



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061



VOLUME 25 ISSUE 8 SEPTEMBER 2023

At Church on Sundays:

♦ **8:30 am** Early Informal Service - Chapel in the Woods

♦ **9:30 am** Regular Service is available live on Facebook and YouTube. The Church's website has the links.

♦ Sunday School & YouthGroup—see inside for details

Visit us on the Web:

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www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

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Danyal Mohammadzadeh
Pastor

Gail Welkley
Administrative Assistant

Inspired by the 2023 ecumenical materials and theme, our church leadership team has planned a four-week worship series: Life as entanglement; Humanity and Nature. Sunday September 10 will be our first Sunday. All parts of worship including prayers, scriptures, hymns, children time (Chocolate Time) and all church activities including Sunday School lessons and activities will be based on the theme of worship: "Let Justice and Peace Flow." The theme, "Let Justice and Peace Flow" centers around the imagery of a mighty river and inspires us to consider how the river is a model both for our faith and for our connection to the rest of God's creation.

Our Fall worship series draws from the rich imagery of the prophet Ezekiel. Throughout the series, the texts and other materials challenge the routines and ways of life that have become commonplace especially in the developed countries, but that are resulting in devastating weather patterns, heat waves, and famine for much of the world. Climate change is truly the most pressing justice issue of our time and our Fall worship series provides resources for our congregation to take a prophetic stand against the status quo.

Our Fall worship series makes connections between what congregations do and care about and the need for all God's people to work together for those most affected by rising temperatures, more frequent and damaging wildfires, mass extinctions, and other consequences of a changing climate. The series tells a story of hope for congregations who are engaged in resisting and interrupting injustice. It's easy to become overwhelmed when facing global challenges and we need to know that we are not alone and that there is hope that the worst outcomes can still be avoided if we cooperate and collaborate and our engaged faithfulness becomes the best starting point.



Prophet Amos cries out: "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5:24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most

(Continued on page 2)

A Reconciling Congregation

(Continued from page 1)

impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity. As the people of

God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice. I hope you will join us to start this exciting worship series in our historic “Rally Day” on September 10.

Pastor Danyal

CONFIRMATION CLASS ON THEIR TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY



On July 8th these eighteen people, Amanda Trainor is taking the picture, made the annual Confirmation trip via Amtrak to New York City. In the picture the three confirmands and fifteen others are gathered at Strawberry Fields in Central Park. Because of scheduling issues, this trip did not include John Street UMC and the other usual sites for the Confirmation trip. But, another trip is being considered for the Fall to cover those places. This summer's trip included stops at The Met Cloisters and the

Space Show at the American Museum of Natural History.

A NEW COLUMN FOR OUR CHURCH BELL

My beloved church family,

Ever so frequently, life has an interesting way of putting challenging, unavoidable situations in our paths. Perhaps, such challenges bring us the need for a new perspective in both our personal and professional lives. I am writing to you today to announce a new initiative in the FUMC East Greenbush, an anonymous advice column, to promote mental wellbeing and provide a safe anonymous space for our fellow friends and community to receive advice from me—your Pastor and Brother in Christ. If you have ever had a burning question and you were not sure who to turn to for a new perspective, then maybe this initiative is for you. Anyone may submit their questions to me via mail, e-mail, or my church mailbox; and I will post the question and a response in The Bell each month. I promise to never include the identity of the questioner.

Peace and Love, Pastor Danyal

THE BELL is published monthly (with the exception of August) by the First United Methodist Church, 1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1780. September, 2023, Volume 25, Issue 8. **George Herrick**, Editor; **Shawna Lambert**, **Danyal Mohammadzadeh**, **Gail Welkley**, Editing Team; **Kathy Van Buren**, Production Leader; **Dave Caneen**, Photographer; **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; **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 SEPTEMBER

September! We begin a month of celebrations. First up is a long weekend, Labor Day Weekend. Many of our church family will be off visiting family and friends this last big weekend of the summer. Pastor Danyal will be on vacation so there will be no Holy Communion service this month. But, if you are at home, do come to worship the first Sunday and take part in a Love Feast, a lay-led worship service.



Next celebration – schools begin their fall semester. O.K., there are some who do not consider this a celebration. However, a little more maturity and the importance of a good education becomes more apparent.



A third event for this month - Hispanic Heritage Month begins. Look at this internet note --

"Hispanic Heritage Month is an official celebration of people whose ancestry can be traced back to Spain, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. Hispanic Heritage Month "pays tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched our nation and society," according to HispanicHeritageMonth.gov."

Here are more of the details for each Sunday in September:

September 3 *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost* –The Love Feast. Len Finke and George Herrick will be leading this service. It will be the last Sunday worship service held in the Fellowship Hall this summer. We will move back to the Sanctuary next week.

September 10 *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.* Pastor Danyal will be preaching this week and the remaining Sundays of this month. The themes for these services are discussed in Pastor Danyal's opening article in this issue of The BELL.

September 15 Hispanic Heritage Month – September 15-October 15

September 17 *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 24 *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

September 3 - Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 10 - Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

September 17 - Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 24 - Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16



"Respect Your Parents. They Passed School Without Google."

- Anonymous

SUNDAY SCHOOL

I hope everyone had a safe and fun summer! We are so excited for Sunday School to start again. The first Sunday School (Rally Day) will be **September 10**. The first four Sundays we will have Chocolate Time and be focusing on Ezekial and seasons of creation. The goal is for students to learn how the Bible connects to our ecosystem and how children and teens can play a positive role in changing the environment for the better. Then, October 8, we will celebrate with a waffle breakfast and ask church members to bring a friend to enjoy breakfast and learn about the series we completed.

September 10: Ezekiel 31:1-14, Water Helps Us Grow

September 17: Ezekiel 34: 1-18, Animals Need Water Too...

September 24: Ezekiel 36: 8-12, Nourishing Our Land

October 1: Ezekiel 37:1-14, Replenishing Hope

October 8: Super Sunday, Bring a Friend for Waffles.



We still need volunteer teachers and classroom helpers. Please let me know if anyone is interested. I would like to split the classrooms up this year by age if possible! We have gotten quite big and have many various ages of students.

Please let me know by **September 10** if you have a student who is interested in attending Confirmation this year. We typically ask that students are in 8th grade, but if your child is younger and you feel is ready or is older and would like to Confirm I am happy to accept them into our class this year. Additionally, I am happy to offer Confirmation virtually if your child lives out of the area and would like to attend.

Last, but not least, we are looking for volunteers for our classroom cleanup day on **September 16**, 10:30 am-4:00 pm. If you are interested, please contact me!

Blessings, *Amanda Trainor* — EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Welcome back Youth Groupers! I am sad to see summer is over but I am so excited for the 2023 -2024 school year. I have so much planned and there is so much to do!



Sunday, **September 10** will be a Youth meeting from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm . I am inviting all youth ages 5th - 12th grade to attend this meeting. We will be discussing the different projects we have planned for September. We will be launching a Change for Change (climate change) fundraiser and will need each youth to bring a climate change idea to the group. (Change for change is where we will be collecting pocket change in a 5 gallon water container, we will be setting a goal on how much to collect and where the money will go, we will be collecting from September to March).

Sunday, **September 17** from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm we will be having our welcome back mini bonfire under the pines. We invite any youth from 5th -12th grade to join us. We will be roasting hot dogs, having a devotion, playing games and of course eating smores. If you are a current youth in our group we ask you to either bring a bag of chips to share or a friend to come hang out. Please RSVP to this event. Parents are welcome to stay and hang out as well.

Sunday, **September 24** The Youth Group will be preparing the Reconciling Breakfast which takes place immediately after 9:30 am worship. I would like all the youth to help prepare the breakfast for the congregation. We will be preparing the breakfast during church service. Please meet me in the kitchen.

Friends are always welcome and are invited to youth group.

Blessings, *Amber*—Youthleaderamber@gmail.com

STORYTELLING AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER CHURCH PICNIC — CELEBRATING OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

It was a lovely Wednesday evening on August 9, Livin' The Dream was grilling delicious food and Triskele



was performing for us as we continued to celebrate the 150th anniversary of our church. Church members and friends came to enjoy the storytelling/concert event. Triskele told us the story of how they came together to form this group. We had around 115 church members, friends and members of our community come to enjoy the evening under the pines. There was a slight breeze, delicious food and the warmth of the community coming together.



We want to thank everyone who helped make it happen whether they brought a dish, helped with cleaning up or set up. A special thanks to Triskele, Livin' the Dream, and Angel for the Balloon Arch.

STORYTELLING - THE NEXT INSTALLMENT

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 @7:00pm

Entomologist, Dr. Timothy McCabe

Tim serves as Curator of Entomology and Museum Scientist at the State Museum in Albany. He is an ardent, life-long student of insects, with a broad knowledge of natural history. Pursuing this passion has taken him on numerous trips to remote locations around the world.

Tim will talk about his participation in an expedition comprised of botanists, herpetologists, ornithologists, and entomologists to Pico de Neblina, deep in the Amazon in southernmost Venezuela. Southern Venezuela is dedicated as a preserve of the Yanomami people, and this particularly remote region is rarely visited by outsiders. Neblina is also known as Mountain of the Mists, and the 12,000-foot mountain was not discovered until the 1950's because it is always shrouded in clouds. Tim will touch on various aspects of the biology of the area and the challenges of working in that environment.



*Story telling is an age old means of passing
down lore before the written word.*

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith: Our next meeting is **September 11** at 7:00 pm in room 16. lead us with Prayer and Devotion. On the agenda is the fall barbeque and where do we go from here. Our group has been addressing the hard question on what the future will be for our unit. All women of our church are invited to attend.

Our Memorial Library is open to all ages. There are many different categories to choose from. Come in, browse and choose a book to read.

On July 28 the UWF gathered at Lorraine Beals' house for High Tea. Had a great time making hats to wear during the tea and enjoying great food and fellowship. Even Cooper Lemka had a good time.

Karen Terwilliger will



FOOD AND FAITH

Food and Faith is a program wherein members of our church prepare or purchase food to bring to UAlbany for their Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry program. We traditionally supply the food for the first meal in August when the students return to class. We, Mary McIntosh and Kathy Van Buren, are looking for others, men or women, to participate in this event. The meal is on a Tuesday evening. The date varies depending on the year. There are generally about 20 – 25 students who participate, but this year there were almost 40 students. It is very rewarding to meet the students and learn where they are from and what the major is. Our Pastor Danyal and George Herrick then have a program for the students. During this time we clean-up and leave. We get to the college at about 5:30 pm, eat about 6:00 pm and are

finished by 7:00 pm. There are many open dates available throughout the semester. Whether food is prepared or purchased, you can be reimbursed.



MADE BY HAND with Love Outreach Missions September 12, 20, 26

Beginning in September we will meet each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 am in rooms 5 and 6, and on the 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Youth Lounge. We will first be concentrating on Soft Hats for Kids with Cancer for hatsgiving.org, a local organization. These hats are collected before Thanksgiving. We will be knitting, crocheting and sewing them. Last year we made 75 hats. As a nod to our church's 150th Anniversary Celebration this year, our goal is **150 hats!!!** We have supplies available and are willing to teach you. Everyone is invited to join us for creating and/or conversation. Thanks.



reginagwheeler@gmail.com aleta.schweigert@gmail.com

BACK TO SCHOOL

CoNSERNS-U is looking for help with back-to-school supplies for needy families. This year, since they are in the process of relocating, they would appreciate gift cards in any amount from area merchants such as Walmart and Target. Cards may be given to Mary Smith, Carrie Larson or John Schmidt who will get the cards to CoNSERNS-U. Thank you in advance for your generosity. As of the 5th of September their new address will be 201 Academy Street, Rensselaer, New York 12144. Anyone wanting to make a monetary donation to CoNCERNS-U should send it to: P. O. Box 28, Rensselaer, NY 12144.



ANOTHER GRADUATE

Joann Shirley Pole, daughter of John and Rose Pole, has graduated with honors from Columbia High School (Class of 2023). We're extremely proud to announce that Joann is attending Binghamton University (SUNY) - Computer Science program this fall!



SAVE THE DATE(S)

Our Annual Church Conference will be held in our church Fellowship Hall at 3:00 pm on
November 12, 2023

Zumba Gold is coming back on Thursday, **September 21** at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall.
Come have some fun. And it's great exercise.

FALL FROLICS COFFEE HOUSE

September 22, 2023

7:00-8:30 p m



Welcome in the fall season at the first Coffee House. Friends and performers share Friday evening, the 22nd of September, together enjoying music, stories, possibly jokes by the Mistress of Chatter and delicious tidbits. Donations at the door help support families in need in our community. Hope to see you there.



Art Show

Last year we had great success with the Art Show. This year we would like to form a committee early to make the show even better. The First Art Show planning meeting will be **October 11**, at 6:00 pm before the Church Council at 7:00 pm. Any questions see Amber email youthleaderamber@gmail.com.

Trunk or Treat

October 29 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm we will be having a trunk or treat right outside in our parking lot. We will be having a contest to see who has the best decorated trunk. (1st, 2nd and 3rd prize will be awarded by popular choice.)

There will also be a costume contest with the community. If you have any questions please see Amber at youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Part-time Custodian Needed

Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking to hire a part-time custodian to work under the supervision of the Lead Custodian and the SPRC beginning September 2023. We are looking for someone to work Monday - Friday or Monday -Thursday and Saturdays. This is a 10 hour per week position with the possibility of additional time. Responsibilities would include assisting the Lead Custodian in cleaning assigned areas and trash removal. The candidate would also be available to cover for the Lead Custodian when necessary. All applicants would be required to have a background check completed prior to employment. If interested contact Tom McLaughlin at 518-477-9837 or call the church office at 518-477-9693.



COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Coffee Hour is only successful because of volunteers like you that sign up. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with coffee hour. If you're unsure on how to prepare coffee hour please see Amber and she can walk you through it. Sign up sheet is in the lobby.

ECO TEAM NEWS

CROP Hunger Walk

For over 50 years, average Americans have come together to fight hunger in exceptional ways through the CROP Hunger Walk. These aren't politicians or celebrities – they're passionate (and compassionate!) farmers, students, members of the faith community, volunteers and more who care that the people they see on a daily basis are struggling.



The story of the CROP Hunger Walk goes back to 1969. Teens in Bismarck, North Dakota and York County, Pennsylvania decided it was time to do something for families who had to walk miles for food and clean water, so they walked...and, because they took that first step, hunger has forever

been changed.

Today, millions of people across nearly every state have participated in what is now called the CROP Hunger Walk. Our walks of life may look different, but we move forward with the same vision: a world where every child has enough healthy food to survive each day.

Please plan to join the Castleton CROP Walk on Sunday, **October 15**. One-quarter of all funds will be directed to the Anchor Food Pantry and Thrift Store in Castleton. Three-quarters of the funds help support the work of Church World Service (CWS) and its partners for hunger relief and development projects in the U.S and around the world. Walkers may register at www.crophungerwalk.org/castletonny. Walkers ask friends and families to support them either with an on-line contribution or check payable to "CWS/CROP." On the day of the walk, we will meet at Emmanuel Reformed Church, 1150 Maple Hill Road, Castleton at 12:00 noon for a light lunch, songs, a blessing, and some pictures and then ride in our cars 2-3 miles to The Anchor on Boltwood Avenue. The 1 mile walk and 3.3 mile walk each follow the same route for a while. If you cannot join the walk yourself, please support a walker. Every contribution helps bring some relief to those in need. For more information, contact Kevin Conley (518-253-4907).

JOSEPH'S HOUSE LUNCHES



Thank you to the volunteers who sign up to provide lunches for the Joseph's House Outreach Van on Mondays. We are seeking volunteers for the Mondays in September and October. If you can sign up to prepare and deliver 17 sandwiches, along with vegetables or potato chips and a dessert, please contact Kevin Conley (email: e.kevin.conley@gmail.com; phone 518-253-4907). Assistance with delivering lunches to the Joseph's House at 242 Broadway, Menands is available, if needed, and you can be reimbursed for the purchased food.

CREATION CARE SERIES

The Eco-Team will hold four video and discussion sessions this fall. In each session, participants view a talk or video and follow with discussion. The sessions are held in Room 16 and will run from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon. You may also 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. Dates and topics for the series are shown below. Participants can attend one or all of the sessions.

October 1: The Compost Story and The Soil Story from Kiss the Ground. Two entertaining 7-minute videos that explain why composting food scraps is essential to our survival on earth and why regenerative agriculture

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)



can rebuild soil while removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

October 22: “Why Bees Are Disappearing,” a TED Talk. Marla Spivak explains that more than one-third of the world’s crop production is dependent on bee pollination. Ms. Spivak describes what is threatening bees and how we can help preserve this crucial species.

November 5: “Four Ways We Can Avoid a Catastrophic Drought,” a TED Talk. As the world’s climate patterns continue to shift unpredictably, places where drinking water was once abundant may soon find reservoirs dry and groundwater aquifers depleted. In this talk, civil and environmental engineer David Sedlak shares four practical solutions to the ongoing urban water crisis.

November 19: “A Creative Approach To Community Climate Action,” a TED Talk. To address the perils of climate change, eco-artist Xavier Cortada offers a creative vision of community organizing inspired by art that engages, educates and empowers.



Gail, our Administrative Assistant, enjoying the beautiful sunflowers in the church Memorial Garden.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Noah and George blow out the candles on John Wesley’s 320th birthday cake following the morning worship service on June 25, 2023. Wesley was born June 28, 1703 (O.S. June 17, 1703) in Epworth, England



Art and Gail Sanderson attended St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Rhode Island while visiting their daughter and family.





RECONCILING MINISTRY BRUNCH

NO RESERVATION OR TICKET NEEDED

YOU ARE INVITED!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AFTER CHURCH



Immediately following worship on **September 24** our Reconciling Ministry Team will host a “no ticket, no reservation” brunch in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy a good meal. Take part in a time of fellowship and help celebrate the 12th anniversary of our church becoming a Reconciling Congregation. We voted that change on June 12, 2011. You are invited even if you just want a cup of coffee. But I am sure you will want to stay for more than that.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THIS SPECIAL BRUNCH HAPPEN!

We need people:

P To plan the details of the program` P To work with our Methodist Youth Fellowship members to prepare the meal` P To set up the Fellowship Hall and help serve the meal` P To pick up the pieces when all is done

We also need help to **sew more stoles** so that we have enough for all who want one. We already have one volunteer for this job.

There is a clip board on the table in the church foyer to sign-up to help. Add your name today. For more information and questions, see George Herrick or Amber Telford.

MAJOR ECUMENICAL DINERS ON THE FALL AGENDA

NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

All are invited to attend our **Eighth Annual Awards and Fundraising Dinner** to be held on Wednesday, **November 1, 2023**, from 5:30 – 9:00 PM at The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany. Tickets for the reception and dinner are \$85 each. Among their responsibilities, the State Council vets all Protestant clergy applicants seeking to serve in the New York State prison system. Please contact The Reverend Peter Cook at 508-380-8289 or Pcook@Nyscoc.org if you have any questions.

CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Capital Area Council of Churches has announced their **Annual Fall Dinner and Awards Celebration** to be held at the Italian American Community Center, 257 Washington Ave Ext, Albany, NY, on **October 11**. One of this year's award recipients is Rev. Bob Long who has presided at many meetings here at our church. Please contact the Council at capareacc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

CORNERSTONE CAMPUS MINISTRY

The Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry invites all to attend their **12th Annual Fall Fund Raising Dinner** to be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 85 Elm Avenue, Delmar on **September 20** at 6pm. This dinner is a major fund raiser for this program at UAlbany. We hope you will also participate in the related Online Auction. For more information, please speak with George Herrick at our church.



* Important reminder! The next **DEADLINE** for the Christian Century **Buechner Narrative Writing Project is October 1**. The prize is \$100. The task, write 1,000 words or less on the topic – “Bell”. See the Summer issue of The Church BELL, page 5 for more details.

* Congregation Agudat Achim, 2117 Union St., Niskayuna will host a **celebration honoring Fr. Jim Kane** for his “40-plus years of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue, collegiality and respect for religious differences.” Fr. Kane and George Herrick have worked together for over thirty years on ecumenical and interfaith issues, Fr. Kane representing the Roman Catholics and George representing the United Methodists. The program will be held Sunday, **October 15**. See George for more information.

- * Our church’s **150th Anniversary Time-Line** is under construction and you can see how it is going by visiting Room 3. You may note that it is mounted on two 4x8 panels, it can be on wheels and it can be displayed in the Fellowship Hall, the sanctuary, the choir room or other places as needed. Once our basic church dates are posted, individuals are going to be able to add “church” dates of their own. For example, “John and Pat Jones married (month, day, year)”. Watch the weekly church announcements for more information as construction continues. See George Herrick if you have questions.