



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 2022

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ 8:30 am Early Informal Service - Fellowship Hall
- ◆ 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

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

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

Email: office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Children's Education Email:

egchristianedfumc@gmail.com

Youth Ministries Email:

youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Danyal Mohammadzadeh
Pastor

Gail Welkley
Administrative Assistant

FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK

Is Job a trauma survivor?

Distressing situations and stressful events reveal our limitations, vulnerability, and lack of control over fate. This produces a deep wound known as trauma. But even traumatic events, these exceptionally difficult situations, can give us the opportunity to grow spiritually and find new meaning in life. The biblical story of Job portrays a trauma survivor who searches for the meaning of life. To find a response, Job meets three friends (therapists) who try to explain what is happening to him. One of them says that Job's sins or poor choices are the cause of his



troubles. A second one says Job's suffering is in accordance with God's justice. The third says that the disasters serve as God's correction or chastening. However, God finally says all of these responses are incorrect. The last chapter of the Book of Job indicates that the only one who can find the correct response is the trauma survivor himself. The biblical story of Job affirms that each situation calls for a response that is unique to each trauma survivor.

Job meets God directly and then says, "All of us born from women have few days, are full of turmoil. Like flowers, we bloom then wither, flee like a shadow, and don't last." He finds the meaning of life for himself and says, "Therefore, I repent and find comfort in dust and ashes." Finally, God restores his fortunes and gives him twice as much as he had before. In sum, Job—powerless and out of control—embraces life as he finds it. Thus, he must accept it. Ultimately, Job opens himself to a new beginning, and at the end of the story Job is "satisfied."

Job's acceptance of his fate and its entailed suffering involves a movement from an old meaning of life to a new meaning of life, from a destroyed old heaven and earth to a new heaven and earth. The message is that new life comes for trauma survivors when they pass from the old life. The envisioned new heaven and new earth emerge from the ruins of the past. That's why Job says, "I repent and find comfort in dust and ashes" and uses the image of the fate of flowers and cosmic redemption.



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A Reconciling Congregation

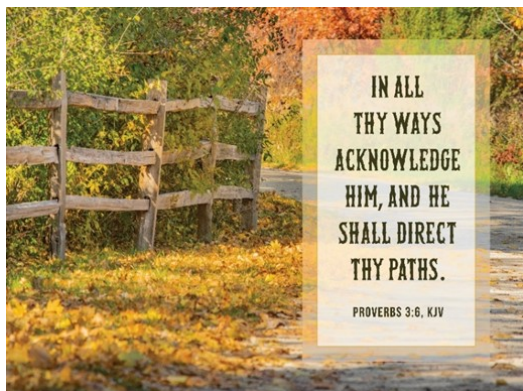
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Many of us have experienced trauma in our lives. God calls us to move from this old earth, heaven, and life and to find the new earth, new heaven, and new life. Join our Sunday worships and let's enter into God's new heaven through the teachings of our savior, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Danyal Mohammadzadeh

pastordanyal@fumceg.org

SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER



This is the month we go from a chill on a Sunday morning to just plain cold. Winter is just a month away. Looking at the picture to the left, we can see the last of the summer leaves. As we near the change in weather seasons, November brings us to the actual change of liturgical seasons in the church. We go from the Season After Pentecost, also called Ordinary Time, to Advent. Also changing this month are our clocks. Daylight Saving time ends at 2am on November 6th. Be sure to set your clock back to get that extra hour of sleep.

Among the special times and dates this month is this one. **National Bible Week** in the United States is annually observed from Sunday to Sunday of Thanksgiving week.

From the **National Today** website, "U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt commemorated the word of God by observing the first National Bible Week in 1941. Since then, every president has continued the tradition of celebrating the Holy Bible during Thanksgiving week... The Bible is an incredibly detailed, long-preserved snapshot of an ancient culture and religion. For billions of people, the religious text offers hope, strength, and guidance to navigate difficult times. Leading a nation through its toughest days, President Roosevelt conceptualized the idea of a Bible Week to unite Americans with the stories of the Creator told through the virtue of strength and reconciliation."

(Continued on page 3)

We will have an **Annual Church Conference meeting** at our church on Wednesday, **November 9** beginning at 6:30 pm. This being a Church Conference, a meeting of and for our local church, any member of First United Methodist Church East Greenbush can vote. Business matters such as budget items and more may be presented for approval. Persons to fill leadership positions in our church will be voted upon at this meeting.



Don't forget Daylight Saving Time ends on **November 6**. Turn your clocks back one hour before retiring for the night. If you forget you will be toooooo early for Sunday service.

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(Continued from page 2)

To that, we can add these words from the **UMC Discipleship Ministries** website, “The emphasis in the local church has always been to encourage reading and study of the Bible and learning of biblical history and content. Our United Methodist Hymnal has a section called “The Book of the Church: Holy Scripture,” numbers 594-603.”

In the weekly specifics this month we have added the theme for Pastor Danyal’s message each Sunday.

Some specifics on dates in November:

November 6: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, All Saints Sunday. We will celebrate this Sunday by lighting candles in remembrance of all beloved ones who are absent in body but present in spirit. Also, the sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated. All are welcome to rejoice in this feast of grace.

Pastor Danyal’s theme, “Getting a Glimpse of What is to Come”

November 11: Friday, Veterans Day

November 13: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday

Pastor Danyal’s theme, “A Meditation on The Lord’s Prayer”

November 20: Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

Pastor Danyal’s theme, “Thanksgiving”

November 20-26: National Bible Week

November 20: Thanksgiving

November 27: 1st Sunday of Advent, United Methodist Student Day. See page 7 for more on this day.

Pastor Danyal’s theme, “A Meditation on the Ave Maria Prayer”

Pastor Danyal will be preaching all Sundays in the month.

Our 9:30 am Sunday worship service is live streamed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FUMCEG/. It is also available on You Tube later that same Sunday afternoon at [Worship Service FUMCEG-YouTube](#).



Here is the lectionary for November On Sunday, November 27 we begin the new lectionary year – year A

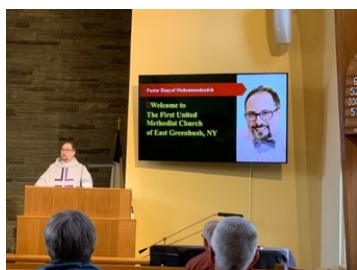
November 6: Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 13: Isaiah 12; Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 20: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 1:68-79; Luke 23:33-43

November 27: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

A SMALLER CARBON FOOTPRINT – IN WORSHIP



We’re excited to introduce our innovation for visual arts in Worship! With thanks to Dave Caneen and John Doyle for helping to install the new screen and setup, we began enjoying the images and words for Scripture, Prayers, Hymns, and responses on October 23. We trust you noticed the revised bulletin format using less paper. We look forward to this medium helping us reduce our carbon footprint as we use less paper for our Sunday service, too.

Thank you, *Worship Committee*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello Church Families,

It is hard to believe that November is already here! Before we know it, Advent season will once again be starting. A huge thank you to all of the kids who participated in the Children's Sunday and worked at the waffle breakfast. They raised over \$200 for homeless kids! I couldn't be more proud of or grateful for our children.

Confirmation classes continue to run smoothly. It is not too late to join this year. If you have a child who is in 8th grade and up that would like to be confirmed, we are accepting enrollment until November 6. Currently, we have three youth enrolled in the class.

The lectionary calendar for Sunday School is as follows:

- **Sunday, November 6:** Luke 20:27-38.
- **Sunday, November 13:** Luke 21:5-19
- **Sunday, November 20:** Luke 23:33-43
- **Sunday, November 27:** TBD



Starting this month, Sunday School kids will have the opportunity to participate in a sustainable products fair. The goal is to promote protecting God's green Earth through reducing the amount of plastic we use in our homes. We are aiming for the fair to be held during coffee hour in early December, more details to follow.

Last but not least, we are in search of Sunday School volunteers! If you enjoy teaching children and think you might be interested, please contact me.

Blessings,
Amanda Trainor
EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com

"...And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them." -Mark: 10:16

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

We are in the home stretch for 2022! We have a few more events I hope to see the youth at. All youth are welcome to youth events.

November 6 will be a Junior High Meeting (5th -7th Grade)

We will be making blankets for the homeless, enjoying snacks and having fellowship. We will meet from 11:00 am -12:30 pm .



November 12 we will be having November's All Youth Event (Grades 5th - 12th). We will meet at Colonie Center Mall at 5:00 pm to have a scavenger hunt. Please bring your phone/camera device for pictures. Please bring money for dinner, we will eat together. I will be looking for parent volunteers to help with this event.

November 20 we will be having a senior high meeting (8th - 12th grade). We volunteered that Sunday to host Coffee Hour. Please bring a treat to share with the congregation. We will clean up coffee hour and have a youth meeting until 1:00 pm.

December 4 is the Second Sunday in Advent. I am looking for Youth to help with the reading and lighting of the Advent Candles.

Best,
Amber Telford
youthleaderamber@gmail.com

WOMEN IN FAITH/ UNITED METHODIST WOMEN


Our November meeting is on **November 7** at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing our 2023 calendar, Giving Tree and Christmas Party. All are welcome. See you there.

Note for using the kitchen: When using the kitchen please wipe down all counters with the spray cleaner (germ killer). The kitchen is very busy finally. Label anything that is in the refrigerator with name and a date when opened. This will help keep the kitchen clean. Thank you.


BROOKS BBQ RESULTS

Our Brooks BBQ on October 8 was a huge success. We had so many pre-orders we asked Brooks to bring more chicken. We made \$2,940, the most we made to date. I would like to thank all our brownie bakers for their delicious contributions. I would also like to thank our tireless workers: John and Karen Peterson, Bill Bronk, Mary McIntosh, Trudy Sorell, Lorraine Beals, Janet Schmidt, Mary Smith, Fran Berger, Karen Terwilliger and Marian Smith.

Kathy Van Buren




**Cornerstone Campus
Ministry**
Bake Sale Order Form



Order Deadline: Sunday, November 13, 2022
Pick Up Date: Sunday, November 20, 2022

Name _____
 Congregation _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

☐ Apple Pie: Pre-Baked/Ready to Eat!
☐ Apple Pie: Bake at Home (frozen/you bake!)
☐ Plate of 12 Brownies
☐ Plate of 12 CHOCOLATE CHUNK COOKIES
☐ Plate of 12 PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES
☐ Mini Loaf of BANANA BREAD
☐ Mini Loaf of PUMPKIN SPICE BREAD
☐ RICE CRISPY "CANDY CORN" Shaped Treats
☐ Pan of 8 CINNAMON ROLLS



CORNERSTONE BAKE SALE THIS MONTH

Satisfy your sweet tooth for a good cause! On Sunday **November 20**, members of Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry at the University at Albany will be hosting a bake sale at our church. Get your favorite baked goods – pies, breads, cookies, brownies, and more! Eat up for a good cause! The money raised will underwrite the cost of their Winter Break Service Trip (details for the trip to be announced later). **Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 13.** Your donation for your order will be collected on delivery day, **November 20.**

Complete the order form and turn it in to our church office.

Remember—There will **not** be any extras available.



Only preorders !!!!!



Volunteers Needed



Our new Hospitality Ministry is in need of volunteers. Can you help planning/ coordinating meals for members of our congregation who are going through a difficult time? It may be a recent surgery or family emergency. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please see Amber Telford, Carrie Larson or John Schmidt.

MISSIONS AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

PEACE VIGILS

On Tuesday, November 1 and 8, we will hold half-hour Candlelight Peace Vigils in the back of our Sanctuary starting at 6:00 pm. The vigils will include interfaith prayers, songs, and times for reflection. They will be held in honor of women seeking educational freedom in Afghanistan, women and schoolgirls opposing forceful hijab mandates and social controls in Iran, those seeking escape from violent drug cartels in Latin America and mothers mourning the loss of their children from gun violence. Eleven people attended our first vigil.

CROP WALK

There were 45 walkers in the Castleton CROP Hunger Walk this year. Twelve walkers represented our church: John and Janet Schmidt, Jessica and Isabelle Armstrong, John Haase, Emily Clark, Tyler Long, Mike, Sarah, Julianna and Lyla Davis, and Kevin and Cindy Conley. The walkers were joined in spirit and fundraising by Neal Calvin who was unable to walk due to other commitments. The tally isn't final, but we know we raised over \$1,300. One quarter of donations raised from the Hunger Crop Walk is directed to the Anchor Food Pantry in Castleton. The rest supports Church World Service programs serving vulnerable populations in the United States and across the world.

ECO-TEAM –BOND ACT

I made some costly repairs to my garage floor last month. As I worked, these words from Ecclesiastes 10:18 weighed on my mind: "Because of laziness the roof caves in, and because of negligent hands the house leaks." In the Greek language of the gospel writers, the word for household is "oikos." This is the origin of familiar English words including "economy" and "ecology." The Eco-Team, here at FUMCEG, has been studying the **Environmental Bond Act** on the ballot this month. We believe that it provides for the essential public works necessary to keep New York's "oikos" in good repair including the aging infrastructure that keeps filth out of our waterways. On behalf of the Eco-Team, I recommend that you carefully consider this ballot measure. As seen in scripture ...and my garage, the consequences of neglect are expensive and unpleasant.

Fred Henson, Eco-Team

COP27 (The 27th United Nations Climate Change conference)

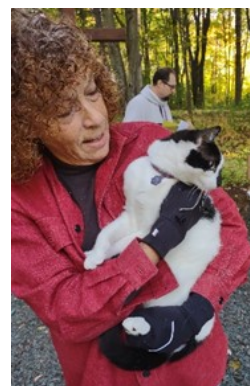
During the second week in November, governments around the world will meet in Egypt in an attempt to accelerate global efforts to confront the climate crisis. This meeting, known as COP27, is vitally important because the latest science shows that climate change is moving much faster than we are, pushing ecosystems and communities to their limits. We keep the delegates to COP27 in our prayers.

"The final measure of a generation's courage is the memory of what they have done. Our destiny must be as guardians of the earth." — Bishop Desmond Tutu

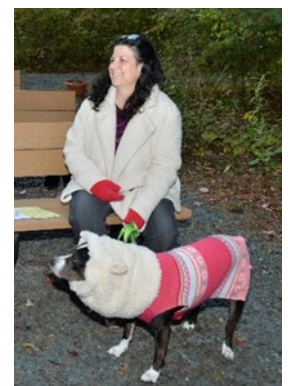
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SUNDAY



On Sunday, October 9, Pastor Danyal conducted his first Blessing of the Animals in the Chapel-in-the-Woods. In attendance were 8 animals and 20 people. This service is conducted in remembrance of Saint Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. It started in the early 1200's, usually near Saint Francis feast day of October 4.



Kate Hensen with her fur baby



Laura Clark with her "sheep" dog

COFFEE HOUSE

The Coffee House experience has a long history in our church dating back to the 1960's. Most recently, in 2004, they started up again and between 2004 and March of 2020, 5 Coffee Houses ran yearly with a roster of up to 36 performers. A free-will entrance fee collected a little under \$20,000 over these years which was distributed to local charities including our Family Assistance Ministries.

SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES: Our Coffee House events **are returning** so please save the following dates: Friday, **November 18**; Sunday afternoon, **January 8** and **Friday, March 17**. (The Sunday afternoon event is our traditional Cookies and Carols celebration which will feature a combination of Choir and Coffee House performers.) Friday evening Coffee Houses will run from 7:00 p m to 8:30 pm. All performers are eager to return, delicious snacks are planned and woe, the Mistress of Chatter will continue her attempts of humor. We Coffee House performers are looking forward to sharing a Friday night with you and seeing you at the Cookies and Carols event!

WHAT IS UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY? NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Here is what UMC GIVING has to say about this special day. "Students are the future of The United Methodist Church. In the 18th Century, our Wesleyan roots were formed around the importance of education and its role in spiritual formation. In fact, the original Special Sunday was created to help advance education for children and today we call it United Methodist Student Day.

"By investing in our students, the Church supports potential in students who will one day pay the investment forward to society. Together, we support their effort to become Christian leaders of tomorrow. Unfortunately, higher education grows more expensive and less accessible each year.

"One of the major challenges that students face is a lack of financial support to attain a college education. Worrying about expenses adds to the already existing anxieties students experience. But for students attending United Methodist Churches, we extend a hand to help them accomplish their career goals. . .

"The funds received from the [Student Day] offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students. . . Your contribution is an acknowledgment that the church has confidence in them and in their abilities."

If you are a more visual person, take a look at this short video, less than two minutes, about the United Methodist Student Loan Fund at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1nOPVtL5EA>.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The Eco-Team would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with our Adopt-a-Highway Program this year: Gary Klee, John Peterson, Mike and Ricky Lettrick, Jamie, Sarah and Juliana Davis, Candy Schechter, Cindy and Kevin Conley, Rick Matters and John Schmidt. We spent four Saturday mornings between April and October picking up trash along a two-mile section of Routes 9 & 20. Our twelfth season will begin next April. We are always looking for more volunteers .



FINANCE COMMITTEE



Pledge cards have been mailed. If you did not receive one and would like to make a pledge towards the 2023 church budget, please contact the church office or you can pick one up from the table in the foyer by the sanctuary. While we ask the cards be returned by October 30, it is never too late to submit your pledge. Please remember whether you can give a little or a lot, it all grows toward fulfilling our church budget.

RED BIRD MISSION



Red Bird Mission was spared from the devastating flooding in eastern Kentucky in late July, but resources on hand went out immediately to shelters and distribution points before the flood waters receded. The need is still great. We will once again be asking for your assistance next May, as part of our Change the World Program. Until then, would you please keep the following lists of requested items handy and begin to gather the items? Thank you!

Adult Shoebox Contents

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.

Also needed: Comb and/or Hair Brush	Hand Lotion	Deodorant	Toothbrush and Toothpaste
ChapStick	Full sized Bar of Soap		Washcloth
Disposable Razors	Shaving Cream		Nail Care Items
Socks	Work gloves or Mittens		Winter Stocking Hat or Scarf

Child's Shoebox Contents

Comb and/or Hair Brush	Shampoo and Hand Lotion	Child's Toothbrush and Toothpaste
ChapStick	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.
Thank you for your generosity!

MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSIONS

We will be meeting every other Tuesday at 10:00 am **November 1, 15, 29 December 6, 20.**

Please leave all of the hats and scarves that were made, at church by Tuesday, November 15 for delivery. **Soft Hats** of any size, color, or shape for hatsgiving.org. and **Red Scarves** (5-8 inches by 60 inches long) for foster care kids in college fc2success.org. We are now making Care Shawls for patients with ALS about 24 inches by 48" (10 oz skein of yarn) and Afghans 48"X48" are ongoing projects for various organizations locally. If you need supplies or would like to meet evenings, contact the group. Everyone is invited to join us for creating and/or conversation. Thanks. aleta.schweigert@gmail.com

SOME SHORT NOTES OF IMPORTANCE



♦ Hey there, all regular **Blood Donors**, and first-time donors also! The Red Cross will be here at our church on **Tuesday, November 15** from 1-6 pm to take your donation. Go to the Albany Red Cross Blood Services page at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time> and, at the left of the screen, enter the ZIP code 12061, then scroll down the list to pick a time and sign up. The Red Cross will be back again on **January 20, 2023** looking for more donors. Which date works best for you?

♦ **Church Library** has many titles in it, old and new. There is plenty to read and enjoy. There are new books for children on the environment, spiritual growth and prayer, women of the Bible and fiction and reference books. Take a book home and transport yourself to another Biblical time.

♦ A thought on **Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday, November 13**. "United Methodists are committed to medicine and to science and ways of healing all," said the Rev. Susan Henry-Crowe, top executive of the General Board of Church and Society. "Because we believe in health care for all, we believe that organ donation and transplantation is a gift that we can give back. It is one of the great gifts that many of us in our own families have supported our family members and those we love to make this kind of donation. . .



Continuing with our monthly series on Caring Ministries, this month we highlight **Evangelism and Cares Ministries**. 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 the Evangelism Ministry 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. The Evangelism Ministry is excited to share the good news of God’s everlasting love with all. For more information or to become a member, please see our energetic team leader Laura Clark.

Our Cares Ministry supports seniors living at Hawthorne Ridge, Rosewood and other senior living facilities in the area. Cards are sent to Rosewood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center each month for distribution to residents. Currently 14 residents at Hawthorne Ridge receive packets each week which generally include the weekly service bulletin, prayer list, announcements, and, if available, a written message from the pastor. In addition, church members facilitate a weekly study group that meets there on Tuesday afternoons. Church materials are also mailed to 8-10 members each week. We hope to eventually be able to return to providing a weekly worship service at Hawthorne Ridge and a monthly service at Rosewood, as we had been doing before the pandemic. Would you like to help in this important ministry? We’d love to have you join the card-sending group or be part of the study/leadership group. Please see Jean Sheviak.



JOBS THAT NEED DOING



-Ushering: We are in need of ushers. Patty Chartrand has been the Coordinator of Ushers for the past three years and wants to retire from the position. If you are interested and want details contact Pastor Danyal.

-We are still looking for volunteers to host coffee hour. Please see the yellow sign-up sheet in the lobby to host a coffee hour, without any host coffee hour will not go on.

-You are invited to participate in the liturgy of Sunday services including leading the Opening Prayer, the Prayer for Illumination and reading the Scriptures. This is an open invitation for all regardless of age or experience. If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Danyal know which date(s) from now through January 2023 you would be available. You can speak to him after Sunday services, text him at 518-618-7265 or email him at pastordanyal@fumceg.org.



-Who we are and where we have been. Tell the story. Interested in history? Creative? Wanting to publicize our church to our community? All these skills and more can be put to good use as our church approaches its 150th anniversary in 2023! We need your help to figure out the best ways to mark this great achievement. Contact the church office to volunteer for the task force: office@fumceg.org, 518-477-9693.

-Our Modern Technology Team is looking for more people to share the load of preparing the tech portion of our worship services. David Caneen oversees this responsibility. If you know your stuff and would like to join the team, contact Dave at 518-421-4470 or dcaneen@nycap.rr.com.

FIND OUT ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UPPER NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The Upper New York (UNY) Annual Conference took place from October 6 – 8 on a virtual platform.

The UNY Communications team has provided valuable tools for all who are interested in a recap of the conference.

Click here to access bulleted notes, news stories and videos of the 2022 UNY Annual Conference: <https://www.unvumc.org/events/annual-conference-2022>. You can also go to the Upper New York website and get the same Annual Conference information.

People from our church who attended the conference had these reactions to the sessions. Watch next month for our pastor's thoughts. Responses have been edited for length.

David Haase, *Equalization Member—Albany District* -- This was my first annual conference. It was interesting to see the interaction between the delegates. The nominating process for an episcopal candidate “from” the conference, rather than “for” the conference was an important distinction because, while Bishop Mark Webb is retiring, we’re not choosing our next bishop. We’ve sent a candidate for consideration by the Jurisdictional Conference (JC) to be appointed somewhere the JC chooses.

Rachel Giso, *Jurisdictional Delegate* -- Participating in the conference virtually proves to be very difficult for me. I struggle to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit across the web. I'm grateful we were able to conduct the business that is required of us as an annual conference. However, holy conferencing is so much more than conducting business. I miss the gathering. I miss the praise band. I miss celebrating Holy Communion together. Just as our theme suggests, HOPE is indeed alive. I pray with hope for brighter days for our beloved United Methodist Church. I pray for bold leadership to rise up across the conference, for healing, peace and forgiveness. Above all, I pray to God to pour out His Holy Spirit upon us, that we might be renewed and refreshed.

Kevin Clark, *Youth Equalization Member—Albany District* -- This was my first time going to annual conference, and it was a valuable experience. It was extremely engaging and I bet in person it would be even better. I'm looking forward to doing it again next year!

George E. Herrick, *Equalization Member – Albany District* -- I thought that Bishop Webb gave one of his best sermons in Upper NY when he spoke at ordination. I missed being part of the larger group that is present when we met at the ON Center in Syracuse. The fun times of the in-person conference just weren't there (the Bishop did not get to auction off his hat). And one more, our resolution got passed on a strong "yes" vote.

UPDATE ON THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

During a special session held virtually on October 15, delegates to the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference voted to elect two new Bishops at the upcoming **November 2 – 5** conference.

Since the **November 2022** meeting will be a regular session of the Jurisdictional Conference, all Bishops will be eligible for the assignment process by the Committee on Episcopacy.

This quadrennial gathering of the 10 annual conferences that make up the [Northeastern Jurisdiction](#) of The United Methodist Church will be held **November 2 – 5** in Baltimore.

Since our UNY current Bishop Mark J. Webb has made the decision to retire from the active episcopacy on **December 31, 2022**, we are anxious to see who will be replacing him as the episcopal leader of our conference.



THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!



A special thank you to all who have so faithfully continued to support the Concerns-U Food Pantry. With rising costs of everything, many clients find it a day-to-day struggle just to provide the basic needs for their families. Your donations make a difference – YOU are making a difference.

If you are not familiar with the food pantry, it is located on Herrick Street, across from the Amtrak Station in Rensselaer and it serves all of Southern Rensselaer County. If you would like to make a donation, there is a collection box in the foyer.

Below is a small list of suggested items; canned vegetables, canned fruits, beans, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, oatmeal (packets), peanut butter, jelly, canned meats, tuna, Knorr's side dish packets and soups, soups for the cold weather ahead.

Also needed are men's and women's hygiene items: shampoo, body wash, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotions, female products, deodorant, etc.

PLEASE HELP THOSE IN NEED – ONE ITEM – ONE BAG AT A TIME.

Thank you again, *Mary Smith*

A little more background. CoNSERNS-U is a program of Catholic Charities Tri-County Services. CoNSERNS-U services include a food pantry, information and referral service, back-to-school supplies, emergency assistance, and holiday gift and food distributions. Services are provided to individuals and families throughout rural Rensselaer County and City of Rensselaer. If you would like to support this ministry financially, prepare a money order or check to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany and send/deliver it to our church office. Mary Smith will see that it gets to CoNSERNS-U. Or you can send it directly to CoNCERNS-U at 50 Herrick St., Rensselaer, New York. 12144.

