



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061



VOLUME 25 ISSUE 11 DECEMBER 2023

At Church on Sundays:

♦ 8:30 am Early Informal Service

♦ 9:30 am Regular Service.
This service also 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

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Church Office Hours:

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

Email: office@fumceg.org

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youthleaderamber@gmail.com

Danyal Mohammadzadeh
Pastor

Gail Welkley
Administrative Assistant

Not a Silent Night!

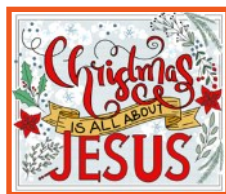
From the carols we sing to the art on our Christmas cards, we are surrounded by images of the serene young Mary in clean, beautiful robes, holding the calm baby. Who is she? Was that what that night was really like? How did this young mother remember it in the years to follow?

We have a picture of what that first Christmas must have been like for the young mother: perfect, starlit, holy. The reality, however, was not unlike our own lives. There was joy, but it was mixed with pain and sorrow, uncertainty and adversity. This was true throughout her life, with blessings and pain intermingled.

This year we'll be preparing our hearts for Christmas by looking at Jesus' life through Mary's eyes. In focusing on Mary, we're going to do something a bit unusual. We'll tell her story by starting not at the beginning but at the end.

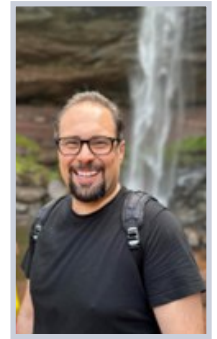
On the first Sunday we'll start with Mary's death and the last years of her life. Then in each succeeding Sunday we'll work our way backward, from the Crucifixion and Jesus' ministry, to his discovery in the Temple as a twelve-year-old boy, to the announcement of the Savior to come, until finally we will end on Christmas Eve with the birth of Jesus. On each Sunday we'll consider the meaning of the birth of Jesus by looking at the significance of his life, death, and resurrection.

I invite you to travel with me and experience the story of a not-so-silent night, of a young mother unexpectedly chosen by God to bring the Christ Child into the world. Along the way, we will discover the gifts she received at each stage of his life, and we will receive them too: the hope of resurrection found in the garden, the salvation gift of the cross, a new way to live that Jesus taught in his ministry, and the ever-present gift of God's grace.



As Mary learned, God doesn't promise a perfect, peaceful life or a silent, holy night. She was blessed, God-favored, and grace-filled, yet her troubles did not end. That's how life was for Mary, and that's how life is for us. Life doesn't go according to our plans. Sometimes it's hard and painful and scary. Yet, in the messiness of life, God is at work, bringing blessing out of pain. That's the message of Christmas.

Pastor Danyal



A Reconciling Congregation

SOME NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER

Busy, busy, busy. That's the way many describe Advent and the Christmas season. A first "busy" is trying to figure out what to buy for Christmas gifts. That busy is typically done by this month. Busy planning a schedule for the month. Busy shopping. Busy wrapping Christmas gifts. For some, busy getting the Christmas cards in the mail. Busy decorating. Busy cooking. *How about being busy attending church?* Advent is the time we start the new church year, the year the lectionary starts a new cycle. Advent is a good time to get into the habit of being in church on Sunday mornings.



The details about the worship services this month, usually part of this section of The BELL, are on pages 6 and 7, a pull out sheet to hang on your refrigerator so you have it handy. Also on page 7 is information about our Blue Christmas service being held on **December 20**. All are invited to this service. No need to be a member of our church or any particular faith community, or any faith

community at all to attend.

This month of December we prepare for and then celebrate the Christmas season and Christmas Day. We do this in a world facing a great deal of national and international turmoil. A country with a great deal of political unrest impinging on our lives in many ways. In the first days of December, it is good to remind ourselves of the true meaning of Christmas. Here is a repeat from the December 2018 Church BELL, "*If you are looking for a different way to start thinking about the Christmas holiday, try the YouTube presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DjqRZSTYKxY>. It's a video clip, dated in approach and quality, from the Amos 'n' Andy Christmas Show of December 1952.*" Never heard of Amos 'n' Andy? Take a look at the Wikipedia article on the old radio, and later, TV show.

Two more special days this month. For our Jewish neighbors, "**Hanukkah** (or Chanukah) begins at sundown on Thursday, **December 7, 2023**, and ends the evening of Friday, **December 15, 2023** (8 nights). Hanukkah means 'dedication' and is a holiday that honors and celebrates one of the first recorded fights for religious freedom and the success of this fight."

"**Kwanzaa** is an annual celebration of African-American culture from **December 26 to January 1**, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day."

On the altar recently there has been an extra candle. It is a peace candle. There has been so much strife in the world that prayers for peace are needed. This candle with the doves is a symbol of peace and a reminder to pray for peace.

Pastor Danyal will be in the pulpit for all five Sundays in December. We hope you will be able to join us in the Sanctuary each Sunday, but if not, the service is livestreamed. For a link, go to our church website at www.fumceg.org. Previous services are also available on our website.

(Continued on page 3)

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. December, 2023, Volume 25, Issue 11. **George Herrick**, Editor; **Shawna Lambert**, **Danyal Mohammadzadeh**, **Gail Welkley**, Editing Team; **Kathy Van Buren**, Production Leader; **Dave Caneen** and **Paul Deming**, Photographers; **Marian Smith**, Envelope Labeler; The Church Staff: **Danyal Mohammadzadeh**, Pastor; **Gail Welkley**, Administrative Assistant; **Lauren Lehmann**, Substitute 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; **Helen de Leon Camarce**, Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, Treasurer of the agency's Cambodia and South-east Asia Missions and part of the Cambodia Women's Livelihood Projects.

(Continued from page 2)

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

December 3 – Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10 – Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17 – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 – 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 1:46b-55

Christmas Eve - Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

December 31 - Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40



ADVENT CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
LIGHT 3 ONE CANDLE. MK: 13:24-37	LISTEN. 4 SHALOM PEACE SALAM. PS. 85: 8,9	BE STRONG. 5 1 COR. 1:3-9	GIVE SECRETLY. 6 ST. NICHOLAS MT. 6:3-4	SHINE LIGHT. 7 HANUKKAH EX. 27:20	CREATE. 8 IS. 64: 8	VISIT SOMEONE. 9 2 JN. 12
LIGHT TWO 10 CANDLES. MK. 1:1-8	FOLLOW. 11 IS. 40:1-11	WAIT. 12 NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH. 2 PET. 3:14, 15a	FEEL SAFE. 13 PS. 91	HOPE 14 (ANYWAY) ROM. 8:24	HOLD FAST. 15 1 TH. 5:16-24	PLANT 16 FOR PEACE. IS. 5:2:1-5
LIGHT THREE 17 CANDLES. JN. 1:6-8, 19-28	FEEL 18 CONFIDENT. JOB 11:13-19	IMAGINE. 19 LK. 1:37-38	SEE NEW 20 GROWTH. IS. 61:11	BELIEVE 21 IT. WINTER SOLSTICE LAM. 3:21-24	MAKE 22 ROOM. LK. 2:1-7	HEAR 23 SINGING. LK. 2:8-14
LIGHT FOUR 24 CANDLES. JN. 1:1-5, 14	<p>BY ADVENT'S LIGHT WE HOPE TO SEE A NEW AND BETTER WAY AND THEN ISAIAH'S VOICE PROCLAIMS THE COMING PROMISED DAY. THIS WORLD IN WHICH THE SWORD AND SPEAR, THE RIFLE AND THE GUN HOLD SWAY AS IDOLS OF OUR FEARS WILL ONE DAY BE UNDONE.</p> <p>WHEN ALL THE WEAPONS OF OUR HATES WILL SURELY BE RECAST AS TOOLS TO PLOW AND PLANT THE SOIL WHERE PEACE WILL REIGN AT LAST. A DISTANT DREAM, YET WE WILL DARE BY ADVENT'S LIGHT TO FORGE WITH CHRIST, NEW HEARTS AND HANDS WITH WHICH TO STUDY WAR NO MORE.</p>					ADVENT

DEVOTIONS: REV. MERRY WATERS * ADVENT 2023 © THOMAS MOUSIN. COM * DESIGN & POEM: REV. THOMAS MOUSIN

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello Sunday School Families,

I hope everyone is as excited as we are for Advent this year! Thank you all for your continued support and involvement in the Sunday School program. We had a fantastic year in 2023 and are looking forward to all the joy and excitement God will bring us in 2024. Sunday School is still focusing on all the ways we can love the Earth and going green. Please see the schedule for Advent below:



Sunday, **December 3rd** We will learn about **hope**, make an advent wreath, and discuss Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37.

Sunday, **December 10th** We will learn about **peace**. We will discuss Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8. Students will be asked to make an ornament representing peace out of materials we already have in the church and can upcycle. The ornaments will be given out during our Christmas Eve service.

Sunday, **December 17th** We will learn about **joy**. We will discuss Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28. Students will play a game focused on the joy of giving.

Sunday, **December 24th** We will not have a traditional Sunday School class. Instead, students will participate in our annual family store. Since we are focused on reducing, reusing, and recycling, we are asking the congregation to donate items they do not use for our Christmas store this year.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us about Sunday School or any of our Youth Programs directly. You can call the office and leave a message or email Lauren at Lauren312@yahoo.com.

Blessings, Lauren Lehmann
EGChristianEdFUMC@gmail.com

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Can you believe it is Christmas time already? I feel like 2023 flew by like a blink of an eye.

December 2nd is our 150th Anniversary Birthday Party. The 150 Committee has asked us to put together a slideshow and small presentation which we have been working on in November. The party is from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

December 3rd Junior High will have a regular meeting from after church until 12:30 pm. We will be talking about fundraising, for Mission Central Hub Trip in April, and of course games and snacks.

December 17th Senior High will have a regular meeting. We will be discussing today's sermon, talking about fundraising and mission projects. We will also be setting goals for the New Year. We will meet at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

December 31st! Junior and Senior High can come together to toast in the new year! We will be playing games, eating toast, and other fun games. This is not our Christmas Party! Just a New Years Eve Party.

We will do an after Christmas Party **January 14th** after church. Please bring a wrapped gift.

I hope everyone has a Happy and Safe Christmas!



Blessings, Amber—Youthleaderamber@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH—UMW



Guess What? You've guessed it. **THE THRIFT SALE** is back. Set up will begin after worship on Sunday, **April 14**. We will be accepting donations up till Wednesday, **April 17**. The sale will be on Friday, **April 19** 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. BUT there is a catch! The only things being accepted are children's, women's and men's clothing. That would include: shoes, boots, belts, hats, gloves, coats and purses. Housewares: pots, pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, cups, cooking utensils, bowls, food containers, anything for cooking in the kitchen. Linens: sheets, blankets, pillowcases, curtains, towels. **DO NOT INCLUDE:** Electronics, books, toys, construction material or equipment, or hardware, lawn tools, holiday and crafts, gym equipment, videos.

We are only using the Fellowship Hall and there will be a snack bar. There is a need for help: sorting, cashiers, setup and cleanup, and transportation to the mission. Look for the sign up sheet in March and start cleaning out your closet.

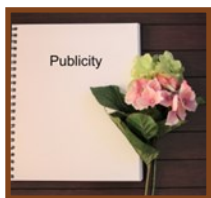
MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSION

Our handiwork group has reached our goal of 150 and far surpassed it with over 300 soft hats for kids with cancer. Donations for shipping costs for hatsgiving.org would be appreciated. They send the hats to several children's hospitals. Thank you to all the hands at work. We will be meeting Tuesday, **December 12** at 10:00 am.



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

PUBLICITY



To all church committees: The publicity team would appreciate receiving all information you would like advertised for your event no later than the 15th of the month **prior** to the actual date. If received after the 15th, various newspaper deadlines may be missed. Please send the information to Valerie Perrotte wperrott@nycap.rr.com (518) 852-9890 for the website and Lorraine Beals lsbeals@nycap.rr.com (518) 961-4050 for newspapers. Thank you for your cooperation.

THE LATEST FROM THE TRUSTEES

The **Church's heating system** is controlled by several programmable thermostats located throughout the building, each controlling a section near it. The programs for each thermostat have been geared to the anticipated usage in that area. Please do not attempt to adjust the programs. Should you be using a room and feel it is too cold, you can adjust the temperature by pushing the arrows located on the thermostat. When doing so, please do not put the adjusted temperature on Hold, it will remain at the new setting until the next programmed change, though if you have raised the temperature, we would appreciate that you lower it when you are done.

Note, ours is a hot water based system, it will take awhile for the system to raise the temperature in a room, so if you will be using the space for a short period, please consider not changing the temperature. If you do raise the temp, please do not increase it higher than 72 degrees. Due to the nature of the system, pushing the desired temp higher will not warm the room quicker. It does not adjust the temperature in the water flowing through the system. Should you find the space too warm, lowering the temp on the thermostat, if it is already in the low 60's, will not result in making the space cooler. The only way to accomplish that is to open a window.





CHRISTMAS SEASON



WORSHIP SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

*Advent Passage— Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the Lord will shine upon you; God's glory will appear over you. **Isaiah 60:2***

Sunday, December 3, First Sunday of Advent - "Hope"

8:30 am—Early Service- Not a Silent Night First Week – BEGINNING WITH THE END

9:30 am—Morning Worship -Not a Silent Night First Week – BEGINNING WITH THE END

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.

Friday, December 8 - 7:00 pm - Madrigal Dinner and Performance - doors open 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 9 - 6:00 pm - Madrigal Dinner and Performance - doors open 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 10, 2nd Sunday of Advent - "Peace"

8:30 am—Early Service -Not a Silent Night Second Week – THE PIERCING OF MARY'S SOUL

9:30 am—Morning Worship -Not a Silent Night Second Week – THE PIERCING OF MARY'S SOUL

The CHIMettes will be playing, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Sunday, December 17, 3rd Sunday of Advent - "Joy"

8:30 am—Early Service -Not a Silent Night Third Week – AMAZED, ASTOUNDED, AND ASTONISHED

9:30 am—Morning Worship—Not a Silent Night Third Week – AMAZED, ASTOUNDED, AND ASTONISHED

The EmBELLishments will be playing "Joyful Bells of Christmas"

Wednesday, December 20, Blue Christmas - 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve - "Love"

8:30 AM - NO EARLY SERVICE THIS WEEK

9:30 am - Morning Worship—Not a Silent Night - Fourth Week – FULL OF GRACE

5:30 pm - Family Service

8:00 pm - Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 31, 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

8:30 am—Early Service - THE RESURRECTION

9:30 am—Morning Worship— THE RESURRECTION

Sunday, January 7, 2024—Epiphany Sunday

8:30 am—Early Service - EPIPHANY

9:30 am—Morning Worship— EPIPHANY

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.

Sunday, January 14, 2024: Cookies and Carols at 2:00 pm. Performers come from the Choir, Byrd in the Bush and performers from the Coffeehouses.



Watch the “CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH video at <https://youtu.be/paWHd62raYs>.

Our Blue Christmas Worship service will be held in the sanctuary on Wednesday evening, **December 20** at 7:00 pm. Often referred to as the “Longest Night” service, our service is held one day earlier than that night. The service is held especially for those who are “feeling blue”, those facing a loss this holiday season. The loss may be in one of many forms, a family member, a job, home, health, faith or any other loss. The “Chuck Knows Church” video mentioned above helps explain the service. Please invite your friends and neighbors who might find this service helpful in their life. The invitation is for all in our community. No need to be a member of our church or any particular faith community to attend. **All are welcome.**

A Blue Christmas Poem

There's no room at Christmas for sadness,
There's no place for hearts that are blue.
All the world wants to hear
Is a word full of cheer,
Not a sigh, not a tear, not from you.

There's no room at Christmas for loneliness,
There's no place for your emptiness and grief.
All the world wants is peace,
Mistletoe and Christmas trees,
Not a heartache that mars its beliefs.

There's no room at Christmas for sickness,
There's no place or time to be ill.
All the world wants is health,
Prosperity and wealth,
Not a pain that can spoil its goodwill.

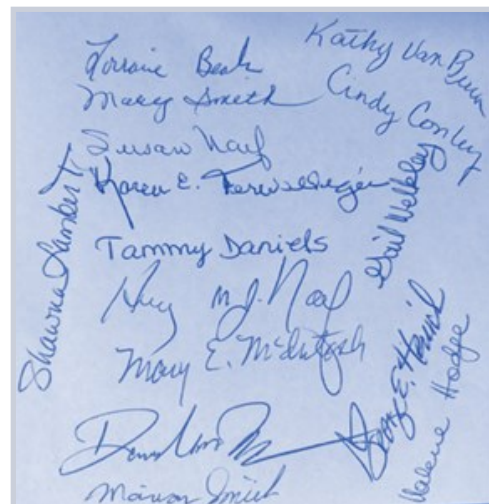
There's no room at Christmas for Jesus,
There's no place for His family, too,
All the world would not share,
No one seems to really care,
A stable will just have to do.

Yes, there's room at Christmas for sadness,
There's a place in God's heart for you.
For He knows pain and loss,
Which He felt on the cross,
So this candle is lit here for you...
For Christ knows what it's like to be blue.

Written by John Stuart

Reprinted with the permission of the author.

Merry Christmas from the Church Bell staff
and those who prepare the Bell for mailing.



COP28

From November 30 – December 12, the 28th UN Conference of Parties (COP28) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change convenes to devise ways to address the climate crisis. COP28 delegates will focus on limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, helping vulnerable communities adapt to the effects of climate change, and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. A particular focus in COP28 is crafting an agreement to compensate countries for loss and damage incurred from severe weather events caused by climate change. As the wealthiest country in the world and the one that has emitted more carbon pollution than any other, the U.S. has a moral responsibility to solve this crisis and to commit to our fair share of the cost. We can lead the world to a safer, more sustainable future where all our children and all of God's Creation can thrive.



To support COP28, the US can make the following commitments during the COP28 negotiations:

- Accelerate ambition and reduce carbon emissions
- Increase its financial support of the Green Climate Fund
- Support loss and damage compensation
- Stand for climate justice, the protection of human rights, a just transition for fossil-fuel workers and a rejection of environmental racism

What can you do to support the delegates at COP28?

- Pray for them daily for the two weeks beginning November 30th.
- Urge President Biden to bring the full power and persuasion of the U.S. government to achieve agreement to these principles at COP28, please sign the letter at <https://tinyurl.com/cop28iplp>.

...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. (UMC Social Principles ¶160)

FLOOD BUCKETS UPDATE



The Mission's Committee would like to thank everyone for your contributions to the 2023 Flood Buckets. On November 9th, Girl Scout Troop 5538 of Castleton and myself filled the 15 Flood Buckets. The young group of Girl Scouts were incredibly enthusiastic and efficient. The Flood Buckets are a great help to flood victims and the "volunteer" Girl Scouts get to see firsthand how they can help others (they asked which hurricane victims would the buckets go to and I had to tell them that the buckets go to a warehouse and are then sent where needed). Missions and the Girl Scouts hope to continue filling Flood Buckets in 2024.

Gary Klee

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee wishes to thank you for your wonderful response on Consecration Sunday, November 19. We received 42 pledge commitments of those there were 17 e-givers and had over 80 hungry folks at our Celebration Brunch.

We are well on our way to reaching our budgeting needs. Pledge cards will be mailed to those who were not able to be in church on the 19th.

Even if you are an e-giver, we need to have your pledge card to calculate our total expected income which then is used in creating our budget for 2024.



CONFERENCES, PROGRAMS, MORE CONFERENCES

Laura Brings Us Up To Date

Hello Church Family!

As your Lay Leader here in East Greenbush, I have had a busy year! I have had the pleasure of representing our church as the Lay Member to Annual Conference. A.C. was held June 1-3 in Syracuse, with 2 special sessions held in the spring and in the fall over Zoom. Being in person for the first time in 5 years was so exciting! Our new Bishop shared messages of hope, and about moving forward as a connected church, as "The United Methodists of Upper NY"! Our special sessions were to approve church disaffiliation throughout our conference. Over the course of the events, 128 churches took their first step toward disaffiliation. We keep these congregations in prayer as transitions occur.



In July, Rachel Giso and I accompanied 3 youth to Youth23 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Our theme was BOLD; Being Ourselves, Living Differently. We enjoyed many speakers at this event, including our own Upper NY Bishop, Hector A. Burgos Nunez. Bishop Hector convened a meeting of all in attendance from Upper NY, and we were privileged to spend time getting to know the Bishop and his family. My favorite activity was being served communion on the beach every morning. As I consumed the elements, I stood in the ocean, letting the water lap over my feet. I could feel the warm sun on my face as it peeked over the horizon to light our day. I was overwhelmed by the spirit filling me!



Many of you know that beyond our local church, I have been serving as the Albany District Youth Coordinator. As of September this year, I was promoted to Conference Youth Co-Coordinator. As part of my new role, I was invited to attend a Conference being held by Discipleship Ministries, Young People's Ministry. It was just my luck that this year, the Western/Pacific Jurisdiction hosted, in Oahu, Hawaii! Our time together was focused on Intercultural Group Development. I was blessed to get to know 35 other Conference and Jurisdictional youth leaders from across the nation. We stayed in Waikiki Beach and had the opportunity to take in the sights. We visited Pearl Harbor, drove the perimeter of the island, and even attended a Luau! Hawaii's beauty is breathtaking, God's paintbrush truly at work.

In October I attended the Capital Area Council of Churches dinner. I was in attendance to witness Rev. Bob Long receive the Giles Pastoral Service Award. Rev. Long is a friend of my family, and it was an honor to be in attendance.

As we enter 2024, I have chosen to step back as your Lay Leader to focus further on my passion of youth ministry. I will continue to represent our church as the Lay Member to annual conference. The position of Lay Leader is currently open for the next person ready to serve. If you would like to know more, please feel free to reach out to me or Pastor Danyal.

It's been a true honor and a blessing serving as your Lay Leader this year.

Grace & Peace, Laura Clark

Lay Leader FUMC East Greenbush

Albany District Youth Coordinator

YSF Coordinator UNY Conference of the UMC

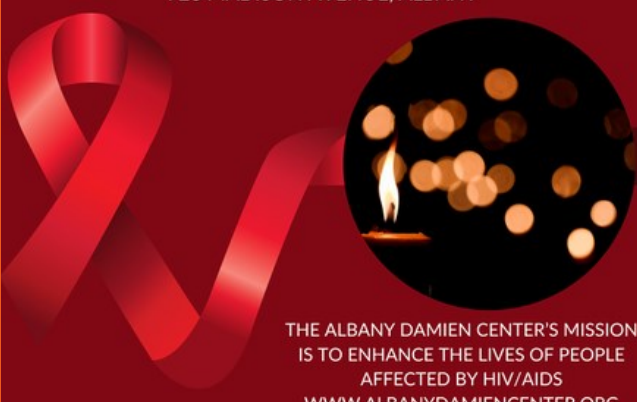
Note: Anyone interested in knowing the names of the churches in our Annual Conference who are disaffiliating from The United Methodist Church will find them listed on the Upper New York Conference website at unyumc.org. Look under "Events" on the site.

*The Albany Damien Center
Presents*

WORLD AIDS DAY

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

Join Us For This Visual Tribute
DECEMBER 1ST AT 5PM
728 MADISON AVENUE, ALBANY



THE ALBANY DAMIEN CENTER'S MISSION
IS TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE
AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS
WWW.ALBANYDAMIENCENTER.ORG

Help celebrate World AIDS Day, December 1, 2023

Holiday Outreach

Last year our church began an exciting partnership with the very appreciative folks at Van Rensselaer Heights in Rensselaer. We helped to stock their supply closet and library, assisted with flower and vegetable planting and provided some refreshments and uplifting music by our choir during our Change the World celebration in May. They are in need of donations for their supply closet once again. If you can help, we will be accepting donations from now until **December 24**. There is a bin in the church foyer for donations.



(Thank you to those who have already donated.) Needed items include: cleaning supplies, including laundry detergent, hygiene products (deodorant, toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo), and paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper). Books would also be appreciated for their library. Thank you and Happy Holidays from the Missions Team.



Short but important news items from our church and community.

Need more details? Call the church office or speak with a member of The BELL team. Help us keep up to date. The DEADLINE for the January issue of The Church BELL is Monday, **December 18**.

- ☐ District Superintendent, Debbie Earthrowl, chaired our annual Church Conference on November 12. At the meeting, David Caneen, Patrick Frament and John Peterson were elected to the 2024-2026 class of Trustees. The Pastor's salary for next year was approved. Other reports were presented. Tracey Haines was Secretary for the meeting.
- ☐ Cornerstone Campus Ministry will not have Mission Trip between semesters for this year. Also, we are still seeking a Peer Minister for this year.
- ☐ Look for the information slip for this year's Church Wide Christmas Card enclosed with this issue of the Church BELL. The deadline to return the slip is Sunday, **December 10**.
- ☐ **January 17** will be our next Storytelling Night. Our guest storyteller will be Desmond Biechman to talk about his sobriety and how that led him to God. He is a licensed Minister through the Melchizedek Minis-



**Christmas Madrigal
Dinner Show**

First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush

**Enjoy an Evening of
Merriment, Feasting, and Song**

The Sit-down banquet consists of
a Roast Beef dinner with potatoes, gravy,
vegetables, trifle, tea, coffee and Wassail

**December 8th at 7pm
December 9th at 6pm**

\$40 Call (518) 477-9693 to make reservations

FREE Childcare is available. Prior registration Required

The poster is framed by a red border and decorated with pine branches and red berries in the corners. A yellow star with the price '\$40' is located in the bottom left corner. A decorative horizontal line of gold stars separates the title from the description of the dinner.

