

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

JE BET.

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

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 7

SUMMER 2021

At Church on Sundays:

- Early Informal Service 8:30am - Outdoor Chapel weather permitting
- ◆ Regular Service 9:30 am
 - Sunday School will resume in September

We are on the Web: www.fumceg.org and

www.facebook.com/ **FUMCEG**

Phone: (518) 477-9693 Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours: Through June 12 9 am to 2:30 pm M - F

June 14 through August 30: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm M - F

Email:

office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only) Email: editor@fumceg.org

Youth Ministries Email: FUMCEG.youth@gmail.com

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

Gail Welkley, Administrative Assistant

UPPER NEW YORK 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - VIRTUAL June 17 through 19



The 12th Annual Session of the UNYAC was held virtually due to the global pandemic brought on by the Covid-19/ Coronavirus. Roughly 700 lay and clergy voting members



participated. Bishop Mark Webb opened the session with a sermon reminding us to "Give them Jesus." The answer to violence, racism, and injustice is the Gospel.

During the laity session we prayed for the 15 church closures in our conference, learned about breath prayer and prayer journaling, and watched videos on the Biblical practice of justice, the Biblical principle of sabbath and unlearning racism. We heard reports from the UMW and UMM presidents, representatives from Oneonta, Cornerstone and Niagara Frontier Districts, Youth and Young Adults Ministry chairs and the Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministry. We were encouraged to support the Helping Hands Fund which assists conference laity in need.

Much was accomplished during our plenary time. We first approved the lay equalization members, our organizational motion, consent calendar, and agenda. We listened to the Leadership report, a report from the Board of Global Ministries and the Mission and Central Hub. We approved reports and recommendations from the Committees for Equitable Compensation, Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, Trustees, Finance and Administration and the Nominating committee. It is important to note that there was some discussion, debate and motions made in regard to the Bishop's nominations for the

(Continued on page 2)

The Church Bell staff has given the pastor a "summer break" from writing his monthly letter. His message will return in September.

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(Continued from page 1)

Board of Ordained Ministry. A petition to Bishop Webb to renominate Rev. Richelle Goff of Fairport UMC circulated before and during conference. As of this writing, 486 signatures from across the conference and connection responded to the petition. The full petition can be found on the FUMC East Greenbush Facebook page and on the church website https://fumceg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/QMC.pdf The Bishop responded to this petition by defending his decision citing the Book of Discipline as his reasoning.

We were able to hear, refine and vote on all petition presented. Four petitions relating to supporting NY Senate Bills regarding, "Residential Policing," "Spit Hood Ban," "Chemical Irritants Ban" and "Daniel's Law" were all passed as amended. The Annual Conference urges United Methodists to "relentlessly petition their State Senators and Assembly Members in support of the passage of anti-racist legislation." The Annual Conference Secretary will be mailing a support letter for the second two of the four named petitions. The Because We Care petition authored by members of the Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel was passed by a narrow margin of 3 votes. Churches are to" find a way to engage in study and discussion of the historic and systematic deprivation of the rights of Palestinian people."

The administrative Fair Process for Local Pastors petition was passed. The Proposal to form a Study Commission on the Readiness of UNY for Implementations of the protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation passed as amended. Lay members and clergy will be completing a survey regarding the likelihood of pastors and congregations remaining with the post separated United Methodist Church if the "protocol" passes in August of 2022. Congregations are encouraged to begin discussion of this protocol and seek to understand each other's views to better prepare for the future of The United Methodist Church. The petition for Team Transparency and Greater Participation of Annual Conference in Mission Planning was passed as amended.

The Memorial Service was livestreamed from the Cicero UMC. A celebration of Juneteenth and of the 11th anniversary of the UNYAC was celebrated. Here is a link to the video at https://vimeo.com/538771839. The recommendation for advance specials was passed, a report on the Mission of Peace to India was given by Sam Lasher. Retired pastors from the last two years were honored, culminating 1901 years of service. Licensed Local Pastors, Lay Ministers and new pastoral appointments were recognized. The Bishop acknowledged the outgoing Conference secretary, head teller and chair of Conference worship team. He thanked the Cabinet, District Superintendents and their assistants, Conference staff and all lay members working tirelessly through this challenging global pandemic. He voiced his sadness of our inability to meet in person and the various components of conference dearly missed. The session was closed followed by the ordination of 10 candidates. The 13th Session of UNYAC will be held on June 2-4, 2022, at the On-Center in Syracuse, NY.

Respectfully Submitted by, Rachel V. H. Giso Lay Member to Annual Conference, Certified Lay Servant

All the videos of Annual Conference sessions are available on the Upper New York Conference website at https://www.unyumc.org/events/annual-conference-2021. One of the best productions was the opening worship at https://vimeo.com/548985473. Watching it will be time well spent. - Ed.

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Youth Leader; Jacqueline Krahforst, Organist; Herb Lamb, Choir Director; Cynthia Reineke, Coordinator of EmBELLishments & Children's Music Program; Gail Welkley, Administrative Assistant; Christopher Chartrand, Custodian; Beth Duncan, Lay Leader; Scott Bogart, Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany; Mozart M. K. Adevu, Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries, based in Accra, Ghana, West Africa.

SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR JULY & AUGUST

Vacation time! That is what we usually hear when people start talking about July and August.



But there is not much "usually" about this summer. We all know how different this past year has been from anything we have experienced. We may have read about the 1918 influenza pandemic, but it is not part of our *personal* memory. We have to begin thinking about a *new* normal. We need to take a closer look at our church and our worship services.

Look on the next page for the latest on mask wearing policies for our church and church services. Be alert for any more changes that may occur over the summer months.

The summer can be a time to serve. Recent announcements have highlighted some needs. For our young people, "Would Your Child Like to be an Acolyte?" A good idea of what this task is all about is the focus of the "Chuck Knows Church" video about acolytes. The link is https://chuckknowschurch.com/archive/35acolyte. Please contact Laura Flynn at https://chuckknowschurch.com/archive/35acolyte. Please contact Laura Flynn at https://chuckknowschurch.com/archive/35acolyte. Please contact Laura

We also need liturgists as we build our list of those interested now and for the new year. "Chuck Knows Church" also has a video about a liturgist at, https://chuckknowschurch.com/archive/38liturgist. Take a look and if that is you, call the church office to sign-up. 518 477-9693.

Or serve without being up front. Serve coffee and more. The UMW is organizing the Coffee Hour for some Sundays after church. Interested? Contact the church office or sign up on the sheet in the foyer.

Planning for summer, Pastor Sundar is anticipating preaching all Sundays in July and August. Toward the end of August, maybe, just maybe we may get to meet our "new" Peer Minister Scott Bogart. Usually the Peer Minister is Liturgist for a service in mid-September of the year they join us. Covid changed those plans for Scott last year and all the rest of 2020 and so far this year of 2021. Scott will finish his program at the University at Albany in December which means he will be with us for the fall semester.

One thing to remember about worship and about the summer – read the words on the accompanying clip art of two beach chairs.

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR JULY & AUGUST

- **July 4** 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48; 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13
- **July 11** 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19, Psalm 24, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29
- July 18 2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37, Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56
- July 25 2 Samuel 11:1-15, Psalm 14, Ephesians 3:14-21, John 6:1-21
- **August 1** 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35
- **August 8** 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35, 41-51
- **August 15** 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14, Psalm 111, Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58
- **August 22** 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69
- **August 29** Song of Solomon 2:8-13, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9, James 1:17-27,

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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MASKS/NO MASKS IN CHURCH - THE LATEST ON COVID

In the Sanctuary After careful consideration, we are taking steps to relax the COVID-19 restrictions at church. Fully vaccinated people will not need to wear masks in the sanctuary. We also will allow congregational singing of hymns, but for now we ask that you put on a mask when you sing.

In Church Offices and TSL Areas Please be aware that staff working in the church may request that people coming into their offices wear masks. Please respect this request and put on a mask before entering any room when you see a "masks needed" sign. Also, TSL uses our building during the week. We should continue to wear masks when entering areas that TSL is using.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Thank you to all who have registered for Vacation Bible School. We have already begun our great six week VBS program and will continue through the month of July.

We will see everyone back in the Fall for Sunday School. Please be on the lookout for a Sunday School and a youth group survey in July. Send an email request to egchristianedfumc@gmail.com if you would like to join our Sunday School email list.

> Blessings, Amanda

ATTENTION YOUTH AND YOUTH LEADERS!

Are you a youth or a leader of youth with a zest for life, a love for God and the potential to lead? CCYM (Conference Council on Youth Ministry) has openings for 3 young people from the Albany District. You must be going into 7th - 12th grade for the 2021-22 school year.



For more information about CCYM, and/or to request an application, please email Laura Clark, Albany District Youth Coordinator at LLC1129@yahoo.com. You can also learn more about CCYM and other youth opportunities by visiting the Upper New York Conference website and clicking "CCYM" under "Ministries".

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The UMW is having a Fall Thrift Sale September 17-18. The times are Friday 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon which is also bag day. This year we decided not to have the snack bar due to COVID restrictions. We will be donations until Wednesday, accepting September 15. SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS and get ready for the FALL THRIFT SALE.

"ME MY CHURCH AND THE PANDEMIC"

This church project is for the archives and the church as a whole to read: stories, poems, pictures. I have received one story and a picture so far. I need more of your stories, poems or pictures. The picture I have is the Do We Now Our Plague of Apparel. Mask up. It is how we coped with the many masks we have to have. Please have these in by August 15, or email me pidc560@qmail.com or snail mail Patty Chartrand, 18 Van Buren Ave, Castleton, NY 12033.

HERE ARE OUR NEWEST HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES



Eddy Downer
Kirsten and Edward
Downer are the
proud parents of Eddy who
is graduating from
Columbia High
School. He'll be attending
the University at Buffalo in
the fall to study Computer
Science. Eddy enjoyed
playing soccer for both
Columbia and the East
Greenbush Soccer

Club. He was named a Suburban Council All Star two years in a row. His favorite memory from church is visiting NYC with the Confirmation Class and hanging out with George. His grandparents, Ian and Valerie Hodge and Edward and Patricia Downer are very proud of all his accomplishments.

Henry Jared Klee of East Greenbush, NY, son of proud parents Terry and Gary Klee, received a Bachelor of Science with great distinction in civil engineering, honors program, from Clarkson University in May. Henry will be working at Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico.



Adding to the Klee family celebration, Henry's brother, Marshall Klee, received his Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of New Mexico in December 2020. Marshall continues to work for Sandia Laboratories in New Mexico.

Grace Templeton, daughter of Hugh & Margaret Templeton, graduated from HVCC (Hudson Valley Community College) with AAS (Associate in Applied Science) degree in Entrepreneurship. She will be attending Syracuse University in the fall pursuing a BS (Bachelor of Science) degree in Communications. Her favorite memories are of all the activities with the Youth Group, Skye Farm, being a part of the Christmas shows, and the friendships she made at church.





Hunter Jack Caola graduated on May 14th from LaSalle Institute in Troy, NY. Hunter played many sports including 14 years of dedication to ice hockey. In the fall he will attend Miami University of Oxford, Ohio where he will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in the Farmer School of Business. Hunter's favorite memory of growing up in the FUMCEG was the trip to NYC with his Confirmation Class. He also enjoyed volunteering as a Crew Leader at Vacation Bible School for several sessions. His parent's favorite church memory was when Hunter sang in the cherub choir as a three-year-old.

Zachary Buono The son of Heidi and Mike Buono, Zachary joined with his siblings Leah and Patrick to celebrate his graduation from the University at Albany, State University of New York in May 2021. He worked hard and graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Public Health. He has already put some of his education to work by serving an internship related to COVID. He is now working on plans for the near future which may include a move to the West coast to work in his area of nutrition and public health.



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MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSION

Looking for hands to make Afghans/throws/pillows for a new church service project.



These new items will be given to Albany County S.H.I.P. (Sheriff's Homeless Improvement Program) for a homemade touch. This recently started program gives released inmates a temporary place to stay while searching for a home and job. Colorful and comfy things of their own to take with them, will help them feel at home. Knowing they have been made by hand for them is an important part of their growing experience.

If you knit, crochet, sew, or can cut and tie knots! we can use your hands. Meet together at the church or do some at home with family and friends. Materials and instructions can be supplied to you. 48"x48" will be the standard size. Interested in learning to knit or crochet? We will teach you.

Our first get togethers will be Tuesday morning 10:00 am **July 20** and Thursday night 6:30 pm **July 22** .

It would be helpful, but not necessary, for you to contact the church office if you will join us. If you wish to do a "no sew" throw, we may give you the <u>fleece fabric to go</u> if that is needed.

You can email me at aleta.schweigert@gmail.com Hope to see you back soon.

YOU'RE INVITED TO 2021 MISSION u!

That lower case "u" is not a typo. It's the name of the mission related program that happens just about this time each year, often up at Silver Bay Conference and Retreat Center on Lake George. It's a little different this year.

There's far more here than meets the eye! That's this year's theme for this online, virtual study program that goes from 7 p.m. Thursday, **July 22** and ends at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 24, 2021. You - women, men and older youth are invited to join in this special time of worship, learning, friendships, and fun!

There are three different studies to choose from that will make up this year's There's Far More Here program. They are all detailed on the Upper New York UMW website. Go to: https://unyumw.wixsite.com/website for more information and to register. Check your schedule today as the registration deadline for Mission u 2021 is **July 5.**

Than Meets the Eye Mission u 2021

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! SENIOR LUNCH HAS RETURNED



On July 28, 2021 the Membership Committee is holding a first post-COVID Senior Lunch. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. We will gather in Fellowship Hall where there is air conditioning for your comfort. Don't miss this delicious event. Phone calls will be made so we can have a head count. If you do not get a phone call and wish to attend please call the church office at 518-477-9693.

CHRIST CHURCH PORTLAND

How is this for a news story from a **Reconciling Congregation**. "Christ UMC secures \$5.4 million grant... In the next year, expect to see bulldozers, excavators and more construction equipment working on the vacant lots owned by - and adiacent to — Christ United Methodist Church Cedar Mill in Portland [Oregon] as the church builds the first-of-its-kind, affordable housing project for LGBTQ+ senior citizens in the community."



FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

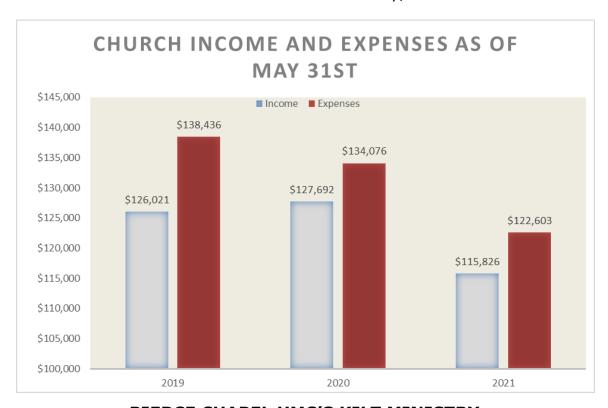
Thank you for your continued support of the First United Methodist Church in East Greenbush. We are so grateful that your giving has continued even though we have not been able to worship together in person much this past year. Without your support, we would not be able to start new ministries this past year (such as livestreaming our services) or restarting programs we've had before (such as Vacation Bible School). Your continued giving, along with the Payroll Protection Program Loan we received last year, allowed our church to continue its work.

Below is a chart explaining where our church finances are as of May 31st compared to where we were on May 31st in 2020 and 2019. So far this year, we have received less income but also have spent less money.

As we start a more "normal" summer with outdoor activities, gatherings, and vacations, please continue to keep our church in your prayers. Your continued support will allow us to keep the wonderful ministries we have and grow new ones. We are also grateful that many members have been giving online. Online giving is available at http://www.fumceg.org or through the GivePlus App.

We are so grateful that our fellowship has continued during this difficult year. Thank you all so much for your generous giving.





PIERCE CHAPEL UMC'S KILT MINISTRY

"Pierce Chapel UMC's Knights in Leadership Training (KILT) program is a fellowship and leadership ministry for high school males. Begun seven years ago by church member Stephen Childers, it's designed to help young men—all in ninth through twelfth grades—develop deep friendships with each other and strong foundations of faith in Christ. ... KILT members can earn awards for regular meeting attendance and volunteer service. After earning 1,200 points, they're awarded a kilt. More points can earn them a harp pin, a thistle pin, a rampant lion pin, and a Celtic cross belt and buckle. A sporran is awarded to distinguished KILT members – those who earn 1,200 points or more – upon high school graduation."



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SOME OF THE LATEST FROM MISSIONS

Mark Your Calendar -- Two Important Dates



October 17 We will hold both a 3.2 mile walk and a 1 mile walk. One quarter of donations raised from the Hunger Crop Walk is directed to the Anchor Food Pantry in Castleton. The rest supports Church World Service programs that serve vulnerable populations in the United States and across the world. You can register to walk or make a donation Please mark **October 17** on your calendar for the **Castleton Hunger Crop Walk**. to support a walker or the team at https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/first-united-

methodist-church-of-east-greenbush.

September 26 We will be recycling Styrofoam, batteries and prescription pill bottles. Batteries should not be corroded, and prescription pill bottles should be clean, with labels removed. Batteries and prescription pill bottles may also be deposited in their collection bins in the church lobby at any time.



Joseph's House Homeless Outreach Van

Thank you to the volunteers who signed up to provide lunches on Mondays. We are looking for volunteers to cover several Mondays in July and August. If you can sign up to prepare and deliver 17 sandwiches to the shelter for distribution, along with vegetables or potato chips and a dessert, please contact Kevin Conley (email: e.kevin.conley@gmail.com; phone: 518-253-4907). Assistance with delivering lunches to the Joseph's House administrative offices is available, if needed, and you can be reimbursed for purchased food.

Wonderful and Problematic Plastic

Plastic is lightweight, inexpensive to produce and has amazing properties of elasticity, yet it is



an environmental disaster. Less than 10% of plastic is recycled. The rest piles up in landfills, is burned or dumped into the ocean. A four minute version of The Story of Plastic (https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-plastic-animation/) describes the problem succinctly. What can you do? You can join the

movement to choose reusable over single-use items and start planning for a <u>Plastic Free</u> <u>July (https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/)</u>.

hygiene items, will be stored in Endwell before delivery



REDBIRD SHOEBOXES EN ROUTE

Our fifty RedBird Shoeboxes donated during Change the World in May were picked up in June by Dave Alexander from the Endwell United Methodist Church, located near Binghamton, NY. Dave and his wife expressed their appreciation for our support of the RedBird Mission. The shoeboxes, filled with personal

to Beverly, Kentucky in December. We thank everyone who participated in the Mission outreach.

DID YOU EVER CHECK ----?

"I used to have an account at the XYZ Bank, but I long ago forgot about it. Now that bank is gone. What happened to my money?" Those same words opened an article that appeared in The Church Bell in 2018. Here, with just a little updating, is the rest of that article.

"Banks, insurance companies, corporations and the courts are among the many organizations required by law to report dormant accounts to the State Comptroller." Yes, that is where the money is, in the Office of the New York State Comptroller, Office of Unclaimed Funds. In fact, in Rensselaer County alone there are over 54,000 dormant accounts worth over 26 million dollars. Take a few minutes and check the Comptroller's website at http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/. Click on the "Search Now" button and go to work. Try your name and also try the name(s) of any deceased members of your household.



A random check of a few names in our church family reveals several members, again in 2021, have money waiting for them.

LYNN MINDERMAN SENDS NEWS

Here is part of a letter dated June 14, 2021, from Lynn Minderman of the Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections:

Dear Friends,

I will be able to return to Qholaqhoe in late August as the borders will have opened, I am fully vaccinated, there are no travel restrictions in South Africa and Lesotho.



I am pleased that both QMC education programs have continued to do well despite the pandemic, thanks to our in-country support from friends in Qholaqhoe and the never flagging interest of our sponsors and donors.

I will return from this work trip in September. Newsletter and website updates, photos, interviews with students, families, and community members will be coming your way immediately following my return. . . .

Thank you all for your support and trust for the past twelve years. These children are receiving an education and a path for a healthier and more productive life.

Lynn Minderman

The complete letter is posted on our church website at https://fumceg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/QMC.pdf

CAMPFIRE HYMN SING-A-LONG

Save these dates...**Thursdays, July 8...August 5 and 19...and September 2nd** and come to the Campfire Hymn Sing-A-Long. We will start at 7:00 p m at the fire pit near the garage. Bring:

A love of hymns and camp songs, Maybe a cup of coffee, A chair or blanket to sit upon

A desire to join your voice with others singing favorite hymns and camp songs

A willingness to share a story about your favorite hymn or lead a camp song, only if you want

An instrument to play along with Jackie

All are welcome...children can stay to sing or play on the playground while we enjoy the campfire and our singing community.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE CAMPFIRE

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UMCOR SCHOOL KITS

Summer is here, and even as summer vacation is about to begin, the inevitable back to school shopping will begin before we know it. As we prepare to send children back to school in September, the Missions Committee would like you to consider purchasing a few extra school supplies to support others who may need assistance. In many areas, children lack access to books and essential school supplies. Classes are held in inadequate buildings. School kits may be some children's only educational resource.

A list of items to be included in each "School Kit" can be found below, and more information can be found at: https://umcmission.org/umcor-school-kit/. Our Missions Team will setup a drop off container at the Office/TSL Entrance to the church and coordinate the shipping of the completed kits. We will be collecting the School Kits through **Sunday, August 29**.



Assembly Instructions for the kits. There is a very short, neat "how to" video at the link above.

- · Stack all paper items on top of each other.
- · Place all loose items on top of paper.
- · Place kit inside of re-sealable bag and seal.

Please keep these points in mind:

Homemade or purchased cloth tote bags are no longer being accepted.

All items must be new.

Please do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.

Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

NOW, here is what you need for each kit:

One pair blunt scissors

Round tip only No plastic scissors

One box of 24 crayons

Only 24 count boxes are accepted

Three one-subject notebooks

No marble composition books No 3 or 5—subject notebooks

One pack of loose-leaf paper

100-200 page packets are acceptable Wide or college rule accepted

- One hand-held pencil sharpener
 - 1 inch or longer Remove from packaging
- One ruler

12 inches or 30 centimeters long Sturdy or flexible material accepted

- Six unsharpened pencils
- One eraser

Two inches or larger

One two-gallon re-sealable plastic

CORNERSTONE CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS



Mark your calendar now for the fall Cornerstone Campus Ministry hybrid in-person and online Fundraiser. The program will be held at First Lutheran Church on Wednesday, **September 22.** Watch for details.

Cornerstone Campus Ministry is currently expecting to have their first Food & Faith gathering in late August. For a number of years, we have been providing the meal and program for that first meeting of the new semester. Stay tuned for details as the date nears to see where you can be a part of that program.

STILL A CHANCE FOR SUMMER CAMP



The Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministry is excited to share their 2021 summer camp and retreat programs with you! Summer camp provides endless laughter, meaningful worship, and important friendships. Retreats provide a unique experience in a beautiful setting. There is still time to register for some programs.

Click on this link https://campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2021/ to quickly browse this summer's programs by site.