



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 7

SUMMER 2019

At Church on Sundays:

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

Also on Sundays:

- ◆ Worship at Hawthorne Ridge 1:00 pm

We are on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

And find us on *facebook!*

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

June 10 through August 23:
9:00 am to 1:00 pm, M - F

Resuming August 26:
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,

When our grandchild was playing a musical instrument that was "rented" from the school, instead of "owned" by his parents, there was a big decision to make at the end of the school year. Do you pay rental fees for the summer break? Or do you turn the instrument in? Paying rental fees for the summer means that the instrument will be practiced on hot Georgia summer days and during beautiful sunsets. Turning the instrument in means that summer is for swimming, sleep-away camps, family vacations, flexible schedules and peace and quiet.

Your decision is based both on the passion of your budding musician for their instrument and on your personal preferences. For parents, on the one hand, there is the knowledge that structure and practice and commitment are all good things for a young musician. On the other hand, there is the prospect of a few weeks without squeaks and squawks, without hearing the same fractured tune repeated over and over again in your head, an earworm that can be as ragging and nagging as "It's a Small World After All."

Professional musicians, as well as the garage band guys, the Christmas party piano player, the community band enthusiasts—all seem to make their music effortlessly. But it took a lot of squeaky-squawky, off-key, eardrum bruising moments to get to the degree of proficiency where, suddenly, they were making music that channels creativity and sparks the imagination, music that brings a party to life.

Okay, okay: the hope of that mystic connection to music is why you DO pay for that instrument over the summer vacation. We know when it sounds good, it looks easy. But it took a lot of practice to get to that point of sounding good. So, why is it we will put up with the imperfections and disruptions of "practice" when it comes to learning to play a musical instrument...but we find it so much harder to put up with the discord and dissonance that comes when we are all engaged in "practicing" the greatest instrument we have each been given?

That instrument is the living Spirit of Christ within each of us.

The Church of Jesus Christ is best defined as a "community of practice." A place where we who have chosen to live the life of Christ can hit flats and sharps, miss entrances, go off-beat, and even get completely lost for a while—yet still be a part of the



(Continued on page 2)

A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

church community's "practice session" that is Christ's church. Isn't growing a soul, like learning any musical instrument, a life-long project? Yes, it brings great joy. Yes, it brings focus and direction. Yes, it brings a love of artistic perfection. But it does take continual, gradual, life-long practice.

In the book of Romans Paul the Apostle writes towards the end of his ministry that he is still "practicing." For Paul, there is one and only one tuning fork to the eternal. Jesus the Christ is God's perfect Pitch. We all know people who are tuning their instruments to all the wrong tuning forks: wealth, fame, celebrity, merriment. Paul reminds in his letters to various churches during his visits that all the fake tuning forks in the entire world can't "soothe the soul."

But then there are those who never give a side glance to their spiritual life-to "tuning" the instrument that God has implanted within them. There are those who "live for the moment," "don't think about tomorrow," "if it feels good do it" devotees. Those are the ones who cannot even hear the dissonance between "what they want" and doing "the very thing they hate". But strangely, it seems that they can't seem to escape from how God made them: a musical instrument designed to vibrate according to the resonance of the eternal.



The church is an orchestra of instruments that need constant tuning. Daily, sometimes hourly, tuning, just like any musical instrument. And it is the Church that Jesus picked from the beginning to be a community where people could practice their instruments and conduct their tune-ups.

If there were ever a cast of castoffs, it was Jesus' chosen twelve. There is no greater blessing to every new generation of disciples than the example of Jesus' first twelve disciples-the ones who walked with him, witnessed his miracles, were imbued with healing powers...but were slow learners and needed constant tune-ups. Even as close to Jesus as they were their instruments were squeaky and squawky, out-of-tune, and without many glimmers of harmonic grace. Throughout their special one-on-one tutorial time with Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, they still needed to practice.

Do you get it? The disciples are us. Every person in the pew makes up the church, the body of Christ. But we are crippled and compromised by our very nature. We want to do well. But... yadda, yadda, yadda...we don't do well. In fact, we do badly. But the "bad" is not what we really "wanted" to do. The disciples loved Jesus. They followed him into the wilderness. They gave up their livelihoods. They choose a life of "if" and "when," over a stable life of "here" and "now." Yet it was still so hard to give in and give all. They failed. Until Pentecost gave them the spiritual infusion they needed.

Should our twenty-first century church be any less patient, any less prepared for a life of practice, than that first century community of first followers? Everyone who walks in the doors of the church is a person who is learning to "play" their life, their faith, their love. Playing is the right metaphor. You don't "work" a violin. You "play" a violin. You "play" the piano. You "play" basketball." The greatest beauty and artistry come not from "work" but from "play."

But "play" requires "practice". Playing, without apparent effort, without apparent work is the goal. But that kind of "playing" takes a lot of practice. The church is not the concert hall for those who have got it all right. The Church is the practice room for those who are working on

(Continued on page 3)

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. Summer, 2019, Volume 21, Issue 7. 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**; TBD, **Director of Children's Christian Education**; Amber Biechman, **Youth Leader**; Jacqueline Krahforst, **Organist**; Herb Lamb, **Choir Director**; Cynthia Reineke, **Coordinator of EmBELLishments & Children's Music Program**; Gail Welkley, **Administrative Assistant**; Christopher Chartrand, **Custodian**; Beth Duncan, **Lay Leader**; 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.**

(Continued from page 2)

their scales, exercising eternal etudes, making mistakes, getting the rhythm wrong. The church is the place where even Paul could admit that he couldn't get it all right...yet...but he was working on it. If Paul could admit he hit wrong notes, can't we grant our current disciples the same "practice time" graces?

Can we be a community of grace and practice because of *we love them as God has loved us?*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Sundar

WORSHIP AT FUMC FOR THE SUMMER

Many things come to a halt or at least slow down when we hit the summer months. But our Sunday worship schedule holds. **Early worship at 8:30 am.** Informal, about a half hour long, held in Chapel in the Woods (weather permitting). **Regular worship at 9:30 am.** Traditional service, about one hour long, held in the Fellowship Hall (it has a/c), less formal in the summer, sometimes coffee is served. **Hawthorne Service at 1:00 pm.** Comfortable attire, about three quarters of an hour long, held at Hawthorne Ridge facility. All are welcome at any of these services. No Sunday School during the summer. We continue to look for lay men, women and youth to lead one of the early services. If you are interested or if you have someone to suggest for this role, please speak with Pastor Sundar or George Herrick. Pastor Sundar is planning to preach all Sundays during the summer. Holy Communion is celebrated at all services that are held on the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome.



Also on the summer calendar are Sunday worship services at **Riverside Nursing Home** on **July 7** and **August 4**, both at 2:30 pm. Tuesday worship services will be held at **Rosewood Rehabilitation Center** on **July 23** and **August 27**, both at 2:00 pm. There is one major holiday in the summer, **July 4th**. That one's secular and there are no major UMC religious dates in July and August, which makes the church calendar somewhat quiet.

Going to be on the road this summer? Make this a vacation not "from" but "to" a new church. A stranger in the community you are visiting? Grab your hand held device and enter: <http://www.umc.org/find-a-church/search>. On the screen you will see, "I would like to find a church near city/state or Zip". Click the part, "city/state/or Zip" and enter the name of the community you're visiting. Then click on "view listings". Share your find with our church family.

Here is the lectionary for July and August:

July 7	Fourth Sunday After Pentecost	2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
July 14	Fifth Sunday After Pentecost	Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37
July 21	Sixth Sunday After Pentecost	Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52 or 82; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42
July 28	Seventh Sunday After Pentecost	Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13
August 4	Eighth Sunday After Pentecost	Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12: 13-21
August 11	Ninth Sunday After Pentecost	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40
August 18	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56
August 25	Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost	Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Camping Trip



Thank you for a great year together in Youth Group! Can't wait to see you in the fall for another brilliant and great year!

Mark your calendars! The youth are going to Skye Farm **October 4 -6** for the greatest camping trip yet!

Have a safe and fun summer! Can't wait to hear about it! Questions and/or comments? Email youthleaderamber@gmail.com or call 518-477-9693 and leave a message for Amber.

Amber Biechman

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER – Our next meeting will be **Monday, September 9** at 7:00 pm in room 16. All are welcome to attend. These meetings are not just for officers. We would love to see some new faces at our meetings.

Upcoming events: **Thrift Sale** team meeting on **Sunday, September 15**; anyone who has helped in the past or would like to help with the upcoming sale are encouraged to attend. There will be changes to setup times and setup layout. The thrift sale is **Friday and Saturday, September 27-28**.

Our church library has light reading, such as The Grace Chapel Inn Series by Guideposts. Or thought provoking books on various religious topics. There is plenty to occupy your mind this summer while at the beach or pool side.

The altar flowers signup sheet has vacancies. Each arrangement is hand arranged by members of our church. The cost is only \$20 and checks should be made out to the United Methodist Women. Cash should be paid directly to the UMW. Flower arrangers are needed. If you would like to be part of this ministry to enhance the worship service please contact Patty Chartrand at pjdc560@gmail.com.



Ushers: our usher list is growing. THANK YOU to all of you. The signup sheet is on the table in the foyer. Please sign up. If you would like to be an usher and have never been one, go ahead and sign up, and leave your email address so I can let you know how to do things or answer any questions.

-- Patty Chartrand, pjdc560@gmail.com

LUNCH FOR SENIORS



Mark the date: **Wednesday, July 10** at 12 noon. That's the time for our next Senior Lunch. The Membership and Evangelism Committee will be serving a delicious lunch for all the seniors in our congregation. If you are older than 65 you qualify as a senior. It's a great time for good food and warm fellowship with friends. If you would like to attend, please call Mary McIntosh at 518-449-9846 or Sue Lemka at 518-477-9875 so they can get you on the list.

FRESH VEGETABLES FOR THE CONSERNS U FOOD PANTRY

As part of The Caring Ministries of our church, we did a small vegetable garden demonstration and gave seeds and plants to the clients. Over the summer if you have extra veggies from your garden, please bring them to church on Sundays before the service. They will be delivered to CoNSERNS-U on Monday mornings. The addition of fresh local produce to the non-perishables that they receive is greatly appreciated. *Thank you.*



-- Aleta Schweigert, 518-479-3182

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR SUMMER 2019



As we begin summer vacations, the Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for supporting the ministries of our Church through their generous gifts. Our Church's ministries continue throughout the summer with three services on each Sunday, Vacation Bible School and other opportunities to reach out within our community, such as the Senior Lunch. The Church offers two ways to give electronically – online at www.fumceg.org or through the *Give+* app on your iPhone or Android device. You can make one-time donations or set up a recurring weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual gift.

The Finance Committee is also beginning to plan the Financial Commitment Campaign for the 2021 year. The Campaign will run in **October** and will need your support. Please keep an eye out for more information on the Campaign this fall.

Again, as you take time away this summer to travel, please consider your giving to our Church and keep the Church's finances in your thoughts and prayers.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Saint Paul's Center, a shelter for women and children located in Rensselaer, has started a Sheltered Hearts Sitters program. It will provide childcare for families in the shelter allowing moms to run errands, hunt for apartments, and attend job interviews without worrying about finding childcare for their kids. Volunteers can read to children, do arts and crafts, and play music games during their shift. If you would like more information about the program, you may want to speak to Janet Schmidt. Janet has been volunteering in this capacity at St. Paul's Center for the last few years. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, you may contact Meghan Meyerson at 518-434-2910.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Don't forget to come to **Vacation Bible School** this summer. The program will be held the weekend of **August 2-4**. Registration is still open and we would love to have your child join us for an exciting time of worship, games, music, crafts and Bible stories. Registration forms can be found online at our church website: fumceg.org, or on the table in the church foyer.

CoNSERNS-U BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM

We are joining with CoNSERNS-U to get ready for fall by helping kids in need be prepared for the new school year. Here is a **list of the "wants" for the BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM**: dry erase markers, plastic pocket folders, 3 and 5 subject notebooks, (please, NO one subject notebooks), 3 ring binders (1 ½ inch, 2 inch, and 3 inch), scientific calculators (**TI 34** priced under \$20), headphones, composition books, glue sticks, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, subject dividers, zippered pencil cases, loose leaf paper (wide rule only), scissors, index cards, pens, pencils... and especially **new backpacks**. Bring supplies to church **by Monday, August 12** and put them in the bin under the table in the church foyer.



Last year CoNSERNS-U served 383 students and they are hoping to serve even more this year. You can help. Want more information or have questions? Contact Mary Smith at 518-477-4648.

2019 GRADUATES

Congratulations to all our young men and women who are now – GRADUATES! Please take time for a thought and prayer for each one of them. You might even give them a call or send them a note to celebrate their accomplishment. These young people are an important part of our church family. We wish them Godspeed for their future.

Anisha Akunuru graduated from Columbia High School. She will be attending Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, for Pre-Medical studies starting this August. She is the daughter of Mary Kodudula and Ashi Akunuru.

Jordan Van Buren graduated from Niskayuna High School and will attend SUNY Cobleskill in the fall. Jordan is the grandson of Kathy Van Buren.

Olivia Sterantino graduated from Maple Hill High School. In the fall, she will be attending Lafayette College in Easton, PA. Olivia is the daughter of Dan and Erin Sterantino.

Pranav Mogadati graduated from Columbia High School. He will be attending the film school at Columbia College, Chicago this fall. He is the son of Martha Kodudula.

Ryan Ostiguy graduated from Columbia High School. He will be attending Marist College this fall studying Business. Ryan is the son of Sandy and Matt Ostiguy.

Kathryn Partridge graduated from Hollis-Brookline High School, NH. She will attend Dartmouth College in the fall, majoring in physics. Kay is the granddaughter of Ed and Dottie Young.

Stephanie Salisbury Jordan graduated from Elbridge Jr./Sr. High School, Jordan, NY. She will be attending SUNY Brockport in the fall. Stephanie is Patty Chartrand's niece.

Jamye Mount graduated from Canajoharie High School and Hamilton/Fulton/Montgomery Vo-Tech where she received the "Most Professional" award in Equine Science. She will be working in the landscaping business this summer as she explores her new employment options. She is the granddaughter of Kathy Van Buren.

Zachary Buono graduated from Hudson Valley Community College with an Associate's degree in Health and Wellness. He will be going on to the University at Albany. His parents are Heidi and Mike Buono.

Bryce Perry graduated from Chapman University in Orange, CA. He is currently doing marketing work in the film industry as he plans for his future. He is the son of Robin and Jim Perry.



A REPORT FROM UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 5 – June 8, 2019
The Oncenter, Syracuse, NY

As I reflect upon the recent Upper New York Annual Conference, I must first express my gratitude to God and the calling placed on my heart to serve our Lord Jesus. I am thankful also for our Pastor and to this congregation at the First United Methodist Church for its continued support in both my ministry and the ministry of this church.

The theme to the 2019 Upper New York Annual Conference was "Together in Prayer: Moving Beyond our Comfort Zone." Bishop Mark Webb presided over the entire conference and provided a message during the opening worship. He spoke from Isaiah 42: 9-16, "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before you spring forth I tell you of them..." He encouraged us to step out of our comfort zone and into God's promise, to live a spirit filled life not a religious filled one. It is no secret that Bishop Webb would like to hear new conversations and explore the possibility of the church branching into two new churches where we can be allowed to bless each other in our ministries and all remain United Methodists. It is evident The Upper New York Annual Conference (AC) has had many changed hearts as a result from the 2019 Special Session of the General



The UNY Delegates for the **2020** General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Look for Rachel Giso in the circle above.

Conference. My experience from the last two years at AC has been that there is a clear divide on all petitions concerning sexuality. This year, though many petitions were ruled out of order, the conference did overwhelmingly support a petition that stated "the Tradition Plan was unacceptable and strongly recommended that Bishop Webb and The Board of Ordained Ministry impose an immediate moratorium on a punitive action related to LGBTQ clergy and weddings."

Another important job the conference needed to complete was to elect lay and clergy delegates to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences (GC and JC). The GC is the quadrennial global church meeting focused on the amendments to The Book of Discipline, the rules and laws of the UM church. The JC is a northeastern regional meeting where we focus on electing Bishops and setting conference boundaries. Four of the five lay delegate to General Conference are young adults and all are dedicated to full inclusion for LGBTQIA+ persons. I am happy to announce that I was elected as a reserve member to Jurisdictional Conference.

Additionally, we celebrated the planting of New Faith Communities. These are churches opening in areas where a UM church does not exist. They are funded by income made from the closure of churches in declining communities and by the New Places for New People Campaign. During the conference over \$10,000 was raised by individual donors and a hat collection from those in attendance, whereby the Bishop challenged us to raise \$1,500 then he would wear the hat for five minutes. We did, and he did.

A complete report can be found on the following link. You are able to download the daily notes, watch the daily wrap videos, as well as the worship, memorial and ordination service.
<http://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference-2019>

Participation in Annual Conference is eye opening to the manner in which we conduct holy conferencing. The four day experience is truly exhausting, but it is an exhaustion that leaves you uplifted, faith assured, yet sometimes frustrated. It is the type of exhaustion that reminds you of the good we do in this world, the confidence that it is worthwhile.

Rachel Giso
FUMCEG - Lay Member of Annual Conference

A COFFEE HOUSE RETROSPECTIVE



Dave Hopwood

George Herrick attended our Mother's Day Coffee House on May 10 and asked that a short article be written reviewing some of the history of this program, now in its 15th year, having just completed our 75th show. That simple request is fraught with historical inaccuracies as Coffee Houses have a circuitous and rich history in our church. Carrie and Lee Pierce have been performing in and have run Coffee Houses at various times in our church since the '60's. Joining with them were church and community performers. Dave Hopwood, too, was involved in the early Coffee Houses. Around 2003-2004, the Church Choir, led by Helen Gustafson, led a Coffee House show followed by a couple of shows organized and run by Steve Berger and Chris Chartrand. By 2004, some people got together to run the shows throughout the year. Steve Berger contacted participants, organized the program and posters and almost always performed the last set with Chris. Carrie Larson was dubbed *The Mistress of Chatter* to fill in the "dead" spaces when the ancient sound system got ill or when set up for the next act needed extra time. Her terrible ability to tell jokes, over time, became an act in and of itself. Chris Chartrand, Steve Berger and Carrie Larson, with the help of others, set up and decorated the Fellowship Hall Thursday evenings after choir, for the Friday night shows.

The first in this series of Coffee Houses started in 2004 and we just completed our 75th show. We have 5 Coffee Houses each year named by Steve Berger for the season...Back to School CH in September, Thanksgiving CH in November, Cabin Fever CH in January, St. Patrick's Day CH in March and Mother's Day CH in May. When we started, most performers were from our church, some performing before an audience for the first time. Now a roster of 45 performers from the tri-city area are invited to perform at each of the Coffee Houses and acts include singing, instrumentals, dancing, poetry reading, storytelling, skits, and whatever creative inspiration a performer can develop. There is a wonderful age range from our youngest performer, Cameron (age 2'ish) and his Mom, Amanda, singing the ABC's to our oldest performer, Shawna Lambert's Mom, Shirley Riffley, reading her poetry at the age of 96. Music spans all genres...country, rock-'n'-roll, show tunes, blues, spirituals, and ballads. Dance includes the Morris Dancers, the Cloggers and waltzing to whatever waltz a group plays. We



Steve Berger

have singing groups like Treskele, The Trackers, duets, trios and solos, and sing-a-longs often close the evening. Attendance ranges from over 30 to 110. The UMW have for the past 15 years provided tasty treats and coffee, making the evening feel like home.

A special feature of the Friday night Coffee House is that it's OK to be nervous, to make mistakes, to take risks and know that all will be well. There is such a sense of comradery and friendly support for each other. And it seems when a show can get no better, the next one tops the last.



Cameron & mom, Amanda, singing The ABC's

There is always a basket to collect contributions at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. Over the years we have raised and donated approximately \$15,000 to local charities.

One of the best compliments we ever received was from a stranger who drove from Amsterdam to attend a Coffee House...he'd read an advertisement about our show. He spoke to the Pastor at the end of the show saying that he was Jewish and the show was the best form of Christianity he'd seen...the form where people show love and respect for everyone. He said he had a great time!



Bill Bronk



Lee & Carrie Pierce



Lou Mulligan



September 6-8, 2019 SILVER BAY CONFERENCE CENTER LAKE GEORGE, NY



DEAN Ilah Sisson Walser
ASSISTANT DEAN Cindy Van Allen
REGISTRAR Marcia Dudden
BUSINESS MANAGER Joyce Miller



STUDIES AND LEADERS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY

Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark & Radical Discipleship

Study Leader: Cindy VanAllen

SOCIAL ACTION STUDY

What About Our Money? A Faith Response

Study Leader: Leeda Marsh

SPECIAL STUDY

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission

COSTS: \$80.00 Registration fee plus housing and meals

Registration deadline is **Thursday, August 1, 2019**

See the MISSION u website for a registration brochure/form and an informational video
<http://www.unymissionu.org>

For scholarship help, contact Joyce Miller, 15 Forest Ave, Oneonta NY 13820



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT...?

The fall Walks to Emmaus for both women (**Sept 26-29**) and men (**Oct 10-13**) will be held at Skye Farm Camp & Retreat Center. Come enjoy a long weekend in the Adirondacks where you will

deepen your Christian faith through an amazing walk with Jesus and fellow Christians. You will take a spiritual journey that includes inspirational talks by both clergy and laymen and women, worship, prayer, fellowship, great food, laughter, music and friends. For more information, contact Matie Flowers or the Pastor.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- July** Independence Day—July 4
 Senior Lunch—Wednesday, July 10 at 12 noon
 Lynn Minderman, Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections—July 14 after 9:30 am service
 Painting the Brainard Bell cupola—July 20
- August** Vacation Bible School—Friday, August 2 - Sunday, August 4
BELL deadline for the September issue—Monday, August 19
 Church office hours return to fall schedule—Monday, August 26
- September** EmBELLishments rehearsals start—Tuesday, September 3
 Sanctuary Choir rehearsals start—Thursday, September 5
 Sunday School Rally Day—Sunday, September 8
- CHIMEttes rehearsals start—Monday, September 9
 Cherub and Chancel Choirs rehearsals start—Sunday, September 15
 Capital Area Council of Churches Awards Dinner—Wednesday, September 18
- BELL deadline for the October issue—Thursday, September 16**
 Back to School Coffee House—Friday, September 20
 Protestant Campus Ministry Patron's Dinner—Wednesday, September 25
- Women's Walk to Emmaus #137—Thursday-Sunday, September 26-29
 Fall Thrift Sale—Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28
 Styrofoam Recycling collection day—Sunday, September 29
- October** Men's Walk to Emmaus #138—Thursday-Sunday, October 10-13
 Brooks' BBQ—Saturday, October 12
 Skye Farm Volunteer Work Day—Saturday, October 19



- ▶ A big thanks to the **Delmar United Methodist Church** for inviting us to join with them for the **2019 Pride Parade in Albany** on June 16. I took them up on their offer to ride their truck in the parade. There were four of us on the truck throwing small packs of candy and other parade paraphernalia to the big crowds on the parade route. It was a lot of fun and a great day for a parade. Thanks to the other church groups that invited me to join them. Following the parade there was music on the main stage in Washington Park, time to eat (join me for curry goat) and time to visit any one of many booths selling their stuff, promoting their church program(s), offering health advice and promoting good will (the Albany Police Department). -- GEH
- ▶ A call has gone out for **volunteers for a work day at Skye Farm**. Here is a chance to help keep the camp in good repair and help get it ready for the next camping season. The date is **Saturday, October 19**. If you have special skills to volunteer, please let them know you are available. For more information,

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

contact the camp at 1884 E. Schroon River Road, Warrensburg, NY 12885, Phone 518-494-7170, or email: info@skyefarmcamp.org.

- ▶ Day 2 of the **Brainard painting project** has been scheduled for **Saturday, July 20**. We are going to be gathering at the site of the former Brainard UMC (Route 20, east of Nassau) to finish preparing and painting the bell cupola. Will you be available to help? We need people and painting tools and ladders. Contact John Schmidt or George Herrick for more information.
- ▶ As noted in the June Church BELL, the church staff position of Director of Children's Christian Education is now vacant. Our Staff Parish Relations committee is currently working to refine the job description for this position. Look for the next issue of The Church BELL for more information about this position.
- ▶ **Lynn Minderman of Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections has had her visit rescheduled.** She will be returning on **Sunday, July 14** to give us an update on our eight high-school scholarship recipients in Losotho, Southern Africa. Please plan on joining us at 10:45am in the Fellowship Hall.