



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 5

MAY 2022

At Church on Sundays:

- ♦ Early Informal Service
8:30am - Outdoor Chapel
weather permitting
- ♦ Regular Service 9:30 am in
the sanctuary and
 - ♦ Via Facebook
- ♦ Sunday School to be
determined

Visit us on the Web:

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Rev. Sundar R. Samuel,
Pastor

Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I want you to think about those special places in your life. It might have been at your grandmother's or mother's kitchen table where over milk and cookies questions of faith were answered, or the reality of God became clear in a way it never had before. It may have been a particular Vacation Bible School or a sermon. It may have been the moment one of your children was baptized or accepted Christ for themselves. It may have been the altar rail or the lake or just a picnic table at summer camp. But I want you to think about those sacred spaces and sacred places in your life.



For me, it's hard to nail down just a few. There's mountain top over nine thousand feet high overlooking the rolling hills below where Nilgiris Tea leaves were grown. The foothills of blue mountains where I was attending a month-long camp for college teens where I surrendered to the call to preach. But then there are all those other places like the hospital rooms where I held each of my daughters, grandsons, and granddaughters after they were born. Or where grandchildren were baptized.

There was Camp China Lake in Maine or camp in Cooperstown where I've encountered God in so many ways both through my own experiences like the Walk to Emmaus and through seeing God encounter campers, pilgrims and even those in jails and others in powerful ways.

And then there's this place. This is sacred territory. The heritage of this congregation. And just this space. We claimed this ground for God, and we built this building for God. And for many of us, it holds deep significance. And while we are engaged in the work and ministry of this place, it is, in a sense, a home away from home. A haven and a place of rest and renewal.

Jesus, who had no home of his own, had one of those places which he could call a haven and a place of rest in his life. It's mentioned in the passage of Luke 24:44-53. The place I'm talking about is Bethany. Bethany is about two miles from Jerusalem. But for Jesus, Bethany wasn't just some place close to Jerusalem. Bethany was a haven, a place of rest, renewal, and refreshment. A place of relaxation. A home away from home.

Rev. Grace Mathieu, biblical story teacher, pointed out the

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A Reconciling Congregation

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importance of Bethany to Jesus and just how it was a haven, a place of real refreshment. A place of relaxation. A home away from home. So, let's look a little at Bethany and what took place there in Jesus' life and ministry.

Bethany was the home of some of Jesus' closest friends. They play significant parts in Jesus' ministry, but they are not listed amongst the Disciples. Bethany was the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. And the course of Jesus' ministry, he spends considerable time in their home.

The conversations and interactions of Jesus with this family shows that there was a close, intimate, family like relationship. That didn't just spring up overnight. Jesus spent lots of time in this home. It was, for him a home away from, home. And for someone without a home, it was special.

It was in Bethany, that Jesus' friend, Lazarus died. Martha sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was sick, but Jesus decided to delay his trip to Bethany for two more days. In the meantime, Lazarus died, they held the funeral, and he was buried. Death and grief were trying to show Jesus who was boss. They had the power. They were in control. Lazarus was dead, what would Jesus do about it. Jesus stayed away an extra two days. But then, four days after Lazarus was buried, Jesus showed up in Bethany. One sister was upset with him. The other met him expectantly. And Jesus wept. Death is death. Grief always accompanies death even if you know there's a resurrection. Grief, death still grip your heart and soul and ring the tears out of you.

Jesus wept. Both for his friend and for his own future. Jesus wept. But tears and grief weren't the end. Jesus came to show death and grief and the entire world who was really in charge. "Roll away the stone!" he said. He's been dead four days. "Roll away the stone!" Jesus said. But what about the smell? "Roll away the stone!" Jesus said. After all the objections had been raised, there was only one thing to do. They rolled away his stone. Jesus stood at the entrance of the tomb and called to his friend in a loud enough voice to wake the dead. "Lazarus, come out." And he did. Jesus had them unbind Lazarus. All this took place in Bethany.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we also have the story of Jesus visiting in the house of Simon the Leper, who also lived in Bethany. This took place six days before Passover. Simon had been a leper, but Jesus had healed him. Somehow the name stuck. It was in Simon the Leper's home, while Jesus was eating supper and talking with a group of Pharisees, that Mary, the sister of Lazarus came, knelt at Jesus' feet, and anointed them with costly perfume. Then dried Jesus' feet with her hair.

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HELP – NAMES OF GRADUATES NEEDED



Our church needs up to date information on both our **High School and College 2022 graduates**, to be listed in the Sunday bulletin and The Summer BELL. To help make this happen, please send a graduate's name(s), school(s), and information about future plans to Gail Welkley, our Administrative Assistant, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. So that we don't miss anyone, even if you have just a name, pass it on and we will collect the other information. Email to office@fumceg.org or call 518-477-9693.

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So many momentous events took place in Jerusalem. And so many of those events either took place or had their beginnings in Bethany. For Jesus, Bethany is a haven, a place of rest and refreshment. A place of relaxation and renewal. A home away from home.

For the Disciples, Bethany became a place of blessing. A holy place. A sacred place. A place that would forever live in their hearts like the sacred places in our lives, it was to Bethany that Jesus returned after the resurrection. He took the disciples with him, and Saint Luke says, Jesus "lifting up his hand, blessed them." This is where I'm told we get the notion of a benediction being a blessing. We lift our hands just like Jesus did. We lift our hands and pass on the blessing of Christ which had been passed from the disciples down through the centuries to each other. May you and yours have a blessed Spring and you experience all the newness of life in Christ Jesus.

God's peace is with you! *Pastor Sundar*

SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR MAY

This month of May 2022 is special in many ways. First, specific to our East Greenbush church, May is the last month when Pastor Sundar will be preaching every Sunday here in East Greenbush. He will be moving on to his new assignment at Vestal UMC in July.

The first of May will mark the beginning of another month of church services and programs. Many activities for the members of our church family will have to be scheduled with COVID concerns as a factor in the planning. For example, we anticipate many people will still "attend church" via Facebook live at www.facebook.com/groups/FUMCEG/ or on Sunday afternoons on YouTube at [Worship Service FUMCEG - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWorshipServiceFUMCEG).

This year we can add all our concerns for the people of the Ukraine as war envelopes their country and shapes many of the political and economic decisions made around the world.

The month includes a number of special days in the church. They include:

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2022; Christian Home Month; and Change the World Month. There are also these special days:

Native American Ministries Sunday --- **May 1**, Mother's Day --- **May 8**,

Change the World Sunday --- **May 15**, Heritage Sunday --- **May 22**,

Aldersgate Day --- **May 24** (celebrated May 22), Ascension of the Lord ---

May 26, and Memorial Day --- **May 30**.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2022, a period for the duration of the month of May for recognizing the contributions and influence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States and our United Methodist Church.

Then, what is **Native American Ministries Sunday**? It's a special Sunday that serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this Special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized and to celebrate their special voice in The United Methodist Church.

"Heritage Sunday shall be observed on Aldersgate Day (May 24), or the Sunday preceding that date (this year it is May 22). The day provides an opportunity for reflection on heritage, celebration of where the Church has been, how it understands itself as it shapes us today, and the meaning of Christian conferencing. Heritage Sunday calls the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God." (from ¶264.1, The Book of Discipline) The theme for Heritage Sunday 2022 is **"Splits, Separations, and Reconciliations."** More information about this theme to come in future issues of The BELL.

The word **"Aldersgate"** has special meaning for United Methodists. It refers to a special place in the city of London and a special activity at that place. Watch the video at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/how-aldersgate-changed-john-wesley>. There is also a transcript of the video message at the same location. Worth the time for viewing. The video raises the question, "Aldersgate Sunday is a chance for us to do a little bit of spiritual inventory on our own. 'How am I experiencing God's love in my life?'"



May is
ASIAN
AMERICAN
and
PACIFIC
ISLANDER
Heritage Month



From Duke University
School of Medicine

HERITAGE SUNDAY



SPLITS, SEPARATIONS,
AND RECONCILIATIONS
Rooted in Wesleyan Grace

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR MAY

- May 1** - Psalm 30 , Acts 9:1-6, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19
May 8 - Psalm 23, Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30
May 15 - Psalm 148, Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35
May 22 - Psalm 67, Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29
May 29 - Psalm 97, Acts 16:16-34, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Happy Spring Sunday School Families! It is hard to believe the end of the school year is right around the corner. We are so excited about the upcoming summer, as we will be hosting Vacation Bible School again this summer and the theme is *Food Trucks* and the message is *"on a roll with God" this year!* VBS will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 from **July 6 – August 3**. Children and teens of all ages are welcome, if you would like to register, please contact me

(Amanda Trainor) for the registration paperwork or if you are in church forms can be found in the manilla folder on my office door.

Sunday School continues to operate during the normal 9:30 am church service time. Below is a list of lessons for the month of May:

- **May 1**, Acts: 1-20. – Sunday School will host its annual Mother's Day store.
- **May 8**, Acts 9: 36-43.
- **May 15**, Acts 11: 1-18.
- **May 22**, Acts 16: 9-15.

Please note that the Confirmation and First Communion will take place on Sunday, **June 5**. This will also be the last Sunday for Sunday School until September. Normally Sunday School would end the second Sunday in June. However, we have cleared this Sunday for Pastor Sundar's retirement party. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly, EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com.

God Bless, Amanda

THE LATEST FOR THE YOUTH GROUP

April Showers bring May Flowers! The flowers are blooming and beautiful. We have a lot of fun activities planned for May. We have a very fun and exciting month plan, Change the World will be all month long. I challenge all youth to do multiple activities to help change the world. We will enrich our lives by enriching other lives.

Senior Youth Group

May 1 -10:45 am -12:45 pm We will be having a normal youth group meeting. We will look at everything planned for May and June and coming up with a date and time for FUN PLEX! We will have lunch and play games.

May 8 No Youth Group! Please enjoy your time with your moms.

There will be no Game Night **May 13**!



Saturday, **May 14** 5th grade - 12th grade (inviting the upcoming year) There is an Albany District event at Skye Farm from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. We will be helping Skye Farm get ready to open up camp, worship together and play games. Meals will be provided. The youth group will cover the majority of the cost of this event, it will cost \$5.00 per youth. We will need to leave the church at 9:00 am. Please send youth with extra money to stop and get snacks/ coffee on the way up. Youth group will buy dinner on the way home. We should arrive home around 6:30 pm latest with a stop. If you or your youth would like to participate in this event please let Amber know as soon as possible registration is due May 6.

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YOUTH GROUP (Cont'd)

Sunday, **May 15** Change the World Sunday! We will be making lunches for the Interfaith Homeless shelter (where we dropped off the love kits). We will bring the lunches to the shelter and then have lunch back at the church.

May 21 - Food Truck Festival - We will be hosting a table encouraging kids to come play the lollipop tree game from we will need youth to help from 11:00 am - 2:30 pm or 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm (2 Shifts) **Or** stay for the full day. During the festival you can check out the food trucks (you will be paying for your own lunch).

Junior Youth Group

May 15 Change the World Sunday. I encourage all youth to do an activity with your parents during change the world Sunday and we will have pizza after together as a Junior youth group and Senior youth Group.

Blessings, *Amber Telford*
youthleaderamber@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH (UMW)

A great big thank you goes out to all our wonderful brownie bakers. I would also like to thank the workers who toiled tirelessly during the barbecue on Saturday, April 2. Thank you also to young James Sweeney who was our runner bringing packaged dinners from the kitchen to the front of the church. Thank you also to those who supported our barbecue by purchasing dinners.



While we did not sell as many dinners as we have in the past, everyone agreed this new caterer we hired was excellent. We were able to sell dinners after church on Sunday too. Since we had a number of chicken dinners left at the end of the day, we decided to donate 3 large foil pans of chickens approximately 75 chicken halves, and 2 large foil pans of coleslaw as well as potatoes to the City Mission in Albany. We also donated a cooler full of chickens to Barbecue Delights Catering to bring back to their home base in Middleburgh, New York to be given to families in need in that community. Extra brownies and rolls were packaged and sold separately during the barbecue as well as on Sunday morning.

We are cancelling the barbecue set for May 28. Hopefully we can find another date that is more convenient as a number of our helpers will be away as it is Memorial Day weekend.

Our next monthly meeting is on **May 2** at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room. All women of the church are invited attend.

MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSIONS

Our Made by Hand group has been busy and growing. We are making dish cloths, scrubbies, pot holders and pillowcases for St Paul's Center for Women. We are also creating red, white and blue afghans for Community Hospice. Visit us at the Food Truck Festival **May 21** to admire our projects, during May Change the World month. These projects will be delivered the end of the month. We will continue to make hats and scarves and afghans for other organizations to be delivered in the fall. Contact me for the sizes etc. or to get materials. We welcome any other ideas you may have, or needs you may know of. Thank you to everyone creating love. Tuesdays 10:00 am **May 10, 24.**



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



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



On May 7, a crew from our church will join the RiverSweep to clean up sections of the river in Rensselaer. Please register with Ken (518-253-4907) (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com) 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 will be provided. Please return the filled boxes to the church by **May 31**. The list is on page 8.



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

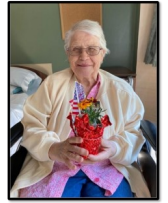
Our Youth will be making 45 bagged lunches (sandwiches) for the Interfaith Homeless Shelter and delivering them to Sheridan Ave. in Albany.

Project Coordinator: Amber Telford



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. 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 Festival



Food Trucks, including Livin' the Dream, Heisenburgers, DiFolco's Roaming Occasions as well as church programs display tables and children's activities are planned for **May 21** between 12:00 noon-4:00 pm in the church parking lot.

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 embellished greeting cards to be delivered to Local Nursing Homes, V.A. Hospital, Blue Star Mothers (for Military Members), and Community Hospice. 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 100 cards. Can you help?

Project Coordinators: Aleta Schweigert, Lorraine Beals

UNYUMC SESSION RESCHEDULED

The Sessions Committee of the Upper New York Conference of The United Methodist Church gathered by Zoom on the morning of Thursday, April 21 to discuss growing concerns about the uptick in COVID-19 cases in Upstate New York and throughout the United States. Members of the Committee shared both their own perspectives and what they have been hearing from others regarding the comfort level of gathering more than a thousand United Methodist from across Upper New York at Onondaga Community College's SRC Arena.

As the result of that meeting, **Annual Conference will be postponed from June 2-4 to October 6-8, 2022, and it will be a virtual gathering.** The plan is to use the same technology that was used at the 2021 virtual Annual Conference gathering, which was relatively well received.

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

OUR CHURCH COMMITTEES AND WHAT THEY DO—PART 4

In this issue we continue a detailed description of ways you can help our church by volunteering to serve on various committees, teams, or ministries. *"The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people"*. This month focuses on the Evangelism Committee, the Eco-Team, and the Endowment committee.

The Eco-Team

The Eco-Team meets periodically throughout the year. We consider all of us to be stewards of the planet. We are always looking for new members who are interested in finding ways to protect and preserve the environment, and to educate others. We conduct several programs:

- Cleanup of litter on a stretch of Columbia Turnpike four times a year through the Adopt A Highway program
- Recycling events three times a year to collect Styrofoam and clear glass and drop off recycling bins for batteries and prescription bottles.
- Annual events such as educational fairs or video/discussion series.
- Regular articles in The Bell.
- Stocking a corner of the library with resources on the environment.
- Information regarding solar energy and assistance in enrolling in a solar farm.

Meeting dates for the Eco-Team are posted on the church calendar. Please consider joining us. Chair: E. Kevin Conley, e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518-253-4907.

THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee was established in 1996 to manage the newly created Endowment Fund of FUMC of E. Greenbush. The Committee is composed of 6 members elected at the Annual Charge Conference. The Chairman of the Trustees and the Minister serve as the ex-officio members. Currently, the Committee has only 3 members and therefore is very interested in adding 3 additional members. Some experience in investing is helpful but it is not necessary to be an investment wizard.

The Endowment Fund strives to preserve the principle investments in the Fund and distributes the interest and dividends generated back to the Church to further the missions of the Church. To that end, the Committee reviews program related proposals from church members and committees and forwards them to the Church Council for further review and funding.

Current members are Carl Eno, Kirsten Downer and Peter Larson, Chair. Richard Daniels serves as the Financial Consultant. Peter can be reached at 518-732-2098, pflarson@nycap.rr.com. The Committee meets on an as needed basis.

Evangelism Committee

Current members: Laura Clark – Chair, Tracy Haines, Amber Telford

Evangelism is a word that means "good news". The word itself has gotten a bad reputation over the years, but we are here to change that. That's what evangelism committee does! Our mission is to share God's good news with all! We have fun as we brainstorm, plan, and get creative! We plan activities with the congregation reminding all of God's everlasting love. We also participate in community events, sharing God's grace and compassion as a reminder that we are all children of God. Everyone is deserving of God's steadfast love, gift of grace, and everlasting salvation. Evangelism committee is excited to share the good news of God's everlasting love with all.

REMEMBER THIS NAME, HELEN DE LEON CAMARCE

For some years the name Mozart Advevu was listed in The Church BELL masthead as "our missionary". Now there is a new name on that line. Our new missionary, "Helen de Leon Camarce is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church currently serving as treasurer of the agency's Cambodia and Southeast Asia Missions.

"A native of Malate, Manila in the Philippines, Helen earned a bachelor of science degree in commerce from the Technological Institute of the Philippines, also in Manila. She worked in exporting and in the travel industry before going to work for the church.

"Believing in good stewardship and good management of church resources, Helen says, "A good Christian must learn to manage God's blessings by being transparent, honest, and always with a thankful heart. I know that monies coming from our sisters and brothers are hard earned, and I want to make our programs and agencies aware of such."



◆ The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) invites you to morning worship on May 22, **Staff Recognition Day**, where we will recognize our dedicated staff. There will be a reception following the 9:30 am service in Fellowship Hall where you can greet and thank our wonderful employees. Who are we talking about? Pastor Sundar Samuel, Chris Chartrand - Custodian, Jackie Krahforst - Organist and Accompanist, Cindy Reineke (In memoriam) - Director of Youth and Bell Choirs, Amber Telford - Youth Leader, Robert Thomsen - Sanctuary Choir Director, Amanda Trainor - Director of Children's Christian Education, Gail Welkley - Administrative Assistant. Join us!

- ◆ On many Sundays when we have celebrated a baptism, we have welcomed **Ecumenical Witnesses of Baptism** to our church to participate in the service. That team of witnesses, part of the Capital Area Council of Churches, is looking for some new members. If you would like to be a witness and help take this unique ministry to other churches in our area, please contact the Coordinator, Miranda Rand at mirandarand411@gmail.com to volunteer or speak to George Herrick for more information.



MARCH/APRIL BELL MISSING PICTURES

First, on the left, here is a picture that arrived too late to include in the March issue. It's our new Peer Minister Rhonda Demanya. We are looking forward to the date Rhonda can join us for Sunday morning worship. We'll keep you informed. The picture on the right failed to print in some copies of the March issue that were sent by email. You may recognize the sign for our highway clean-up volunteers. It's in front of the Walgreen Pharmacy in Schodack.



Dear Cindy,

Like many, I wish I had the chance to tell you in person about the wonderful gifts you brought to our church family. I think of you as one of the “heart and soul” people in our church. We met 45 plus years ago when our daughters joined the Chancel Choir. You always encouraged children to sing and have their voice be heard in melody, then in harmony and sometimes as a solo, scary stuff... always with a smile of encouragement and a comment of success. You helped us learn to take a risk and follow our passion...as you modeled starting the Bell choirs and performed solos on the self-made “bell tree”. You accepted our mistakes and encouraged us to “follow”, to “lead” and to keep going on even though we made mistakes. You sang second soprano for years in the choir and I miss seeing you with folder in hand and reaching for those high notes. I loved that you loved chasing a bargain meal, always said “yes” when asked to help and belly laughed. You are beloved and will be missed.



Written for our church family by Carrie Larson.