



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

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

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2022

## At Church on Sundays:

- ♦ 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall
  - ♦ 9:30 am Sanctuary Service
- Also streaming live on Facebook, available on YouTube same afternoon

- ♦ Sunday School  
9:30 am—10:30 am
- ♦ Youth Group see inside

## Visit us on the Web:

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

**Gail Welkley,**  
*Administrative Assistant*

*Dear Sisters and Brothers,*



For more than 1,400 years, a Cathedral dedicated to St. Paul has stood at the highest point in the City of London. The Cathedral is one of the most famous and most recognizable sights of this great city with so many historic sites. The famous architect Christopher Wren designed the Cathedral after an earlier one that stood on the same site was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. Before work could begin on the new Cathedral, the remains of the old Cathedral had to be cleared away. (City of London St. Paul's Cathedral/National Churches Trust) Once the site had been cleared and the necessary measurements taken, Wren asked a worker to bring a stone to mark the center of the new building. By pure chance, the worker handed Wren part of a gravestone from the old Cathedral. On the stone was the inscription *RESURGAM*, which means, "I shall rise again." Sir Christopher Wren was so moved that the words "I shall rise again" should appear on that stone strictly by chance, that he had the *RESURGAM* engraved on the exterior of the new cathedral, where it can be seen today above the great south door. ("Riverrun/ Thoughts on faith, frame drumming and ...")

"I shall rise again." Jesus tried to tell his disciples that several times before his death on Calvary's cross. You would think they would have been prepared on the first Easter morning to welcome him back from the grave. They were not. Forgotten, at least momentarily, was his promise that on the third day he would rise again. Apostle Paul later writes in his letter to the Corinthian Church that Christ has conquered the final enemy—the enemy of death, but it is clear such was not the expectation of Jesus' disciples and friends on that first Easter morning. Their hearts were heavy with grief.

A member of Abraham Lincoln's cabinet, William Seward, on Easter morning, 1865, lay in his bed, horribly wounded, shattered from having been in a horrible carriage accident. He had not been told of Abraham Lincoln's death. Lincoln, you may remember had been shot on Good Friday, two days before, and died the next day.

As he lay in his bed Seward asked to be able to see the trees just blooming. With the curtains drawn, he looked out and

*(Continued on page 2)*

*A Reconciling Congregation*

(Continued from page 1)

roved his eyes-and then saw a flagstaff at the War Department, and the flag flying at half-mast. He stared at it for a moment and then murmured, "The President is dead!" He knew it because if Lincoln had been alive, he would have been the first to personally call on him. He hadn't been there and hadn't even sent to inquire of Seward's condition. That could mean only that he was dead. And there was the flag flying at half-mast!

Seward said no more, but great tears suddenly rushed from his eyes. The disciples of Jesus were stricken with the same kind of grief. They had forgotten Jesus' promise that, on the third day, he would come back to them. All they knew was that their Lord was dead-and with him all their hopes, dreams, and aspirations. They were overwhelmed with their sense of loss. But that, of course, is not the end of the story. If it were, I would not be here today writing this message of hope and new life in Jesus Christ.



According to St Luke's gospel account of the resurrection, a group of women made their way to the tomb early that Sunday morning to prepare Christ's body with spices. There they found the stone rolled away from the grave and two men in dazzling apparel who said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the son of man must be delivered into the hands of evil men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise?" And they remembered Jesus' words, and they returned to tell the eleven disciples and the rest of Jesus' followers, "He is alive! He is alive! He has conquered death as he said."



You may know the story of a gentleman who stood one day looking into a store window. Standing next to him and looking in was a little boy. It was Easter time, and in keeping with the season the shopkeeper had arranged a setting of the crucifixion. After a while, the boy turned to the man. "Those are Roman soldiers," he explained. The man said nothing but kept studying the window. And there's Jesus," the boy continued. Still no response. "They killed him," the boy said. By this time the man, having satisfied his curiosity, started to walk away. Then he heard the patter of young feet behind him and felt a tug on his sleeve, it was the boy. "Mister," he said, "I forgot to tell you the most important part. He's alive again!" That, of course, is the most important part. He is alive. Christ has defeated the final enemy - death.

But what does Easter mean in our lives-we who are Christ's followers today? Doesn't it mean that we no longer must fear death either?

Wish you and yours a blessed Easter. May the Risen Christ empower and guide your footsteps all the days of your lives.

**He is Alive!**

*Pastor Sundar*



*Easter is very important to me, it's a second chance. — Reba McEntire*

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## SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR APRIL

What a busy month April is when it comes to things religious. In our Christian faith communities, we celebrate the last Sundays of Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday. The details of our celebration of these very important church events are described in more detail on page 5 of this issue of The Church BELL.

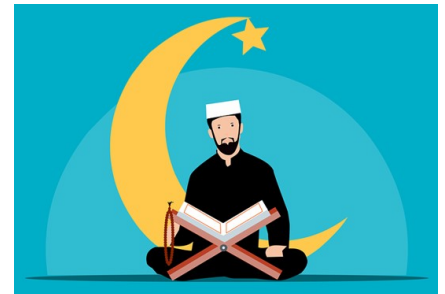
In addition to these events, our United Methodist Church celebrates one Sunday in April for a particular reason. That's **April 24**. A 2016 GBCS article explains why.



"The United Methodist Church designates one Sunday each year, preferably the Sunday closest to Earth Day (**April 22**), as a **Festival of God's Creation**, celebrating God's gracious work in creating the earth and all living things. . . The General Board of Church and Society works with ecumenical partners through Creation Justice Ministries to rally Christians on behalf of protecting God's creation. . . The United Methodist Church is among 37 national faith bodies, including Protestant denominations and Orthodox communions, as well as regional faith groups, and congregants working with Creation Justice Ministries to protect and

restore God's Creation."

If you are of the Muslim faith, you will be looking to Ramadan. The month of Ramadan begins on April 2 and runs through May 2. It is a time of fasting from dawn to sunset, introspection, prayer, and community. Those of us who have kept close to the family of Khin Oo know something about this firsthand as they are a Muslim family. All look forward to iftar, the feast that breaks the daily fast. Khin, his wife and two children (now four children) were the first refugee family our church helped re-settle in the United States a little over twenty years ago.



If you are part of the Jewish faith community, you will celebrate Passover **April 15—April 23**. This seven-day holiday will be celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

## Of Course—Easter does not end with Easter Sunday

*The United Methodist Book of Worship* says "The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the givings of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter and the Day of Pentecost."



From Dynamic Women of Faith

Some exciting news for our church, especially the worship program of our church. We have a new Choir Director. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has appointed Robert Thomsen to that position. Robert is no stranger to our church family nor to our church choir. He has been filling in at the director's position many Sundays over the past weeks. But now it is official. As you look for names for your calendar on page 8 of this BELL, please note that Robert's name fits very well. Welcome Robert.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello Sunday School Families,

It is hard to believe that Spring is already here! March was a big success! Sunday School, in conjunction with Youth Group and Confirmation, made and delivered 45 love kits (essential toiletries) and 55 lunches for the Interfaith Homeless Shelter. Thank you to everyone who donated and participated!

### EASTER



We have quite a few fun activities planned for the month of April. Starting every Sunday until Easter, Deb Sundar will be telling a piece of the Lenten story during the beginning of church service, then students will be dismissed to Sunday School class to learn more about Lent and complete an activity.

**April 3:** John 12:1-8, Resurrection Garden, Communion in church.

**April 10:** Luke 19 18-40, Easter Egg Hunt.

**April 17:** No Sunday School, Easter Sunday.

**April 24:** Scripture TBD, Prayer journals/box

As a friendly reminder, there is no First Communion Class on **April 10, 17 or 24**. First Communion and Confirmation will take place on Sunday, **June 5**.

As always, if you have any questions please email me at [EGChristanEdFUMC@gmail.com](mailto:EGChristanEdFUMC@gmail.com).

God Bless,  
Amanda

## THE LATEST FOR THE YOUTH GROUP

Happy Spring! Winter is officially over! Our spring is already filling up!

### YOUTH GROUP 6TH GRADE - 12TH GRADE

**April 3** after church until 1:00 pm! Come prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt, we will also be playing games and having a bite to eat.

**April 8** 7:00 pm—9:00 pm GAME NIGHT!! (If we have enough youth in attendance).

**April 10** After church we will be hiding the eggs for the egg hunt. (Hiding the eggs will not take long, this is not a full youth group meeting).

**April 24** - Regular Youth Group meeting with a bite to eat after church until 1:00 pm.



### JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

After the Easter Egg hunt, join us to learn how to knit with Aleta until 12:30 pm and have a bite to eat.

Amber Telford, [youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:youthleaderamber@gmail.com)

You are braver than you believe,  
And stronger that you seem,  
And smarter than you think.  
Winnie-The-Pooh



Sometimes the smallest things  
take up the most room  
in your heart.  
Winnie-The-Pooh



## WORSHIP IN THE LENTEN SEASON & EASTER

We began our Lenten Season here in East Greenbush with an Ash Wednesday worship service on March 2. Following that we usually began our series of ecumenical Lenten Worship and Luncheon programs. Covid changed that again this year. For most of March we have been limited to our regular Sunday morning worship programs. Moving into the month of April, Palm Sunday, **April 10** recalls the memory of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will begin our week that day with our regular worship schedule plus the Youth Palm Parade at 9:15 am. Next will be Holy Thursday, **April 14**. That service will be held at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The service will also be available virtually on Facebook and by Friday on YouTube.



Our Holy (Maundy) Thursday Prayer Vigil will begin at 8:00 pm following the evening worship service on **April 14**, and continuing through 6:30 pm on Good Friday, **April 15**. You can sign-up to cover one or more one-half hour blocks of time at this address: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4FAEA72DA1FE3-prayer> or sign-up on the sheet in the church lobby. You can participate in the prayer vigil either at home or at the church.

Our Good Friday worship service will begin at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. It will feature the choral cantata "The Lenten Sketches" by Joseph M. Martin. The service will also be available virtually on Facebook and by Saturday on YouTube.

We have also been invited to participate in the Good Friday Ecumenical Service planned by the Capital Area Council of Churches. That service will be held at First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Avenue, Albany at 12:00 noon. Participation in person, via Zoom and Facebook Live will be available. Contact the Council at <https://www.capareacc.org/> for information to register for Zoom or Facebook.

Easter Sunday worship will follow a special worship service schedule beginning with a Sunrise Service in the outdoor chapel at 6:30 am. There is no 8:30 am service this Sunday. There will be our regular service at 9:30 am, in person, live-streamed on Facebook and later on YouTube. There will also be a worship service at 11:00 am in person only. No live steam.

Pastor Sundar will be preaching each Sunday in the very busy month of April.

## THERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

**April 3 Fifth Sunday of Lent** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

**April 10 Palm Sunday** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40; Luke 22:14-23:56

**April 14 Maundy Thursday** Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10) 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 15 Good Friday** Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

**April 17 Easter** Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839); Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

**April 24 Second Sunday of Easter** Psalm 150 (UMH 862); Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31



Our ninth annual **Change the World** will be held throughout the month of May, with **May 15** designated as Change the World Sunday. We encourage everyone to participate to share the love of Jesus Christ.

### **Environmental Clean-Up**

Recklessly discarded trash not only destroys the beauty of the environment, but can be flushed down the Hudson River to join a massive ocean garbage patch or be broken down into microplastics and ingested by marine life. On May 7, a crew from our church will join the RiverSweep to clean up sections of the River in Rensselaer. Please register with Kevin (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518-253-4907) by **April 30** so he can provide you with the information that you need.



Project Coordinator: Kevin Conley

### **Red Bird Shoeboxes**

We will again be filling shoeboxes for adults and children in need living in the Appalachians. Last year we filled 50 boxes. Can we do 75 this year? Shoeboxes will be available beginning May 1. Lists of requested items, mainly personal hygiene toiletries, can be found on page 8. Please return the filled boxes to church by **May 31**.



Project Coordinator: John Schmidt

### **Share the Love Calendar**

Can you fill the May calendar with names of 31 people who could use a reminder of God's love? Send an e-mail, a card or letter, perhaps bake some cookies or make a phone call. Your "Share The Love" Calendar can be found on page 8

### **Drive-thru Food Donation for the VA Hospital Residents and Concerns-U Food Pantry**



On Sunday **May 1**, from 9:00 am -12:00 noon Change the World will be having a drive-thru food donation over by the garage. All nonperishable items will be accepted, but what they really need are toiletries, reusable bags, peanut butter, jelly (in plastic containers), coffee, creamer, and sugar.

Project Coordinators: Lorraine Beals, Aleta Schweigert

### **Lunches for Interfaith**

Our Youth will be making 45 bagged lunches (sandwiches) for the Interfaith Homeless Shelter and delivering them to Sheridan Ave. in Albany.

Project Coordinator: Amber Telford

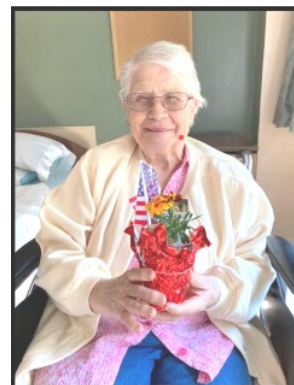
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## **Potted Plants Outreach Project**

One hundred ten decorated potted plants will be brought to residents of Rosewood Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center on Saturday, **May 14**. We always have a "potting party" a couple of weeks before the delivery date and a "SAVE THE DATE" announcement will be in the church bulletin soon. All ages are welcome to come and help transplant marigolds into their new containers. Huge smiles and a sense of belonging and hope are seen on the faces of residents as they receive their special gift. In June, Rosewood has a planting day when residents can contribute their plants to a community garden. Rosewood staff view our church as a beacon light and community support, especially noted during the Pandemic as cards and letters were sent to residents throughout 2020-2021.

Project Coordinator: Carrie Larson



## **Food Trucks**



Food Trucks, including **Livin' the Dream** and **Heisenburgers** as well as church programs display tables are planned for **May 21** between 12 noon to 4:00 PM in the church parking lot. Would you like to volunteer for this Change The World project? Come see/email Amber Telford to learn how you can help. You can reach Amber at [youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:youthleaderamber@gmail.com)

Project Coordinator: Amber Telford

## **Church Clean-Up**

Sunday School will have a special Mission project **May 15** during and after Sunday School cleaning out the storage closets, nursery and preschool room and organizing the supplies. These rooms are used by many and are in desperate need of a deep clean. All ages are welcome to sign up! A pizza lunch will be provided to all who volunteer.

Project Coordinator: Amanda Trainor

## **Card Making Project**

Card Making Craft- Address Christmas Cards, which have been collected, and embellish greeting cards to be delivered to Local Nursing Homes, V.A. Hospital, Blue Star Mothers (for Military Members), and Community Hospice. Glue and color bits and pieces to decorate plain cards. Add a message of encouragement or fun saying. All supplies will be available in Fellowship Hall Sunday, **May 15** for everyone of every age to get crafty for a valuable, personal, hands on, mission. Kits to do from home will also be available. Please call the office if you would like one or more. Our goal for this first year is 200 cards. Can you help?

Project Coordinators: Aleta Schweigert, Lorraine Beals

## **SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT**

Among the Change the World events in May, our Sunday School will have a special Mission project **May 15**, during and after Sunday School, cleaning out the storage closets, nursery and preschool room and organizing the supplies. These rooms are used by many and are in desperate need of a deep clean. All ages are welcome to sign up! A pizza lunch will be provided to all who volunteer.

Project Coordinator: Amanda Trainor

# SHARE THE LOVE CHALLENGE

## CHANGE THE WORLD

Put a person's name in each box.

Send each person a personal reminder of how much he or she is loved and valued.

May  
2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### RED BIRD MISSION – Adult Shoebox

Mark box for:  
Man or Woman

Note: All items should be FULL size and in their original containers, as purchased. To help items fit in the box, purchase flat bottles of shampoo, hand lotion, etc. & small round cans of shaving cream.

Comb and/or hairbrush  
Shampoo  
Hand lotion  
Deodorant  
Toothbrush and toothpaste  
Chap stick  
Full size bar of soap  
Washcloth  
Disposable razors  
Shaving cream  
Nail care items  
Socks  
Work gloves or mittens  
Winter stocking hat or scarf

The mission is also accepting "gently used" and clean clothing items for men and women. All items must be sent in cardboard boxes. Plastic bags are not accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

**Box should be returned by May 31**

### RED BIRD MISSION – Child's Shoebox

Mark box for:  
Boy or Girl, Ages 2-4 or 5-9 or 10-14

Note: All items should be FULL size and in their original containers, as purchased. To help items fit in the box, purchase flat bottles of shampoo, hand lotion, etc.

Comb and/or hairbrush  
Shampoo  
Hand lotion  
Child's toothbrush and toothpaste  
Chap stick  
Full size bar of soap  
Washcloth  
Socks  
Mittens  
Winter hat  
Small flashlight  
2 or 3 small toys  
2 or 3 school items  
Christian bookmarks, wristbands, and other spiritual items are also appreciated

The mission is also accepting "gently used" and clean clothing items for boys and girls. All items must be sent in cardboard boxes. Plastic bags are not accepted. Thank you for your generosity!

**Box should be returned by May 31**



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (*FORMERLY*)



### United Methodist Women Gets A Rebrand



United  
Women  
in Faith

### DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING!

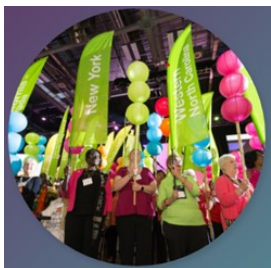
The next meeting of the *United Women in Faith* is **April 4** at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. All women of the church are invited to attend and bring a friend. We need to discuss if we want to be part of the food truck event.

**United Methodist Insight**, on March 4 published this story, which we quote in part, about a big change for the United Methodist Women (UMW). "As of March 3, United Methodist Women has become United Women in Faith, a rebranding and updating of the mission agency that has been five years in the making. While the announcement of the change took many by surprise, the changes have been wrought with meticulous care through research, focus groups and interviews with some 24,000 women. In a typically bold move ("bold" is a word much beloved by UMW), the organization's board of directors decided to proceed with its rebranding without benefit of General Conference legislation. A new, more accessible website debuted March 3 to begin rolling out innovations in membership and programs to accompany the new name."

A new logo and other changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women, and to expand options for membership and engagement. You will still hear the name UMW used in some places for legal and other reasons, so it has not totally disappeared.

## ***Turn It Up!***

The UMC Calendar gives us a quick introduction to an important UMW event.



*"United Methodist Women's Assembly 2022 is for members, new friends, and partners to gather, worship, care for your soul and learn about the needs of women, children and youth in the 21st century. It's a time to continue building on our more than 150-year heritage as women LEADERS who know how to organize and serve. And women who are willing to be challenged to grow in their faith as they build deeper connections with one another, community leaders and partners in the work of justice for all of God's children."*

What's the Assembly you ask? **Turn It Up!** Go to [www.assembly2022.org](http://www.assembly2022.org). Look to the center of the first screen for the link to a short video that tells the story. *Turn It Up!* at the Orlando Convention Center, **May 20-22, 2022**. Can't join us in Orlando? Then join us from your living room! The program will also be available virtually. Contact Kathy VanBuren if you need more information.

## HOW ABOUT OFFERING A HELPING HAND?

Here is a request from the Trustees. Anybody interested in outdoor maintenance i.e. mowing, gardening or trimming, please contact a Trustee (John Peterson, Peter Larson, David Caneen, Carl Eno, Susie Calyer, Bob Reineke or Pat Frament). Think Spring and think getting back into making our church look like some place special.



## THE LATEST FROM MISSIONS



### Joseph's House Homeless Outreach Van

We are filling Mondays for April and May. 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.

### RISSE

On **May 1**, Daniel Butterworth, Executive Director of Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus and former member of our congregation, will speak to us about services RISSE provides, the challenges it faces with the rising number of refugees, the bicycle program that we and three other Methodist churches support and his hopes for the future. The program will follow the 9:30 am service and will be held in Fellowship Hall.

## The Eco-Team Reports

### Creation Care Series

On **April 24**, the Eco-Team will present the video "Climate change will displace millions. Here's how we prepare" by Collette Pinchon Battle (13 min). The session will be held in the choir room and will run from 11:00 am -11:45 am. This series is intended to inform, but just as importantly, encourage us to talk to one another about the climate emergency that we are in and learn what actions we can take to protect and heal the earth. This series will continue on the 4th Sunday of each month through June. See future issues of The Bell for monthly topics. Participants can attend one or all of the series. **If you would like to participate via ZOOM, please send a request to [e.kevin.conley@gmail.com](mailto:e.kevin.conley@gmail.com) and he will send you a link.**

### Recycling Event

Our next recycling event will be the half hour before and after the 9:30 am service on **April 24**.

- Batteries must be clean. Please discard leaking or corroded batteries.
- Styrofoam must be clean with tape and staples removed. We accept only Styrofoam used for packaging, including peanuts. Please check questionable material with us.
- Prescription bottles must be clean, but you do not need to remove the labels. Please wash bottles, rinse, dry and replace the lids. We are not collecting bottles for over the counter medicines.
- Glass must be clean. We only accept clear (no colored) and only jars and bottles (no window glass, drinking glass, etc). Any caps, metal rings or plastic labels must be removed. Paper labels are okay.

## HOSPITALITY MINISTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Are you interested in helping to coordinate meals for members of our congregation who are recovering from a serious illness or who have recently lost a loved one? We are in need of several volunteers to work with the pastor to plan receptions for weddings and funerals and also to coordinate the Sunday coffee hours. Please contact Amber Telford ([youthleaderamber@gmail.com](mailto:youthleaderamber@gmail.com)) to be a part of this valuable new ministry.



## 'To Stay or Not to Stay'

**The United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy will help provide some answers to questions raised related to the delay of General Conference. Here is a recent press release from that group.**

"CENTENNIAL, Colo. — Numerous congregations and church leaders are weighing whether they want to stay United Methodist or leave for a new theologically conservative denomination. The United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy and Friends, which plans to stay United Methodist, has scheduled a free webinar to explore issues surrounding whether "to stay or not to stay." The webinar is set for 6:00 pm U.S. Mountain time **April 5.**"



More information is available at <https://www.umar.org/>.



- General Conference of The United Methodist Church has been put off to 2024. That has raised questions and concerns about the church until that date. Our NEJ Bishops have prepared a response to those concerns. Bishop Mark J. Webb and the rest of the Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops has issued a ten-minute video sharing their vision of recommitment and hope even in these times of fear, illness, division, grief, greed, and unbridled abuses of power. [Click here, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMhOfyK6Sc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMhOfyK6Sc) to see this moving video. You can also [click here, https://www.unyumc.org/images/uploads/NEJ\\_College\\_of\\_Bishops\\_Transcript.pdf](https://www.unyumc.org/images/uploads/NEJ_College_of_Bishops_Transcript.pdf) to see a transcript of the complete statement. This is a video well worth your time and thought and prayer.
- **Holdover** stories for the **May Church BELL** will include some unanswered questions in the column, SOME QUESTIONS HEARD AROUND CHURCH THIS MONTH. Also, re-scheduled for the May issue of The Church BELL is Part 4 of "Our Church Committees and What They Do".
- Interested in learning to play **Mah Jong**? Classes are being planned for the Fall here at the church. More information will come in future Church Bells. Keeps your mind sharp. We play for fun and in a non-competitive atmosphere.

## You are Invited! (both Lay and Clergy) Albany District Celebration of Lay Servant Ministries Luncheon

It seems like it's been a long time,  
Living through this Covid paradigm.  
Worshipping online, avoiding singing,  
That Covid and variants have been bring.  
But we believe the time is right  
If we act safely so as not to be a blight.

So let's gather together at least once more,  
But we ask, please, that vaccinations come  
before.

We'll meet at Jonesville UMC to renew acquaintances and find commonality.  
Please come to our Lay Servant Ministries Celebration  
where we'll hear Rev. Stees speak of "Building Collaboration."

"Approaching adversity with eyes wide open  
and a heart strangely warmed" will be spoken.  
We'll eat, we'll worship, we'll celebrate Communion,  
and we'll remember Christ who joins us in union.  
So join us please, we hope you'll come  
And bring a friend - not one - but some!

The date is Saturday, **April 30** from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. The church is at 963 Main Street in Clifton Park (Jonesville).

## A VERY SPECIAL CELEBRATION

The SPRC needs YOU on Sunday, **June 12** from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm to **celebrate the life and works of Pastor Sundar!**



Mark your calendars for an afternoon of refreshments, music and fellowship honoring the countless blessings Pastor Sundar has shared with so many of us throughout his career as a minister and disciple.

Along with our congregation, the SPRC is welcoming all who have been touched by his leadership and ministry including family, friends, former parishioners and colleagues.

We understand that this is a busy time of year for many, but we hope you can make space in your schedule to join us in celebrating a man who's love and compassion has helped to change each one of us for the better.

## NEXT GENERAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR 2024

The once every four years event, General Conference, the 2020 session has been postponed again. The church now plans to skip right to the session in 2024. The Commission on General Conference issued a press release on March 3, 2022, part of which is extracted below.

*"Nashville, Tenn.: As the pandemic continues and the wait time for visas stretches to over two years in some countries, the Commission on the General Conference announced today that the 2020 General Conference cannot be held in 2022 due to COVID-related and governmental policies/constraints...."*

*"The Commission appreciates that many people are disappointed about the circumstances of the 2020 General Conference and shares in the disappointment that it has not been able to be held," said Simpson. "COVID-19 has tested the collective patience, understanding, compassion, resolve, and even faith of the world. Commission members remain hopeful and pray that the world's circumstances improve to help make the next General Conference not only possible, but a reminder of the witness of The United Methodist Church as a global representation of the body of Christ."*



The full statement is available at UM News on March 3, 2022. This latest action has brought out many comments, both in support of and against the change again. We will try to collect some of the thoughts for next month's issue of The BELL.

## COFFEE ANYONE!!!

How about a hot cup of coffee or tea following worship on a Sunday morning? Better yet, how about signing up to host Coffee Hour following Sunday morning worship? Everything except the Half and Half is in the kitchen. The instructions are there, and it is easy. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the church foyer. Run your finger down the dates. There's one just for you. If there are enough committees or individuals signed up we could have coffee hour every week!

