



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 8

SEPTEMBER 2022

At Church on Sundays:

- ♦ 8:30 am Early Informal Service - Outdoor Chapel weather permitting
- ♦ 9:30 am Regular Service
Also streaming live on Facebook, available on YouTube same afternoon
- ♦ Sunday School & Youth Group—see inside for details,

Visit us on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

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

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youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Danyal Mohammadzadeh

Pastor

Gail Welkley,

Administrative Assistant

Jeremiah's Balm

Another 9/11 Anniversary is approaching us and many wounds are not healed yet. Many are suffering because of open wounds that are not only caused by the tragedy of 9/11 but other forms of violence. Many are in pain because of other violent events caused by systemic racism, sexism, gun control regulations, homophobia, poverty, and global warming. "Is there no balm in the U.S.?" is a question that comes to my mind. And I remember that once upon time Jeremiah asked such question too.

In September, the FUMC pulpit follows the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year lectionary produced by the Roman Catholic Church following the reforms of the Second Vatican Council. Contemplating on the Book of Jeremiah is one of the lectionary's suggestions for the month of September.

Jeremiah is considered as the second major prophet in Christian traditions. When he was writing this text, he was in exile. Experiencing exile is not an easy experience. It's tough. It's full of oppression, prejudice, violence, desperation, depression, anxiety, and the tears of loneliness. Jeremiah was in pain. He was suffering. One day Jeremiah cried, "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then have my people not been restored to health?" (Jeremiah 8:22)

He actually knew that there was a balm. "Is there no balm in Gilead?" is an eye-opening question. "Is there no balm in Gilead?" is a spiritual question that would open the Jews' eyes to the balm that already exists in front of their eyes. "Is there no balm in Gilead?" will lead them from pain to healing, from oppression to justice, from desperation to hope, from depression to joy, and from anxiety to peace.

Jeremiah addresses the Jews in exile. In other words, he addresses the desperate humans who are experiencing the pain of depression, anxiety, oppression, violence, prejudice, and the tears loneliness. However, his audience is not only Jews who lived about 2,500 years ago. Being in exile is a common experience for all humans regardless of their generation.

(Continued on page 2)



A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

Experiencing exile started from the Garden of Eden where our first parents had been exiled from their home as natural consequences of their poor choices. Later, from the next generation, Cain was exiled to Nod, the land east of Eden, again because of poor choices that he made. Noah and his family had to live in exile too. It wasn't their fault. They had to leave their home as consequences of others' actions. The nation of Israel experienced exile several times.



And it continues. Today, many people have to live in exile because of political, financial, or religious reasons. But it's not only about exile from a physical place or a destroyed utopia. It can be experiencing emotional exile or spiritual exile. We might feel that we had been exiled from home. Home not as a physical place but as a place where we belong to, where we are loved by someone, and where we feel safe. Also, the nostalgia of "the good old days" can be a form of experiencing emotional exile or spiritual exile. Indeed, we all have experienced exile in different forms and because of different reasons: the consequences of our poor choices or others' actions.

In September, Prophet Jeremiah will lead us in our life journey from experiencing exile to experiencing home; where we belong to, where we feel safety, peace, and joy, where we are loved by someone, where someone knows our emotional wounds and so will place a balm on our trauma. Then, we all will sing with Jeremiah:

*There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the wounded soul.*

*Pastor Danyal,
pastordanyal@fumceg.org*

ORGAN REPAIR FUND

The organ repair fund has risen to \$5,797 as of August 28, 2022. Our goal is to raise \$9,000 for the repairs. We have only \$3,203 to go. So dig deep we're almost there. You can donate through online giving, send a check to the church or drop your donation in the Sunday worship offering plate. Thank you to all of you who have given.



CHURCH CONFERENCES



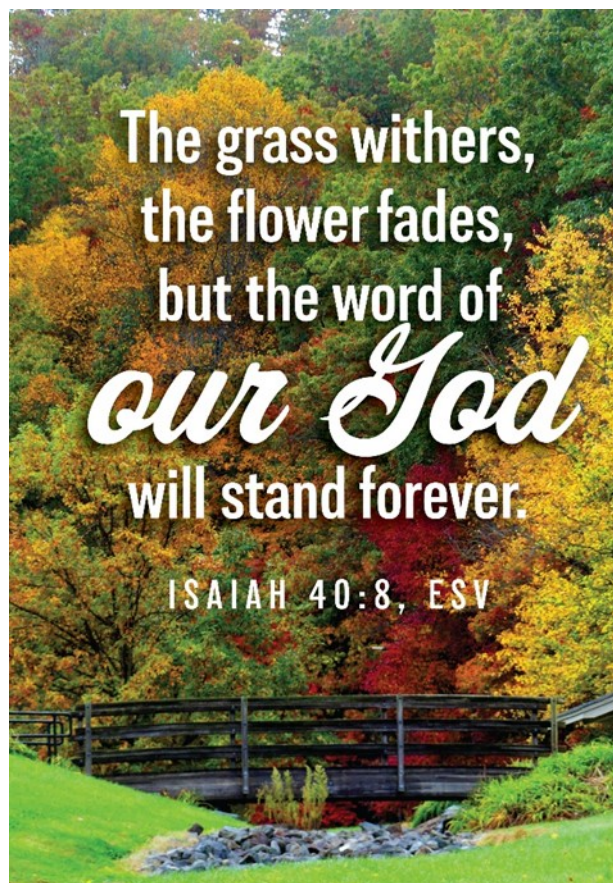
Our **Annual Church Conference** will be held on Wednesday, **November 9, 2022 at 6:30 pm** here at our church. This is a Church Conference so all members of our church are eligible to vote.

Also this reminder, the Thirteenth Session of **Upper New York Annual Conference** will be held remotely on **October 6—8, 2022**. Registration is now open.

THE BELL is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780. September 2022, Volume 24, Issue 8. **George Herrick**, Editor **Danyal Mohammadzadeh**, **Gail Welkley**, Editing Team; **Kathy Van Buren**, Production Leader, **Dave Caneen**, Photographer; The Church Staff: **Danyal Mohammadzadeh**, Pastor; **Gail Welkley**, Administrative Assistant; **Amanda Trainor**, Director of Children's Christian Education; **Amber Telford**, Youth Leader; **Jacqueline Krahforst**, Organist; **Robert Thomsen**, Choir Director; **Cynthia McLaughlin**, Director of Bell Choirs; **Christopher Chartrand**, Custodian; **Laura Clark**, Lay Leader; **Rhonda Demanya**, Peer Minister, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, The University at Albany; **Helen de Leon Camarce**, Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Treasurer of the agency's Cambodia and Southeast Asia Missions and part of the Cambodia Women's Livelihood Projects.

SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

Changes, a month of. That's September. The world around us will change as we move into the Fall season. The autumnal equinox arrives on Thursday, **September 22**. That's the day that marks the start of fall in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere. For us in the north, many tree leaves will go from green to red, yellow and golden colors before they drop. Days will grow noticeably shorter. Average temperatures will start to fall. Our early service at Chapel-in-the-Woods will be moving back indoors as the outdoor temperature begins to fall, and 9:30 morning worship will be moving back to the sanctuary. In our church we will go in the opposite direction. Many programs will start to happen again as the new school year begins. Changes. The picture tells the story of the season – and more.



September 4 : 13th Sunday after Pentecost.

September 11: 14th Sunday after Pentecost. Sunday School Rally Day. Watch out for kids! It's good to have them back. Hispanic Heritage Month will begin **September 15 and runs to October 15**.

September 18: 15th Sunday after Pentecost.

September 25: 16th Sunday after Pentecost. Our Jewish brothers and sisters will begin their celebration of Rosh Hashanah this Sunday.

SCHOOL'S STARTING — Give thanks — For

Teachers . . . As we prepare for the new school year, if you have five minutes, you should watch this video:

https://vimeo.com/737909802?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=85187571

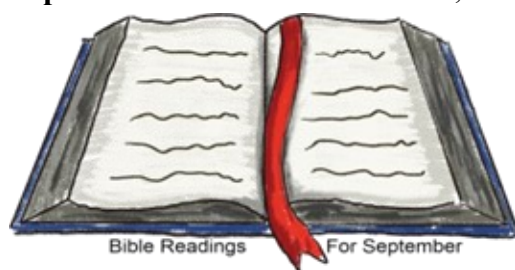
If you watched the video and followed the suggestion made in it, please let the editor know before the next BELL deadline.

Our 9:30 am Sunday worship service is live streamed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FUMCEG. Once this service returns from the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary in September, it will also be available on YouTube later that same Sunday afternoon at [Worship Service FUMCEG-YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

Pastor Danyal is scheduled to preach all four of the Sundays in September.

Here is the Lectionary for September

September 4 – Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 11:21; Luke 14:25-33



September 11 – Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 18 – Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4;
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 25 – Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you all well. It is difficult to believe that Summer is already winding down and a new school year is underway. A huge thank you goes out to all who participated in Vacation Bible School over the summer. It was a fantastic program, and I am so grateful to have been able to enjoy it with everyone who was able to attend. We have many great plans in the works for this coming year.



Sunday School will kick off on Sunday, **September 11**. We will start **Rally Day** with a reimagined Young Disciples (Chocolate Time) during the 9:30 am service led by our new Pastor, Danyal. Then children and youth will be dismissed to Fellowship Hall where we will have a hands-on lesson and prepare for a **waffle breakfast during coffee hour**.

All are welcome to join us!

This year we will have separate classes! Contingent upon attendance, children in preschool and Kindergarten will be in the preschool room for a story, snack and play time. Children in 1st-6th grades will be in a separate class for a hands-on lesson and snacks. Teens 7th grade and up will have a You Tube Bible Based lesson and snack in the Youth Lounge run by Amber Telford.

We will be piloting a few new programs this year. The first is a Children's Day program that will focus on how children can change the world. The second is an all-age inclusive BOS (Brunch on Sunday) program where we will have brunch and participate in a mission project. We will be offering a modified version of the Christmas Pageant that Danyal has written himself!

Last but certainly not least, Confirmation class will take place again this year starting in late October. If you have a child in grade 8 or up who has not been confirmed and is interested in participating, please contact me.

Please be on the lookout for a detailed email soon! If you are not on the Sunday School email list and would like to be, e-mail EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com.

God Bless,
Amanda Trainor
EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW/UWF)

Hi! Did you have a wonderful Summer? The United Methodist Women, whose name has been changed to United Women of Faith, will be starting their monthly meetings on **September 12** at 7:00 pm. We always have wonderful discussions and fellowship with each other. We would love to see new faces. Come and join us. We are planning **Brooks Barbecue** on **October 8** among other things. We are still in need of a recording secretary.



CHECK OUT THIS ADDITION TO OUR CHURCH LIBRARY



The Eco-Team purchased a copy of *What A Waste: Trash, Recycling and Protecting our Planet* by Jess French for our church library in the belief that this will help young and old to "affirm our sacred calling to be responsible stewards and to lovingly tend all that God has wrought (Methodist Social Principles). *What A Waste* is a fun-to-read, attractive educational book for children that covers many areas important for the environment, including air pollution, deforestation, renewable energy, plastic, food and fashion waste. For each topic, the author describes the challenges we face and what we can do to care for the earth. The graphics are astounding and the tone is positive and action oriented. Though targeted to elementary and middle-school readers, the book provides information for all of us. The author finishes the book with a list of organizations and charities that can provide more information.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Summer has come and gone. I hope everyone had a great summer with all the exciting adventures you had planned and done. I cannot wait until it's time for us to meet again, and hear about all that you have accomplished this summer.

This Youth Group school year we are switching things up a little bit. We will be having a Junior High Youth Group 5th Grade - 7th Grade and a Senior. High Youth Group 8th Grade - 12th Grade. Each month we will also have one big event all together. Some big events may be going out into the community for fun or mission projects, other events may be doing a fundraiser in the church.



Senior Youth Group - 8th - 12th grade

September 11 We will be helping with coffee hour, then after we will have a meeting from 11:00 am -1:00 pm. (Sunday School is a waffle bar for the coffee hour after church). Please bring your ideas for Trunk or Treat, Mission Projects and any other items you want to bring up to the youth group.

Junior Youth Group 5th -7th, Grade

September 25 We will be having a meeting from 11:00 am -12:30 pm. There will be snacks provided. Come for fun, games and fellowship.

All 5th -12th Graders September Event!

September 16 at 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm We will be taking a trip to FUNPLEX ! We will meet Pastor Danyal there for some Mini Golf and Go Karting! We will end the night with Lickety Split. The Youth Group will pay for the youth to participate in the activities at FunPlex, Please bring cash for Lickety Split.

Please mark your calendars, Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, **October 30**.

Amber Telford
youthleaderamber@gmail.com

MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSIONS

We will be meeting every other Tuesday at 10:00 am **September 6, 20 October 4, 18 and November 1, 15.**

Everyone is invited to join us for creating and/or conversation. We have additional, new projects coming for those who do not knit or crochet. For the fall we will be focusing on soft hats of any size, color, or shape for hatsgiving.org, and Red Scarves (5-8 inches wide by 60 inches long) for foster care kids in college fc2success.org. These 2 efforts need to be delivered by **Thanksgiving time**. Afghans 48"X48" are ongoing projects for various organizations locally. If you need supplies or would like to meet evenings, contact the group. Thanks.
aleta.schweigert@gmail.com



WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY MAHJONGG



Mahjongg Mavens will be meeting every Tuesday at 1:00 pm in the Youth Lounge. You are invited to join this "club" if you want to learn to play. For information call Nancy Keenholts at 518-491-2802 or Kathy Van Buren at 518-477-6292.

SKYE FARM FALL FAMILY WEEKENDS

Skye Farm Camp in Warrensburg will host Fall Family Weekends in September and October. Stay in one of their lodges or cabins. Available weekends are: September 16-18; September 23-25; September 30-October 2; October 14-16 and October 21-23. Contact site director Robyn Vernon to make reservations or for more information. Her email robynvernon@unyumc.org or call (518) 494-7170. Visit their Facebook Page by clicking [here](#).

GET INVOLVED WITH CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Providing the opportunities for Christians to get together ecumenically requires an organization that is virtually all volunteer. From board members to committee members, CACC is always looking for people who want to participate. Perhaps you have an interest in being involved, or know someone who might like to be involved? CACC has plenty of opportunities with varying levels of involvement available. For more information, email at <https://www.capareacc.org/volunteer-at-cacc/> for more information

Opportunities to Get Involved

- Someone with an interest in the finance, budgeting, or investing might like to join our Finance Committee.
- Those interested in writing articles, assembling a newsletter, developing content for the website, designing the website or interacting via social networks would be a great fit for the Communications Committee.
- Interested in contacting churches to talk about CACC? Join the Nominations Committee.
- Great at fundraising? The Development Committee could use you.



TWO BIG CELEBRATIONS COMING

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

FALL AWARDS CELEBRATION DINNER

CACC 2022 Award Recipients:

Rev. Dr. Carlyle Adams Ecumenical & Interfaith Award – Rabbi Debora S. Gordon

Pearl and James Campbell Peace & Justice – Lisa Good

Rev. Joyce Steinkraus Giles Pastoral Award – Rev. David W. Preisinger

Ed Bloch Interfaith Youth Award – Ayah Osman

Evelyn C. Stone Lifetime Achievement Award – Nell Stokes



The dinner celebrating this fine group will be held on Wednesday, **September 28** with a social hour starting at 5:00 pm at the Italian-American Community Center, 257 Washington Ave Ext, Albany. Dinner is \$80 and includes a choice of meals. To make a reservation for the dinner, contact the CACC office at 518-462-5450, capareacc@gmail.com.

Cornerstone Campus Ministry - 11th Annual

FALL FUNDRAISER

"Celebrating 20 years"

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.—in-person or online

First Lutheran Church, 181 Western Avenue, Albany

... celebrating our history and building support for the future...



For the last 11 years the Board of Directors for Protestant Campus Ministry at UAlbany has hosted a Fall Fundraiser to share the story of our ministry and encourage continued support. This year we will be honoring our Director, The Rev. Sandy Damhof, for her incredible ministry as she prepares to retire next year. Many of our alumni and current students will share their powerful stories about Sandy's impact for almost 20 years and what they envision for the future of Protestant Campus Ministry. We hope you will be able to join us for this event in person, or on zoom. Please share this invitation with others. **RESERVATIONS** email CCM at ualbanycornerstone@gmail.com



Our church is blessed to have many people who are dedicated to caring for others. They provide many services including providing food, shelter and clothing for those in need, and reminding others that they are valued and loved. Over the next few months, we will describe the good work that these ministries are doing. We hope that if you would like to share your gift of time, we encourage you to

contact the team leaders. This month we would like to highlight two of these ministries, The Eco-Team and Made by Hand With Love.

The mission of the **Eco-Team** is to make our planet sustainable through reduced use of fossil fuels, recycling, and responsible living. We support responsible stewardship of God's creation through reduction, reuse and recycling of goods. The Eco-Team has been responsible for making our church become a "greener" church in many ways. We are now recycling batteries, glass, Styrofoam and plastic prescription bottles. The Eco-Team has provided our church family with information about solar energy. We are continuing an informational video series on Climate Change. We have been participating in the Adopt-a-Highway clean-up program for ten years now. We continue to encourage earth-friendly changes in our church kitchen such as using ceramic mugs instead of Styrofoam. The Eco-Team has also provided the congregation with educational information in several Eco-Fairs. New members are always welcome. Contact Kevin Conley, Eco-Team Chair at e.kevin.conley@gmail.com or 518-253-4907.



Made by Hand With Love meets every second Tuesday for sharing ideas and conversation. Using our Time, Talent, and Treasures we create comforting articles to support others. (Pictured are items made for St. Paul's Women's and Children's Shelter in Rensselaer). Our afghans and prayer shawls go out to patients at ALS, VA Hospital, Albany Med, Hospice, S.H.I.P. (Sheriff's Homeless Improvement Program). Hats of every color, size and shape go to hatsgiving.org for kids with cancer. Scarves go to Foster Care Kids in College. And more. You are invited to join our group just for the conversation event! Team leader is Aleta Schweigert. Contact Aleta at aleta.schweigert@gmail.com or 518-477-9120.

LEN FINKE REMEMBERS:

I remember Shirley Byers with great fondness. She was a gifted teacher and leader. I took several Disciple Bible Studies with her as the teacher. She had so much to give and I learned a lot.

Her obit in the Times Union indicated that she "helped establish Covenant Hills in Vermont" a sleep away camp like Skye Farm. I was privileged to help build a cabin at Covenant Hills dedicated to the memory of Scot Higgins, a former youth leader and member of our church.



Shirley was responsible for my retirement from New York State. In the fall of 1999 I was taking a Disciple Bible Study course. Shirley was our leader and at the same time she was organizing a VIM trip to Brazil. Every week she informed us of the progress she was making to plan the trip. I was interested in going, but they were leaving in late January 2000 and not returning until mid-February. I was working in Income Tax Processing and there was no way I could take time off for the trip. One evening Shirley said to me that if I retired I could make the trip. The next day I contacted the retirement system and the result was on the official day of my retirement I was in Brazil helping to build a church. That was Shirley, always planning how to accomplish an objective.

Under her leadership I went to Brazil on three VIM (Volunteers-In-Mission) trips. Shirley made sure that all of us had everything we needed for our trips and she watched over us like a mother hen does with her chicks. I remember a time when I refused a drink of water because I was on a scaffold high up in the air and I did not want to come down. Shirley came over and gently, but firmly, reminded me that I needed to drink whenever water was offered. After that I never again refused a drink of water. That was Shirley taking care of us. She will be missed.

Len

SOME SHORT NOTES OF IMPORTANCE



* Save the date! The Albany and Adirondack District Day, "Informed to Transform," will be held from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm **Saturday, October. 22** at the Saratoga Springs UMC. A variety of workshops and discussions will be offered. More details will be shared later this summer.

* One of the winners of the Capital Area Council of Churches Fall Awards will be **Rabbi Deb Gordon of Congregation Berith Sholom in Troy.** That's one of the teaching stops for our Confirmation Class each year. Let's support Rabbi Deb and the other award winners. See page 6 for reservation information.

- * **You can help.** Are there folks in our church who got out of the habit of attending during the pandemic and haven't returned yet? The Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter writes that one sincere, guilt-free invitation, *it could be yours*, might be all that is needed to get them back. **Click here for more.** [Read commentary](#)
- * **Blood Donors!** The next scheduled dates for a Red Cross Blood Drive here at our church --- Wednesday, **November 15, 2022** and Friday, **January 20, 2023.**
- * The **Upper New York Young Adult Council** is collecting information about young adult (ages 18 to 35) ministries in our Conference. They want to spread the word about existing opportunities and help new young adult ministries get started! If you are interested, send an a message to the councils email at youngadults@unyumc.org

UPDATES AND NEEDED CORRECTIONS

Currently the church uses two email address lists to send messages to members and friends. Editor@fumceg.org is used to send weekly announcements, the weekly worship bulletin and the monthly Church BELL newsletter. Cares@fumceg.org is used to send the weekly prayer list. If you are not receiving these emails and would like to, please send an email to editor@fumceg.org and ask to be added. Sometimes we have a problem with emails we send bouncing back as undeliverable. The most problematic addresses are hotmail.com, live.com, and nycap.rr.com. If you expect to receive church emails but aren't getting them, they may be bouncing back. You can check with us or provide a different email address by sending email to editor@fumceg.org.

WALK TO EMMAUS UPDATE

Let's begin with a question. What do you know about the Walk to Emmaus? If you're a stranger to The Walk, a good place to start is the YouTube video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvS8AJOs4s>. Now that you have some idea of what it is all about, let's turn to Living Waters Emmaus Community. That's the name of the Emmaus program in our area. Our community has a Men's and a Women's Walk scheduled for the end of **April 2023** and mid-**May 2023**, at the Christ the King Center, Burton Road, Greenwich, NY. Registration information will be available at a later date. Our Living Waters Emmaus Community has a new website. Check it out at <http://www.livingwateremmaus.com>. Contact the BELL editor if you have any questions.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH — FALL ALBANY DISTRICT MEETING

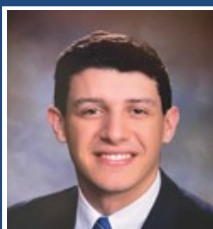
The **United Women in Faith** will meet Saturday, **October 1**, Newtonville UMC, 568 Loudon Rd., Latham. Registration begins at 8:45 am. There will be Fellowship Time from 9:00 am–9:30 am. Tara Barnes, Senior Editor of RESPONSE Magazine, will help us through the transition from **United Methodist Women** to **United Women of Faith**. She'll tell us what we need to know, what we need to do and how to do it. There will also be a Business Meeting, Worship Time, Communion Service, and Installation of Officers. **Please register by September 26.**



OUR SPRING 2022 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

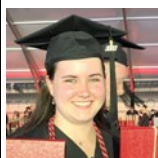


Leah Buono, daughter of Heidi and Michael Buono and sister of Patrick and Zachary Buono – Columbia HS, attending Siena College majoring in psychology.

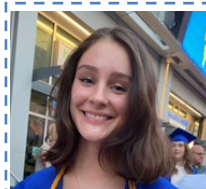


Brandon Ostiguy graduated from Bentley University - Bachelor of Science with a major in Data Analytics and a double minor in Business Studies and Economics.

He will be starting his Masters in Business Analytics degree this fall at Bentley University and playing his fifth year on the baseball team.

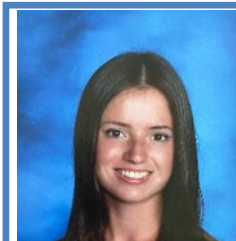


Amanda Horne, daughter of William and Christine Horne – B.S. of Science from MIT in computer science and electrical engineering and a M.S. in Computer Systems and Cyber Security. She is starting a job with Microsoft in Seattle. Amanda and her brother Jason were Coffee House performers when they were younger.



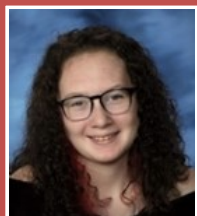
Libby (Elizabeth) Daly, daughter of Jenn Schmidt – graduated from Averill Park High School, and has been accepted at Plattsburgh State to study Environmental Science.

Renee Lynn Smith, graduated in May with a degree in marketing from the University of Tampa. She is the daughter of Daniel & Lisa Smith, granddaughter of Mary and the late David Smith.



Mackenzie Wagner, graduated from Columbia High School, she is going to the University of Rhode Island majoring in Biotechnology and will pole vault there for their Division 1 track team.

Her favorite memory of the church is decorating the Christmas tree with the special ornaments that were given out during the children's service on Christmas Eve. She is the daughter of Kristy and Marshall Wagner.

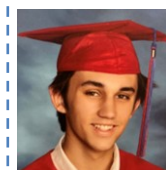


Anna Schweigert will be Studying at SUNY New Paltz, undecided what her major will be. Favorite memory of the church, performing as an Angel in one of the Christmas plays. Granddaughter of Aleta and Allen Schweigert.



Sandra Myers graduated from Columbia High School will be attend Johnson and Wales— Baking and Pastries is her major. Her favorite memory of church is Pretzel Sunday. She is the daughter of Danielle Myers.

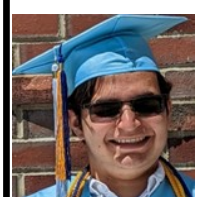
Emily Grace Smith, graduated from Albany Academy for Girls, and will be attending the College of Holy Cross – majoring in biology. She is the daughter of Timothy & Kathy Smith, granddaughter of Mary and the late David Smith.



David J. O'Brien, graduated from Maple Hill High School and will be attending SUNY Delhi. He is the nephew of Sharon Wheeler and grandson of the late Grace Wheeler.

"Whatever you choose for a career path, remember the struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose."

Chadwick Boseman



Mason Millan, was a Spring graduate from Columbia High School. Currently he is a student in RIT majoring in the field of computer engineering. A favorite memory of our church is participating in the play at Christmas time and participating in activities of the UMYF. He is the son of Melissa Millan.



From the desk of Bishop Mark J. Webb

Retirement Announcement



Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

After a season of prayer and discernment, I have made the decision to retire from the active episcopacy on Dec. 31, 2022. On Sunday, I submitted my request for retirement to the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the Council of Bishops.

I have not made this decision lightly and it is the right one for personal and spiritual reasons. The divide within the United Methodist Church has lessened my joy for this role and changed my sense of whether my gifts, convictions, and leadership as a residential Bishop are best for the United Methodist Church in the future. The writer of Ecclesiastes

says: "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven."

Jodi and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve with and among the people of Upper New York over these last 10 years. We look forward to returning to Pennsylvania to be closer to our children and other family.

Over the next few months, I will continue to offer all I can to assist leaders and congregations of Upper New York in preparing for days of ministry ahead that will honor God, boldly share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and increase God's kingdom. The mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" continues.

Thank you for praying for us and be assured of our ongoing prayers for each of you.

With gratitude and love,

Mark J. Webb

HALLOWEEN—TRUNK OR TREAT

Last Year we had around 300 children from all over East Greenbush come and **Trunk or Treat** in our parking lot. This was only possible by the individuals who came and decorated their trunks to pass out candy. We are asking anybody in the congregation that would like to decorate their trunks for this year's **Trunk or Treat** for a community event, to save the date of **October 30**. This is a rain or shine event. If it happens to rain we will make it Trick or Treat in the hallway and decorate the doors of the church. We are also asking for donations of Halloween candy, we will be collecting it during month of October.



YOUNG PEOPLE NEEDED FOR CHURCH STUDY

Do you know a 15 to 22-year-old in The United Methodist Church? The United Methodist Communications Research Team is leading a study about youth in the church to explore their spiritual journeys, values, goals, desires and more. The study offers a \$150 incentive for participation in a three-day online discussion board. Contact Pastor Danyal (pastordanyal@fumceg.org) for more information and the link to the study.



ECUMENICAL WITNESS TO BAPTISM



The Ecumenical Witness to Baptism program is a part of the Capital Area Council of Churches. It provides a public presence at a worship service of one faith community by a member of another faith community. It is a demonstration of our oneness in Christ. Coordinated by Miranda Rand, the program has an active schedule and always needs help. Our church is one reason for that need. We have more witnesses coming to our church than any other church in the council. **If you want to learn more about this unique program or would like to become a witness yourself, you can call or email the Coordinator, Miranda Rand, at (mirandarand411@gmail.com) or 518-393-5047.**