



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2021

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ Early Informal Service
8:30am - Outdoor Chapel
weather permitting
- ◆ Regular Service 9:30 am
 - ◆ Sunday School will
resume September 12
10:45 a.m.—11:45 am

We are on the Web:

www.fumceg.org and
[www.facebook.com/
FUMCEG](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCEG)

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:

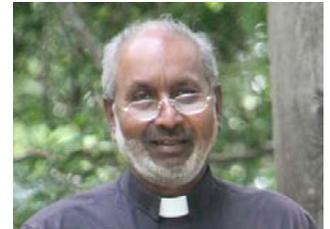
editor@fumceg.org

Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor

Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

All of us remember the story of the sword in the stone. King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table? The story has many sides. Most of us remember the part about young Arthur, who was just a servant in the courts, who was able to pull an amazing historic sword from a stone where it was firmly embedded. The inscription to the sword said that only the person meant to be the future king would be able to remove the sword. That person would be a person of special nature and character. While others, particularly in high positions, grasped and pulled in vain, those who were far more worthy, Arthur, in a time of dire need, simply grasped the handle and pulled it suddenly and easily from its resting place. From then on, Arthur would be hailed as king of all England. A wise king, he not only knighted those with hearts loyal to the kingdom, but he created what was called the "round table," a kind of circle of equality. The knights together would contribute to the decisions of the kingdom, its safety, and its success. The sword was a "discerning" sword, a judging sword. It could "mystically" discern the heart of he who grasped its handle and knew who would be worthy. In Arthur's day, and even today, persons considered worthy are "knighted" by touching a sword to either side of their shoulders. This gesture signifies that the person appointed has been discerned to be of true character and nature and will be loyal to the kingdom. It is an honor to be knighted.



In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Apostle Paul (6: 10-20), describes the vision of a Christian "knight," one who has put on the armor of God, belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, and shoes that proclaim a gospel of peace—one who holds a shield of faith, wears a helmet of salvation, and wields the sword of the Spirit (the word of God).

Christians are spiritual knights to the worthy and true spiritual king, Jesus the Christ. This imagery is continued in a sense in the gospel of John, in which Jesus describes himself as the Son of Man, and again the Bread of life. While most refuse to recognize him as the rightful "king," Jesus' inner 12 remain faithful to their call. Jesus asks the 12 if they too will fall away from following him. Simon Peter replies, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe

(Continued on page 2)

A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

and know that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6: 67-68).

Jesus has the words of eternal life. The word for words here is used in the NT to show the hearing of spiritual words, living words of faith that affect a disciple, that is, the "voice" of God. It is commonly used to show times when the "Lord speaks the living word to in-birth faith," according to Strong's Lexicon (4877). Spiritual "hearing" goes along with the divine infusion of faith within a listener. The words of Christ are an auditory vehicle. What Peter is saying is that Jesus' voice, his message, his articulation of scripture, his divine and prophetic voice itself is witness to who he is as the Holy One of God. Jesus himself is the discerning sword of truth. And in listening to his voice, one who has "ears to hear" can and will discern the Truth of God through him. And He will in turn as a double-edged sword will discern the hearts of others and know who has faith and who does not. Listen to the word of apostle John (5:24): "*Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.*" Whether the Torah stones of David, the Hair of Solomon, or the



Sword of the Spirit, the power of God and the voice of God through these vehicles is the force that judges and instills faith in the hearts of people. And the greatest of these is Christ. This is a critical turning point in Jesus' ministry. Many of his disciples walked away from him after he began proclaiming his identity in earnest. But his inner twelve remained steadfast and loyal. These are his "so to speak" spiritual knights. Led by apostle Peter, the spokesperson for the

group, they would understand the power of Jesus' voice, the way he re-interpreted the scriptures, the way his voice could both heal the sick and sear like a knife into the arguments and the hearts of those who were hypocritical. Like a Roman gladius (sword), which could pierce even the toughest armor, Jesus' voice, his words of truth, his identity and mission, they knew, was of divine origin. And he had appointed them to wield test the same "sword of discernment" as apostles, spiritually "knighted" by the Holy Spirit, in their mission to the world to heal, proclaim, and make disciples. Through the words and Word of Jesus, spread by the apostles or chosen "knights of the Spirit," Jesus' kingdom would grow and flourish. The twelve were in a sense Jesus' "round table." Led by the Holy Spirit, the future round table would be made up of key disciples and apostles, who would take Jesus' gospel message of God's love, redemption and God's call for repentance and reconciliation to the entire world.

Knighted and prepared, as Apostle Paul described they would prepare to battle the forces that would trip them up along the way, both spiritual and physical, and they would both heal and judge hearts as Jesus prepared them to do. The result was the growth of the church in numbers too great to count! Today, we too are called to continue Jesus' mission to the world from wherever we are in life. We too are called to be knights, bound as St. Paul described in the armor of Christ and wielding the spiritual sword of discernment, so that we can bestow Christ's healing love and forgiving mercy upon all who come to him. Our world still is filled with all kinds of foes and dangers. We need the words of Christ, the Spirit of Christ, the power of Christ among us and within us to withstand the forces that would betray us. Forces of dissension, war, hatred, envy, anger, illness and death, depression, guilt and shame, oppression. And there are many more to battle. Your sword of Christ, your armor and shield of faith, will protect you and

(Continued on page 3)

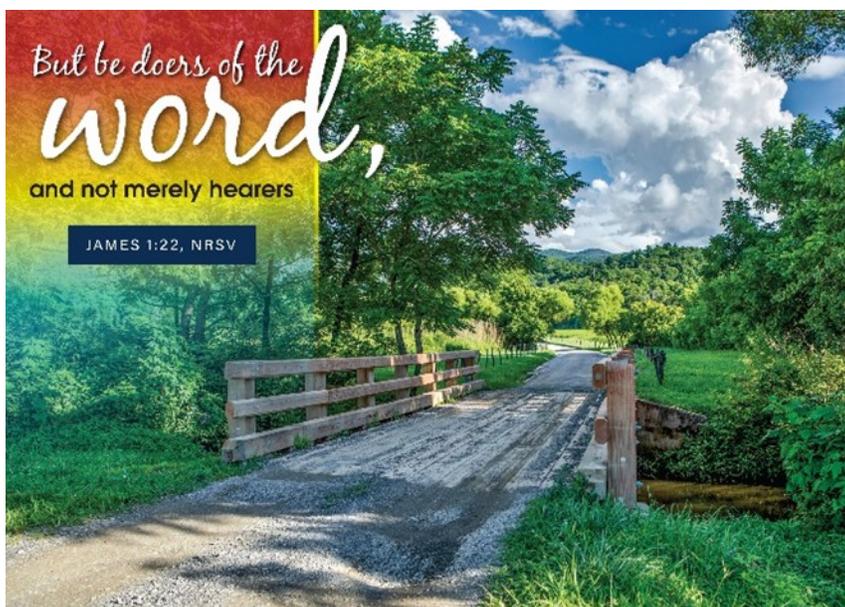
THE BELL is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780. September, 2021, Volume 23, Issue 8. G. Herrick, **Editor**; S. Samuel, G. Welkley, **Editing Team**; J. Van Ornam, **Proofreader**; K. Van Buren, B. Van Ornam, **Production Team**; R. Reineke, **Photographer**; **The Church Staff**: Rev. Sundar R. Samuel, **Pastor**; Amanda Trainor, **Director of Children's Christian Education**; Amber Telford, **Youth Leader (on leave)**; Laura Clark; **interim 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.**

(Continued from page 2)

defend you from all of these and more and will help you to discern the Truth amidst the turmoil of today's world events. When you are feeling blown about by the winds of change and whipped about by the storms of life, be they spiritual or physical, just remember that you are standing on the rock of truth, a Knight of the True King Christ, clothed in his glory and girded up with his strength. You stand amidst every storm of life sturdy and solid holding up high your sword of Christ. You hear his voice. You see his face. You know his mission. You proclaim his message. You will not be moved. The world is waiting. Jesus is waiting. Go and heal the world. Reconcile the world through your love, acceptance and service. Hope to see you in person real soon at one of our church services.

Blessings on you and your families today and always. . . *Pastor Sundar*

SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER



Henry John Deutschendorf Jr. would have been at home in this picture. He often wrote about scenes like this. Sometime he even sang about them.

Take a good look. Soon the leaves will start to turn to red and orange colors and the grass will get brownish tinges. Fall arrives September 22. A good date to reread the words in the upper corner of the picture.

"Now, how can I do that?"

Oh yes, Henry John Deutschendorf Jr. is better known as John Denver.

September 5 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost (Holy Communion this month will be celebrated on both this date, **September 5** and on **September 19**)
September 6 & 15 – Our Jewish friends begin celebrations of Rosh Hashanah on the 6th and Yom Kippur on the 15th.

September 12 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost **September 15** through **October 15** is designated as **Hispanic Heritage Month** in The United Methodist Church, giving local congregations the opportunity to celebrate the importance and contributions of the Hispanic culture in worship.

September 19 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost Confirmation and Holy Communion at our 9:30 service. New members will also be received at this service. Coffee Hour to follow.

September 26 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost Joy of Creation Sunday – check the article in the Missions section on page 11 of this issue of The BELL for more information about "Joy of Creation Sunday".

Pastor Sundar is scheduled to preach each of the Sundays in September. Turn to page 7 for the Lectionary for the month of September.

SPECIAL GREETINGS

To start the new fall season we have invited our former pastors and other individuals who have been part of our church family and then gone into ministry to send a note of greeting to share with "today's" church family.

Wayne Albertson grew up in our community. He graduated from Columbia High School in 1963 and continued his education at Michigan State University, Methodist Theological School in Ohio and Princeton Theological University. He served pastorates in West Ohio Conference until his retirement in 2011.

Dear Members & Friends of EGFUMC -

August 7, 2021; "Raining"

It has been a warm privilege these last sixteen or so months to "attend" worship in East Greenbush online. I was heartened to see the sanctuary of my youth, hear the music, tend to the liturgy and preaching, and see those surnames scroll by whom I am sure are descended from persons I knew in the mid-20th century. I was also able to enjoy the worship services of several former students who are now clergy and manifesting a maturity in the calling they were living into when I had them in a college classroom. The gift of Zoom!

Fern and I live in the Twin Cities of Minnesota where life has been a challenge due to the pandemic, to the political lies and polarizations of our age, to living about four miles from where George Floyd was killed (and having our son and family living even closer), and being in the same area where the General Conference of our denomination was on and off while we sort out the potential process of a division. We were not in our family's houses and did not touch them, nor they us, for over a year until we were all vaccinated. We were able to go for hikes together on the wide paths of local parks and did (as good Minnesotans) even picnic outside in cold weather for a birthday or general principles.

I do not know the future, but these are my prayers: gratitude that EGFUMC (& our own Richfield UMC) are Reconciling congregations; that we can take the pain of our racial divisions as a divine call for renewing our personal and societal relationships; that we may not be idolatrous about our political or moral positions, but abide in the sensitivity and faithfulness of Jesus; and know no justice that is separated from an empathy for those involved. I wish you a stability of pace and perspective in These Days; and Be Serene -

Wayne Albertson

6326 12th Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
wfalbertson@gmail.com



Russell D. Smith was pastor of our church from 1978 to 1983

Hello!

Greetings from the Smiths! We have had some changes in our lifestyle/health situations and have moved from our retirement home into an assisted living facility! We are now at Brookdale Niskayuna which is near our older daughter, Judy. We think of you folks often and have on occasion watched your Sunday morning service online! Always nice to see new faces and names!

Russell Smith

Russell and Joyce Smith
1786 Union St.
Niskayuna, NY 12309

Continued from page 4



Denise Stringer (Dillon) was assistant pastor from 1984 to 1985

My body doesn't allow me to contribute to the church any longer, except with my presence, when I can be there, and with financial support for missions. Very few folks would remember me, I believe; though I will remember a few people from the congregation.

One gentleman of the congregation impressed me with good advice. He admonished me to disguise my body in a clerical robe, when preaching or leading worship, to better help the men focus on worship. Although I can't tell you who this man was, I can say that I followed his advice diligently until my retirement.

A woman of the church also served as an elected official to her Town Council. She warned me to stay out of politics at any level. I also followed this good advice.

First UMC of East Greenbush has been a strong church, at least since its original move to the current "pasture." I will never forget being amazed by all the dead flies during the summer. The property had apparently served as a cow pasture before it became the site of Methodist worship, fellowship, and learning.

As our denomination approaches the dividing line, I join you in mourning. 21st Century faith requires us to reject exclusive standards that deny anyone a place among those being redeemed. Our Master Teacher, Jesus from Nazareth, refused to accept the worn social values of His day. He preferred to risk His life to include people in His vision of God's reign among us.

Jesus' preference for eating with the socially "unacceptable" shows the way forward for the Church in our time. This current division among the followers of Jesus can be overcome. Jesus' faith, teaching, and practice challenge contemporary disciples of Jesus to do as He did.

Jesus pursued two overarching goals. First, He trained leaders for a new era of faithfulness. Second, Jesus spent time with people whom decent people avoided. The love that Jesus practiced in His relationships with tax collectors, farmers, and prostitutes shows the Way forward in the midst of social and moral conflict.

In the 21st Century, disciples of Jesus break social norms. We spend ourselves and our resources to identify people who most need unselfish love. Then we share our lives with them.

Still with you in the faith of Jesus,

Denise Stringer (Dillon)



Garry W. Campbell was pastor of our church from 2000 to 2003. Medical issues have kept him from responding to our invitation, but he would love to hear from you. You can send your greetings to:

Rev. Garry Campbell
New Horizons
400 Hemenway Street, Apt 265

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

Henry C. Frueh was pastor of our church from 2003 to 2006.

Greetings to Pastor Sundar and Friends of East Greenbush UMC!

The BELL always evokes warm memories of friends, companions in Christ and joyous ministry from 2003 to 2006. ...Yet also sadness as I note the passing of dear ones, and concern for those in need of support and prayer.

A brief update: Retirement from Hospice chaplaincy in 2016 made old dreams possible and created new ones. My wife, Janice, and I have spent considerable time in a small travel trailer RV experiencing the wider country, hiking many miles of trails and mountains, meeting fascinating people, and letting the open road be our guide and teacher. We retain our home base in nearby downtown Troy, a wonderfully vibrant city.

Maine receives an outsized share of our time thanks to two fun grandchildren, Noah (8) and Eleanor (6) and their parents Abby (my daughter) and Jeremy. Son Sam works at his dream job in Dayton Ohio.

Desiring to be of continued use to this world, in 2019-2020 I was trained as a Spiritual Director, and find fulfillment in a private practice of accompanying people through their experiences and deepest desires for the Holy in their lives.

And what a need for the Holy we have! Like you, I long for a return to worry-free dinners out, family reunions, worship services as we knew them, a concert or movie out. But if all we do is "return to normal," we'll squander an opportunity. For "normal" in pre-Covid times included the rise of white supremacy, and other blatant intolerances, absolute political dysfunction, increasing disparity between wealthy and poor, a resort to violence and warfare as "solutions," and a baffling disregard for a planet barreling toward environmental catastrophe.

This irksome pandemic offers the opportunity for slowing down, reflecting, embracing God – so that we may awaken to the deep change of God's Peaceable Kingdom that Jesus embodied and the Holy Spirit empowers. FUMC is blessed to be a caring community of gifted and passionate people. May you be blessed by God's grace in this unfolding calling!

Blessings and Peace,

Henry Frueh

henryfrueh@gmail.com

149 2nd Street, Apt 2F

Troy NY 12180

Mari J. Clark was pastor of our church from 2006 to 2009.

Hi Everyone

I wish I had some exciting news to share with you, but I'm afraid COVID-19 has kept us locked down over this past year and a half. Fortunately we did make a break for it this summer and spent some time in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. In the meantime, I have been learning to paint and knit and generally amuse myself with crossword puzzles. Exciting...right? Andy and I take long walks at night and marvel at the beautiful sunsets over Lake Champlain when we are lucky enough to catch them. Like most of you, we long for a return to "normal" and to get back to going out to movies, watching UVM basketball games, eating at indoor restaurants and hanging out with a gang of people. I miss all of you and hope you are feeling blessed and healthy. Andy and I send our love.

Mari and Andrew Clark

370 Farrell Street, Unit 313

South Burlington VT 05403-4433

802-431-3099.

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER



September 5 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 12 Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 19 Proverbs 31:10-31; Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 26 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starting Sunday, **September 12** Sunday School will be welcoming kids back for the 2021-2022 year, we will be hosting a bring your own brunch welcome back picnic. Sunday School will be held after church from 10:45-11:45. When indoors we ask that all children wear masks, we will be following the same guidance from our local school districts. We are planning on bringing back many of our old traditions this year as well as some new one's. Many more details on this **to follow via email.**



There will be a confirmation class starting this Fall, class will generally be held the first and third Sunday of the month after Sunday School from 12:00-1:00. The 2020-2021 students are Kathryn and Maria Myers and they will be confirmed on **September 19** during the regular 9:30 service.

We are in desperate need of volunteers for Sunday School and Confirmation! Volunteers don't have to sign up for an entire year, many of our volunteers in the past have signed up for a few classes.

If you are interested in volunteering or registering your child for Sunday School or Confirmation, please email Amanda Trainor at egchristianedfumc@gmail.com.

God bless,
Amanda Trainor

UMC YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



Hi there! My name is Laura Clark and I will be serving as your Youth Leader while Amber is on maternity leave. I currently serve as your Albany District Coordinator for Youth Ministry and work with teens of the Upper NY Conference Council on Youth Ministry.

I am working on putting together some exciting opportunities, beginning mid-September. I am exploring possible mission opportunities, fellowship, and I'm always on the lookout for some cool new games!

I will be connecting with youth, grades 6-12, and families during the first few weeks of September. If you would like to connect with me in the meantime, my phone is 518-396-7778, and my email is llc1129@yahoo.com

I'm looking forward to meeting each of you!

Capital Area Council of Churches announces an
Ecumenical Service Remembering 9/11 on **Sunday, September 12, 2021** at
 3:00 pm at the Delmar Presbyterian Church, also on Facebook Live. Details at
www.capareacc.org.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

THRIFT SALE – WITH SOME CHANGES

Thrift Sale is **September 24**: 5:00 pm -8:00 pm and **September 25** (Bag Day) 9:00 am-noon. There will be NO SNACK BAR. We are doing things a little differently.

1. Please wear a mask.
2. Every donation needs to be here by 9/22, not later. Everyone PLEASE use the Hayes Road entrance to deliver the items for the sale. Please, no one goes through the building.
3. We cannot handle large furniture - toys should be clean and in one piece – no computers and no old TV's.
4. We do want books, DVD's, household items, clothing: men's, women's and children's; linens, shoes, and handbags.
5. We are using limited space: only two classrooms and the Fellowship Hall.
6. Days of the sale we are using the main entrance by the sanctuary.



There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer. We will need help with everything and if you can transport leftovers to the missions, please let us know. Thank you in advance.

The **next UMW meeting** will be **September 13** at 7:00 pm in the choir room. We will be finalizing anything on the Thrift Sale and discussing the Brooks Barbecue. All women of the church are invited to attend.

SOME QUESTIONS HEARD AROUND CHURCH THIS MONTH

- *What DOES the UMW do with clothes that are not sold at the Thrift Sale?*
- *To attend our Sunday School, does a child's parents need to be United Methodists?*
- *I don't go to church much, I not even sure I'm a Christian. Can I participate in the Holy Communion service?*



The BELL Team will try to get answers for your questions. You can also check out these sources for answers. For questions about The United Methodist Church in general, go to <https://www.umc.org/en/ask-the-umc-form>. Some questions can be answered at <https://chuckknowschurch.com/> where you will get a video response.

Do you have a question you would like to see answered in The BELL? Email it to editor@fumceg.org and please put "Church Question" on the subject line. Now, here is the answer to one of the questions asked above:

Question: *What DOES the UMW do with clothes that are not sold at the Thrift Sale?*

Answer: The clothes, housewares, shoes, linens, handbags all go to the City Mission on South Pearl Street. They set up apartments for the shelter people. - *Patty Chartrand*

TOO LATE FOR THE SUMMER BELL, BUT ON TIME FOR TOMORROW!



Emily Clark is a 2021 Graduate from Averill Park CSD. Emily is graduating with a Regents with advanced designation and honors, mastery in mathematics and science, and an inductee into the National Honor Society. Emily has been an active member of our church, the Albany District Youth leadership, and has served on the Conference Council of Youth Ministry (CCYM) for 4 years. She has served as a committee chairperson for 2 years, and participated in the 2019-2020 NEJ Mission of Peace to India. Emily is graduating high school with 17 college credits. She will attend HVCC in the fall with a major in Biotechnology. Following graduation from HVCC, Emily plans to go into the Peace Corp, then finish her education with a goal of pursuing a career in pharmaceuticals.

2020 MISSION OF PEACE TO INDIA

My name is Emily Clark, I am a member of the FUMC of East Greenbush and I went on the 2020 Mission of Peace to India. There were sixteen youths that went on the trip from all over the Northeast as well as adults from the NEJ (Northeast Jurisdiction) and from India.

On the trip we went to various places to simply see the country and experience how different people live their lives. We went to churches, an interfaith center, a software company's campus, restaurants, Buddhist and Hindu temples, a park, orphanages, schools, hospitals, homes, factories, stores, mosques, the Gandhi memorial, and a slum. We also had the privilege of visiting one of India's great wonders, the Taj Mahal. We saw the people and the culture first hand. The world is so much bigger and broader than imaginable and my eyes were opened to that possibility by just experiencing a glimpse of a different world. A world where Christians are in the minority and live in fear, where hospitality is more important than money, and where nobody is trying to keep up the Jones'.



The Mission of Peace to India 2020's goal is to learn, as peacemakers, how to create a common ground while consciously breaking unconscious biases. Using Christ as our example, we establish worldwide connections and loving friendships. I'm so blessed for the opportunity I had and encourage all to travel places and to talk to people unfamiliar to them to see this broader, bigger world I have had just a taste of.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Congratulations to our Youth Leader! Amber and Donald Telford welcomed Adelee Jean to our world on August 3. Amber will be on leave until mid-October. We wish their new family blessings and much happiness.

We are pleased to welcome Laura Clark as the substitute Youth Leader. She will begin working with our youth on August 23. Laura will be reaching out to families and youth in the near future.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES



Did we raise the Sanctuary roof? NO we just replaced it! On August 4, a contractor replaced the roof on the Sanctuary. Over the past several years we had been experiencing leaks as well as having shingles from the roof blown off during heavy winds. Thanks to the generous donations from former members remembering the Church in their wills we were able to utilize these bequest funds to cover the costs involved. The remaining roofs of the Church are also reaching the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced. That is a much more expensive undertaking and will require planning unless a generous benefactor or two steps

SEPTEMBER 17 COFFEE HOUSE ON THE STEPS OF FELLOWSHIP HALL

We are planning our Back to School Coffee House for Friday night, **September 17** on the steps of Fellowship Hall. With the reemergence of COVID and the continued need for need for outdoor venues, we hope that by starting at 6:30 pm, we will end at 8:00'ish with enough outdoor lighting for entertainers to perform. Coffee and delicious goodies will be available. Bring your own chair or blanket. If possible, bring food to donate to local food pantries and a contribution for our Family Assistance Ministry Fund. Rain date is Saturday night the 18th of September. Looking forward to seeing you in September.



LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?

Community Caregivers, a non for profit agency, is looking for volunteers and folks we can help, in Rensselaer County.

We pair volunteers with folks in the community, to provide friendly home visits and house calls, transportation to appointments, help with light housekeeping, and grocery/supply shopping. An hour or two a week is all it takes!

The volunteer orientation is a simple application and we provide online training and vetting.



Our services are free and open to anyone in the community who could use an extra hand. Monthly orientations take place often. Please call Heidi Buono at (518) 366-9173 or email at heidi@communitycaregivers.org if you are interested. Thank you so much !

Heidi Buono, MSW
 Service Coordinator, Rensselaer County
 Community Caregivers
 2021 Western Ave, Suite 104
 Albany, NY 12203

Office: (518)456-2898
 Work Cellphone: (518)366-9173
 Fax: (518)456-2895

PLANNING CHURCH FINANCES FOR 2022



The Finance Committee is asking that budget requests for 2022 be submitted by **September 30**. You can email them to the chair at colleenmrumsey@gmail.com or drop them off in the Finance Committee mailbox in the church office. If you are a ministry chair, team leader, or employee and are spending money on behalf of a committee or ministry, you may need to submit a request for 2022. People who need information about past income and expense numbers to help prepare their request for next year should contact the Finance Committee chair at the email listed above.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks,

Colleen Rumsey, Chair

SOME OF THE LATEST FROM MISSIONS JOY OF CREATION SUNDAY

From the earliest days, humankind has celebrated creation during the harvest season. In the 9:30 am service on **September 26**, through readings, prayers and the Pastor's message, we will celebrate all that God has created and consider what it means for us as stewards of the earth.

GLASS RECYCLING

Start saving your clear glass jars and bottles. Why? You can enable 100% of your glass jars and bottles to be recycled. Why is this big news? Because most of the glass that you now put into single-stream recycling ends up in a landfill. In fact, only 33% of glass in the US is recycled. This despite the fact that the technical know-how to recycle glass exists - Germany, Netherlands and other European countries recycle 90% of their glass - and processed, recycled glass helps manufacturers reduce energy costs and improve quality when making new glass.



How can you make sure that all of your clear (no green, brown or other tint) glass jars and bottles are recycled? **Bring clear, clean (no metal rings or caps, or plastic labels but paper labels okay) glass jars and bottles (no window glass, etc) to Honest Weight Food Co-Op (HW) (100 Watervliet Ave, Albany, NY).** Zero Waste Capital District (ZWCD) and HW have joined to overcome two traditional barriers--contamination of the glass and transport to a processing facility. HW helps to make sure the glass is clean and metal free. As a pilot, ZWCD initially transported the glass to TOMRA Recycling Company, Inc. in Rotterdam, but now TOMRA has provided a bin and will pick up the glass from HW. **If you can't bring the glass to HW, bring it on September 26 when we have our next Recycling Event.**

(Source: Why Glass Recycling in the US is Broken,

<https://cen.acs.org/materials/inorganic-chemistry/glass-recycling-US-broken/97/i6>)

SEPTEMBER 26TH RECYCLING EVENT

Our next recycling event will be the half hour before and after the 9:30 am service on **September 26**. **Batteries** must be clean. If they are leaking or corroded, please throw them in the garbage. **Styrofoam** must be clean with tape and staples removed. Styrofoam used for packaging is accepted, but that used for food or drink products is not. Peanuts are accepted. Note that some packing and peanuts look similar to Styrofoam but are a different type of plastic material that is not able to be recycled. Please check questionable material with us when you bring it on the 26th.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Prescription bottles that we collect will be sent to developing countries. Acceptable collection items include both large and small prescription bottles, with and without secure caps (child-resistant). We are not collecting bottles for over the counter medicines. Please remove the labels, leaving no glue or residue, wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap, rinse and dry thoroughly and replace the lids. If you cannot remove the label, please place the bottle in single-stream recycling. If you have unused meds, the DEA announces that it will hold a National Prescription Drug Take Back on Saturday, October 23 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The collection sites have not been announced. We will list them in our church bulletins in October.

FAITH COMMUNITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Find out what local faith communities are doing about climate change and what you can do to help. Check us out at www.capitalcreationcare.org and sign up for the Friday email from the Capital Region Interfaith Creation Care Coalition. Send an email to CRICCCalbany@gmail.com with the words, "Sign me up."

CROP WALK

The Castleton Hunger Crop Walk will be held on **October 17** at 12:45 p.m. Like last year, we will meet in the parking lot on Boltwood Avenue behind Riverside Nursing Home. We will start with a prayer and picture and set out on the 3.2 mile walk. There will also be 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. CWS programs serve vulnerable populations in the United States and across the world, including distributing information about the COVID-19 virus, responding to requests for food and hygiene supplies and providing cash grants to families with urgent needs for medicine, housing, internet connectivity, and more. In the U.S., they provide a continuum of services to newly-arrived refugees, migrant farm workers and asylum seekers. Please commit to joining the walk by registering at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/castletonny>.

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 Mondays in September and October. 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.

MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSION

Given the interest in our project, we have added some new dates. Keep reading for the latest.

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.

We will meet in Room 5 on the following times and dates:

Tuesday **September 7** at 10:00 AM, Thursday **September 16** at 6:30 PM,

Tuesday **September 21** at 10:00 AM, Thursday **September 30** at 6:30 PM

For more information, email aleta.schweigert@gmail.com. Hope to see you soon!



* **Coffee Hour** is going to be hosted once a month for the rest of 2021. Each committee who is hosting is celebrating something, Example September 19 is confirmation. December is a Christmas party. Watch for more details.

• Thanks, from the **Albany Maritime Ministry** for the cash and supply donations given by our church family in response to the June request made in The Church BELL. The Maritime Ministry Team is looking forward to having people back visiting ships in the port – hopefully not too far in the future.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE FOODIE EVENTS

- * The next Brook's BBQ is scheduled for Saturday **October 9.**
- * The next Senior Lunch is scheduled for Wednesday, **October 13.**