



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2019

Sundays at FUMC:

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

Also on Sundays:

- ◆ Hawthorne Ridge Service
1:00 pm

Visit us on the Web:

www.fumceg.org
www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

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youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,

Pastor

Gail Welkley,

Administrative Assistant

Dear Members and Friends,

A seven year old girl whose father was a disc jockey, a radio announcer, was invited to a friend's house for dinner. When she arrived, the mother asked the little girl if she would honor them by saying the blessing.

It delighted the little girl. She cleared her throat, looked at her wristwatch, and said, "this food, friends, is coming to you through the courtesy of Almighty God." Well, she was right; all food that we eat comes through the courtesy of Almighty God.

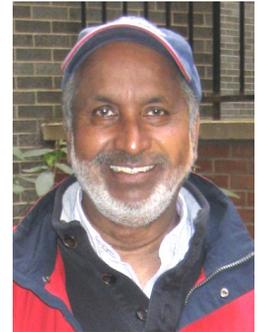
Thanksgiving is a special time of year. Can't you feel the great anticipation building in our society as we prepare for this day? Well, maybe not! Unfortunately, Thanksgiving is not high on many people's priority list. "Just what do I have to be thankful for?" they ask. Granted, the Pilgrims had reasons to offer thanks to God, but not in this dog-eat-dog, selfish world. Thanksgiving? "No, pastor," they say, "please get real."

David Fades puts it this way: "For many of us, Thanksgiving doesn't come naturally. It doesn't seem obvious why we should be saying thank you to God. Even the biblical writers found it necessary to issue a corrective for ingratitude. We read in Deuteronomy these stirring words: 'For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you shall eat food without scarcity, in which you shall not lack anything; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which God has given you.'"

We are called to remember, to pause long enough to think about what God has done for us. It is so easy to lose track of our blessings in the helter-skelter environment in which we find ourselves. How often we forget to give God thanks for our daily bread, for the hands that prepared it, for the home that shelters us as we take our daily bread. How often we forget that all we have is a gift from God. As the little girl said, "This food, friends, is coming to you through the courtesy of Almighty God."

Thanksgiving Day is a special day. As a national holiday it

(Continued on page 2)



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is different from all others. On it, we do not celebrate a great victory in battle. Nor do we honor a great person. It is a day when we thank God for the blessings we, as a nation, enjoy.

We read in the Book of Deuteronomy, "When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which God has given you." Isaak Walton once said, "God has two dwellings one in heaven and the other in a meek and thankful heart." We can have thankful hearts when we focus on God and what God has done for us.

Secondly, for thanksgiving to take place, we need to be aware of the needs of others. Not everyone is as fortunate this Thanksgiving season as you and I. If we are truly to experience the joy of this season, we need to remember the needy and less fortunate. Our Thanksgiving will not ring true if we do not.

We sometimes forget that the only hands God has is our hands. A hand stretched out in love to "one of the least of these" is a hand that reflects a thankful heart. Maya Angelou once said something very beautiful and meaningful: "Giving," she said, "liberates the soul of the individual." I believe that is true. We don't help others that they might be saved but that we might be saved from the greed and the insensitivity that captures the soul of the ungrateful. Thanksgiving takes place when we focus on God and when we share with the needy.

Finally, real Thanksgiving takes place when we yield our hearts to God.

Real Thanksgiving takes place when we focus on God. Real Thanksgiving takes place when we share with the needy. Best of all, real Thanksgiving takes place when we yield our hearts to God.

Here's wishing you and yours a Blessed Thanksgiving 2019 Season.

Peace and Grace.
Pastor Sundar



ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD HERE AT OUR CHURCH ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2019 AT 10:45 AM. REV. BOB LONG WILL BE WITH US TO CONDUCT THE MEETING.

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 2019, Volume 21, Issue 10. 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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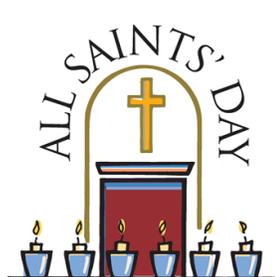
WORSHIP AT FUMC FOR NOVEMBER



Chapel in the Woods was the perfect setting for this service of worship.

First, before we leave October, let us note that the Early Service on October 13 included a Blessing of the Animals. Two dogs and one cat were part of the service. The cat stayed in the carrier but the dogs met in the center aisle for a nose sniff. The Blessing began with the words, "God created us and placed us on the earth to be stewards of all living things...", a prayer taken from our **United Methodist Book of Worship**. The cool morning in the

Next, let us remember that the whole month of November is a celebration of **Native American Heritage Month** in our United Methodist Church.



Sunday, November 3 is All Saints Sunday. During the 9:30 am worship service the names of the past year's departed saints of our church family will be read: Dorothy "Dottie" Berrier, Mary Comstock, John F. Craven, Miriam Deming, Dr. Samuel C. "Sam" Dulay, Judy Duncan, Olive P. Felio, Audrey H. Frier, Dorothy Marie Gronostaj, Paul W. Hartnagle, Noreen Haupt, Richard "Rich" Herszkowitz, Clyde Hitchcock, Glayds Larkin, Emily D. Neuman, Sandra L. Palmer, Seth Pase, Richard A. Pearce, Lois Ramsey, Bette W. Rose, Rev. Richard L. "Dick" Sears, Janice Winters.

Please call the church office if you see any errors in the list.

Holy Communion will be a part of all three services this **Sunday, November 3**.

Sunday, November 24 is Christ the King Sunday. United Methodists will also celebrate National Student Day on this Sunday. See page 6 for more information about this day. This Sunday is also the start of National Bible Week. There will be bibles given to our second graders at the 9:30 am service. Our Peer Minister, Brendan Murtagh, will be our liturgist for 9:30 and he will be bringing our pre-Thanksgiving Cornerstone Bake Sale with him.

Thursday, November 28 is **Thanksgiving Day**. Remember it is more than just a day to get stuffed.



Sunday, December 1 is the First Sunday of Advent. It is also World AIDS Day.

In November we will also have a worship service at Riverside on **Sunday, November 3** and a service at Rosewood on **Tuesday, November 26**. Pastor Sundar will be preaching all four Sundays in November.

Here is the lectionary for November:

- November 3 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
- November 10 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
- November 17 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
- November 24 Christ the King Sunday Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, November 3, we will have a **Super Sunday** focused on Thanksgiving and on our Veterans. We will have snacks, crafts, music and of course lot of laughs, love and prayers. On this day, children will go to Fellowship Hall first then to the Sanctuary to take communion with their families.

If you have not yet had a chance to register your child for Sunday School, please do so soon so that we can ensure we have your child's updated information on file. Also, we need your help! We desperately need Sunday School teachers and Senior High Youth to help assist in the classroom. If you are willing and able to teach, please send an email to egchristianedfumc@gmail.com.



Sunday, November 24 is the start of **National Bible Week**. It will also be the day our Second Graders and this year's new-to-our-church Third Graders will receive their very own bible.

Please stay tuned for the upcoming Advent season as well as this year's Confirmation class, as I plan to really get our youth education program kicked off. I would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who warmly welcomed me into my new position as the Coordinator of Christian Education for our Children and Youth. During the upcoming months I will be working with Pastor Sundar, Amber Biechman and the Christian Education committee to continue planning and coming up with new ideas for the future. If you have any suggestions or concerns, or just want to stop in to say hello, all feedback is welcomed.

Blessings,
Amanda Trainor

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, November 2 is UMW Roast Beef Dinner. The United Methodist Women (UMW) have sponsored the Youth to **Youth 2019**, Skye Farm and other trips in the past. It would be nice to show the UMW support by volunteering. If you would like to help please let me know.

YAC - **Youth Autumn Celebration** this year is **Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9**. The cost is \$10.00. This overnight at Mckownville United Methodist Church is from **November 8** 7:00 pm to **November 9** at 3:00 pm. If you would like to attend please let me know by **Sunday, November 3**.

SNA -- **Saturday Night ALive November 16** with Dinner & Worship (with Games after). Please come join us for SNA on **November 16** from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Friends Giving/Youth Group Giving - Sunday, November 24. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Parents and families are welcome to share the meal with us. Time is from 11 am—1:00 pm.

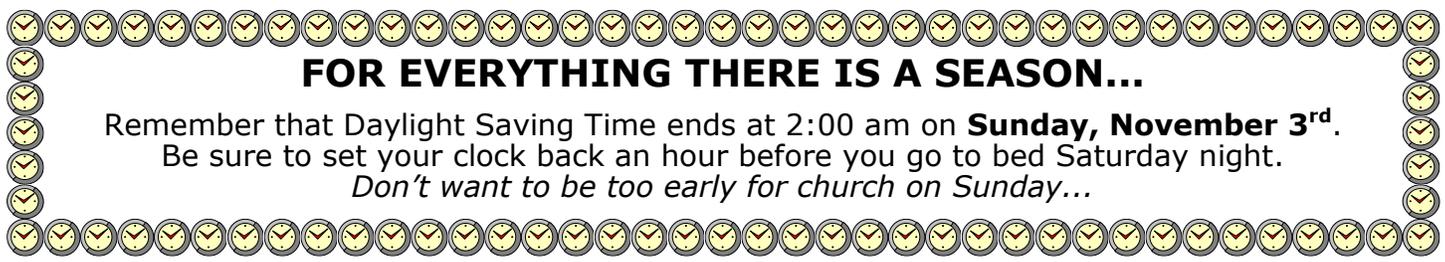
Also, Youth Group is open to anyone from 6th grade -12 grade. I mean anyone who you would like to hang out with.

If you have any questions please see Amber. Email Youthleaderamber@gmail.com.

EMILY CLARK IS HEADING FOR INDIA

Our **Emily Clark** has been selected as one of the Youth representing Upper New York Annual Conference for Northeastern Jurisdiction's **Mission of Peace to India, Dec. 28, 2019 - Jan. 15, 2020**. Each Youth must raise **\$5,000** for the Mission. If you'd like to help, Emily has a GoFundMe page set up for this purpose at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/emily039s-mission-of-peace-to-india>.

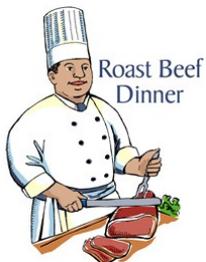




FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON...

Remember that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am on **Sunday, November 3rd**.
 Be sure to set your clock back an hour before you go to bed Saturday night.
Don't want to be too early for church on Sunday...

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Roast Beef Dinner

The next **UMW meeting** on **Monday, November 4** at 7:00 pm we will be planning programs/calendar for 2020. All are welcome.

Saturday, November 2 is the **Roast Beef Dinner**. This year we are trying a buffet style dinner. If you would like to help please see Patty Chartrand or Kathy Van Buren.

Saturday, November 16 is a deep cleaning of the church kitchen from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. *Many hands make light work.*

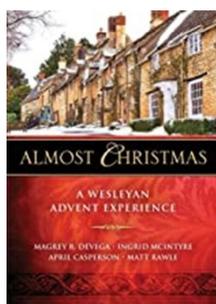
I am sure everyone who worked on the Fall Thrift Sale has joint and muscle aches. The Trustees are to be commended for coming in after tree trimming and helping with the cleanup. Maybe the bribe of coffee and food did it but their help was greatly appreciated. The United Methodist Women cannot express our gratitude strongly enough for all who helped out with the Thrift Sale. This was one of the largest number of donations we've ever had. At the beginning of the week there were truckloads upon truckloads of stuff coming in. It was like everyone was cleaning out their parents' homes at the same time. There are businesses to thank as well as all the volunteers. Those names are on the UMW bulletin board with a full report. Bountiful Blooms took all of Violetta Dulay's vases. We thank Hannah for use of the dumpster; they provide this service free to the church. Jerry Robinson collected all the scrap metal including the refrigerator that was given last rites. The grand total we earned from the Thrift Sale was \$2,943.18. That is one of the one of the largest amounts we have ever earned. *Thank you.*

SUPPER ON SUNDAY

An SOS pot-luck dinner will be held on **Sunday, November 17** from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program will include the video *Dialogues on the Refugee Crisis* and a short presentation by Cheryl Lasher, of Refugee and Immigration Support Services of Albany's Emmaus United Methodist Church, on support services provided in the Albany and Rensselaer areas. The presentation will be followed by questions and discussion. The video and Ms. Lasher will describe the size of the refugee problem, refugee experiences and the network of care. We will discuss the role of the Christian and will ask, "Where do we go from here?" We hope to see you there!



ADVENT BOOK STUDY



Prepare yourself for Christ's coming by joining others in a four week Advent study starting **Monday, November 25** at 6:30 pm **or Tuesday, November 26** at 9:30 am. We will be covering Almost Christmas - A Wesleyan Advent Experience. Each week, in a small-group setting, we will review what we have read and seen in a video. The study sessions are approximately 90 minutes and are held in the youth lounge. Please watch for further information in the Sunday bulletin and register for either session with the church office by **Tuesday, November 12**. A donation of \$10 is suggested for the book. For information, contact Kevin Conley (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518-253-4907) or Pastor Samuel.

NEED YOUR HELP – COLLEGE STUDENT NAMES

United Methodist Student Day is **Sunday, November 24** and on that day we would like to acknowledge the young people (and maybe not so young) who are currently college students and members of our church family. If you are a college student, have a college student in your family or know of a college student in our church family, please send the student's name and the name of the college they are attending to editor@fumceg.org (the preferred way) or call the church office with the information (the lesser way). Better we have duplicates of names submitted rather than miss a student.



UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24



SCHOLARSHIPS
United Methodist Student Day



Do you remember the "good news" story from the Morehouse College commencement in May? The commencement speaker, billionaire Robert F. Smith, pledged that his family would pay off the \$40 million student loans of all 396 graduating seniors.

Wouldn't it be amazing if we were able to do something like that? What would it look like if, as a church family, we could help students graduate from college without the burden of overwhelming debt? On **November 24**, United Methodist Student Day, we have the opportunity to do exactly that.

United Methodist Student Day is one of six Special Sundays when we receive an offering for a particular ministry through the denomination. On the **last Sunday in November**, your gifts through this offering benefit students as they pursue opportunities in higher education. Your contribution will be joined with those of millions of other United Methodists to provide scholarships to deserving recipients. This offering has raised more than \$400,000 and helps more than 300 students a year.

Student Day was first celebrated in 1940 when a college education could be attained for \$450 annually. Today, that same education costs an average of \$23,000 each year. We are invited to invest in young leaders by giving generously on United Methodist Student Day as part of our offering on **November 24**. Please be in prayer with the students who are recipients of the education made possible through this special offering.

USHERS

Keep up the good work and remember that Christmas is coming up!

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!

The North Hudson Kairos Advisory Council for Coxsackie Correctional Facility (CF) and Greene CF is in need of some new blood. The council is the administrative arm of the Kairos programs at the two New York State prisons. There are spots for people interested in finance, program and more on the council. No prison experience necessary. Working on teams that do weekends inside the facilities is not required. Willingness to be a part of this very special Christian experience is required. Usually meets once a month at a church in Kingston BUT you can attend the meetings via your phone. Want more information, see George Herrick.



ECO-NEWS --- PROGRESS AND MORE PLANS

- Thanks to your diligence, the Eco-Team brought two truckloads of Styrofoam to Shelter Enterprises Inc in Cohoes for recycling. **Our next collection will be Sunday, January 5.** Remember, we need to remove tape and staples and we cannot recycle items used for food or drink, no matter how clean.
- Bring your old athletic shoes with you **January 5th**. The Eco-Team will bring them to be recycled through Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program. We can accept any brand of athletic shoes, but are unable to recycle sandals, dress shoes, boots, or shoes with metal (like cleats or spikes). Nike slices old shoes into three parts and then grinds them into rubber bits, foam or a fluffy fiber. Besides using the materials in the company's own products, Nike sells them to buyers who use them to line running tracks, playgrounds, gym and weight room floors and carpet underlay.
- Go to <https://sites.google.com/view/recycleplaces/home>, Responsible Recycling, a list of locations to recycle many household items. **The Eco-Team maintains this web page.** If you have additions or edits to the site, please let us know (eco-team@fumceg.org).

A "GREENER" CHURCH

The Eco-Team is forming **A-Greener-Church** committee to find and implement ways we can stand out as a faith community that acts with love and respect in caring for the earth. Starting in **January 2020**, the committee will meet bimonthly for one year. It will start by acknowledging what we do now to protect the earth and then begin to identify areas where we can do more. To help the group get started, in **November 2019**, we will ask you to add to our list of the many eco-friendly steps our church has already taken, and then in **December 2019**, we will ask you to propose ways we can improve. Let's do it! Together. Will we achieve maximum Greenness in one year? Probably not, but we can set some gears in motion and lead by example. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Kevin (518-253-4907 or e.kevin.conley@gmail.com).



THE CHURCH'S MEMORIAL GARDENS



A group of Trustees and others worked on the very invasive Rosa Rogusa Plant (rose bushes) "removal" from the Church's Memorial Island the last Saturday in October.

This was and is a huge effort to clean up/out the parking lot island and a "long-awaited" prayer answered for help in the work to maintain this very large space.

Thank you one and all, especially: Susie Cayler & her husband, Patty & Chris Chartrand, Kate & Fred Henson, Carrie & Peter Larson and the Trustees, as well as others who are or have been Gardening Angels in our Church's Memorial Gardens now and over the past growing season.

Fall "clean up" will continue in **November** to 'put the gardens to bed' and is very much appreciated.

If anyone else would like to help in any way now or in the future with the Church's Memorial Gardens, please contact Linda Marschner. Call 518-479-5702 or email lindamarschner@yahoo.com.



2019: WARM SOFT HATS FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER



This year we are making HATS. At Thanksgiving each year HATS are collected by Hatsgiving.org, a local family, and distributed to children's cancer centers. Check out their website to see if you or a group can help (children can do this too!).

HATS can be sewn, knitted, crocheted, or store bought, in any color or style -to fit from babies to teens. If you need yarn, fabric, pattern, or a lesson contact Aleta, 518-479-3182 or aleta.schweigert@gmail.com. HATS should be left at church by **Sunday, November 24**. Thank you for your continued support for our mission's projects.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS/READERS NEEDED

Christmas is just around the corner. We are in need of 4 families or individuals to read a short passage and light the advent candles during morning worship. Advent begins on **Sunday, December 1** and continues until **Sunday, December 22**. If you are interested please see Kathy Van Buren (518-477-6292) or Karen Terwilliger (518-203-7011).



IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT 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.** The sign-up sheet will be on the long table for you to write your order on. **Please make checks payable to the "United Methodist Women."** *Orders must be received in the church office no later than **Friday, December 6**.* If you have any questions, please call the church office at 518-477-9693. Thank you.

FLOOD BUCKETS SUCCESS!

Missions and Social Responsibilities successfully filled 15 buckets for Flood Relief. These will provide assistance to any areas in need, both Nationally and Internationally. Thanks to all who donated, to Gary Klee for shopping and to the youth for assisting in putting the buckets together. Thanks also to Kevin Conley for delivering the filled buckets to Pine Grove UMC; all the buckets will then be transferred to our Conference Center in Syracuse. Your response to our appeal to your sense of urgency and generosity was greatly appreciated.



THANKSGIVING COFFEEHOUSE



Join us for a harvest of music, dance, stories, and yummy treats, plus our very own Mistress of Chatter. The Coffeehouse will be held at the church **Friday, November 15, 2019** at 7:00 pm (sans turkey, of course!). Donations will benefit families in crises within our community.

5th Christmas MADRIGAL DINNER

Here ye, Here ye! Save the Date!

On December 6 & 7, 2019, Our Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a Medieval Castle, with a Feast hosted by a King and Queen and with Entertainment by Trumpets, Madrigal Singers, Minstrels, Jesters and more!

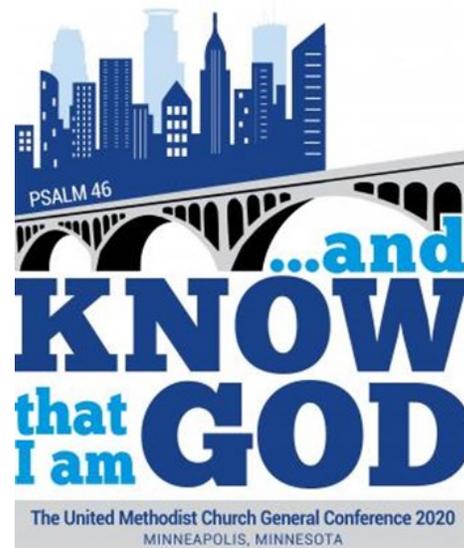


Your Bellies will be filled with Tasty Fare and Your Souls with Good Mirthe. This is a joyous fund-raising event! If you would like to attend or volunteer, Sharon Wheeler would be most pleased to hear from ye! at 407-718-7707 or Jenn.Madrigaldinner@gmail.com.

Follow us on **Facebook: Madrigal Dinner Show 2019 FUMC**. Tickets \$35/pp. For Reservations, call the church office 518-477-9693. Tickets will also be available after 9:30 am church services in November.

2020 LOGO CHOSEN

Many people are working hard preparing for the next General Conference to be held **May 5-15, 2020** in Minneapolis, Minnesota. "The Commission on the General Conference has unveiled the logo for the 2020 General Conference to accompany the theme, "...and know that I am God," based on an excerpt from Psalm 46:10. The entire verse reads: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth." (NRSV)," This is one important decision made. There are many more to follow, some prior to the conference and a number at the conference itself. The future of The United Methodist Church may be decided in May.



LIBRARY NEEDS

Because of the high humidity this past year our church library books have mold on them. I have been working with special sponges for books to take care of the problem. I also am looking for a dehumidifier for next summer to keep the room dry. If you would like to donate one please let me know at pjdc560@gmail.com or leave a message in the church office. The room is small and does not need a big dehumidifier.

-- Patty Chartrand

YOUTH 2019 - Love Well – in Kansas City!



THE CREW



THE STAGE



"I AM THEY"

YOUTH 2019 was a wonderful experience where everyone had a blast. **YOUTH 2019** took place in Kansas City, Missouri, July 14-18. Emily, Cassandra, Kevin and Victor accompanied by Laura attended the event; along with 3,100 youth and leaders from across The United Methodist Church.

On Wednesday morning, we arrived at Albany airport and flew Southwest Airlines, arriving in Kansas City around 1pm. We immediately met with Tony and Judy Hipes who lucky for us had rented a van! (they are CCYM leaders in our Upper New York Conference) They graciously provided our transportation for the week to and from our hotel, as well as around Kansas City when needed. Our first night we were excited to have found our friends from the other 2 youth groups that were in attendance from Upper NY Conference. There was a really big worship room where we went to worship together every night. We enjoyed worship together along with an awesome concert by the Christian rock band "I Am They". Each day we attended worship, a variety of workshops, visited the exhibit hall, and found peace in the Sacred Space prayer rooms. We also participated in a mission project; packing school supplies for children in need in other countries. Some of our favorite workshop moments included questioning why dinosaurs are not in the bible, learning about breaking away from the bad and embracing the good, and learning how different personalities need each other and can work together toward a common goal.

Each day had a different theme that guided our small groups, worship, and the activities for that day. Day 1 - love yourself. Day 2 - love others. Day 3 - love God. And it all came together with our main theme, "Love Well". Our main stage worship speaker, Romel Tume focused on stories and lessons surrounding the theme for the day. Romel was entertaining and engaging, and he was gifted in sharing the word of God in a way that every youth could relate. We looked forward to hearing his message and it was the perfect way to wrap up the day. Before heading back to our rooms, we took some time outdoors to enjoy the lights and fountains in the courtyard. We reflected on our day and prayed together, then off to bed and sweet dreams.

Every day we participated in a small group activity, called a "DIG" group (Discuss, Intersect and Grow). This was 5-6 participants grouped together randomly. We had the same groups each day and we discussed and answered questions pertaining to that day's theme. On the last full day, the Greater New Jersey conference hosted a free dinner for everyone from the Northeast Jurisdiction. They gave out free gifts to all those in attendance and we loved getting to know others from within our own jurisdiction. We did have a little free time, so we went swimming and enjoyed what Kansas City is most famous for; delicious BBQ!

Upon leaving Kansas City, we were all exhausted and eager to return home. However, we will never forget what we learned about loving others and loving God. We will never forget the new friendships we made from youth all over the country. We will never forget the lessons we learned and the time we shared loving each other. And we will never forget the generosity of

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

our congregation here in East Greenbush. Because of your support, we had the opportunity to learn and grow closer to God, and we made memories that will last a lifetime. To all of you who supported us financially, spiritually, and gracefully, we thank you and we love you. We look forward to learning what Youth 2023 will have in store for us.

-- From all of us at **YOUTH 2019** - *Love Well!*

CROP HUNGER WALK

On October 20, 22 adults and youth from our church joined others from Emmanuel Reformed Church for the Castleton Crop Hunger Walk. Walkers from our church raised \$2,557 thanks to your support and the initiative of the walkers, including: Fran Berger; Neal Calvin; Jamie, Juliana and Sarah Davis, Susan Heyman, Carrie and Karen Larson, Tammy Markell; Linda Marschner; Valerie Perrotte; Gabriel Nercy; John Schmidt; Jessica, Selena and Isabella Armstrong; Danielle Stacy; Carol Walkley; Philip, Alicia and Kyla Whitlingum and Kevin Conley. In total, 50 adults and youth participated in the Castleton Crop Hunger Walk this year, the greatest number in years!



THANK YOU TO THE HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP CREW



The Eco-Team would like to thank Rickey and Mike Lettrick, Rick Matters, Carl Eno, Gary Klee, Kevin Conley and John Schmidt for their help cleaning up our "adopted" two-mile section of Routes 9 & 20 this year. Our dedicated highway crew spent four Saturday mornings between April and October picking up cans, bottles, wrappers, plastic bags, cardboard and other trash along the road. Their concern for keeping America beautiful, and acting as stewards of the Earth is greatly appreciated. This concludes our seventh year of participation in the Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-highway Program. Please consider joining us next April as we begin our Eighth season.

THANK YOU FROM ART

I have had a number of people asking about how I am doing with injuries sustained in a September 6 auto accident that I was in with Pastor Sundar and Deb Samuel. The healing process is virtually complete, and I am doing the same physical activities I was doing before the accident. As I did not have a brain concussion as was previously reported, my healing has been steady and uneventful. I would like to thank all of you for the cards, prayers, and words of encouragement that you have given me for a speedy recovery. In looking back at the accident, I realize how precious life is and how fortunate we were that it was not worse than it was. I give thanks to our loving God who remains present in our lives no matter what happens to us and provides the resources (emergency responders, medical personnel, family, friends, & church family) to bring about healing.



-- *Art Sanderson*



- The Random Act of Kindness Calendar is posted next to the boiler room door in the front hall of the church. Which "act" will you do this month? The "act" that starts this month's calendar is a great idea. Also, all the suggestions on the last week of the month are interesting. We seniors might especially like **November 24th** but not so much the suggestion on **November 30th**. -- GEH
- The *Fourth Day Celebration* and Annual Meeting of the *Walk to Emmaus* community will be held **Saturday, November 2nd** at the United Methodist Church in Whitehall. The annual election of board members will be held at that meeting. All are welcome! See George Herrick for more details.
- "In most years and most times, Veterans' Day passes in our churches with little or no mention. Historically and traditionally, Veterans' Day has been more a civic than a sacred observance." But here, in our church, let us not forget the true meaning of this day, **Monday, November 11**.
- "Today is the culmination of an eight-year journey that began when the 2012 General Conference first called the General Board of Church and Society to revise the Social Principles to become more globally relevant, theologically sound, and more succinct," said Bishop Sally Dyck,...[in late October]" The revised Social Principles have just been released and will now be presented to the General Conference in 2020 for its approval. You can read the revision at <https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>.
- This from a press release of 10/21. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles during the 2020 General Conference, The United Methodist Church's top legislative assembly, which will meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota from **May 5-15, 2020**. Volunteers are needed for the following positions: recorders, channel "B" identifiers and verbatim transcribers/copy editors. Travel, double occupancy housing, and food per diem provisions will be provided. Interested? **Apply now through November 21, 2019**. See Pastor Sundar or contact the church office for details.
- Thanks to all who helped support the recently completed Kairos #9 at Greene Correctional Facility. Thank you for being part of the 24 hour/4 day prayer vigil. Over 30 residents of the facility completed the weekend on Sunday, October 27. If you could hear them singing at the Sunday closing you would know the weekend was a big success. -- GEH

RECONCILING MINISTRY



The following is an extract from a UMNews article, "Conference charts 'way forward' with LGBTQ people" dated October 28, 2019.

"By an overwhelming majority, the Greater New Jersey Conference in a special session voted to allow United Methodist churches to decide how to include and affirm LGBTQ people in every aspect of ministry while still allowing congregations the right to agree to disagree. Churches can also create covenants about other mission priorities, or choose not to have a covenant at all....

"Bishop John Schol, episcopal leader of the conference, told the Oct. 26 special session that he chooses to be a pastor of all United Methodist congregations. He vowed he would not forward complaints for trial concerning LGBTQ people's right to marry, seek ordination or for pastors who perform same-sex unions.

"I will not participate in the ongoing harm and division of our church. I will not participate in excluding faithful United Methodists, faithful and fruitful LGBTQ United Methodists from serving God. I will not prevent caring, loving LGBTQ people who in the United Methodist tradition want to enter into a covenant with God and one another," he said in an emotional episcopal address."