



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

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

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 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 am**

## Visit us on the Web:

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

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## Church Office Hours:

9 am to 2:30 pm M - F

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[youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:youthleaderamber@gmail.com)

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

**Gail Welkley,**  
**Administrative Assistant**

## Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Dr. Carlyle Marney once remarked that a person can be understood as being like a house. We have our living rooms, where we entertain, and our basements, where we hide the trash. The way to observe All Saints' Day, he suggested, is to walk out into your front yard and salute the people on your balcony. The balcony people in our lives are those who have gone before us, who have been our encouragers, who have left a legacy. That's what we do on this coming All Saints' Day Sunday. We salute all the saints who have gone before us, whose faithfulness provided us with the faith we have today.



One of the most beautiful portrayals of saints is found in the book of Revelation 7: 9-11: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.' "

Notice who these saints are. "Before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..." Our faith has always been a universal faith. It is amazing that so many Christians forget this. Saints of God come in every color, speak every language. John Ortberg tells a wonderful story about Clarence Jordan, best known for his Cotton Patch Gospels. Jordan went one time to do revival services at a church in the deep South. This was more than fifty years ago, when segregation was the norm in the South. Clarence Jordan got up to preach, and he realized that the congregation was not segregated at all. There were black folks and white folks all together. That night Clarence Jordan stayed at the home of a

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## A Reconciling Congregation

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member of that church, a graduate of Yale, a college professor, who had a PhD in English Literature. He drove seventy miles each week to go to this church. Clarence asked that brilliant young professor: Why do you go to that church to hear an old country preacher? You have a PhD from Yale. He can't utter a single grammatical sentence?" The young man said: "Sir, I go to that church because that man preaches the Gospel." And that is the Gospel. All people on the earth are represented around the throne of God.



Next, we notice "they were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands..." These saints were in the presence of a holy God, which meant they must be holy too. I don't know about you, but I don't meet very many holy people. How did these saints in heaven get that way? "They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." In the Book of Revelation, it is simply a symbolic way of saying these saints have been made worthy to inherit that which was promised by God because of Christ's death on the cross. In other words, they are standing around the throne the same way all of us will one day stand around that throne, by the grace of God. If getting into heaven was a matter of merit, we would all be in trouble. Our admittance to the select company will not be based on merit, but on God's unconditional love for us. God's amazing grace. You may think sometimes that we talk about grace too much in the church today. You need to understand that there are many people, and see many church people, who do not really believe that God loves them unconditionally. There are still far too many religious people who have a god who plays havoc with their lives and who punishes them for sins of which they are not very aware. So, it is important to note that the saints of God have all their sins taken away because of God's great love for them. Notice who they are and how they're dressed.

Finally, notice what they have come through. "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." It is important to understand that God's promises are to all those who accept the gift of God's forgiveness in Jesus and those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Sure, we are accepted as we are, but once we turn to Christ, we are to seek to live just as he lived, love as he loved, forgive as he forgives. Many of us have a mushy kind of faith that says, "Everything's all right. Jesus loves me, this I know. It doesn't matter what I do with my life. I can go ahead living for myself as if I am the only one on earth that matters." Let me repeat those important words from Max Lucado, "God loves us just as we are, but God loves us too much to leave us that way. God want us to be like Jesus."

Who are the saints around the throne of God? Everyone on this earth is a candidate for sainthood. None of us is worthy of it, but because of what Christ has done on our behalf, it comes to us as a gift. Once it is received, however, we're to join the holy company seeking to

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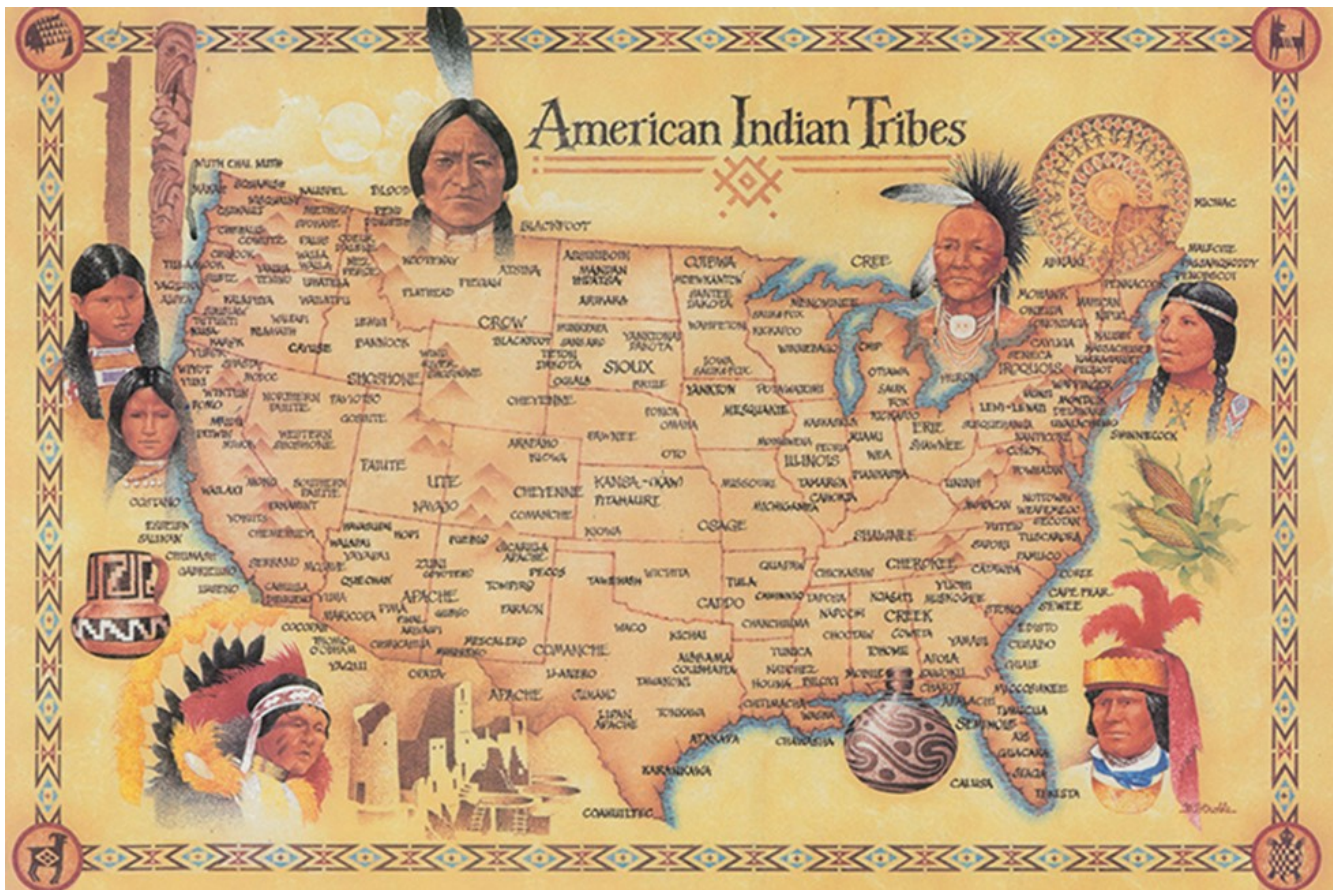
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bring light to a world of darkness through lives that reflect the glory of Christ.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you come to our special worship on **November 7, 2021**, at 9:30 am. We will read the names of the all saints who have left this earth during the last two years to be with those who have gone before us. We will be reading their names; candles will be lit, and bells will be rung as their names are read. May God bless you and yours in His Holy Love and keep you till we meet again ...

Yours in Christ- *Pastor Sundar*

## SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER



**November is Native American Heritage Month.** Did you know the United States includes more than 573 federally recognized Indian nations, variously called tribes, nations, bands, pueblos, communities and native villages? The total American Indian/Alaska Native population is 2.9 million, less than 1 percent of the U.S. population. Of The United Methodist Church's more than 32,000 U.S. congregations, 157 are predominantly Native American. Many are located in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, which the 1972 General Conference designated "with the same rights and powers as an annual conference."

This month is an opportunity to learn about the rich diversities of the cultures that existed long before Christopher Columbus journeyed to "the new world."

*"May the sun bring you new energy by day, may the moon softly restore you by night, may the rain wash away your worries, may the breeze blow new strength into your being, may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life."*

— Apache blessing

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**WORSHIP NOTES CONT'D**

**November 7** - All Saint's Sunday, a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. We will be reading the names of our church family members who have died *the past two years*.



**November 14** - Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday. "United Methodists are committed to medicine and to science and ways of healing all," said the Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, top executive of the General Board of Church and Society. "Because we believe in health care for all, we believe that organ donation and transplantation is a gift that we can give back. It is one of the great gifts that many of us in our own families have supported our family members and those we love to make this kind of donation."

**November 21-27** This is **International Bible Week**. The people of National Day Calendar have said, "...the Bible is still the best-selling book of all time. Each year, church leaders encourage reading, listening, and studying the Bible. Church groups will hold events throughout the week. It's an ideal time for families and individuals to share their faith with each other, share favorite verses, and pray together. For many, the Bible offers a source of hope, guidance, and strength. In difficult times, its words provide comfort. It offers peace, encouragement for individuals and nations. Even non-believers find comfort in its pages."



**November 21** - Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday in the Christian/Liturgical year. It is also Thanksgiving Sunday. Scott Bogart, our Peer Minister, will be liturgist for our morning worship service. He is also bringing Cornerstone Bake-Sale goodies. Details on page 7.

**November 28** - First Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of the new Christian year.

**Pastor Sundar will be preaching** three Sundays in November. On Sunday, November 21, our own David Haase, an assistant treasurer for our church, will be in the pulpit. David, one of FUMC East Greenbush's newest members, is on the road to becoming an ordained Methodist clergyman.

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

**HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER**

**November 7** Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

**November 14** 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

**November 21** 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4-8; John 18:33-37

**November 28** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School meets every Sunday from 10:45 am-11:45 am. If the weather is nice, it's held outside. We will continue to follow social distancing guidelines set forth by the school district. Parents are welcome to drop off and pickup or stay if they wish.



We're going to be sending a survey out at the end of the month to see if parents are interested in going back to having Sunday School during the 9:30 am service, or if they prefer after church. Look for more details soon.

Amanda Trainor  
EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com

## UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Calling all Youth GROUPERS!!! I am Back and ready for an adventure. Who's ready! I want to thank Laura Clark for being the Interim Youth Leader while I was out with my baby.

If your Youth in Grades 3-12 are interested in Youth Group please mail [Youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:Youthleaderamber@gmail.com) to be a member of the Email list or sign up for the emails in the lobby of church.

### Junior Youth Group - 3rd Grade - 5th Grade

We will meet after Sunday School from 11:45 am - 1:00 pm on **Sunday, November 14**. Weather permitting we will be walking around the grounds to place the Kindness Rocks around our church. (We will send some home for you to place in your favorite spots too). We will also play some games and do a science project.



### Senior Youth Group 6th Grade - 12th Grade

**Friday, November 5** We will have a Game Night from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Are you ready for game night to be back? It feels like forever since we have played GROG! Light snacks will be provided.

**Friday, November 12** We will have a Game Night/Youth Group Meeting from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Come play games and have a Youth Group meeting. Light snacks will be provided.

**Sunday, November 21** from 11:45 am—1:00 pm We will have a Youth Group Planning Meeting. We will be looking at what fundraising ideas we can come up with for YOUTH 2023, talk about this year's service projects. We will also play some games. Lunch will be provided.

Friends are always welcome to come to any Youth Group Meeting/Game Night!

Blessings,  
Amber Telford, Youth Leader

## MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSIONS



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](http://hatsgiving.org) for kids with cancer. The hats will be delivered the weekend before Thanksgiving. We will continue to make hats and scarves and afghans for other organizations. We will try doing some animals too!! We welcome any other ideas you may have or needs you may know of. Thank you to everyone creating love.

**Tuesdays, 10:00 AM November 2, 16, 30      Thursday, 6:30 PM November 11**

Hope to see you back soon,  
[aleta.schweigert@gmail.com](mailto:aleta.schweigert@gmail.com)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW wishes to thank Karen and John Peterson, Cindy and Kevin Conley, Lorraine Beals, Mary McIntosh, Kathy Van Buren and Janet Schmidt for quickly and tirelessly packing and distributing all the chicken dinners. A special thanks Herb and Ann Lamb for making all the brownies and for working at the BBQ. Also thank you to all of you who donated money for the purchase of the brownie mixes. Again this year we sold out all our dinners. We earned \$2,809.60.



The ladies of the UMW have decided there will be no thrift sales next year. As the workers at the thrift sale have gotten older it has been increasingly more difficult to work for seven days sorting and folding all the treasures that are donated. So, we have decided to have two more chicken barbecues next year, the first April 2 and the second May 28. We have found another vender to provide the dinners and they also have ribs. Brook's is always fully booked. After looking at the money we earned for an entire week of thrift sale set up and then the sale itself, we found we earned about the same as a barbecue which is only one day's work.

Our next monthly meeting is November 1. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. We would love to see some new faces.

## TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS

Advent and Christmas are almost upon us! You can help to fill the sanctuary with beautiful, top quality flowering poinsettias for Christmas, and honor or remember special people in your life. We are offering 6.5" size plants, available in RED, WHITE, PINK OR MARBLE for \$12.00 each plant. You can order by either calling the church office or writing your order on the sign-up sheet on the long table. Please make checks payable to the "United Methodist Women." **The church has been encouraged to place the order as early as possible, and to do this, your order must be received in the church office no later than Monday, November 29, 2021.** If you have any questions, please contact Gail in the church office at 518-477-9693.



## THE GIVING TREE

We are doing The Giving Tree this year. CONCERNS-U would like the items as early as possible. The director, Jessica, gave me a list that they need most for the Christmas Store; items for teenage boys and girls. Please have the gifts unwrapped to the church by **December 1**. They will be delivered on **December 2** in the morning. There will be a bin near the entrance of the church by the Pastor's office and the Tree will be in the foyer by the sanctuary. Below is the list.

Craft sets and art supplies  
Air pods or headphones  
Watch ( men and women)  
Gaming headsets  
Wallet and/or purse  
Hair accessories  
Bedroom decor  
Hair straightener  
Bath gift sets

Lotion/makeup sets  
Curling iron  
Journal with pen  
Hair dryers  
Candles  
Skateboard with helmet  
Adult size hooded sweat shirt:  
S,M,L,XL,XXL  
Sweat pants  
Walmart/Target \$25 Gift Card



## THE LATEST FROM CORNERSTONE

Cornerstone Campus Ministry is making plans to revive our **Winter Break Service Trip!** We're hoping to travel to Louisiana and work to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Ida. That means we need to work to raise funds to make the trip possible.

Voilà! **Our Bake sales are back!** But things will be a bit different this year due to the ongoing pandemic. **THIS YEAR WE WILL USE A PRE-ORDER SYSTEM.** We'll send you an order sheet in advance which you can distribute to members of your congregation. They can place their order by **November 14.** We'll bake the goods on Friday, November 19, and Saturday, November 20, and the deliver them to your congregation for worship on Sunday, **November 21.** The number of items will be limited and will include apple pies (either baked or "bake at home"), cookies, brownies and breads.

We'll also be offering an opportunity to **"adopt a student"** for the winter break service trip by paying a portion of their fee. Information about this "opportunity" will be released as trip details are finalized.

Sandy Damhof, Protestant Campus Minister



Our congregation finally, after the challenges of the past year, got to meet our "new" Peer Minister Scott Bogart at the October 17, Laity Sunday worship services. He brought us a part of the morning message where he spoke about the campus ministry. You can still see his presentation, if you missed it that Sunday, by going to our You Tube listing at: [Worship Service FUMCEG-YouTube](#). Scott comes on at a little over 27 minutes.

## TRUSTEE GROUNDS KEEPERS (VOLUNTEERS)

With all the rain this year grass, flowers and weeds just grew and grew. Keeping up with the growth was a challenge and required many hands. In addition to the Trustees we want to recognize the contributions of Patty and Chris Chartrand, Kate Henson, Becky and Pat Frament and Neal Calvin, Karen Peterson and Carrie Larson. Many thanks to all.



## CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES TO FILL FINANCE POSITIONS

The Capital Area Council of Churches is seeking people to fill two slots on their leadership team. Brief descriptions of the positions are below.

**Treasurer of the Board** — The Capital Area Council of Churches is seeking a Treasurer to serve on the Board of Directors. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, is responsible for providing accountability and overseeing all monies and securities of the council. Candidates interested in this position should be comfortable with numbers and have the courage to keep the organization accountable.



**Finance Committee** —The Capital Area Council of Churches is seeking members to serve on the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Treasurer, is responsible for providing financial oversight for the Council.

Any questions? Want more information/details? Want to apply? Contact George Herrick at [geoedherr@hotmail.com](mailto:geoedherr@hotmail.com) or 518 477-9693.



## THE LATEST FROM MISSIONS

### Ring out for Climate



On October 30 our church rang the courtyard bell for climate justice at COP 26. *(If you see this issue of The Church BELL before the end of October, be sure to listen for the ringing of the bell on the 30th.)* Church bells have traditionally been used as warnings and this time the danger to humanity couldn't be greater. Churches across England and in parts of the US rang out a warning on the eve of COP 26.

What is COP 26 and why does it matter? COP 26 is the Conference of the Parties and the 2021 meeting in Glasgow this November will be the 26th meeting. They started meeting following the UN conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, but despite all the conferences since then, our global carbon dioxide emissions have continued to rise. From 5 billion tonnes (metric tons) in 1950, 18 billion in 1980, 23 billion in 2000 and 33 billion in 2020. We are speeding in the wrong direction!

At the Paris Agreement in 2015, countries agreed to try to keep global warming down to 2 degrees or lower. Currently we are way off track to meet that target and the IPCC report this August was most forceful in outlining the irreversible effects we will suffer and many are already suffering.

COP 26 will run for about two weeks. Please keep the countries' leaders and negotiators in your prayers.

### CROP Walk

Thirteen walkers represented our church at the CROP Hunger Walk this year, seven in Castleton (John Schmidt, Jennifer Schmidt, Fran Berger, Emily Clark, Gabrielle Deck and Kevin and Cindy Conley) and six in Myrtle Beach (Pastor Sundar and his grandchildren - Ben, Ellie, Zachary, Olivia and Isabella). The walkers were joined in spirit and fundraising by some who were unable to walk due to various circumstances: Tammy Markell, Neal Calvin and the Scheidelman family. The tally isn't final, but we know we raised over \$2,000. 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 serving vulnerable populations in the United States and across the world.



### Joseph's House Homeless Outreach Van



November 1 marks one year that our church has provided lunches every Monday for Joseph's House outreach van. Thank you to the volunteers who have made this mission possible - the Calyer, Henson, Hiser, McIntosh, VanBuren, Mendonca, Rumsey, Schmidt, Schweigert, Terwilliger, Uhr, Valenchis and Conley families. 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](mailto: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.





◆ At the **Blessing of the Animals** during the early worship service on October 3, we had two pets attending the service, Justin Naef and his dog Otto, plus Fred Henson and his kitten Foosball.

◆ "BIG TENT: **Berlin's House of One** is the world's first planned structure to house a synagogue, a church and a mosque under one roof." That's the start of a short news clip in the October 20<sup>th</sup> issue of Christian Century. What a great idea to get all three Abrahamic traditions under one roof. You can read the original story in the September 13 issue of Christian Science Monitor. The Christian Century magazine is in our church library.



- ◆ **Help Wanted! Ushers for worship services.** Talk with Patty Chartrand with questions or email her at: [pjdc560@gmail.com](mailto:pjdc560@gmail.com). **Acolyte Coordinators** – talk with Laura Flynn for more information at: 518-505-5393 or [lhallgren@yahoo.com](mailto:lhallgren@yahoo.com).
- ◆ **St. Paul's Women's and Children's Shelter** is selling wreaths for Christmas. Orders must be in by November 8 and can be picked up between November and December 3. Call Charlee at 518-434-2910 or order online at [stpaulscenter.com](http://stpaulscenter.com). The price is \$30.00.