



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2018

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ Early Informal Service
Chapel in the Woods
8:30 am
- ◆ Regular Service 9:30 am
- ◆ Sunday School resumes
September 9 9:30 am

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

Dear Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe that I am sitting here at my computer trying to put some thoughts together to welcome you back to church in the next few weeks. The Samuel family summer went fast and was full of exciting fun, traveling from East Greenbush to Cleveland, GA, to Camden, Maine and back, close to five thousand miles with grandchildren (phew!). There were times we felt like we were flying when Deb was at the wheel, ripping the rumble strip off the asphalt! We are all safe back in our respective homes, grounded and recovering from vacation overload!

One of the things Deb always does is to take her kites when our grandchildren are around and fly them over the ocean with grandchildren either standing on the beach or the breakwater near Rockland lighthouse in Maine. She even does that here in the church parking lot on a good sunny day with our grandson, Samuel. Those of you who have seen the movie named "Mary Poppins," remember the ending? The father re-establishes his relationship with his kids by taking them kite flying. It is so much fun and a great way to connect with our grandchildren and also teach them some spiritual lessons.

Flying high. Flying solo. Flying together. Flying was the great dream that drove us to land on the moon some 49 years ago! Apostle Paul captured in his second letter to the church at Corinth: "so we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, and what is unseen is eternal". I want us to explore what Paul is driving home by this image of being borne up into the heaven by the power of the invisible, which we call flying, and in particular kite-flying.

Flying drove the imaginations of all sorts of adventurers as the twentieth century dawned. Flying became the mark of modernity. But with everything else "modern" it came with lots of strings attached. A pilot had to get certified and licensed. As air travel grew in comfort, speed, altitude, and complexity, the technology of kite fliers tethered to "ground control" became more and more of an intricately tangled web.

The simple kite on the end of a single string might not get our bodies aloft, but it remains the simplest, most basic form of free-flying human beings can experience. Is it possible to fly a kite without your soul soaring?

All you need to fly a kite is a kid (or a kid's spirit), a string, tissue paper, two slim sticks. And wind. As long as the kite has wind to buoy it up, as long as the powers of the invisible are there to keep

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it in the air and a sturdy string tethers it to the ground, the kite can fly.

But there is a paradox at the heart of kite-flying. In order to stay aloft, you have to be grounded. And the higher you soar, the more tethered you need to be. Holding tight to the tethering string is crucial-for that is what keeps the tension on the line, and enables the invisible winds to lift and play with the kite. A kite can do all sorts of spectacular things - sail, dip, soar, swoop and regroup - as long as the string stays taut, tough and tethered.

Let go of the string and what happens? The kite might make a few impressive free-for-all swoops and spins. But before long the kite will crash. Without guidance it's a goner. It takes the freedom of the air, coupled with the anchoring of the string, to give a simple kite simple flight.

Jesus in the gospel of John 6 declares himself to be the "bread of life." To receive genuine life, to gain eternal life, all we must do is to come to him in faith. Once grounded in the love of God through Jesus, we are free from the grueling grind and daily drive for "bread."

Jesus warns that wealth can batten down and beat up the spirit as much as poverty. The slang that called money "bread" was right on target but he warns that it is the bread "that perishes," the bread that never frees or feeds life's deep hungering's.



From Kimball Library, Atkinson, NH

In 1890 George Matheson celebrated his captive condition in a song that is based on Ephesians 3:14-19. You might call it "kite theology: "Make Me A Captive Lord, And Then I Shall Be Free." Leonard Sweet writes "Turning over the kite string to Christ puts us in the sure hands of a master flyer." The only way to experience the exhilarating freedom of an unbounded life is to bind ourselves to the one God has sent - to trust in Jesus as the true bread of life. "Once our hearts and souls are bound to Christ, we can take off without fear on the most darting flights, on the most exciting excursions. In fact, if you dare to dream great dreams for God, and you dare to soar in new stratospheres

of service and mission, the more tied to Christ, the more tethered to the Word, you need to be."

All people are born to be free. All people are bound to be free. It is the invisible tether of faith, trust, and love in the person of Christ Jesus that allows us to take flight, to fly without fear. Even when the storms of life come on the horizon...even when everyone is whirling in the wind and everything is spinning out of control...Christians go out to meet the storm. Christians embrace the wind and pass out kites for each one of us to make connections with life-giving Christ.

Today, I want to personally welcome you back to church on **Sunday September 9, 2018** at 9:30am for Rally Day. Sunday School children and families will gather in the main sanctuary for some robust singing and the children will go to their respective classes. There are two services, one at 8:30am and the other at 9:30am. The 8:30am service is abridged and will go for thirty minutes. During the weekdays we are planning to have some book/DVD studies. Our first study is Vision at Patmos. Please read the details on page 3 of this month's BELL. We have the sanctuary choir and youth group meeting during the week as well! There is so much more to let you know, but I am already a page too long, some say!!!

Hope to greet and welcome you personally on **September 9, 2018** at 8:30am (our early service) or at 9:15am if you come early to our regular service! Come and worship and invite a friend who is currently not attending any church services.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sundar

THE BELL is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780. September 2018, Volume 20, Issue 8. 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**

The Church Staff: Rev. Sundar R. Samuel, **Pastor**; Heidi Gran, **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 Berkun, **Lay Leader**; Zarina Khan, **Child Care Provider**; Emma Thrasher, **Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany**; Mozart M. K. Adevu, **Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, based in Accra, Ghana, West Africa.**

WORSHIP AT FUMC FOR SEPTEMBER

Summer and all that goes with it - lazy days, vacations, road trips, visits with family and friends that you don't see that often, sleeping late, summer chores, planning for the fall season - these will all soon wrap up. And in their place will be the new/renewed fall schedule. For our church there will be one constant, an early service at 8:30 am and our regular service at 9:30 am. (But a change here is expected. Watch for more information about *Friday Night Alive* - A Youth Led Service being planned to start this fall.) Pastor Sundar will be leading our worship at both services for all five Sundays in September.

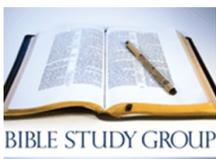


September 2 we will celebrate Holy Communion at both services. For the next few weeks messages at our early service will follow the theme "*Fulfilling the Vision*". Individual titles are listed below with the lectionary. On **September 9** let's all join together at our regular 9:30am church service to help celebrate Rally Day! It's the day Sunday School will begin for the fall season. Worship will begin each of the next three busy Sundays in the month, Sundays that are also the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, **September 15 – October 15**. Our hymnal includes this piece with a Hispanic background, #666, "Shalom to You". We will hear it as the introit for our 9:30am worship services during Heritage Month. **September 30**, at our 9:30am service and the following Coffee Hour, we will have Staff Recognition Day to formally show our thanks and appreciation to our church staff for all their hard work.

Come, join us for worship. Invite a friend. Stay for Coffee Hour following the 9:30am service and be part of our time of fellowship.

Here is the lectionary **and the Early Service message titles** for the month of September:

- September 2 **Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost** Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 or Psalm 72; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Early service, "*Praying Our Way Forward*"
- September 9 **Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125 or Psalm 124; James 2:1-10(11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37
"*Fulfilling the Vision*"
- September 16 **Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost** Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38
"*Making Wise Investments*"
- September 23 **Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost** Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37
"*Following the Footsteps of the Faithful*"
- September 30 **Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost** Ester 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50
New series "*Rejoice! The River is Here*"
First message, "*Checking Out the Scene*"



FALL ADULT BIBLE STUDY

If you open the Book of Revelation and simply begin reading it as an unfolding scenario, it can be deeply troubling. It contains visions of wars, famines, disease epidemics and difficult-to-interpret heavenly bodies and symbols. Yet the Book delivers hope for our future. It describes the victory of Christ and the promised blessings for those who remain faithful. While written in the 1st Century, Revelation is truly a story for our times. Starting **October 1 and 2**, we will begin two six-week sessions based on "Vision at Patmos" by Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez and Justo L. Gonzalez. The chapters of the Book of Revelation are arranged under six broad topical headings. Each week, in a small-group setting, we will review what we have read and cover one of the topics. The study sessions are approximately 90 minutes and are held in the youth lounge starting **Monday, October 1** at 6:30 pm, and **Tuesday, October 2** at 9:30 am. Please register for either session with the church office by September 17. 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.

THREE NEW MINISTRIES CARRY OUT SOME OF THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

As you have read in previous Bell newsletters, we are restructuring how we carry out some of the mission activities and work of the church. For the past 18 months, 3 Ministries have been formed and are beginning to function, replacing the former Committee structure. **The Education Ministry (Coordinator Carrie Larson)**, has been up and running for about 18 months, the **Caring Ministry (Coordinator John Schmidt)** for about 6 months and **the Music Ministry (Coordinator Jean Sheviak)** has just been formed. Each Ministry has a Coordinator, team leaders and Ministry members. Teams call their meetings, make plans and assign responsibilities to carry out the work of their team. Ministry meetings occur a couple of times a year. Ministry Coordinators meet with the Pastor and report Ministry activities to the Church Council. Each of the Ministries welcomes new members and new ideas...we encourage you to think of what you love about our church and volunteer for one of the Ministries.

SEPTEMBER 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CHURCH COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

<u>Next Meeting Date</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair and/or Contact</u>	
Sep 12	Church Council	Len Finke	len.finke@gmail.com
AN	Altar Flower Arrangers	Linda Marschner	518-479-5702
Sep 16	Cherub & Chancel Choirs	Cynthia Reineke	1052turtle@gmail.com
Sep 10	CHIMettes	Cynthia Reineke	1052turtle@gmail.com
AN	Church BELL (newsletter)	George Herrick, Kathy Van Buren & Beth Van Ornam	518-477-9693
AN	Committee on Lay Leadership	Sundar Samuel	518-477-9693
AN	Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns	George Herrick	518-477-9711
AN	Education	Carrie Larson	518-732-2098
TBA	Eco-Team	John Schmidt	518-477-6736
Sep 4	EmBELLishments	Cynthia Reineke	1052turtle@gmail.com
AN	Endowment	Peter Larson	518-732-2098
TBA	Membership and Evangelism	Mary McIntosh & Sue Lemka	518-449-2746 518-477-9875
AN	Memorial Gardens	Linda Marschner	518-479-5702
AN	Memorials	Jean Sheviak	jksheviak@gmail.com
Sep 23	Missions and Social Responsibility	Kevin Conley & John Schmidt	e.kevin.conley@gmail.com 518-477-6736
AN	Parsonage Committee	Mary Smith	518-477-4648
AN	Reconciling Ministry Team	George Herrick	518-477-9711
AN	Records and History	Jean Sheviak	jksheviak@gmail.com
Sep 6	Sanctuary Choir	Herb Lamb	ha.lamb@verizon.net or 914-388-2818
Sep 13	Staff-Parish Relations	Deborah Rubenstein Thomas McLaughlin	518-477-9058 518-477-9837
Sep 5	Stewardship and Finance	Colleen Rumsey	518-438-9664
AN	Tech Team	Carrie Larson	518-732-2098
Sep 20	Trustees	John Peterson	518-283-4685

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SEPTEMBER 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CHURCH COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS (con't)

<u>Next Meeting Date</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair and/or Contact</u>	
Sep 4	Tuesday Morning Study Group	Matie Flowers	518-477-5645
Sep 10	United Methodist Women	Kathy Van Buren	518-477-6292
TBA	United Methodist Youth Fellowship	Amber Biechman	518-322-8412 youthleaderamber@gmail.com
AN	Vacation Bible School	Jessica Kurimsky Rachel Giso	j.kurimsky@yahoo.com rgiso@fairpoint.net
Sep 17	Worship	Cindy McLaughlin Karen Terwilliger	518-477-9837 cindyann@nycap.rr.com

(**TBA** – Usually meets on a regular basis – next meeting to be announced;
AN – meetings As Needed)



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Last year, a woman named Lillian was baptized at the Methodist Farm at Crooked Lake. Lillian is from a poor neighborhood in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. When she came out of the water, her hands were raised praising God, obviously filled with great joy. One thing that she was determined to do when she returned home was to bring school supplies in backpacks for young children in her hometown. The children’s joy was captured in pictures shared at a Hispanic Ministries Support Team meeting last winter. Pastor Mariana Rodriguez asked Karen Pass, Marilyn Locci and John Schmidt, support team members representing Delmar UMC, The Church of the Covenant in Averill Park and our own FUMC to consider helping these students out again this year with school supplies. The response from three congregations was overwhelming. Boxes filled with supplies were sent to the Dominican Republic in July to be delivered in time for their Bible School Program in August.

Lillian, Pastor Mariana, Karen, Marilyn and John would like to thank all who helped share God’s love. Pictures of the children with their supplies will be shared soon.



A NOTE FROM NELLIE

Dearest Friends, one and all,

Thank you all very much for the lovely get well cards, your prayers and your friendship. I am feeling much better since I got home from the hospital... May God bless you all always and keep you safe.

With love,
Nellie and Family

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Education Ministry....coordinator is Carrie Larson 518-732-2098

Sunday school team: Team Leader Heidi Gran and co-team leader, Sharon Nolan

Vacation Bible School team: Team leaders are Rachel Giso and Jessica Kurimsky

Mom's Group team: Rachel Giso is team leader

Youth Program: Team leader is Amber Biechman

On Site Bible Studies: Team leader is Kevin Conley

Off Site Bible Studies (Hawthorn Ridge): Team leader is Deb Samuel

Tuesday Morning Study Group: Team Leader is Matie Flowers

Adult programming: Team Leader is Carrie Larson



We look forward to an exciting and diverse program year. Our Education Ministry focus is on providing engaging and interesting Christian education opportunities for people of all ages...from the Nursery room age to "mature" adults. One of our goals is to meet people at all ages and stages of Christian development and create opportunities for learning that are inviting and that nurture our intellectual and spiritual lives...maybe our physical lives as well! Team leaders will be calling meetings during September...Sunday school is off to a wonderful start on Rally Day **Sunday, the 2nd Sunday in September**. Children and youth from VBS will be performing a couple of their songs and Sunday school will begin after the summer holidays. Onsite Bible studies start in October but will continue weekly at Hawthorn Ridge. **Tuesday Morning Study Group** continues to meet from 9:30am-11:00am with readings and discussions that challenge and deepen our understanding of being Christian in the 21st Century. Our Youth program is already full with September program activities, meetings and the planning of Friday Night Alive, our youth run contemporary Friday night worship service (to be held the 4th Friday of each month).

An Education Ministry meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 30** at 10:45am. Finally, on **Sunday, October 28th**, an informative and fun SOS (Supper on Sunday) type meeting will be held...we think the topic will be TRAVELS WITH METHODISTS. SOS is an evening out...an informative hour meeting between 5:00pm-6:00pm and a pot luck dinner to continue sharing ideas and conversations about the topic of the evening over delicious food.

We'd love to see you at a Ministry meeting...join the Education Ministry or come when you can...we need your ideas and energy.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer! I take the summer time to relax and rejuvenate, I hike, backpack and camp and take in the beautiful landscape that God has created for us. I volunteered a week at Skye Farm Camp and at VBS and celebrated God's love for us with the children and youth. I relaxed at a lake house with my family, we even got to bring our dogs this time, they loved the water! All this prepares me for the wonderful year ahead of Sunday School. We have some exciting new ideas! I am looking forward to seeing my young friends again! **RALLY DAY** is **Sunday, September 9**. Hope to see you there!

We are gearing up for the **Christmas musical!!** We will be performing one of our favorites, The Secret of Snowflake County. Who remembers those "pesky" raccoons?! Sign-ups for the musical will be **Sept 23rd after services**. We will be handing out a rehearsal schedule and musical dates at that time. Anyone who wants a part in the musical will get one!! Hope to see you there.

Plans are now being made for our **2018-2019 Confirmation Class**. This class is for 8th graders and above who have not yet been confirmed. If you are interested in the class and have not yet spoken with Heidi, please contact the church office. A parent/student information meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 16** after morning worship.

-- Heidi Gran

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Hi Everyone,

I can't believe summer is flying by. Part of me can't wait for the fall, cooler weather, apple picking, scarves and boots, haunted hay rides, and **YOUTH GROUP!** These are all my favorite things about the fall.

On **September 9** after church from 11:00 am -12:00 noon there will be one of our first planning meetings for *Friday Night Alive* - A Youth Led Service on Every 4th Friday of the Month. I encourage all youth and parents (and anyone else) to participate in the planning of *Friday Night Alive*. My hopes, dreams and prayers are that this service will be a more up-beat type of service (with up-beat music), a short sermon and be youth run as much as possible. I encourage all to come to the service and the planning meetings.



Enjoy the rest of your Summer! Tell all youth that I can't wait to be back in action.

Please use this new email address for UMYF stuff: youthleaderamber@gmail.com, the old one still works but will not be checked as often.

Here is our month of September plan – mark your calendars!

- Senior High **September 7** 7:00 pm to 9 pm First Game Night for the New Year
- All Youth **September 9** 11:00 am to 12:00 noon First planning meeting for *Friday Night Alive*
- All Youth **September 21-23** Youth are going on a camping trip. Watch for details!

God Bless,
Amber Biechman, Youth Leader

YOUTH 2019 EARLY REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR YOUTH AND LEADERS



Discounted early-bird registration is underway for YOUTH 2019, the national gathering for United Methodist youth and their leaders next year in Kansas City that promises four days of discipleship, worship, Bible study, service opportunities and life-changing fun. . .YOUTH 2019, with the theme *Love Well*, will feature big-name musical artists, excellent United Methodist speakers and many learning opportunities

for youth grades 6-12 and their leaders. The event is sponsored every four years by Young People’s Ministries (YPM), a unit of Discipleship Ministries. . . The event will be held at the Kansas City Convention Center & Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri, **July 10-14, 2019**. . . Registration is limited to the first 8,000 youth and leaders. The early registration fee is \$319 **through January 31**. Go to <http://youth2019.com> for more information.

-- Edited from a July 16, 2018 /Discipleship Ministries press release

◆ *Wouldn't it be great if we could fund a couple of our youth to attend this spectacular event? Watch The BELL for updates on this gathering* ◆

BACK TO SCHOOL COFFEE HOUSE

Yes, apples are redder, days grow shorter and children head back to school...and hopefully so do you! Come to the BACK TO SCHOOL COFFEE HOUSE on **Friday the 21st of September**. We will all be there...dancers, singers, musicians, poetry readers, story tellers and providers of delicious treats. So sharpen your pencils and bring your thinking caps as the Mistress of Chatter challenges you with jokes, riddles and "interesting" facts.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SHIPWRECKED CASTAWAYS RESCUED

During the week of July 30 – August 3, 24 elementary children and 17 youth along with 20 adults survived on a deserted island filled with games, crafts, science experiments, tasty snacks, worship and Bible stories. Many new friends were made, including a visit from fellow castaway "Jamie Noland." They learned that during difficult times Jesus is always there ready to help rescue. Here are the daily lessons.



Day 1: Bible Point, "When you're lonely, Jesus Rescues!" Bible Verse, Psalms 27:10, "The Lord will hold me close." The Bible story included the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (prodigal son).



Day 2: Bible Point, "When you worry, Jesus Rescues." Bible Verse, Psalms 34:19 "The Lord comes to the rescue each time." The Bible story was from Luke 10:38-42. When Jesus visited Mary and Martha, Martha was busy cleaning and working hard to prepare a meal while Mary was not helping, choosing instead to listen to Jesus' teaching.



Day 3: Bible Point, "When you struggle, Jesus Rescues." Bible Verse, Psalms 46:10, "Be Still and know that I am God." The Bible story took place in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus struggles in prayer to God about his impending death.



Day 4: Bible Point, "When you do wrong, Jesus Rescues." Bible Verse, John 16:33, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows, but take heart, because I have overcome the world." The Bible story talked about how Jesus paid the price for the sins of the world by dying on the cross and resurrecting from the grave.



Day 5: Bible Point, "When you feel powerless, Jesus Rescues." Bible Verse, Ephesians 1:19-20, "This is the same power that raised Christ from the dead." The Bible story came from Acts 3: 1-26, when Peter and John heal a man in Jesus' name, teaching about the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Vacation Bible School directors would like to thank all who volunteered their precious time to help make this program a success. The support and prayers of the congregation are vital to this ministry.



ALBANY DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES



You are invited to the First Annual District Day of Celebration of **Lay Servant Ministries Luncheon** on **Saturday, September 29, 2018** from noon to 2:00 PM at the Newtonville UMC, 568 Loudon Rd (corner of Rt. 9 and Maxwell Rd). All who are connected with Lay Servant Ministries in any way, as well as those interested in learning more about Lay Servant Ministries, and all pastors are invited to our District Day of Celebration of Lay Servant Ministries for a time of fellowship, conversation, connection, and delicious food.

Lucina Hallagan, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, will share the message "What's in Your Hand?" based on Exodus 4:1-5.

Our menu (Catered by Elegant Touch) will consist of Mom's Tossed Salad, Chicken Marsala, Rosemary Wedge Potatoes, Green Beans in Oil and Garlic, Bow Tie Caprese and beverages. The cost will be \$10.00 per person.

The registration deadline is **Monday, September 17, 2018**. To register, use the online form at <http://files.constantcontact.com/b2228041501/b5a957ea-2239-4a83-879c-e748162b2cdb.pdf>. Alternatively, print versions of the forms are available in the church office.

Questions? Please contact Nancy Goddard at bngoddard@davespc.net or Maxine Getty at albanydistrict@unyumc.org.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

September 28-29 Fall Thrift Sale with Snack Bar and on Saturday Bag Day. We are open from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm **Friday the 28th**, and **Saturday the 29th** from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon. The Signup sheet will be in the foyer on **September 1**. Setup for the sale begins on **Sunday, September 23** immediately following Coffee Hour. We will need help throughout the week of **September 23-27**, 9:00 am until Thursday at 7:00 pm with organizing the treasures that are donated for our sale. Nothing is accepted on Friday. Now is

the time to start sorting through your treasures. On **Saturday, September 29** at noon we will need help with clean up. Everyone benefits from the sale so please find time to help get our social hall ready for Sunday morning. We have had many hands help out in past years so we hope this continues. As a reminder, the money the UMW earns at our Thrift Sales benefits church functions such as VBS and scholarships for your children to attend camp.

On **September 22** once again we will spend the morning, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon, cleaning the church kitchen after a summer's worth of use by a number of different groups. We need people who can wipe down the outside of cabinets and walls. That was not done in June. We are asking any committee that has used the kitchen to be part of the cleaning crew. Many hands makes light work!!

The **District UMW meeting** is **October 20** at the Alplaus United Methodist Church. The topic is *Stomping Out Hunger*. Please see Kathy Van Buren or Patty Chartrand about registering to go.

TECH TEAM

The Tech Team was formed about 5 years ago to function as an information-gathering group knowledgeable about computers, sound systems, WIFI, office machines, streaming, making CD's, photography, TVs, etc. We research topics brought to us by Trustees and church members on topics considered "techie" in nature. Carrie Larson is the Coordinator who admits to being ignorant about tech topics, but she calls the meetings and translates into English tech topics for general consumption by church members. Please join us if you are interested in helping the church remain in the 21st Century with technology and the use of that technology to support worship, music, outreach, education and other ministries in our church.



THANKS FOR THE JAVA, AND NOW FOR THE NEW YEAR ...



We would like to thank all those who have helped with **Coffee Hour!** Floyd Hunt always makes sure that the coffee is ready and our church family helps out with serving and cleaning up. We hope that we can again count on everyone's help beginning in September. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer.

STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Styrofoam recycling will return on **Sunday, September 30th**. Please bring your Styrofoam peanuts and blocks to the garage at the far end of the church parking lot before or after the 9:30 am service. The Eco-Team will be bringing the Styrofoam to Shelter Enterprises in Cohoes to be recycled. Your Styrofoam needs to be clean and free of debris such as tape, cardboard or wires.





Thanks for the Music!

Music is the universal language of mankind.

- **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.

- **Confucius**

Our thanks to staff members Herb, Jackie, Cindy and all of our other talented musicians for sharing their music with us. We look forward to another music-filled year. What a blessing!



MUSIC MINISTRIES

CHERUB CHOIR

The Cherub Choir is made up of children age 3 to grade 3. Yes, 3-year olds can surprise you sometimes. They rehearse Sundays 10:45 am to 11:00 am and sing in church once a month and for special occasions. The first rehearsal will be **Sunday, September 16**. Questions? Contact me in person or by email at 1052turtle@gmail.com.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Chancel Choir is for youth grades 3 – 4 and up. We will learn to read music and sing in church once a month and for special occasions. We have blue and silver robes. Rehearsals are Sundays from 11:00 am to 11:20 am. The first rehearsal will be **Sunday, September 16**. If your child has an interest, please email me at 1052turtle@gmail.com. We can always use more voices.

CHIMettes

The CHIMettes will meet Mondays 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm. They will play once or twice a month in church and for special occasions. This group is for children in 4th grade, possibly 3rd, and up. The first rehearsal will be **Monday, September 10**. Please see me or email me at 1052turtle@gmail.com if your child is interested.

THE EmbELLishments

The Bell Choir rehearses on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We play once a month and also do outside performances. There are also opportunities to attend workshops, conferences, and concerts. We are looking for new people to either play regularly or substitute. The first rehearsal will be **Tuesday, September 4**. If you have any questions, please speak to any member or myself. You may leave a note in my folder in the church office, email me at 1052turtle@gmail.com or call 518-368-6514.

-- *Cynthia Reineke*

We're Ringing and Singing!

SANCTUARY CHOIR CALLING

Dear Congregation,

As we begin a new season/year here in East Greenbush, I would first like to thank each of you for trusting me with the gift of your choir. We had a very productive first year together with many exciting moments. I think that this year should be every bit as exciting as last. I pushed the choir with new genres of music and they rose to the occasion and they were able to spiritually enhance and support each worship service in which they participated. One of the highlights of the year was the Good Friday Cantata which I hope will become a tradition here at FUMCEG. The cantata for 2019 is already planned.

This was also a very difficult year for the choir and me. First, we suffered the loss of some very important and beloved members of the choir. Lee Pierce was the cornerstone of the men from the time I was born until this year. His beautiful voice and love of music and Christ shined through in all that he did. Then, Helen Gustafson, the reason I do church music today, mentor, friend and colleague. Helen was my Youth Choir director, and the year she moved to the Sanctuary Choir I moved with her. The day I accepted my first choir position Helen and I talked about where to begin and resources to enhance the worship experience.



You will notice some changes this year thanks to many generous gifts:

1. A new Clavinova by Yamaha in the choir loft thanks to the generous gift of the Lee Pearce Memorial,
2. A new look for the Choir to arrive in October thanks to the generous gift of the Grace Wheeler Memorial, other memorials and gifts from the choir and congregation, and
3. New Choir chairs coming to the loft (as the old ones were damaging robes) thanks to memorial gifts.

This promises to be another exciting year of worship, fellowship and fun in the Sanctuary Choir, and we would like to invite other members of the congregation to join us. The goal of the rehearsals is to have fun fellowship while learning the music which will enhance our worship experience on Sunday mornings and other special occasions. If you have been thinking about exploring other Ministries in the church this is your opportunity.

What: Sanctuary Choir

When: Thursday, 7pm – 8:30 pm (sometimes 9)
Sunday, 8:45 am – end of Service

First Rehearsal for the year: **Thursday, September 6**

First Sunday: **September 9**

Who: Students grade 9 – age 99.

We hope to see some new faces on **September 6th**. Give us a try and I think you will stay. If we want to continue the tradition of fabulous, spiritually enhancing music, we will need new voices to help. Come join us and bring a friend!

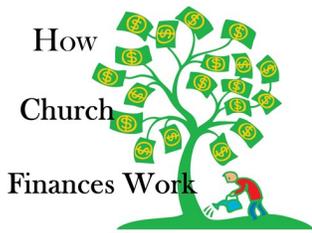
-- *Herb Lamb*, Sanctuary Choir Director

WILLING TO SHOW YOUR MUSICAL STUFF??

If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument, we have lots of opportunities for you: solos, duets, trios, instrumental pieces or even some ensemble that we have not thought of yet! This church is filled with the gift of music and it's important that everyone have the opportunity to share their gifts and allow our Lord to work through them, blessing our congregation. We encourage everyone of any age to do this! Just contact me, and I will work with other music staff to help you become comfortable sharing your gift of music.

-- *Jacqueline Krahforst*, Organist

THE INS AND OUTS OF GIVING TO THE CHURCH



The Church runs on our Time, our Talents and our Money. They are each important to the business of ministering to our membership and our community. This note is about the different ways money is given to the Church. Sometimes the different ways can be confusing.

Offerings The Church has a budget. The budget is based on pledges and anticipated receipts from offerings collected at Worship and Special Services as well as donations made to the church for building use. These funds pay for salaries, supplies, utilities, consumable materials, building maintenance, some program activities and our share of Upper New York Conference support. The greater the number of people pledging the more accurate the budget becomes. When receipts do not match program expenses there are consequences: we need to increase receipts through fundraising events, special appeals; reduce spending by reducing or restructuring programs; borrow or tap other money (e.g. use Endowment dividends for general budget).

Endowment The Endowment receives money from people's estates and from people giving in someone's memory. Gifts to the Endowment can be of any size, can be designated or undesignated (earmarked or not earmarked) for specific use. That money is invested. The dividends from the invested money are given to the Church each year. Currently the Church receives approximately \$8,000 annually. Ideally that money should support additions to the ministries of the Church. When the Church is not meeting its budget, the Church Council can vote to release the dividend money to the Treasurer to pay bills. The capital base of the Endowment cannot be released except in the direst of circumstances.

Memorials Family and friends of the deceased give to Memorials with the expectation that the money will be used for special purchases that honor their friend or family member. Memorials committee members often collaborate with family and donors regarding the use of the monetary gift. Memorial gifts are not used to support the General Budget.

Bequests Most bequests are received from a person's estate. The bequest can be designated for a specific purpose or can be undesignated. The money is not routinely used to support the Church budget but is reserved for "special" needs (i.e. air conditioning, remodeling the All Purpose Room, playground equipment etc.). The Church Council approves each special project.

SMEDBURG HERE TO SPEAK FOR THE CROP WALK



Each year, a dozen or more children and adults from our community join the [Castleton CROP Hunger Walk](#), to be held this year **Sunday, October 21**. Walkers solicit pledges prior to the event and then join others from our community and other churches on the 3.2 mile walk through Castleton-on-Hudson. Twenty-five percent of the money that is raised goes to The Anchor Food Pantry. The rest funds [Church World Service \(CWS\)](#) development projects to provide food security, clean water sources and build community infrastructure in developing communities.

This year, Adam Smedberg, community and congregational engagement specialist for **CWS**, will address our community **following the morning service on September 16th**. Prior to CWS, Adam worked with the American Cancer Society coordinating Relay For Life events. Adam is a Western Massachusetts native, having grown up on a farm in Wilbraham, and graduated with a degree in Sport Management from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Adam lives in the Springfield area. When he is not working, you can find him serving the community as a Kiwanian or enjoying the Red Sox and the Patriots.

CARING MINISTRIES

GOFF GARDEN



Are you free? Sunday September 23 10:45am (after church service) we will be putting the Goff Garden to bed. We need help with the final harvest and clearing the weeds. Please consider taking this opportunity to spend 15 or 20 minutes with your family to use your time and talents. **Thank you** to all those who assisted with the garden and mowing over the summer and past summers. For over 10 years now, we have been growing fresh, nutritious vegetables for the CoNSERNS-U food pantry. Hundreds of pounds of tomatoes, squash, eggplant, beans, and more, have been delivered to supplement the non-perishables that are supplied.

We have decided to NOT use the Goff Garden next season. The new idea is for each of us, and you, to grow 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. We do intend to continue to do a demonstration for the clients at CoNSERNS-U which includes giving them plants and seeds.

Sincerely,

Aleta Schweigert, Rickey and Mike Lettrick

CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDENS

Thank YOU to ALL the Church Memorial Gardens **Angels** that donate their time and talents to the Memorial Gardens (Courtyard, Island, Gilligan Road Sign, Hayes Road Sign, and Fellowship Hall Entrance), especially: David Caneen, Kevin and Cindy Conley, Becky and Pat Frament, Katie and Fred Henson, Carrie and Peter Larson, Joe McManus, Richard Pearce, Bob Reineke, Florence Skiff, Karen Terwilliger.

If you would be interested in helping, there are constant opportunities (spring, summer and fall) to help (one time or continuously). There are always needs in the gardens; i.e. watering, mulching and of course weeding during the growing seasons. Coming up in the fall we will be putting the garden to bed, i.e. cleanup (cutting down & removing dead leaves, raking, mulching and edging, etc.). During the winter we trim any extra branches and tidy up some more. In the spring we spruce up the gardens (i.e. clean up anything we missed during the fall/winter) and add new mulch and new annuals as needed. Everyone is welcome (seasoned and newbie gardeners alike) to participate as desired - contact Linda Marschner (518-479-5702) or lindamarschner@yahoo.com



ALTAR FLOWERS ARRANGERS

There is a small group currently rotating weekly with this activity and we would like to know if there is anyone who would be interested in helping? Please contact Linda Marschner (518-479-5702) or lindamarschner@yahoo.com



COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD



Following the 2016 General Conference, the *Commission on a Way Forward* was formed to deliberate and help the General Conference address the issue of sexuality in The United Methodist Church. The Commission is made up of 32 individuals, including eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members. They will present a report during a Special Session of the 2019 General Conference, which will be held **February 23-26, 2019** in St. Louis, Missouri.



Bishop's Regional Gatherings on A Way Forward

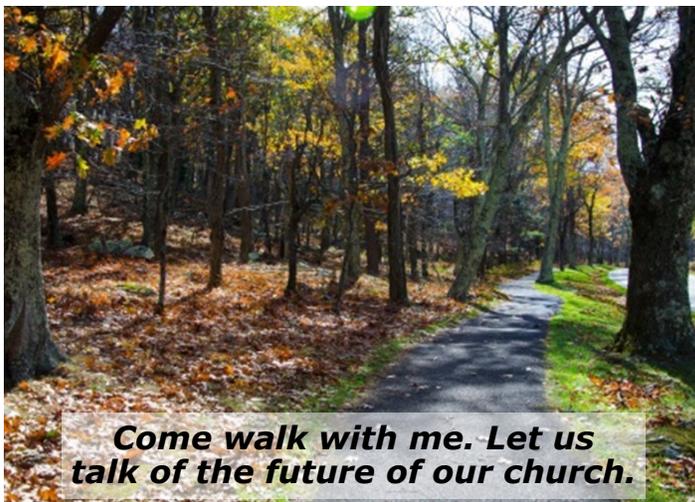
This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for the Special Session of General Conference to talk about the report of the *Commission on a Way Forward* for The United Methodist Church.

Agenda:

- Presentation of the plan and process of General Conference
- Remembering our Mission
- Worship and prayer

*In our area, Bishop Webb will be at Shenendehowa UMC on **Sunday, December 2** from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.*

RECONCILING MINISTRY TEAM



The United Methodist Church will hold a special session of General Conference in **February 2019** where the main topic of discussion will be sexuality. How do we deal with this issue in the future in our church? What is the future of our church? At the 2016 General Conference the *Commission on a Way Forward* was established. Their report will be the focus of the gathering in February. Their report presents three plans for our church, "The One Church Plan", The Connectional Conference Plan" and a "Traditional Plan".

Come join a discussion on **Sunday, September 30** from 4:00pm-6:00pm and/or **Sunday, October 14** from 4:00pm-6:00pm as our Reconciling Ministry team facilitates a conversation about the *Commission on a Way Forward* report and the future of our church. We need your thoughts and want to hear your concerns. This will be in part a prelude to the visit in **December** by Bishop Webb.

Watch for resources to help prepare for the two gatherings. And then, at the end of **October, on Sunday the 28th** we will have a "no ticket, no reservation" Sunday Brunch. We hope you will be a part of the discussions and the brunch.

To get started, here is a link to the *Commission of a Way Forward* report in English:
http://s3.amazonaws.com/Website_Properties/council-of-bishops/news_and_statements/documents/Way_Foward_Report_-_Final_-_ENGLISH.pdf

DATES TO SAVE FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Mark your calendar now before you forget for the following dates that are important to you. As is said, September will be here before you know it. Be sure to check the Sunday worship bulletins just in case there are any last minute changes. **NOT ALL church calendar dates are included on this list.**

SEPTEMBER

- Sep 27-30 (Thu – Sun) Women's Emmaus weekend – Women's Walk #135, Hudson Falls, NY, UMC
- Sep 28 & 29 (Fri & Sat) Fall Thrift Sale
- Sep 28 (Fri) First Friday Night Alive – Youth lead contemporary worship service
- Sep 30 (Sun) 1st discussion/conversation on the *Way Forward* document

OCTOBER

- Oct 10 (Wed) Capital Area Council of Churches Annual Dinner
- Oct 11-14 (Thu-Sun) Men's Emmaus weekend – Men's Walk #136, Hudson Falls, NY, UMC
- Oct 13 (Sat) Brooks BBQ
- Oct 14 (Sun) 2nd discussion/conversation on the *Way Forward* document
- Oct 21 (Sun) Dinner for new & prospective members
- Oct 26 (Fri) Friday Night Alive – Youth lead contemporary worship service
- Oct 28 (Sun) Reconciling Ministry Brunch
- Oct 28 (Sun) SOS Speaker & Pot-Luck

NOVEMBER

- Nov 3 (Sat) UMW Roast Beef Dinner

*You are cordially invited to our
7th Annual*

PATRONS' DINNER

"...In a New Land"

Featuring Rev. Dr. Roxanne Jones Booth

Co-Pastor Riverview Baptist Church
UAlbany Africana Studies Department

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

6:00 p.m. Silent Auction

7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program

**First Lutheran Church
181 Western Avenue
Albany, New York**

*Ample parking is available
Please RSVP by September 19*



PATRONS' DINNER

*Wednesday, September 26, 2018
6:00 p.m. Silent Auction; 7:00 Dinner & Program
First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Avenue, Albany, NY
Please RSVP by September 19*

Yes, I am able to attend
How many will attend? _____

Dinner will include a family style lasagna dinner with salad, bread and dessert.
Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten-Free and Non-Dairy Options are available upon request

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Please accept my regrets.

I am unable to attend, but would like to support Protestant Campus Ministry
with the following donation:
_____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25
Please make checks payable to Protestant Campus Ministry

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

Rev. Dr. Roxanne Jones Booth serves alongside her husband, the Rev. Antonio Booth, as Co-Pastor of the Riverview Missionary Baptist Church in Coeymans, NY. She is a three-time graduate of Howard University having received the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts in Religious Studies and the Master of Divinity. She is also a graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary having received the Doctor of Ministry degree specializing in Missions and Cross-Cultural Studies. Rev. Dr. Booth is also an Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York at Albany in the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Africana Studies lecturing in African and African American Religion and author of African American Baptist in Mission: A Historical Guide.

UMV MISSION TEAM LEADER TRAINING

UM Volunteers in Mission team leader training will be offered on **Saturday, October 27, 2018** from 9:00am-3:00am at First UMC, Schenectady. Training will be led by Sylvia Reimer, an experienced team leader and member of the Upper NY Conference UMVIM steering committee. The cost of \$30 covers lunch and books. This training is valuable for anyone interested in being either a team leader or a more effective team participant. Having a trained team leader not only promotes more effective teamwork, but is essential to obtain team insurance, grants, or scholarships for team members. Save the date!! Registration information will be coming soon.



The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. (Calibri 7pt.) **The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. (Bodoni MT Black 6pt.)** *The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. (Lucinda Calligraphy 5pt.)* **The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. (Broadway 6pt.)** The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. (Times New Roman 7pt.)

- ◆ The **annual celebration dinner for the Capital Area Council of Churches** will be held at the Albany Country Club on **Wednesday, October 10, 2018**. The agenda for the evening will include the presentation of the Council's annual Awards. Watch for details and for reservation information.
- ◆ This fall's **Walk to Emmaus weekends** will be held in Hudson Falls. If you have never experienced The Walk, here is your chance. Most returning participants have said it is an experience they will never forget. Have questions about the experience? Talk with Matie Flowers, Pastor Sundar Samuel or any other person in our church family who has already participated. They can also help get you registered for the weekend. The Women's Walk is **September 27-30**. The Men's Walk is **October 11-14**. Transportation to and from Hudson Falls will be provided.
- ◆ Be sure to **keep the church office up to date** with any changes in your address, phone number(s) and email address(es).
- ◆ **The Upper New York Conference's United Methodist Men** will host their fall retreat **September 7 and 8** at Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center in Windsor, NY. The theme of this year's event is "Transformation through Christ: Turn 180°". The retreat is open to people from all denominations and communities; and, for the first time, it will not only be open to men, but also to women. Contact our church office for more information and for registration information.
- ◆ You can have **your copy of The Church BELL** in living color and sooner than by mailed hardcopy if you sign-up for email delivery. Send your request to editor@fumceg.org. You can also use that address to ask for the weekly "Sunday Worship Memo", usually sent on Fridays, which contains information about our Sunday worship services and information on other important events at the church.
- ◆ Work on a **new United Methodist Hymnal** is being delayed. "As The United Methodist Church grapples with critical questions before the 2019 special session of General Conference, and the subsequent agenda for the 2020 General Conference," said the Reverend Junius B. Dotson, general secretary of Discipleship Ministries, "it is prudent to reset the timing for work in compiling the next official collection of hymns, prayers, and other liturgical resources." "The hymnal is a key resource in answering the historical questions: 'What to teach?' 'How to teach?' and 'What to do?'"... A final committee report will be submitted to the 2024 General Conference for review and approval.

(From a July 5 news release)



15TH ANNUAL HERO WALK & RUN FOR AUTISM

"Be our hero during our 15th Annual Walk for Autism! Put on your capes and support kids and adults with autism in our Capital Region!...The Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, has served as the region's premier source of education, advocacy, and support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their families and friends, and professionals...Held at Central Park [Rose Garden] in Schenectady, this family-friendly event includes entertainment, food, and exhibitors. The Walk is the Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region's primary source of income. The funds **raised here, stay here!**"

This year the walk and run will be held **Saturday, September 22** at 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Pastor Sundar's grandson, Sam, and his mom, Anna, have formed a team to help raise money for The Walk. You can help Sam reach his goal of \$500 by securely donating on his web page at:

<https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/sams-superstars/15th-Annual-Hero-Walk-for-Autism>