



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

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

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 7

SUMMER 2023

At Church on Sundays:

- ◆ 8:30 am Early Informal Service - Outdoor Chapel weather permitting
- ◆ 9:30 am Regular Service This service is live streamed. See our website for details.
- ◆ Sunday School & Youth Group—on vacation for the summer
- ◆ Vacation Bible School July 12—August 9

Visit us on the Web:

www.fumceg.org
www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

June 12 through August 25:
9:00 am to 1:00 pm M-F

Resuming August 28
9:00 am to 2:30 pm M-F

Email: office@fumceg.org

BELL/Bulletin (only) Email:
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egchristianedfumc@gmail.com

Youth Ministries Email:
youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Danyal Mohammadzdeh,
Pastor

Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

Greetings,

Some people think God only talked to chosen people, prophets, and God's messengers. Also, they say God only talked in the Biblical time. They only look for God's words in the Holy Book. I don't buy it since I hear God's sacred words every day.

In July, God talks to me with summer words such as sea, shell, beach, hat, waves, sunglasses, sunshine, tan, surfing, ice cream, picnic, canoeing, hiking, swim, lemonade, and much more words. However, there is only one central theme in God's summer speech: abundance. Summer is a steady state of plenty, a green and amber muchness that feeds us on more levels than we know. Indeed, God embraces us with abundance in summer.

In summer, God invites us to feel abundance. However, sometimes it's too difficult to feel abundance when we live in the time of scarcity. We do not live in nature. We live in the human world that always threatens us with a shortage of food, a shortage of money, and a shortage of affection.

In the human world, abundance does not happen automatically. Actually, we generate it. "God created humanity in God's own image," as Bible tells us. (Genesis 1:27) Our Almighty God who creates summer abundance has empowered us to generate abundance in our lives by creating us in the divine image. "In the divine image God created them God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth.'" (Genesis 1:27-28)

God has blessed us to generate abundance in our human world. Whether the scarce resource is money or love or power or words, we generate more of whatever seems scarce by trusting its supply and passing it around. "The authentic abundance does not lie in secured stockpiles of food or cash or influence or affection but in belonging to a community where we can give those goods to others who need them and receive them from others when we are in need," as Parker Palmer states in his book *Let Your Life Speak*.



Community is abundance. Abundance is a communal act, the joint creation of an incredibly complex ecology in which each part functions on behalf of the whole and, in return, is sustained by the whole. If we could learn that equation from the world of nature, we will find an answer for our daily prayer of "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." The human world might be transformed by understanding that

(Continued on page 2)

A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

equation from the world of nature or “as it is in heaven.” I pray we all feel abundance more than ever in this gorgeous summer. Amen!

Danyal

WHITHER THE CHURCH

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, president of the Council of Bishops, is inviting each United Methodist to find their role in the next expression of United Methodism.

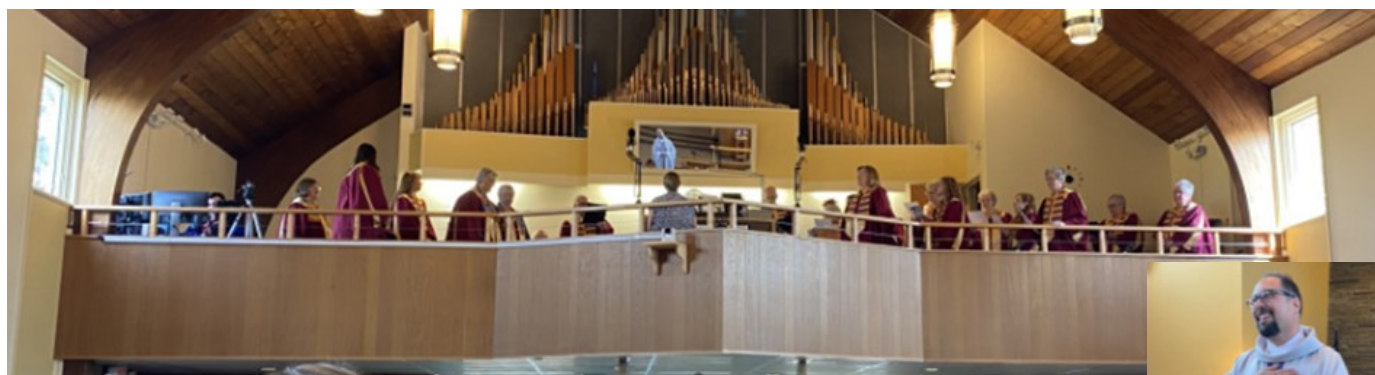
Together, let's:

- **Reclaim** our identity – who we are as United Methodists
- **Revive** our energy and passion for making disciples of Jesus Christ
- **Renew** our commitment to missional work and ministry

The United Methodist Church can make the world a place where everyone can thrive! Watch and share this message of encouragement, empowerment, and hope.

To watch a video presentation of Bishop Bickerton's message, go to

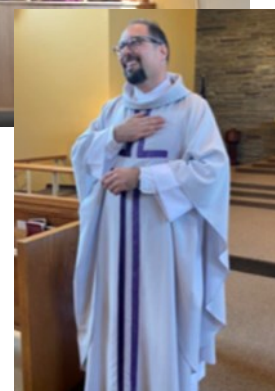
<https://www.umc.org/en/content/reclaim-revive-renew-the-future-of-the-umc>



THE 2022-2023 SANCTUARY CHOIR SEASON ENDS

At the close of morning worship on June 11, the last regular date for our Sanctuary Choir singing as a group until fall, choir director Robert Thomsen spoke to all who were gathered, words close to these,

“On behalf of the Sanctuary Choir, I would like to thank everyone in the congregation for all of their love and support over the last nine months. So, to commemorate our final Sunday of the choir season, and to acknowledge the approaching one-year anniversary of Pastor Danyal joining us here at First United Methodist, we would like you to join us for one last song together. ‘He Has Done Marvelous Things’, so please feel free to sing along with whichever part suits you and thank you to Danyal for all the marvelous things he has done. Praise the Lord!”



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. Summer 2023, Volume 25, Issue 7. **George Herrick**, Editor; **Shawna Lambert**, **Danyal Mohammadzadeh**, **Gail Welkley**, Editing Team; **Kathy Van Buren**, Production Leader; **Marian Smith**, Envelope Labeler; 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 JULY & AUGUST

If you are old enough you will remember Ella Fitzgerald singing “Summertime, and the living is easy...” Well, we are moving into that season now. Many people will be taking time from their normal activities and heading for the beach or for the mountains. Or maybe it will be a road trip to see some things that they can’t fit into the regular workday schedule. Just like individuals, our church also switches gears for a couple of months.

Our worship schedule has a few modifications. Our 8:30 Sunday services will be held in the Chapel in the Woods, weather permitting. Starting **July 2**, our 9:30 services will be held in the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall. Pastor Danyal will be preaching at all services this summer with the following exception: on **July 9** Len Finke will be preaching..



Going to be on the road this summer? Make this a vacation not “from” church but “to” a *new* church. A stranger in the community you are visiting? Grab your hand-held device and search: “umc.org/en/find-a-church”. You will see a space near the center of the screen that says, “search by location or church name”. Enter the name of the community you are visiting. While you are at the “new” church, take some pictures and then share a picture and a comment or two about your visit by sending it to editor@fumceg.org. We would like to print a sampling of the pictures and comments in our September BELL.

One of the churches at the “find-a-church” website describes itself this way:

“We welcome all. Ours is a church that values each person as one who is beloved of God. We are not a “Perfect Church”, and no one needs be perfect to be a part of us. People say they have trouble with “Organized Religion”. We are not always so organized, and we value God and people far more than religion. They tell us we have a beautiful church, and the building isn’t bad either. Come and see.”

Please let us know if you find this church.

HERE ARE MORE OF THE DETAILS FOR EACH SUNDAY THIS SUMMER:

July 2: *Fifth Sunday after Pentecost* –Holy Communion—Pastor Danyal’s theme -Today’s scriptures reveal contrasting understandings of God and the followers of God.

July 9: *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost* -Len Finke will deliver today’s message.

July 16: *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost* -Pastor Danyal’s theme—The Parable of the Sower in Matthew teaches us to nurture the soil of our lives, as we listen to the word of God for understanding and action.

July 23: *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost* -Pastor’s Danyal’s Theme -The theme of God’s searching love unfolds and deepens with each reading. As he sleeps, Jacob dreams of a ladder rising to heaven with angels of the Lord ascending and descending its rungs.

July 30: *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost* -Summer Sermon Series: The Dynamic Women of Faith: Hagar

August 6: *Tenth after Pentecost*—Holy Communion - Summer Sermon Series: The Dynamic Women of Faith: Miriam

August 13: *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost* -Summer Sermon Series: The Dynamic Women of Faith: The Queen of Sheba

August 20: *Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost* -Summer Sermon Series: The Dynamic Women of Faith: Esther

August 27: *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost* -Summer Sermon Series: The Dynamic Women of Faith: Deborah

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST:

July 2 – Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 9 – Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16 – Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23 – Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30 – Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6 – Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

August 13 – Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 20 – Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 27 - Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

SUMMER SENIOR LUNCH

You are all invited to our Summer “Senior Lunch” on Wednesday, **July 19** at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall (air conditioned). Let’s celebrate summer with a picnic menu. And of course, there will be Fruit Salad!



We would love to have some babies/preschoolers to entertain us!

We need an estimate of numbers, so please contact the church office at 518-477-9693 or Mary Smith at mes39@nycap.rr.com if you do not receive a call by **July 12**.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School will be on Wednesday evenings from **July 12-August 9th**. Class will take place from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Dinner will be provided, games, activities, music and of course a lesson. Children of all ages are welcome and registration is open until **July 11**. Children 5 and up can be dropped off and picked up. Please email Amanda Trainor to sign up. You don't have to sign up for every class. You are welcome to come for one Wednesday or all of them. We look forward to seeing you there!



God Bless, *Amanda*
EGChristianEDFUMC@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP



Thank you for a great year in Youth Group. We built so many good memories together. I can't wait for September to build more memories. We will be having a fun and exciting year together. Have a great and safe Summer.

Amber
youthleaderamber@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY OVER THE SUMMER

Church may be going on an adjusted Summer schedule but coffee hour is still in its regular slot. Please sign up to host a summer coffee hour. You will need to do your preparation before Sunday service due to our 9:30 am Sunday Service being held in the Fellowship Hall. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the front lobby.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW)

Summer is finally here. Now for warm weather. The United Women in Faith have only one party on **July 28** at 12:00 noon for a High Tea at Lorraine Beals' home, 527 Miller Road. We need to know how many there will be, so contact Lorraine at Isbeals@nycap.rr.com. The theme is English High Tea with tea sandwiches and yes, the hats. We will be making hats. Come and enjoy the fun. If you wish to attend please contact Patty Chartrand or Kathy Van Buren. We want to be sure we have enough hats to decorate.



Sadly, the bridal shower, previously scheduled for July 29, has been canceled.

The UWF will next meet on Monday, **September 4**, Labor Day evening, for business and Barbecue planning.

MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSIONS

Summer Project Every Wednesday Evening **July 12-August 30**, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm, in Room 16.

Everyone, any age, is invited to help us make SOFT HATS for kids with cancer (hatsgiving.org). Hats will be sewn, knitted, or crocheted. Learn a new skill or teach it to others. If your child is attending Vacation Bible School, this is a perfect time for you to stay and chat with our group. Materials will be supplied.

Please contact us if you have questions. reginagwheeler@gmail.com or aleta.schweigert@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE PLANS

Thank you for your support of FUMCEG's ministries! Your generosity supports our service for Christ and disciple-making. It makes our divine worship, staff people, connection, events, and our premises possible. The Finance Committee is watching our budget and expenses and we're managing with some one-time expenses for events that were canceled during the pandemic. Also, we're experiencing some cost increases due to inflation. As we move into Summer, sometimes giving slows during vacation time. We ask that you please keep your giving current.



With much gratitude and appreciation,
FUMCEG Finance Committee

DO YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR WRITING?

The **Christian Century** magazine (our church library has a subscription) has a competition for short essays on a list of given topics. There is a prize of \$100 for essays published in the print or web magazine. Recent topics have included: Field, Disguise, Wind, Splash, Sleep, and Hunt. Go to our church library and see what others have written about these topics. For example, check the June 2023 issue and see what John J. Shaffer has to say about a moose "hunt" in Alaska. **Now**, here's the current challenge:



The Buechner Narrative Writing Project

Readers are invited to submit first-person narratives (under 1,000 words) on the following topics:

Topic: **Stretch** Deadline: **August 1, 2023**

Topic: **Bell** Deadline: **October 1, 2023**

See all the details in the latest issue of **The Christian Century** magazine which you can find in our Church Library.

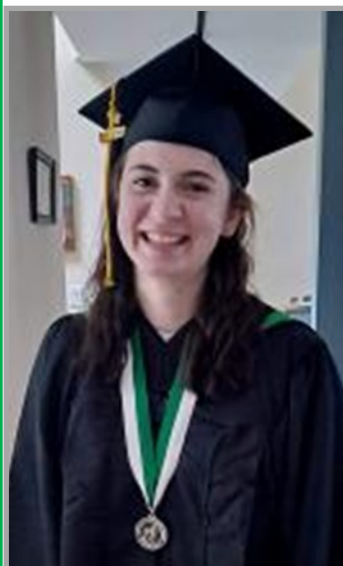
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 GRADUATES

Kirsten and Edward Downer are the proud parents of **IAN DOWNER** who is graduating from Columbia High School in June. He'll be attending Siena College in the fall to study Business. Ian enjoyed playing soccer for Columbia which won the Boys Soccer



Section II Class A Championship Title last season. He also plays travel soccer for the East Greenbush Soccer Club. His grandparents, Ian & Valerie Hodge and Edward & Patricia Downer, are very proud of his accomplishments.

EMILY CLARK graduated from HVCC, with



Honors on May 12, 2023. She received an associate's degree in biotechnology. Emily is looking forward to working at Skye Farm this summer. In August, Emily will be relocating to North Carolina. She has an apartment and has secured her transfer as a shift leader at Walgreens. Emily will attend the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill fulltime, to pursue a degree in Neuroscience. Emily is the daughter of our Lay Leader Laura Clark and Daniel Clark.



ANNA NAEF, daughter of Jason & Marie Naef, granddaughter of Susan and Henry Naef, and niece of Justin Naef, is graduating from Waconah High School, Dalton, MA. She will be attending Elon University, Elon North Carolina.



KATHRYN PARTRIDGE, granddaughter of Ed and Dottie Young, is graduating from Dartmouth College, NH. Her parents are Kathleen and David Partridge. Kathryn's major is Engineering Physics. Her short-term plan is to continue working for the Dartmouth Outing Club. Long term, teaching physics is being considered.



Some short notes of importance—reminders and coming events and more.

- ☐ If you would like to watch a video of any of this year's Annual Conference sessions, go to our Upper New York Conference website at www.unyumc, look under "Events" and click on 2023 Annual Conference.
- ☐ Thanks to all who answered my request and added Greg Hess, a former student of mine, to their prayer list. Just a few weeks ago Greg received the kidney transplant he had been waiting for. – *G. Herrick*
- ☐ Early alert—**SAVE THESE DATES:** Friday, **Sept 22**...Coffee House; Friday, **Nov 17**...Coffee House; **December 8 and 9**...Madrigal Dinner
- ☐ Remember registration for **Skye Farm Summer Camps** is now open. And also remember our United Women in Faith have some funds to help our potential campers in need.

UPPER NEW YORK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The Upper NY Annual Conference was held June 1-3 at Onondaga Community College. This was the first in-person annual conference to be held in 4 years. Our new Bishop, Héctor A. Burgos Núñez, led opening worship with a message about unity, connectionalism, and about being together! We were once again blessed to have the Cosawasco Band lead music for the duration of the conference. Clergy and Laity sessions were held, and I attended the Laity session. We listened to reports from various conference ministries. The Laity elected 2 new delegates to the 2024 Northeastern Jurisdiction Conference (our own church member, Rachel Giso, is already serving as a delegate). Kenneth Guilfyle and Emma Scavo were elected. Emma is a youth from the Center Brunswick church in our own Albany District!



Nominations were held for various committees throughout the conference. All nominations taken from the floor were approved. I am excited to report I will be serving as the newest member of the Conference Camping and Retreat Ministry!

The trustees' report was presented with resolutions for church closures. Twelve churches were closed and 35 churches were approved for disaffiliation. A special session of conference was held on March 25, approving 18 churches for disaffiliation. Another special session will be held **October 14** to approve further closings and disaffiliations.

The Episcopal Address (the address by our Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez) focused on making shifts: silos to connections, competition to collaboration, culture of growth to a culture of impact, and institutions to people. The new logo was released for the United Methodists of UNY. This will be how we will reference our conference going forward.



Peter Cook, Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches spoke, explaining how they can advise churches how to use their buildings for the community. He explained the need for congregations to offer a place for asylum seekers and the need for more chaplains in prison ministries.

Discussion about the Child Victims Act reported a total cost of 2.6 million, not yet paid. The conference will look at all funding options to determine how this will be paid.

The following legislation was passed:

UNYAC2023.1 - Supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Policies.

UNYAC2023.2 - In Support of Creating a US Regional Conference.

UNYAC2023.3 - Supporting the Removal of Discriminatory Language.

The following legislation was not passed:

UNYAC2023.4 - Encouraging Leadership with Integrity.

The recommendation "Naming Scholarships for Africa University" was supported.

Time expired, so other petitions were not discussed.

There were 2 learning sessions held. The first was held by Pastor Trey Wince with Ministry Architects, the second was led by the Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo titled Intercultural Disciple Leaders.

A service of ordination was held Friday evening. Five people were commissioned, ten were ordained. Other services included the service of passage for retired clergy, and a memorial service for clergy and clergy spouses that have passed away this year.

Thank you for your support in sending me to Annual Conference this year.

Laura Clark - Lay Leader



GENERAL CONFERENCE TO GATHER

It is supposed to happen every four years. But in 2020 COVID happened and General Conference didn't. Now, next year in 2024 the conference is back on the schedule, but at a new location, Charlotte, North Carolina. The 2020 conference logo has been updated. The postponed 2020 General Conference is to be held **April 23-May 3, 2024** at Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mary McIntosh has confirmed that the skyline in the logo is in fact the city of Charlotte.



The business of this conference will help determine the future of what we know as The United Methodist Church. Watch Bishop Bickerton's video (page 2 of this BELL) to start your thinking. Hard and far-reaching decisions will have to be made in Charlotte. Stay informed about the future of our church. Keep all the delegates and everyone

involved in the Conference in your thoughts and prayers as we move through the next few months.

STORYTELLING IN JUNE — THANK YOU OLANA

It was June 7. We had a good crowd come to listen to Olana Schillinger, a high school student, and her *Narratives of Youth* project. Olana explained how she worked with third grade students recently having immigrated to America, to write books in their own language and in English. She has done this with many children from many war torn and unsafe parts of the world, over three years. She stated that many of them had never written in their own language. She shared a few books, many slides, a poignant poem, all highlighting the students. She states she was most struck by the children's resilience despite difficult circumstances. Emma Willard School, where Olana is now a senior, hopes to continue her legacy by continuing the project with more elementary age children and by involving more Emma Willard students. Thank you Olana!



STORYTELLING - THE NEXT INSTALLMENT



July's Storytelling program will be held on Wednesday, **July 5** at 7:00 pm. It will feature our own Christian Education Coordinator Amanda Trainor who will share her personal story of childhood trauma and addiction. She will present a historical view of the church's stance on mental health and how Martin Luther and John Wesley changed the church's views on depression, and discuss how we can foster and build resiliency through the study of modern science and theology. Amanda has a dual Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Statistics and a Masters in Management and Behavior. We will have light refreshments and a free will offering to benefit our youth.



Look for a report about YOUTH 2023 in our September issue. YOUTH 2023 will take place in Daytona Beach, Florida, from **July 25-28**. Victor Giso, Kevin Clark, John Haase, Laura Clark, and Rachel Giso will be attending the program. YOUTH 2023 is the national gathering for United Methodist youth in the United States and all are welcome. Please keep all the participants in your thoughts and prayers.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



In the left picture, pictured left to right: Amanda Trainor, Director of Children's Christian Education, Andrei Flynn, Owen Valenchis and Arianna Simmons.

The three students were Confirmed on Sunday, June 11, 2023. Pastor Danyal concluded the confirmation portion of that morning's worship service with these words while the individual confirmands knelt at the altar rail: "...the holy spirit work within you, that having been born through the water and the Spirit, you may live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ."



EDUCATION MINISTRY



Christian educational opportunities in the church are alive and well post COVID. The Sunday School, Youth, Confirmation and Vacation Bible School programs are now all in person with a dynamic contemporary curriculum and activities. All programs are growing. Additionally, the Tuesday Morning Study Group continues in the Lounge with self-chosen topics and agenda. People attending the Made By Hand With Love group, which meets on alternate Tuesday mornings enjoy conversation and fellowship while creating hats, blankets, scarves and other gifts for those in need. The Zumba Gold dance class is an exciting new addition to the roster of activities that support healthy living and fun fellowship. The Mahjong group meets Tuesday afternoons. The Good News Group at Hawthorne Ridge is growing in numbers now that we can meet in person. Discussion based on Bible passages and current topics is lively and meaningful to participants. The ECO team has developed and presented some 5-week discussion series on critical topics of climate change and our stewardship of the earth. Finally, some special Community events are actively supported by the Education Ministry team including the Trunk or Treat event in October and the Food Truck Festival in the spring.

All our programs and contact people are advertised in the Church Announcements emails. Please contact Carrie Larson if you have any questions or ideas for additional Christian education opportunities.

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

June 18th was the date of the Council's Summer Kick-Off Picnic held at Henry Hudson Park, the Town of Bethlehem Town Park, a great spot that is right on the Hudson River. The park is located just a little bit North of the Village of Castleton on the other side of the river. It was an afternoon of food and fun for all those under our pavilion. Members of a number of churches from the Council were in attendance. The few drops of rain didn't stop the good time.

Conversation that day about this first-time event was so positive that there was already thought being given to potential plans for a picnic next year. It's a great way to be ecumenical.



Attendees included some of the present and former leaders of the Council. Pictured left to right: Peter Crasto-Donnelly, President, George E. Herrick, a past President, Bruce France, Executive Director, and William B. Hedberg, Treasurer

Making the World a Better Place

Kindness, combined with God's love, can change us and change the world. We witnessed more evidence of how true this statement is this past May during our church's tenth observance of **Change the World**. We had over 100 people participate in a variety of activities. On May 9th we hosted our first Moonbee. These sewing bees bring together diverse groups of volunteers who make reusable, washable menstrual management kits for distribution to girls living in poverty around the world. This results in girls staying in school longer, increasing their chances of receiving a good education.

Change the World Sunday began with an abbreviated worship service planned by Caring Ministries on May 21 followed by several community activities and a delicious luncheon that was prepared and served to all of our volunteers.

Many of us gathered at Van Rensselaer Heights, a low-income housing facility in Rensselaer. This was an opportunity to meet the residents who have struggled with isolation caused by the Pandemic. Those who attended enjoyed fellowship, refreshments and some wonderful, uplifting music provided by our sanctuary choir under the dynamic direction of Robert Thomsen, accompanied by our organist Jackie Krahforst.



Potted plants were decorated and delivered to all of the residents to brighten their rooms and their spirits.

Some of us spent time at Joseph's House with the homeless in Troy reminding them of God's love. Our confirmands visited the Regional Food Bank to learn about the good work that goes on there. About 50 greeting cards were made and delivered to Evergreen Commons Rehabilitation and Nursing Home. A food drive was held for area food pantries and the VA Center.

Fifty-six shoeboxes were filled throughout the month of May with personal hygiene products for adults and children living in poverty in the mountains of Kentucky as part of the Red Bird Mission. This is our third year in a row participating in this very valuable mission project and brings our total number of shoeboxes donated to 167.

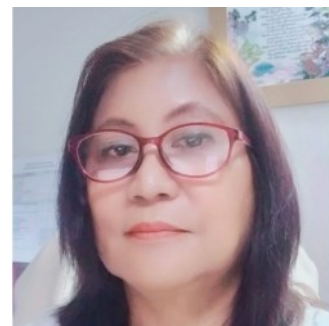
I would like to thank Pastor Danyal for his support, everyone who participated and our dedicated crew: Amber Telford, Amanda Trainor, Carrie Larson, Jean Sheviak, Aleta Schweigert, and Lorraine Beals.

John Schmidt



MEET OUR MISSIONARY

The Missions and Social Responsibility Committee invites you to meet our missionary, **Helen Camarce** (via zoom) on Monday, **July 10** at 7 PM. As a church, we have begun our second year of financial support for the *Women's Livelihood Project* in Cambodia for which Helen serves as treasurer and program coordinator. This project empowers rural women with the technical expertise, micro-loans, and Christian fellowship that



they need to develop small businesses to better support themselves and their families in the Siem Reap Province of Cambodia.

Come to learn more about this exciting grassroots mission and bring your questions for Ms. Camarce. *Ms. Camarce will be presenting to us via ZOOM. You may participate either by joining us in the Choir Room or by connecting directly to the presentation via ZOOM. If the latter, please contact e.kevin.conley@gmail.com for a ZOOM link.*

-Fred Henson, Missionary Liaison

SAVE THE DATE

Red Cross Blood Drive at the First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush

Saturday, July 15, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

To schedule an appointment please contact the American Red Cross at

1-800-RED CROSS, or

Visit redcrossblood.org using sponsor code: eastgreenbush

