



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061



VOLUME 25 ISSUE 4 APRIL 2023

At Church on Sundays:

- ♦ 8:30 am Early Informal Service - Fellowship Hall
- ♦ 9:30 am Regular Service is available live on Facebook and YouTube. The Church's website has the links.
- ♦ 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

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egchristianedfmc@gmail.com

Youth Ministries Email:

youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Danyal Mohammadzadeh
Pastor

Gail Welkley
Administrative Assistant

FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK



His very last name!

"I'm Danyal. What's your name?" and the relationship begins as soon as the person responds. In the next move, I will save her/his name in my cellphone. Then, I will be able to call him when I need her/his help. Knowing people begins with learning their names. Knowing people's name opens a new chapter in our lives. It can lead us to redemption or damnation. It depends on the name that we call.

When he was born, the world touched the presence of God. It made the world very excited. The world shouted **God Is With Us**. And so the world called him: **Emmanuel**. Emmanuel means God is with us.

When he was walking on the earth, the world saw a shining light in the horizon. It made the world very excited. The world shouted **God Is Salvation**. And so the world called him: **Jesus**. Jesus means God is salvation.

When he was healing wounds and pains, the world saw a savior. It made the world very excited. The world shouted **Save Us Now**. And so the world called him: **Hosanna**. Hosanna means save us now.

When he was resurrected, the world found itself in Him and Him in itself. It made the world very excited. The world did not only shout His name this time but received Him as well. First, God became flesh. Then, **His Body** became the **Bread of Life** and **His blood** became the sign of a new covenant: **The Covenant of Love**. It made the world very excited. The world shouted **Means of Grace**. And so the world called him: **Holy Communion**. Holy Communion is one of the means of grace. Baptism is the other one.

Jesus was called with many names. However, Holy Communion was the most recent name for Jesus. Holy Communion is his very last name. First time, he called himself with this name at the table of the Last Supper.

This very last name contains the other names too. Emmanuel, Hosanna, and Jesus all are summed in Holy Communion. Indeed, Holy Communion is the presence of God or God is with us or Emmanuel. And it is Hosanna for



(Continued on page 2)

A Reconciling Congregation

Holy Communion saves us. And finally Holy Communion is Jesus for communion leads to salvation.

He wants to be remembered by this very last name, Holy Communion. “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me,” Jesus said at the table of the Last Supper. It’s not a surprise then, that Jesus reenacts communion, a shared meal, there on the shore of the Sea of Galilee even after his resurrection. His friends found him on a beach. “Come and have breakfast,” he bids them. He breaks bread and stretches out his hands. Holy Communion replaces estrangement with community: a community of God and creation, of Jesus and his friends, of Jesus and his names. And in remembrance of Him, and to feel God’s presence and God’s redemptive action in our lives, we will gather on Easter Sunday and we will break bread together.

Blessings, *Danyal*



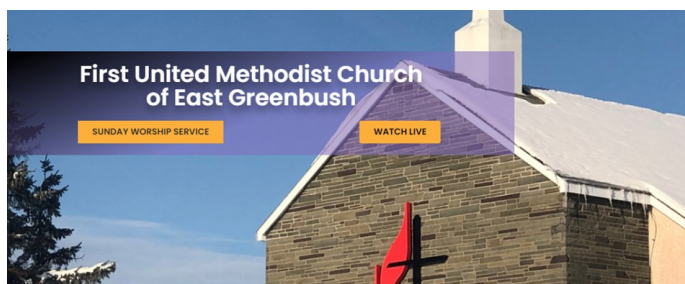
MODERN TECHNOLOGY — VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES

TECH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The technology in our Sanctuary has grown this past year. The Tech Team is looking for volunteers to help run the slide show during the worship services on Sunday at 9:30 am. If you know how to use an iPad, you can help! The training is very easy and only takes a few minutes. Contact Colleen Rumsey at colleenmrumsy@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

The Tech Team is also looking to add volunteers to our team able to run the livestream equipment in our church. This vital ministry allows us to reach others outside of our community, including friends who are traveling or unable to attend services in person. We have volunteers who will train you and help you every step of the way. Contact Dave Caneen at dcaneen@nycap.rr.com or stop by the Choir loft.

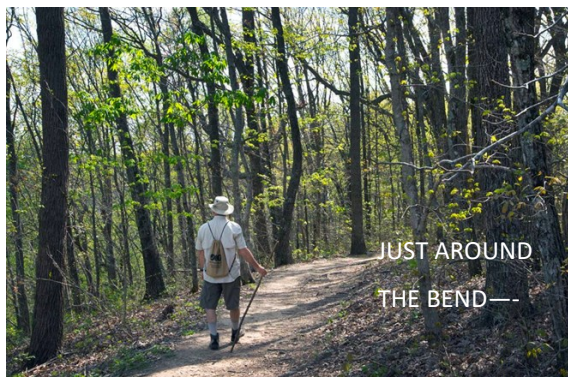
**WANT TO
WATCH OUR
SUNDAY
SERVICE?**



The Tech Team has now made our Sunday Worship Services available from our Church’s website Home page at <https://fumceg.org>. You no longer need to hunt through **Facebook** or **YouTube** to locate our services. Just go to the Church’s home page, click on either **Watch Live**, for the Live Stream Broadcasts, or if you are looking for previous services, click on **Sunday Worship Service** and view a multi-page gallery of our past services that you can look thru to find a particular date.

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. April 2023, Volume 25, Issue 4. **George Herrick**, Editor; **Shawna Lambert**, **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; **Steven Green**, Custodian; **Kevin Clark**, Part-time Custodian; **Laura Clark**, Lay Leader; **Rhoda 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 APRIL



The days in this April are a turning point for the church. The Lenten Season culminates in the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Then, a very short time later, Easter, we have the resurrection of Jesus and, as it is told in Luke 24, his walk, with two men, from Jerusalem to Emmaus. He was not recognized for who he was until he later blessed their evening meal. Thus begins some great events in the story of the risen Christ. It was like a turn in the road. When you make the turn, a whole new vista opens up.

Here is more on the individual Sundays and other dates of the month:

April 2 Palm Sunday -- Holy Communion will be part of both Sunday services. The 9:30 am service will be preceded by a Palm Parade led by our Sunday School students.

Pastor Danyal's theme: Crucified with the Outlaws; Jesus dies as a criminal, hung on a cross between two outlaws. In death Jesus continues to identify with the lowly.

April 6 Holy Thursday – 6:00 pm Supper followed by Holy Communion and an evening worship service. All activity in the Fellowship Hall. All this will be followed by a Prayer Vigil, in the sanctuary, until the Good Friday evening service.

April 7 Good Friday - 7:00pm –8:00pm Worship Service featuring the "Harvest of Sorrows" choral cantata.

April 9 Easter - There will be a Sunrise Service in the Outdoor Chapel at 6:30 am and our regular Morning Worship service at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. The Sunrise service will be inside if there is bad weather. There is no 8:30 am service this week.

Pastor Danyal's theme: The Crucified and Resurrected Life; The Resurrection is God's final act of lifting up the lowly. In the Resurrection, Jesus defeats death and evil.



April 16 2nd Sunday of Easter

Pastor Danyal's theme: The Doubting Thomas side of our personality

April 23 3rd Sunday of Easter New people will be received into membership on this Sunday. Native American Ministries Sunday, Festival of God's Creation.

Pastor Danyal's theme: The Emmaus Walk

April 25 World Malaria Day (Tues)

April 30 4th Sunday of Easter

Pastor Danyal's theme : The Shepherding Sunday

Pastor Danyal will be preaching each Sunday in April. Our 9:30 am Sunday worship service is live streamed. See page 2 for "Want to watch our Sunday Service?"

Here is the lectionary for April:

April 2 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10; John 20:1-18

April 16 Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 23 Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 30 Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello Sunday School Families, happy Spring! It is so nice to feel some warmth and hear the birds. Please see the dates for the month of April listed below:



-Sunday, **April 2** - Palm Sunday. Students will be parading with palms at the 9:30 am service, followed by the resurrection story, Easter egg dying and a plethora of activities in Fellowship Hall. After church, students will be welcome to participate in an egg hunt.

-Sunday, **April 9** - Easter, there will not be a Sunday School class. Students are welcome to attend the Easter Service.

-Sunday, **April 16** - Students will be learning about 1 Peter 1: 3-9.

-Sunday **April 23** - Students will be learning about Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19.

-Sunday, **April 30** - Students will be learning about 1 Peter 2:19-25.

Confirmation class will take place at the normal time, 8:30 am - 9:15 am every Sunday with the exception of Easter Sunday, there will be no class. On Sunday, **April 23** during Confirmation Class there will be a special presentation by Kevin Conley.

As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com.

Thank you and blessings!

Amanda Trainor

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Rock Climbing was an absolute blast. We hope to do it again in the future. We thank Albany Indoor Rock gym for having us. Look for the pictures of the kids having fun on the Bulletin Board and Facebook. (The picture attached is John giving a demo climbing the wall).

April 2 - Senior High Youth Group Meeting - We will be hiding easter eggs after Palm Sunday, eating snacks and planning a service project for May, of course we will play games to end the meeting. We will meet from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

April 6 - **The Maundy Thursday service begins at 6:00 pm.** This year in the fellowship hall. I would like to also come together to pray for one of the prayer times on the prayer vigil.

April 23 - Junior High Meeting - We will be learning about how God is the potter. We will be making air dry clay bowls. We will also be having snacks and playing games. We will meet from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

April 30 - Will be our "stay in" event. We will be having a Church Escape Room from 11:00 am -1:00 pm. We will have lunch and make a fun dessert.



If you have any questions please email Amber at Youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Blessings, *Amber Telford*

THINKING ABOUT SUMMER CAMP?



It's not too early to start thinking about this Summer and a week away from home, in the mountains. The Upper New York Conference has five camp sites to choose from. Skye Farm in the Adirondack Mountains has been attended by a number of our church youth. How would you like to be one of them this year? The United Women in Faith has scholarship funds available to help offset the cost.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The monthly meeting of UWF is scheduled for **April 3**. All women of our church are encouraged to attend. Our group is always looking for fresh ideas for fundraisers and such. At present we have only one fundraiser, our annual Brook's Barbecue in October.

We collected \$495 for Blanket Sunday. This is not a fundraiser. All the money collected goes directly to Church World Services to fund blankets for those in need around world.

With Summer approaching we would like to remind parents there is scholarship money available for your child who would like to attend Skye Farm or other religious based camp.

We are in need of people to arrange flowers for the altar for Sunday services. If you like to arrange flowers or would like to learn how to arrange flowers please contact Patty Chartrand.



150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MEETING

MONDAY APRIL 3 6:30 ROOM 16

We will be planning for the **Memorial Day Parade(s)** to remind the community of our history in East Greenbush. It was decided to show that history by the use of costumes of the past decades. A trailer has been promised to us. We need ideas, volunteers, decorators, fashion designers. Please come and share your time and talents to make this happen. Also, we are in need of a writer for a Storytelling Night of our church history. A review of our church growth and activities through the years will be read. We have 2 people willing to read the information. We hope to have pictures to share with the story. Please join us.



Aleta Schweigert

ICYMI - THE CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Church Endowment Fund generates approximately \$8,000 of dividends and interest each year. When Church receipts equal or exceed the Church budget Endowment dividends and interest are used to begin new or expand existing ministries. Since the onset of the pandemic the Church budget has been under stress and Endowment monies have been critical to the maintenance of our existing activities.

Donations to the Endowment Funds can be made in a variety of ways. They can be gifts for no particular reason, they can be gifts in memory of someone, they can be part of your will. Whatever the motivation these gifts support the current and future ministries of this Church.

If you would like to explore giving to the Endowment talk with a member of the Endowment Committee (Carl Eno; Kirsten Downer; John Peterson; Peter Larson, Chair) or Pastor Danyal.



(ICYMI = “**In case you missed it**”. Just to be sure you, if you are part of the “mature” generation, are up on the latest acronyms.)

THINK SPRING

Planning for Spring



Have you wondered how you might help support your Church, but concerned about committing to a specific time? If that is the case we have several suggestions one of which is mowing the Church grounds. There is a group of us currently mowing our grass, but we can always need more volunteers. We can set up a schedule so you can plan your day to mow. Our wonderful gardens always need a helping hand, an hour of your time any day of the week can make a difference. Please see John Peterson or Peter Larson.

HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL

Our traditional Holy Week Prayer Vigil will begin at 8:00 pm on **April 6** following the Maundy Thursday service and continue through 4:00 pm on Good Friday, **April 7**. We invite you to cover one or more half hour blocks of time. Please sign up on the sheets in the church lobby or call the church office at 518-477-9693. You can participate in the prayer vigil either at the church or at home. We are also hoping for people to be support personnel during the hours of 12:00 midnight to 6:00 am so that no one is in the church alone late at night.

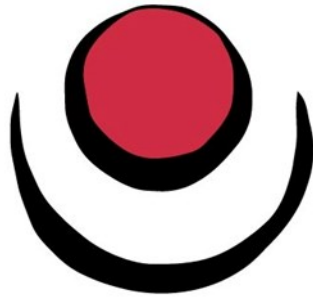
Following the Prayer Vigil, the Good Friday service will begin at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. It will feature the choral cantata "Harvest of Sorrows" by Joseph M. Martin. This service also will be live streamed. Find the link on the church website at www.fumceg.org.

CHANGE THE WORLD 2023

The First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush, located at 1 Gilligan Road in East Greenbush has an exciting May planned. This coming May marks the tenth anniversary of participation in Change the World. What started in 2014 with a one-day event has now grown into a month-long series of events, all designed to share God's love with our neighbors. Originally designed as an attempt to get church-goers out of their pews and into the community to demonstrate our faith, the interest and excitement continues. Once again this year activities are being planned throughout the month of May including some favorites from past years as well as some new events. We are looking forward to hosting our first "Moonbee" on **May 20**. A "Moonbee" is a sewing-bee where volunteers create washable menstrual management kits for distribution to girls around the world living in poverty. (No sewing experience is necessary. There are jobs for everyone!) Here's the Change the World planning group's tentative schedule. A final schedule will be included in next month's BELL.

May 6 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	Community-Wide Garage Sale	Church Garage
May 7 10:45 am - 11:30 am	Prayer Stations	Church Classrooms
May 9 10 am - 12:00 Noon	Moonbee	Fellowship Hall
Date, Time TBA	Potting Plants & Delivery	TBA
May 21 9 am - 12:00 Noon	Food Drive	Church Garage
May 21 10:00 am - 11:30 am	Card Making	Fellowship Hall
May 21 10:00	Sunday School Delivery of Donations to Joseph's House Shelter	
May 21 10:30am - 11:30 am	Get Together at Van Rensselaer Heights, Rensselaer	
May 21 12:00 Noon - 1:00 am	Luncheon for Volunteers	Fellowship Hall

We will once again participate in the Red Bird Shoebox Project all month long. Shoeboxes will be available beginning **May 1**. We will also have "Share the Love" May calendars available for those who are interested in sharing God's love with others. Contact the church with questions or for more information at 518.894.2496 or visit our website at fumceg.org

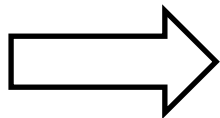


The MoonCatcher Project

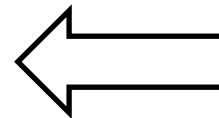
Removing Barriers for Girls

In conjunction with our tenth annual Change the World event, our church is proud to host our first MoonBee in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, May 9 from 10:00 am until 12:00 Noon. Moonbees are hosted in cities across the country, led by founder Ellie Wellsheim. These sewing bees bring together diverse groups of volunteers who make MoonCatcher Kits for distribution either locally or to girls around the globe.

Since 2011 The MoonCatcher Project has been making reusable, washable menstrual management kits - "[MoonCatcher Kits](http://www.mooncatcher.org)" - for distribution to girls around the world. They provide the information and supplies needed to manage menstruation with dignity and confidence, increasing the girls' chances of staying in school. Our "Made by Hand With Love" ministry will be taking the lead in this valuable project. Everyone is invited to participate. No experience is required and materials will be provided. Visit their website for more information www.mooncatcher.org or see Aleta Schweigert. We hope to see you there!



New Mission Field!



MISSIONS
...at home and around the world



Van Rensselaer Heights, located at 460 Forbes Avenue (across from Doane Stuart) in Rensselaer is a HUD subsidized low-income senior housing facility of about 106 residents. Ashley Chambers, Resident Service Coordinator has expressed an interest in developing a partnership with our church. Our Missions Team has enthusiastically offered our assistance. Our first project will be a supply closet drive to run through the month of April. They are looking for **hygiene products, paper towels, tissues, cleaning supplies, laundry**

soap, etc. to help stock their shelves. They are also in need of books for their library. If you would like to help out, please use the bin in the church foyer marked Van Rensselaer Heights to drop off your donations. A Meet & Greet is being planned for **May 21, Change the World Sunday.** The Missions Team thanks you for your continued support.



FROM THE ECO-TEAM

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY BEGINS TWELFTH SEASON

Our Adopt-a-Highway Program will kick-off on **April 1**. We clean up a two-mile section of Routes 9 & 20. The Adopt-a-Highway Program is sponsored by the Department of Transportation. Please consider joining us as stewards of the planet to help keep America beautiful!

RECYCLING

Our next recycling event will be the half hour before and after the 9:30 am service on **April 16** at the garage in our parking lot.

- ☐ Batteries must be clean. Please discard leaking or corroded batteries.
- ☐ Styrofoam must be clean with tape and staples removed. We accept only Styrofoam used for packaging, including peanuts. No food containers. Please check questionable material with us.
- ☐ We **no** longer collect prescription bottles
- ☐ Glass must be clean. We accept clear, green and blue glass (no brown) and only jars and bottles (no window glass, drinking glass, etc). Clear and colored glass should be separated. Any caps, metal rings or plastic labels must be removed. Paper labels are okay.



CREATION CARE SERIES

The Eco-Team will hold its third video and discussion series on **April 30**. We will watch a TED Talk by Ermiyas Kebreab, "What seaweed and cow burps have to do with climate change," and follow it with discussion. The session will be held in Room 16 and will run from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon. If you would like to participate via ZOOM, please send a request to e.kevin.conley@gmail.com and he will send you a link. This series is intended to inform, but just as importantly, encourage us to talk to one another about the climate emergency that we are in and learn what actions we can take to protect and heal the earth.



EVANGELISM – FRONT AND CENTER!

“The Harry Denman Evangelism Award program honors United Methodists whose exceptional ministry of evangelism – expressed in Word (what), Sign (why), and Deed (how) – brings people into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ. Evangelism happens in many contexts and many settings; impacts and engages all generations; and requires relationship among a variety of persons. What distinguishes a Harry Denman Evangelism Award recipient is the commitment to consistently introduce others to the Good News of Jesus Christ in all ministry settings.”



“Each year, Annual Conferences join the Foundation for Evangelism in recognizing one youth, one clergy member, and one layperson in each Conference.”

Do you know of a person you think qualifies for this award? Please pass that name on to George Herrick. If you have questions about the award, you may contact our church office for more information. The deadline for making nominations is **May 1, 2023**.

JOSEPH'S HOUSE AND SHELTER OUTREACH VAN

When the Outreach Van makes its rounds in and around Troy, the homeless people know that people care. We are starting to fill in the calendar for May and June. If you can sign up for a Monday to prepare and deliver 17 sandwiches, along with vegetable or potato chips and a dessert, please contact Kevin Conley (e.kevin.conley@gmail.com, 518-253-4907).

Assistance with delivering lunches to the Joseph's House Outreach Van office, 242 Broadway in Menands, is available if needed, and you can be reimbursed for purchased food.

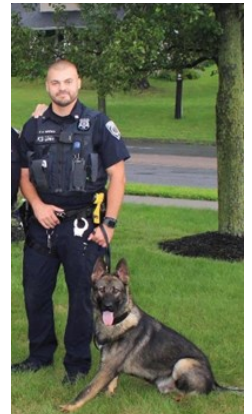


STORYTELLING NIGHT – “WAS”, “IS” AND “WILL BE”



This, March 1, **WAS** our second Story Telling Night. We were supposed to feature East Greenbush Town Police Chief Elaine Rudzinski. She was unable to be with us but did send a very capable substitute, Sergeant Ernest A. Tubbs. His informative presentation told us much about the East Greenbush Police Department, who they are and what role they play in our community. He began with the array of equipment you see when you

first take a look at a town police officer. Then he went on to describe the operation of the department. At the end of his presentation, he answered audience questions. The last minutes of the story presentation that night were given to the K9 part of the Police Department, Officer Witko and *Bear*.



K9 Bear is a 3-year-old German Shepherd from Hungary. *Bear* was purchased from Shallow Creek Kennels in Pennsylvania. He was a "green dog" meaning that he had no training on him. Now he is trained as a dual-purpose police patrol dog. This includes tracking, apprehension, building searches, area searches, obedience and most importantly, narcotics detection. Back in 2021 Officer Edward Josh Witko was given the approval to start researching fundraising opportunities to bring back the East Greenbush Police Department K9 program which was disbanded back in 2007 with the retirement of Sergeant Rick Kemner and *K9 Artis*. Officer Witko was fortunate enough to find grants and donations to cover the initial startup and to pay for all the needed tools and equipment. The K9 program is now up and running and Officer Witko and *Bear* are both fully trained now as a team.

K9 Bear and Officer Witko are currently on the afternoon shift 3:00 pm -11:00 pm. They are still a part of patrol and answer regular service calls as needed. They routinely assist other officers with clearing buildings and doing narcotics detection on vehicles. They are also routinely called to assist other agencies such as Rensselaer PD and Schodack PD. As a K9 team they are required by law to continuously train in all of the disciplines to ensure they are able to complete all of their duties. They train twice a month and often break or wear down equipment after a while. They are completely funded through donations and grants. Over time the K9 fund has been slowly decreasing. All donations received go directly to the K9 fund and this money is used for training equipment, leashes, kennel supplies, repairs to our K9 vehicle, medical supplies, safety equipment, collars and many more small items that are used daily.

The town has a fund set up in the name of "East Greenbush Police K9 Fund". If you would like to support *Bear* and that fund, donations can be made via a written check payable to the "**Town of East Greenbush**" with "**K9 fund**" in the memo line. Checks can be sent to: East Greenbush Police Department, 225 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144.

Here is a URL to the Department website which will direct you to some more history/information about the canine unit. <https://www.egpolice.org/divisions/k-9-division>



Next, here **IS** your invite. Join us for another Story Telling Night At FUMC with East Greenbush Town Historian Bobbie Reno on **Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm**. She will be discussing Edmonia Lewis, an American sculpt, of mixed African American and Native American heritage, born in East Greenbush... her life and sculptures. We will have light refreshments and a time for questions. Free will offering to benefit our FUMC youth.

And now, **WILL BE**. You can help. Do you know anyone who has a story to tell? About life, about circumstances, about joyful endeavors or accomplishments? We need speakers for June and July. Contact Pastor Danyal or Aleta or 150th Anniversary Celebration Team.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MEETINGS

The first of two **Special Sessions of The Upper New York Conference** was held March 25 via Zoom. A second Special Session is scheduled to be held on **October 14, 2023**. Both sessions have disaffiliation requests as the focus of their agendas. For the Saturday, March 25 session, the following eighteen churches filed requests: (name and district)

AuSable Forks UMC – Adirondack
 Candor: McKendree UMC Binghamton
 Colton UMC - Northern Flow
 Findley Lake UMC - Cornerstone
 Gerry UMC - Cornerstone
 Mount Pleasant UMC - Crossroads
 Presho UMC - Mountain View
 Sinclairville: Park UMC - Cornerstone
 Waverly UMC - Mountain View

Bemus Point UMC - Cornerstone
 Charlotte Center UMC - Cornerstone
 Dewittville-Hartfield UMC - Cornerstone
 Germany Hill UMC - Binghamton
 Indian Falls UMC - Niagara Frontier
 New Hope:Midlakes UMC - Finger Lakes
 Schenevus UMC - Oneonta
 Sparta Center UMC - Genesee Valley
 West Davenport UMC - Oneonta

With approximately six hundred people voting, all of the requests were granted. The special session did not determine, and it was not the task of the Special Session to determine what direction these churches would follow when they separate from The United Methodist Church.

The Fourteenth Session of the **Upper New York Annual Conference** of The United Methodist Church will be held **June 1-3, 2023**, in person in Syracuse.



Looking to our United Methodist Church worldwide, the 2024 **United Methodist General Conference** will be held **April 23 – May 3, 2024**, at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which is expected to attract about 5,500-7,500 people. It is here that a major agenda item is expected to be the separation in the church.

THE COMMUNITY WIDE ART SHOW



The Art Show held on Saturday, March 25 was a big success. Between the works of youth and adults, there were over 60 pieces of art on display. Works of art were displayed in the church sanctuary and in the choir room. In the Fellowship Hall youth had a chance to create their own work of art as well as having time for a snack or to purchase some goodies to take home. The day also included musical presentations in the sanctuary by a number of our church family. Picture left:



Deep conversation around a young boy who was getting ready to create his own art work. Picture right: Three people looking at and discussing one of the art works in the show.

All the funds collected at the show will benefit youth attending YOUTH 2023 in Daytona Beach, Florida in July.

EARTH DAY, APRIL 22

In honor of the 53rd Earth Day, we present an excerpt from the 2016 United Methodist Social Principles, ¶ 160, 1. The Natural World, The Introduction:



“All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. Economic, political, social, and technological developments have increased our human numbers, and lengthened and enriched our lives. However, these developments have led to regional defoliation, dramatic extinction of species, massive human suffering, overpopulation, and misuse and overconsumption of natural and nonrenewable resources, particularly by industrialized societies. This continued course of action jeopardizes the natural heritage that God has entrusted to all generations. Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in economic, political, social, and technological lifestyles to support a more ecologically equitable and sustainable world leading to a higher quality of life for all of God's creation.”