



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2021

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ **8:30 am** Early Informal Service - Outdoor Chapel weather permitting
- ◆ **9:30 am** Sanctuary Service
Also streaming live on Facebook, available on YouTube same afternoon
- ◆ Sunday School and Youth Group - **10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

Visit us on the Web:

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

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Church Office Hours:

9:00 am to 2:30 pm M - F

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egchristianedfumc@gmail.com

Youth Ministries Email:

youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor
Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Sunday October 17, 2021 is Laity Sunday. I would like to celebrate Laity's giftedness and their many gifts which are the lifeblood of church's ministries. Except for the pastoral ministry, laity carries all the gifts needed for the church to grow numerically and spiritually. However, God's gifts are changing "possessions" that are ours forever. They are constantly being renewed and transformed.



All are guilty of falling victim to the dreaded, genetically linked to the "traveling parent disease." This rarely discussed disease kicks in just as you finally enter the airport to begin your flight back home. Suddenly, visions of your small offspring, sadly moping around the house, rise to your consciousness, and you are obsessed with the unshakable need to buy these little angels an "I'm back now" gift. Though seldom talked about, the widespread nature of this disease is evident by the substantial number of airport gift shops whose entire inventory is devoted to these poor, gift-searching parents. Why else would our airports be filled with exorbitantly expensive stuffed animals, designer felt-tip marker sets, thousands of tiny-sized T-shirts and replicas of every Disney creature ever imagine. You will also note that all these shops are quite profitable, to say the least.

The unfortunate side effect of this gift-giving syndrome is not just the huge dent it makes in your wallet at the end of every business trip. There is also the fact that now, whenever you finally drag in the door of your home-sweet-home, the first words your little darlings greet you with are not "welcome home, Mommy," or "we missed you so much, Daddy" but "What gift do you have for me?"

Often, we childishly accost God with the same question and with about the same grace as our kids. We expect that God will present us with some fully developed, nicely wrapped package. We envision God saying, "Yes, I have given you the gift of teaching now take this and go out and teach!" or "for you, the gift of leadership. From this point on, you shall stand at the head of the church and lead it forward." Yes, right. The problem with having such a literal expectation of God's spiritual gifts in our lives is that most of us end up standing around

(Continued on page 2)

Annual Charge Conference

Our Annual Church Charge Conference will be held on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm. at our church. Our District Superintendent Rev. Debbie Earthowl will be with us to conduct the meeting.



A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

waiting for some "special delivery" package that we never receive. We think the gifts God will visit upon our lives must come from somewhere else that they must be flown into us by some distant deity. But apostle Paul's message in Romans 12: 1-8 points to another location for the "gifts of God for the people of God." Apostle Paul urges his Roman Christian brothers and sisters to "be transformed by the renewing of your minds." The transformative power of a renewed mind, of a mind freed from the old restraining conformities of our past is the power that opens us up the presence of all God's gifts already at hand in our lives. This is a gift we can take home to our families every day. It is the ability to rise above the behaviors and attitudes that are forced upon us by the demands of the world and to allow ourselves to be transformed by the unpredictable power and presence of the Holy Spirit. A "spiritual" gift is something we can hang onto, fix our identity to, claim as our own personal possession, but any "spiritual" gift that would conform to those norms would be about as "spiritual" as an PhD. If the divinely ordained presence of a genuinely spiritual gift comes from having a "renewed mind," then these gifts themselves must be a constantly recyclable resource taking on different forms and fulfilling different tasks in ever new incarnation. Spiritual gifts are not unchanging things, possessions that are ours "forever and ever, amen." Spiritual gifts like the minds they take shape in, are constantly renewed and transformed. God's gifts to us are always surprise packages.

Right now, each one of us is nurturing a profound spiritual gift within ourselves and we don't even know it. Most of us are only plain too scared to try out what we think our "gift" might be.

Are you really a leader? Don't you dare volunteer to help organize that new building committee. Are you really a speaker? Don't you dare speak those words that keep leaping up into your brain. Are you filled with compassion? Don't you dare offer to help the homeless and hungry that populate the streets of your capital city, and the pews of your church. Are you really a teacher? Don't you dare demonstrate how easily you can communicate ideas and reveal information to others. Are you really filled with a prophetic word for your church? Don't you dare suppose that anything you might say could have influence.

When God offers up the gift of speaking, how many of us would be inclined to run forward begging, "Me, me, oh please let me be the public speaker!" But sometimes the spiritual gifts God gives us may not be what we think we are any good at or what we find particularly pleasing or enjoyable to do. Sometimes God has need of us. Our spiritual "gift" may be something we have to work at long and hard before we feel any modicum of expertise. But a transformed mind cannot be conformed, either by the expectations of the outside world or by the limitations of our own self-concepts.

As Christians, we can rest assured that we are constantly receiving God's gifts in our lives. The reason God offers us these gifts of the Spirit is not to glorify our abilities or highlight our weaknesses. As members of the living Body of Christ, we are responsible for the health and maintenance of that Body. The gifts of love and leadership, compassion and counsel, prophesying and portfolio-building seem all exercises we perform for the sake of the church's health. Fitness experts preach, "If you don't use it, you lose it." Each of us must field our spiritual gifts to keep the Body of Christ fit and strong. "What gift do you have for your church?" Will you be willing to use your God given gift in your church any time sooner?

May God bless and guide you as you seriously contemplate and consider serving your local church to add value to its ministries.

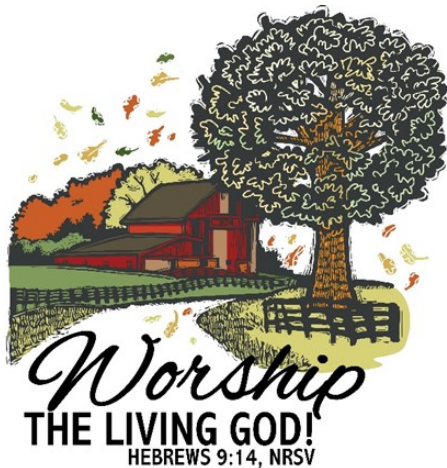
Shalom! *Pastor Sundar*

CORNERSTONE CAMPUS MINISTRY FUND RAISING

Thanks to all who participated in the Cornerstone Campus Ministry Fund Raising dinner program on October 22. We had four people from our church at the dinner plus our Peer Minister Scott Bogart. We raised over \$1500 on the silent auction, and \$12,600 plus for the whole event.

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The Church Staff: Rev. Sundar R. Samuel, **Pastor**; Amanda Trainor, **Director of Children's Christian Education**; 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**.

SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR OCTOBER



Fall has arrived. Listen to the sounds of fall. The breeze blowing the leaves from the trees. That same breeze blowing ripe tree nuts from the branches to the ground. The sound of footsteps on the leaf covered walkways. *Listen.*

"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear. So it is His work that we do for our brother and sister when we learn to listen to them."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, [Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community](#)

October 1 to 15 Hispanic Heritage Month continues. One of the highlights of this heritage month is the music. From our hymnal, #344, "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" will be familiar to many.

October 3 World Communion Sunday. Often, United Methodist pastors are burdened with debt resulting from loans to complete seminary. Or worse, they are prevented from answering their call to ministry because they aren't equipped to face what may seem an overwhelming financial obligation. The offering this Sunday may help support their need as well as supporting the division of chaplains and ministries, Crusade Scholarships and the other funds for minority groups.

October 3 Blessing of the animals. This tradition will be celebrated at the **early service**. Bring your pet to church for this very special worship service.

October 10 is our Sunday to celebrate **Clergy Appreciation Month**.

October 17 Children's Sabbath. This year is the 30th Annual National Observation of Children's Sabbath Celebration. The theme this year, "Where does it hurt?"



October 17 Laity Sunday. The laity of our church will be filling all the roles "up front" for this week's service. A big plus for this service, after all the problems related to COVID, we will finally get to meet our Peer Minister Scott Bogart. He will be part of the leadership team for this Sunday's worship.

October 24 United Nations Day. The General Board of Church and Society says, "We seek to improve the lives of people throughout the world because Christ call us to love our neighbors. It is an extension of what John Wesley...said, "The world is my parish." Our ministry at the UN gives us the space to do that on the international stage." We can do it at the Church Center for the United Nations, owned and operated by our United Methodist Church.

October 31 Reformation Sunday. This is a day set aside to recognize, remember and celebrate the Protestant Reformation. Though we are not descendants of Luther, John and Charles Wesley were both Anglican priests, today, United Methodists celebrate the day with a sense of moving toward unity and community.

In addition to actual presence in the sanctuary for the Sunday 9:30 worship service, that service is also available live-streamed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FUMCEG and on YouTube later that same afternoon at [Worship Service FUMCEG-YouTube](#).

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

October 3	Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Psalm 26; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
October 10	Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
October 17	Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
October 24	Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22; Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52
October 31	Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is back. Every Sunday from 10:45 am-11:45 am we will be holding Sunday School again. As long as the weather is nice, Sunday School will be held outside. We will continue to following Social Distancing guidelines set forth by the school district. Parents are welcome to drop off and pickup or stay if they wish. We would like to get a parent Bible study group going during Sunday School for those who would like to stay. Please let us know if you would be interested. We also are in *desperate need of teachers*, so if you would be willing to teach even one class a month, please contact myself or Amber Telford.



We are bringing back some old Advent traditions and sticking with some new ones this year. If your child would be interested in participating in an Advent talent show, reach out to Amanda or Amber. We are also planning to include a nativity puppet show for younger children or anyone else who would like to participate. More details to come soon.

Youth group is back! Amber Telford will be back from maternity leave **October 15** and will be running both regular and junior youth group. In the interim, Laura Clark has graciously stepped in to run Youth Group until then.

Last but not most certainly not least Confirmation will start again this Fall. Typically 8th grade is when students are confirmed. However, if your child was not confirmed last year or are ready this year, we would be happy to have them.

God Bless,
Amanda Trainor
EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Hey there youth and families! We have some great stuff coming up! Check out our schedule for October!

Sunday, **October 3** - 6:00 pm -8:00 pm. Youth Group meeting. Dinner will be provided. Let's talk about Friday Night Alive!

Friday, **October 8** - 7:00 pm -9:00 pm. Fun and Games night! I know it is Columbus Day weekend, so let's do something before you go away for the weekend.

CCYM is pulling me out of town **October 15-17**, no youth group that weekend.

Sunday, **October 24** - 12:00 noon -1:30 pm. Youth Group meeting. Amber is back! Let's see how we are doing with Friday Night Alive and our mission! Maybe we can talk about Halloween and our local community. We of course will have fun and games!

Sunday, **October 31** - 12:00 noon -1:30 pm (Time may vary). Happy Halloween! Fun times, chocolate, and a connection with our local community!

Laura Clark, Interim Youth Leader



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



After nearly 2 years we were finally able to hold our Thrift Sale. We had abundance of donations again this year. Thank you to all those who donated. Also a BIG thank you to all those who worked tirelessly sorting and cleaning up at our Thrift Sale. We earned \$1,939.

Our monthly meeting is on the **4th of October**. We will be finalizing our needs for the Chicken Barbecue.

Herb and Ann Lamb will again be baking our brownies for the barbecue. Herb has requested that instead of donating boxes of brownie mix, we ask for monetary donations to offset the cost of the brownies. He wants to use all the same brand of mix since different brands call for different ingredients. Please drop off monetary donations at the church office, drop it in the collection plate noting it is for the brownies or make a check out to the UMW. Thank you.

"MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE" OUTREACH MISSION

Thank you to all the "hands" for creating about 20 throws and 6 pillows for the Albany County S.H.I.P- (Sheriff's Homeless Improvement Program). We will deliver these mid-October. So if you have one please drop it off at church soon. Our Made by Hand group has been successful in filling a need while allowing us to come together in fellowship. We will continue this into the fall. Please come join us to do any handiwork or just to talk. The fall project will be soft hats, any size, any color for hatsgiving.org for kids with cancer. The hats will be delivered the weekend before Thanksgiving. But bring any other ideas you may have.

We meet next on Tuesday 10:30 AM October 5, 19 and Thursday 6:30 PM October 12, 26

Hope to see you back soon.
aleta.schweigert@gmail.com

LOOK AHEAD, PLAN AHEAD FOR TWO BIG EVENTS

YOUTH 2023 in Daytona Beach, Florida



The first YOUTH event for the youth of The United Methodist Church took place in 1988, and since the early 1990s Discipleship Ministries has organized the YOUTH event every four years. We are thrilled to share that this tradition will continue with **YOUTH 2023 in Daytona Beach, Florida, from July 25-28, 2023!** Hundreds of youth from all over the country will be there. Will you be the right age for this big, "don't want to miss it," meeting?

WOMEN 2022 in Orlando, Florida

Registration for the United Methodist Women's Assembly 2022 is open. The quadrennial event titled "Turn it Up!" is scheduled for **May 20-22** at the Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, with an optional Ubuntu Day of Service on Thursday, May 19. Early-bird registration discounts are available through Nov. 30. What does your current schedule look like now for next May?



FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE – STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

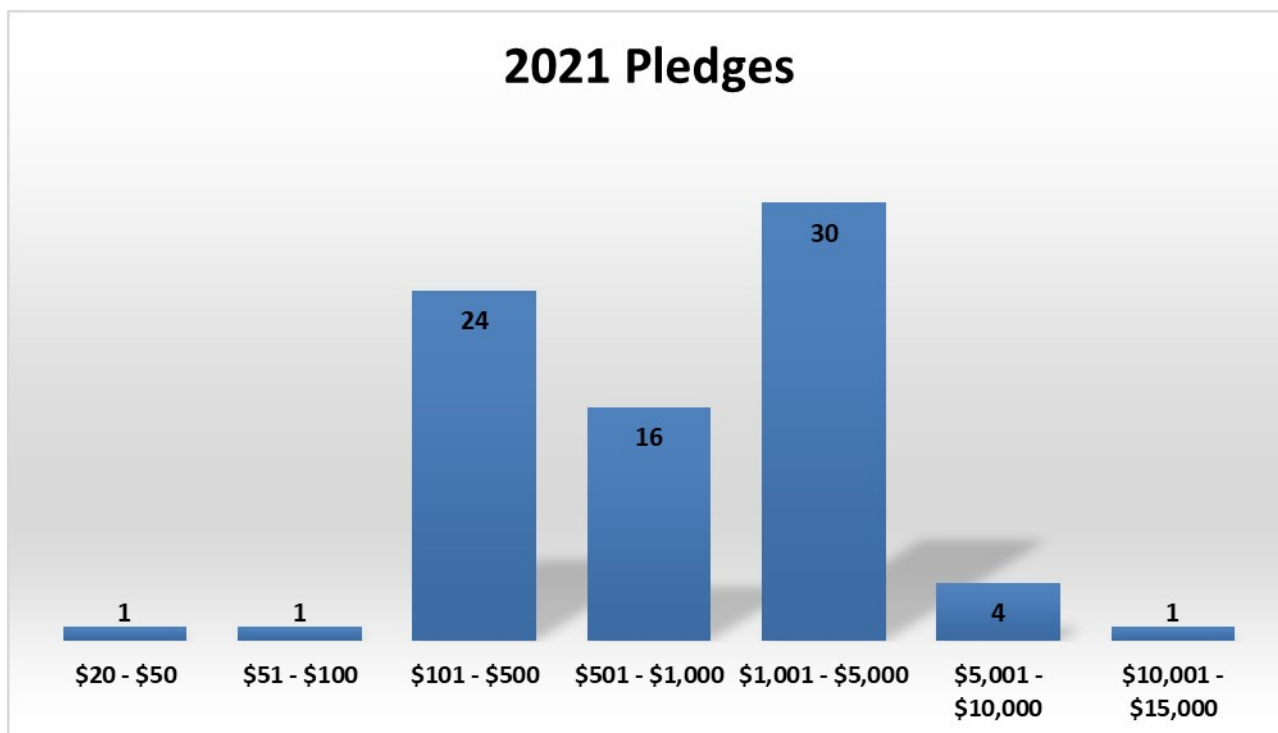
We are truly thankful for your support of the First United Methodist Church in East Greenbush. This year has continued to challenge us, and we have responded by finding a new way forward. We could not have grown our ministries without your generous giving.

Our Stewardship Campaign for 2022 starts **October 17!** You will be receiving a letter and pledge card by mail before the campaign starts. We urge everyone to consider committing themselves to our church and return the card by **October 31.** To give you an idea of what pledges we received in 2021, below is a chart showing that information. We are so grateful for the pledges we received for 2021 and urge you to consider your pledge for 2022.

Your continued support allows 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 Vanco Mobile App.

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

Colleen Rumsey
Finance Committee Chair



ATTENTION: ONLINE GIVERS USING THE GIVEPLUS APP

If you use the Vanco GivePlus app to set up and manage your donations to the church, please note that the Vanco GivePlus app is being replaced by the Vanco Mobile app effective **September 30, 2021.** Versions for Apple and Android can be found in the respective app stores. After installing the app and opening it, you will be prompted to search for an organization the first time you use the new app. When prompted to search for the church in the Vanco Mobile app, enter East Greenbush in the search box and select the "First United Methodist Church" from the search results. Login using the same password that you had set for the Vanco GivePlus app. We will make an announcement when other communication features (Group & Chat, Events, Directory) in the Vanco Mobile app are available to use. The online giving page on the church website www.fumceg.org is unchanged by change of apps and you may continue using it.

MISSIONS

Faith Communities and Climate Change

God's creation is in crisis. Find out what you can do to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world. 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 pm. 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 providing food, hygiene supplies and cash grants to families in Haiti following the earthquake and Louisiana following Hurricane Ida and providing 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 **October 18 and 25** and each of the Mondays in November. 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.

BROOK'S CHICKEN BARBECUE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM

INCLUDES: ½ CHICKEN, BAKED POTATO,
COLE SLAW, ROLL AND A BROWNIE

\$13.50 FOR COMPLETE DINNER

\$7.00 FOR CHICKEN ONLY

FOR RESERVATIONS (PREFERRED) CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE AT 518-477-9693

TAKE-OUT ONLY





◆ The Living Waters Emmaus/Chrysalis Community has announced there will be an Emmaus Gathering on Saturday, **October 23** at Hudson Crossing Park, Schuylerville. There will be a Board meeting from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and a community gathering beginning with lunch at noon.

The Community has also announced that there will be no *Walk to Emmaus* weekend this fall due to the COVID. Check with George Herrick for more information.

◆ October 13—Senior Lunch. If you don't get a phone call, please call the church office indicating that you wish to attend.

ASBURY COMES TO AMERICA 250 YEARS AGO

"Whither am I going? To the New World. What to do? To gain honour? No, if I know my own heart. To get money? No: I am going to live to God, and to bring others so to do." — Francis Asbury, writing in his journal, September 12, 1771...



A portrait of Francis Asbury, reproduced with the permission of the Trustees of Wesley's Chapel, UK

"Most things in life were stacked against him [Asbury], an apprentice nail maker with little education, and yet he was fired up by the faith that he found, and this gave him an energy which nothing could stop," "He didn't have a lot of learning, but he studied to get the education he needed. At a time when people didn't travel far, he went round and round the extensive preaching circuits of the growing and challenging towns, encouraging people to find a transformative faith like he had found.

"He was said to be an extraordinary preacher,"... "He didn't have a lot of confidence and he didn't always have good health, but he didn't let that define him or what he could do for the church. He put up his hand and he said, 'Here am I, send me.'"...

On September 4, 1771, a young Francis Asbury, he was 26 years old, boarded ship for America, filled with a call to save souls and help lead the nascent Methodist movement in the colonies...

He maintained correspondence with his parents through the years, but despite his mother's pleas, he never returned to England, writing in 1797 that leaving America would "break my heart."...

Asbury preached the gospel across the country, going into the countryside when many preachers preferred to stay in the city, engaging with all people, regardless of their background... He encouraged Black preachers and ordained them — "something completely unheard of at the time because Asbury trusted that calling was even more important than convention, that he was doing what God wanted him to do."

He preached almost until the day he died at age 70...

Asbury's story is as inspiring today as it was then... It prompts people today to focus on calling: "What is calling and what does it mean? What is God calling us to today?"...

Extracted from UMNews, "Celebrating Asbury's impact on 2 shores" September 14, 2021, For the complete article go to: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/celebrating-asburys-impact-on-2-shores>

"The Asbury Crossing: Responding to Call" events will conclude with the **October 30-31, 2021 celebration at Historic St. George's UMC** in Philadelphia that will feature a banquet and program Saturday, Oct. 30 and a special commemorative worship service on Sunday, October 31, at 10 AM.

Watch an informative video of extracts from Asbury's diaries that are related to his call by going to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhTVqrRo2Ck>.

Francis Asbury Archival Exhibit at Historic St. George's UMC will continue through December 31.

CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY

Any time can be an opportunity to say thank you to clergy for what they do for the church. But this one day, the second Sunday in October, October 10, is the special day selected to recognize the work of ministers, pastors, and priests and to say thank you for all their efforts in ministry.

"I can say thank you, but is there anything more I can say or do?" Yes, here are four suggestions:

- Volunteer to take on a specific responsibility in the church, maybe a member of a "Methodist" committee or maybe a team leader.
- Keep the clergy person in your thoughts and prayers.
- Say "thank you" with a handwritten, snail mail delivered note. Share your thoughts and encourage others to do the same.
- Attend the next worship service in the church. Participate.

Of course, thank you's don't have to be limited to current, active clergy. What about the list in last month's Church BELL of former clergy who have served our church? *Just a thought.*

