, May 12**. They will be delivered to the VA Hospital on **Change the World Sunday, May 19**. They are given both to the veterans who are there for a short time and those who reside there. There are other ways to help these men and women with visits and personal items. Check out www.albany.va.gov/giving.

This year's project is **Soft Hats for children with cancer**. Hats may be any size from baby to teen, any color or style. www.hatsgiving.org is a local organization started by a young boy in Latham. There is yarn available for your use in the tall cabinet in Room 5. For questions, please call Aleta Schweigert (518-479-3182).



We have been growing fresh, nutritious vegetables for the CoNSERNS-U food pantry to supplement the non-perishables that are supplied. This summer please consider growing extra veggies at home. We will collect them on Sundays to deliver on Mondays. Many of us have a small area that could produce a nice quantity of one or two of our favorite vegetables. We may be able to help get you started if this is new for you. (This is a good summer project for kids, too.) A "small garden" demonstration for the clients at CoNSERNS-U is scheduled in **May**, which includes giving them plants and seeds. As a reminder - vegetable seeds and plants are SNAP eligible. Please call me with any questions (518-479-3182).

Sincerely, Aleta Schweigert

RISSE TOGETHER PLAYGROUND PROJECT UPDATE

As of mid-April, RISSE has reached 50% of its goal for volunteers and 40% of its goal for funding for its Playground Project. This is a community-wide event on **June 22/23** to build a playground for **Refugee and Immigration Support Services of Emmaus (RISSE)**. The program, started in 2007 by Emmaus United Methodist Church, provides education as well as job, housing and other support to refugees and immigrants. The playground will serve their after-school and summer programs for children. Not only will the playground provide a safe place to play, but the project signals our community's commitment to welcoming refugees and immigrants. You may sign up to volunteer at <http://www.risse-albany.org/playground/>. To donate, you may write a check to our church and enter "RISSE Playground" in the memo field. Kevin Conley will be coordinating the support from our church, so please let him know if you plan to volunteer (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518-253-4907).

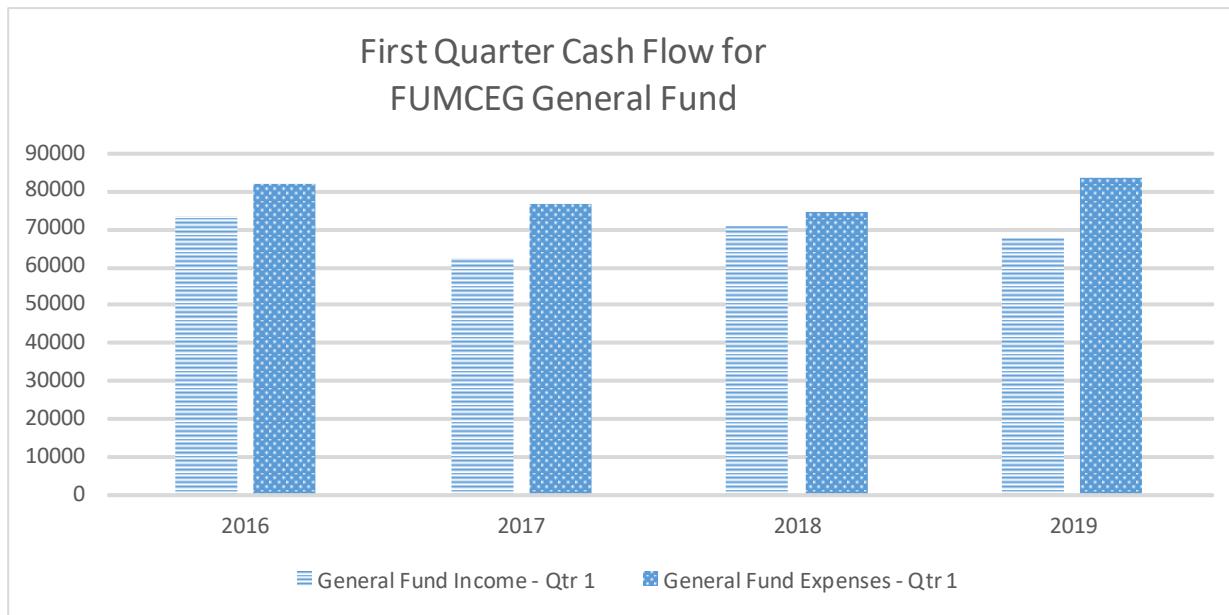


A rousing round of applause for all who participated in the Good Friday cantata **COLORS OF GRACE: Lessons For Lent**. Super job - **THANK YOU** for making our Good Friday worship so meaningful!



FINANCE UPDATE FOR FIRST QUARTER 2019

The graph below shows the cash flow for the Church's General Fund Account for the first quarter (January through March) of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The General Fund is used to receive funds (i.e., pledges, non pledges, use of building & other income) and to pay expenses (i.e., salaries, utilities, office supplies). The graph gives a brief overview of how the Church's General Fund is performing compared to the past three years. Our income is down from last year but is in line with what we have received the last three years for the first quarter. Expenses are up compared to the last three years in part due to higher utility and snow removal costs this winter.



We are thankful for the financial support that we have received and trust that you will continue to support the Church's ministries throughout the remainder of this year. The Finance Committee would like to remind everyone that the church can receive donations online on the church website www.fumceg.org or now through the Give+ app for Apple and Android devices.

App Giving through Give+. Forgot your offering today? You can now give to the Church on your phone at any time! Download the Give+ App in the App Store or Google Play by searching "GivePlus Church." You can setup an account with an email address and credit or debit card. If you give online now, you can use the app with your existing online account. Search for the First United Methodist Church and then hit the "+" to add a gift. You can make a one-time gift or a gift that repeats weekly, biweekly, monthly, or quarterly to the Church. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any member of the Finance Committee.

SEEKING PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

We are in need of a part-time custodian. This position will average 10 hours/week during **June, July and August** (averaging 2 hours/night), and be available for other projects throughout the year, also serving as a back up to our lead custodian. Please contact Robin Perry, RLLP@nycap.rr.com, 518-423-2837 or Carol Walkley, cwalkley@gmail.com, 518-610-5702, for further information.



DELMAR UMC PLANS RECONCILING POTLUCK

An invitation for an Albany District potluck has been received from Delmar United Methodist Church. The program will begin at 5:00 pm on **Saturday, May 11**. All the area Reconciling



Congregations and those churches in the process have been invited to attend. For the program, the invitation says, "we will discuss the Capital Pride Parade that kicks off at noon on **Sunday, June 9th**. Let's have a big showing from all of our churches this year. We will have a banner for Capital Area Reconciling Churches and each church is welcome to bring their own banner, too. Delmar will arrange for a float so that people who find walking that distance challenging

can participate. (Please let us know as soon as possible how many people will need a seat so that we can plan accordingly.) We will discuss the parade itself, and if and how we might participate with a table at the event." Pass the word if you know anyone who might be interested. Child care will be provided. See George Herrick or call the church office to express your interest in attending. Or contact the Delmar church at: churchoffice@delmarmethodist.org

FIVE REASONS WE CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY ON MAY 5TH



We are committed to racial reconciliation. The struggles of First Americans are often invisible. As a result of institutional racism, our Native communities experience high rates of poverty and suicide. As United Methodists, we have vowed to seek reconciliation with Native Americans and are committed to represent their community in a way that befits their proud heritage.

The United Methodist Church asks each congregation to collect six Special Offerings during the year. One of these Special Offerings will be collected **Sunday, May 5**, and it is for the support of Native American seminarians, congregations, ministries and communities.

We believe in funding justice efforts for Native Americans. With this offering, we are saying YES to creating programs that enrich, empower and educate.

When we give together, we do more.

We believe in taking care of our own family. As United Methodists, we are committed to serving and giving all over the world, but we are just as committed to caring for our own communities.

We want to model generosity for our communities and future generations. When we give as a community to diverse causes, we are making sure people know that our churches are externally focused. We believe in diversity, and we believe in supporting all people.

So many people want to support our First Americans but don't know where to start. Giving generously on this Sunday is an easy way to show our support.



**Do you want to be part of the East Greenbush Town-Wide Garage Sale
but not at your house?**

Come join us! The First United Methodist Church is here to help!

We have space available to rent for vendors and families.

Proceeds will fund the church's Youth Group events

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019 --- 9AM - 3PM



Spaces Available	Until 5/18 <u>Vendor Spaces</u>	After 5/18
10 x 10	\$25	\$35
10 x 20	\$40	\$50
Table	\$5	\$5
Garage Sale Spaces		
10 x 10	\$10	\$15
10 x 20	\$20	\$25

EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE

Email youthleaderamber@gmail.com or biechmanalee@gmail.com for more information.
Or call (518) 477-9693 and leave a message for Amber.

BISHOP TO DISCUSS JUDICIAL COUNCIL DECISIONS

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb has announced a series of regional gatherings that he will be hosting throughout the Upper New York Conference. Our area gathering will be held at Shenendahowa UMC, **Wednesday, May 29**, 2019 from 6:30- 8:30 p.m. The gatherings will primarily focus on unpacking the Judicial Council's decision regarding the constitutionality of the petitions that made up the Traditional Plan affirmed by the delegates of the 2019 Special Session of The General Conference. It will also be a time to help attendees to understand what becomes part of the Book of Discipline on **January 1, 2020** and what does not. There will be some Q and A time and a brief time of worship.

NEW LIFE FOR OLD ROBES



A street scene in Monrovia

After we bought our beautiful new choir robes we wondered what could we do with the old ones. They still had life left in them but were beginning to show their age. Sharon Wheeler has a colleague who sends clothing to Africa. So we donated our old robes and they were shipped over to Monrovia, Liberia.

Maybe they will arrive at one of our United Methodist Churches in Monrovia. We have asked that whoever takes possession of the robes please send us a picture.



- **Heidi Gran's mother** passed away on April 12. You can send a sympathy note to Heidi at: 33 Southgate Road, Loudonville NY 12211-1157. Heidi is our Director of Children's Christian Education
- **Pentecost**, the birthday of the Christian Church, will be celebrated **June 9**. Search your closet now for something **RED** to wear that special day.
- We have received a note from Laurie Alcorn Davis telling us **Betty Alcorn** has moved to Colorado near her son and family. To keep in touch, you can address correspondence to:

**Betty Alcorn
Bethesda Gardens
55 Beacon Lite Road, Apt 207
Monument, Colorado 80132**

Although she has moved miles away, we still count her as part of our church family.

- The Walk to Emmaus will sponsor a Benefit Pancake Breakfast to support rebuilding of the Schroon Lake Church and parsonage that were recently destroyed by fire. The breakfast will be held **May 4th**, 8:00am-11:00am at the South Glens Falls Fire House in South Glens Falls.
- Pastor Dion Marquit will host a conversation for churches interested in becoming Reconciling Congregations. The meeting will be held at Grace UMC, Nassau, **Saturday, May 18th** from 10:00am to 3:00pm. If you know anyone interested, please have them **RSVP by Friday, May 10th** to BreedloveJami@gmail.com.
- Save the dates: **September 6-8, 2019**. That's the time for *Mission u 2019!* Take a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark, the topic of money, and the inspiring story of women organized for mission. It will be held at Silver Bay YMCA Conference & Retreat Center, Silver Bay, NY. More information to come in the next BELLs and online at www.unymissionu.org.
- Our Brainard painting project has been rescheduled. We are now going to be gathering at the site of the former Brainard UMC (Route 20, east of Nassau) to prepare and paint the bell cupola on **Saturday, May 25**. Will you be available to help? We need people and painting tools and ladders. Contact John Schmidt for more information.

SUMMER'S COMING!

Ready for Camp



Think Skye Farm! Think one of the four other camp and retreat centers Upper New York Annual Conference has in upstate New York! Check the big table in the church foyer for a summer camp brochure or check in our church office for more information. The camp and retreat brochure is also available online at www.unyumc.org/about/latest-brochures.

- ◆ Gather up the whole family and head to Skye Farm on **Saturday, June 1**, 1:00pm-6:00pm for their annual open house. It's a great time for everyone to see the camp and learn about a summer camping experience.
- ◆ Youth, pick a summer camp program that piques your interest. Then, register now for that potentially great camping experience. The summer camp registrar is waiting to hear from you. www.campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2019
- ◆ Remember that our United Methodist Women have scholarship funds to help with the camping cost. An application is available in the office, in the UMW wall pocket. No kid should be denied a week at camp because of a lack of funds.

MOTHER'S DAY COFFEEHOUSE

It's something special for Mom and all the Others who raised us and the children of the world. It's our Mother's Day Coffee House, and you are invited. Are you interested in hearing/seeing some songs, dance, instrumentals, stories, more songs and a bunch of jokes? This is the place for you on Friday, May 10 at 7:00pm, our Mother's Day Coffee House. The jokes are from our very own Mistress of Chatter. And we can't forget the goodies that appear on the refreshment table. Just the right thing to complement the live entertainment. A free will offering is your entrance fee. Now, you have been officially invited. Come, enjoy, and bring a friend.

