



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

We Are A Reconciling Congregation



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 9 - SEPTEMBER 2024

Beginning September 8 new times

◆ 8:30 am Early Informal Service

◆ 9:30 am Regular Service and Sunday School

This service also available live on Facebook and YouTube. The Church's website has the links.

Visit us on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

Church Office Hours:

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

Email: office@fumceg.org

BELL (only) Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Announcements Email:

office@fumceg.org

Rev. Danyal Mohammadzadeh
Pastor

Pastordanyal@fumceg.org

Gail Welkley,
Administrative Assistant

Lauren Lehmann,
Sunday School Coordinator

LLehmann@fumceg.org

acqueline Krahforst, Organist

Robert Thomsen, Choir Director
Cynthia McLaughlin, Director of Bell Choirs

Steve Green, Custodian

Storytelling Night

September 4

7:00 pm

Joe Watroba is a cancer survivor and former recipient of a wish from Make-A-Wish NENY. Born out of their own experiences, Joe and his family established

 **Helping Others
One Swing at A Time.**

Play It Forward 518, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization built on the key concepts of

community, giving back and the importance of "play" in maintaining a positive outlook on life. Join us on September 4 at 7:00 p.m. as Joe speaks about his family's journey and the motivation behind creating this worthwhile organization that has supported hundreds of local children and their families facing illness and hardship through diversion activities and experiences. playitforward518.com



HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

September 1 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 15 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 22 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a;
Mark 9:30-37

September 29 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50



Good news! Pastor Danyal will return beginning September 3.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK! I hope everyone had a great summer packed with fun, praise, and adventure.

RALLY DAY: September 8, 9:30 am -10:30 am. Our first day back to Sunday School. Come join us with a Rally Day celebration! We will be celebrating with music, games, new friendships, snacks, and much more! ALL children are welcome.



A look ahead: The Sunday School curriculum this year will be based on the Books and People of the Bible. Each week the kids will be learning about the importance of the Books of the Bible, and how the stories relate to our daily life. We will also be focusing on the People of the Bible, and why Jesus wanted us to know these people. The program is hands-on learning, appropriate for all ages.

Classroom break down for this upcoming year at Sunday School is as follows:

Preschool Classroom- ages 3-5, including Kindergarten

Elementary Classroom- grades 1-4

Older Elementary and Youth Classroom- grades 5 and older

If you are available to volunteer in any of our classrooms this upcoming year, your help is greatly appreciated. There will be a sign up in the vestibule at church. Keeping the classrooms/age groups organized like this, will allow the children the best learning experience, therefore teacher volunteers is a must

Be on the lookout for a Google Classroom Invite coming home the first week of class!

I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces in September!

YOUTH GROUP

Calling all YOUTH, Calling all YOUTH! I hope you all enjoyed your time this summer. It was a hot one!

We will be getting back into the swing of things this September, with a lot of fun activities planned. First, Sunday, **September 8**, is **Rally Day**. All youth are encouraged to attend church this Sunday to celebrate the return from summer!



We will be meeting twice a month with two themed meet-ups: Curriculum and Community.

Curriculum meetups will be based on the Books and People of the Bible, where we will learn, discuss and relate to these stories.

Community meetup will include community based projects, meeting with other local youth groups, mission projects, and much more.

Our September Youth Group Meetups will be: **Monday, September 16**, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm and **Thursday, September 26**, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm both at church

Be on the lookout for a google classroom invite- this will be where youth can see what is to come with a calendar feature, as well as catch up on missed lessons

Remember, All are welcome at our church. We hope to see you soon!

Lauren Lehmann

LLehmann@fumceg.org

Aspire
1 night – 3 hours Just for Women
An evening full of laughter, learning, stories & music

Author & Bible Teacher
MELISSA SPOELSTRA

**SATURDAY
 NOV. 2, 2024**
**OPEN ARMS
 CHURCH**
 2714 CURRY RD.
 ROTTERDAM, NY 12303

6:00PM SHOW
 5:30PM PANEL TIME
 5:00PM DOORS OPEN

Come early and join us for a
 15 minute panel time with all
 3 ladies based on
 Romans 12:2 called
“Transformed”

ADVANCE TICKETS
 General Admission – \$30
 VIP/Reserved – \$40
 Group tickets for 10 or more – \$25
 VIP/Reserved Groups for 10 or more – \$35.
 Group sales call 480-812-1100

Music by
MIA KOEHNE

Purchase tickets at **480-812-1100** or online at:
ASPIREWOMENSEVENTS.com

Compassion EFP Extreme Faith Productions

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Welcome back from a summer of fun and relaxation.

Our meeting in September is on the 9th at 2:00 pm, room 16. We will be discussing the barbeque for October, Roast Beef Dinner scheduled for December 7 and any other events that come our way.

We are looking for women who would like to go to **Aspire** on **November 2**. Please let Patty Chartrand at pjdc560@gmail.com or Kathy Van Buren, jvanbur1@nycap.rr.com, know if you would like information or want to go.

MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE MISSION

Fall is a great time to start creating again. Join our group with lively conversation even if you don't knit or sew. We will be meeting Tuesdays 10:00 am, September 10 and 24 and Wednesday, **September 25** at 6:30 pm. Our new project is to make **60 Hat and Mitten Sets, child to adult.** These will be used for the Red Bird Mission Boxes that are sent in May. We have recently been given 2 bags of various types and colors of yarn. Please take advantage of these. Afghans 48X48 are always needed. We will continue making red scarves for Foster Care Kids in College until the end of October. They **must be 5-7 inches wide by 60 inches long and some shade of red/pink/**



burgundy etc. Looking forward to another very productive season.

Aleta Schweigert and Regina Wheeler

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Recently, you received an appeal letter from the members of the Finance committee. We are apprising you that our General Fund balance (this pays our ongoing monthly bills: Salaries, National Grid, etc.) is running lower than our monthly income. We are reaching out to the congregation requesting an extra donation from you to get us over this slump. You can write a check with General Fund Appeal in the memo, use our online giving at <https://fumceg.org/giving>, or pay by cash with a note stating it's for the General Fund Appeal. We are hopeful that this need can be fulfilled quickly.



The chicken BBQ put on by Miller's Barbecue was delicious and a success! We netted \$1,235.00. This money will be used for church building projects, i.e. church roof, paving the parking lot. Thank you to all that participated in this event. We hope to have more of these fundraisers. Anyone who would like to be involved with the planning of this fundraiser please see Aleta Schweigert or Lorraine Beals.



THE ECO TEAM PRESENTS

For over 50 years, average Americans have come together to fight hunger in exceptional ways through the CROP Hunger Walk. 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 20**. 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. The 1 mile walk and 3.3 mile walk each follow the same route for the first mile. If you cannot join the walk yourself, please support a walker. Donations may be made on-line at the above address or by check payable to CWS/CROP given to a walker or in the offertory collection. Every contribution helps bring some relief to those in need. For more information, contact Kevin Conley (518-253-4907).

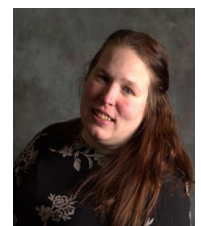
Our next Recycling Day is Sunday, September 15. We will be collecting the following items at the parking lot garage for ½ hour before and after the 9:30 am service:

- Clear, green and blue glass bottles and jars. They must be clean. Labels are okay.
- Clean Styrofoam, free of tape and staples. Styrofoam items that were used for food or drink, no matter how clean, are not accepted.



THANK YOU AMBER!

It is with mixed emotions that SPPRC accepted Amber Telford's resignation as Assistant Sunday School Coordinator. We thank Amber for her many years of service as our Youth Leader. We appreciate her dedication to the youth and children of our church community. SPPRC wishes her all the best.



Thank you, thank you, and thank you to all the people that filled in for Pastor Danyal during his absence this summer. We were blessed to have so many within and outside our congregation to lead us in worship. A special thank you to: Rev. Ralph Marino, Rev. Jeffrey Matthews, Carrie Larson, Laura Clark, and Colleen Rumsey.

Deb Rubenstein, SPPRC Chair

REPORT ON MAY'S CHANGE THE WORLD (MONTH)

“Give, and it shall be given to you.

A good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over.” Luke 6:38.

Today I received a thank you card from our friends at Van Rensselaer Heights with this scripture verse on the front. I can't think of a better way to begin a summary of our 11th Change the World event in May. It was a success once again with your support! We found many ways to share God's love. It's hard, if not impossible to know exactly how many people were affected by our efforts. We started the month off with a food drive to benefit our local food pantry and the VA Center in Albany. Despite a dark rainy day, the food donations piled up. Clouds gave way to sun later that week as several members of our church walked in Guilderland as part of the 5K Addiction Awareness Run & Walk. We joined many other local walkers and runners to help raise money for a very worthy cause.



A sizable crowd gathered on May 13 to pot plants for the residents of Van Rensselaer Heights. The plants were delivered on May 19, Change the World Sunday to some very appreciative residents. The Food Truck Festival was held on a beautiful Saturday afternoon in the church parking lot. The crowd was remarkable and the food was delicious.

On Change the World Sunday, several of our Youth gathered after worship service to plant trees with their advisors, Amber and Fred. Our Youth are doing their part to make a difference to commit to a healthier climate. Although the attendance was sparse, the residents of Van Rensselaer Heights who gathered to hear our remarkable



choir were very appreciative of the music and fellowship, as well as the beautiful potted plants that they received to demonstrate God's love. Several people participated in the craft activities in Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Many of us stayed (or returned) to church at Noon on May 19 to enjoy the delicious Taco Bar set up by Amber and her crew.



All month long we worked on filling shoeboxes with essential items for the needy living in the mountains of Kentucky as part of the Redbird Mission Project, based in Kentucky. This year we filled close to 60 boxes!

Our thanks to all who participated in our month-long event: Activities coordinators Carrie Larson, Jean Sheviak, Amber Telford, Aleta Schweigert, and Lorraine Beals. We also thank Robert Thomsen, Jackie Krahforst and the choir, as well as Pastor Danyal and Gail Welkley for their time, effort and support. Please visit the website www.fumceg.org for more pictures of our event.

John Schmidt, CTW event coordinator



The Upper New York Communications ministry team is excited to announce the launch of our new app. The UNY UMC app is designed to keep you connected, informed, and spiritually nourished wherever you go.

Stay Updated: Get the latest news, events, and announcements designed for United Methodists of Upper New York straight to your phone or tablet. Never miss an important update or event again.

Engage in Prayers and Podcasts: Access monthly and weekly prayers and teachings on-the-go through the Spiritual Practices podcast. Whether you missed something or want to revisit a message, it's all at your fingertips.

Community Connection: Our app makes it easy to connect and grow together as United Methodists of Upper New York. Watch videos, shop our online store, and stay connected with what's happening around Upper New York.

Convenient Giving: Support our conference and missions with secure, easy-to-use online giving options. Your generosity helps us continue to make a difference for United Methodists locally and around the world.

Easy Access: Our app is user-friendly and designed to meet all your spiritual needs. With just a few taps, you can access everything you need to stay informed, uplift your spirit, and guide your day.

Download Now! Don't wait – download the UNY UMC app for free today from the App Store or Google Play. Stay connected with our faith community and deepen your spiritual journey.

In Christ, Shelby Winchell
Director of Communications
United Methodists of Upper New York

DISTRICT DAY IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT SARATOGA SPRINGS UMC

We have 17 workshops, and 12 facilitators lined up so far, with more to come. Look for full descriptions of the workshops and a registration form the week of August 19.



Here is the current list of workshops:

Stewardship; Local Church Finance; Simplifying Your Church Leadership Structure; Christian Yoga; Soul Collage; Dying, Death and Grief; Mission Insite; Prayer Beads; Guided Meditation; Accountable Discipleship; Covenant Discipleship Groups; Lay Servant Ministry; Missional Excellence; Opportunities for Youth Ministry; Harmony from Division; Collaborative Ministry; Our UMC Connectional System; more to be announced soon.

Laura Clark
Conference Youth Co-Coordinator
YSF Coordinator
Upper NY Conference of the UMC

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Forward: Claiming God's Future with Hope and Joy. Philippians 3: 13-14.

This was the theme of the 2024 Annual Conference held May 30-June 2, 2024.

Approximately 400-500 Clergy, Laity, family, and equalization members gathered in Syracuse, NY at the Onondaga Community College. Representatives from churches all over Upper NY were in attendance. Bishop Hector presided over the event, with the support of his staff and Bishop Tracey Smith-Malone. It was a blessing to be in her presence, her call radiated from her presence. Bishop Tracy S. Malone was elected to the episcopacy in 2016. She is the Resident Bishop of the Ohio East Area, which includes the East Ohio Conference in the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Bishop Malone is the first woman of color to be elected as President to the episcopacy.

Conference started Thursday morning with opening worship, along with an offering for our new Engage Fund. For more information about the Engage Fund, click here: https://www.unyumc.org/images/uploads/Engage_Fund_Bulletin.pdf

Although I cannot speak for what happens at clergy session, laity session was a wonderful learning opportunity. Dr. Scott Johnson spoke about the storms we have endured. Storms are part of the light (the hope). God gives us hope, but the storms are always here. A learning session was provided by Dr. Ashley Boggan, reminding us of our Wesleyan heritage. She reminded us that our name, *Methodist*, came from meaning in ministry with everyone, at any place, at any time, no matter what. We have a strong tradition of ministering to those in need. I am so proud of that tradition, so many of us are! I am proud that I see so many in our church ministering, and it's always exciting to see where we will go next.

The youth that attended the Mission of Peace also had an opportunity to present about their trip to Puerto Rico during laity session.



RESOLUTIONS AND PETITIONS

UNYAC 2024.1 Beginning the Work of Reparations

Book of Resolutions paragraph 3066

Brief Rationale: Given the lingering legacy of slavery on the racial wealth gap, the monetary value we know that was placed on enslaved Blacks and the fact that Blacks were originally awarded reparations only to have them rescinded provide overwhelming evidence that it is time to begin the work of reparations to the descendants of enslaved Blacks.

Amendment: the task force shall also include 2 youth. **Resolution passed**

UNYAC2024.2 LOCAL CONGREGATION SEMINARY GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Conference Committee: Board of Ordained Ministry and District Committee on Ordained ministry

Brief Rationale: With the ever increasing cost of higher education and the hindrance it causes to candidates ministry, having a comprehensive list of scholarships and grants available through local congregations would help to offset the financial hardship of attending seminary.

Amendments: Information will be made publicly available by 2025 annual conference (Not January 1, 2025)
Passed

UNYAC2024.3 RESOLUTION TO CREATE UNITED METHODISTS OF UPPER NY PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

Conference Committee: Cabinet

Brief Rationale: This resolution would enact a Parental Leave policy for United Methodist of Upper NYU that guarantees 13 paid weeks of leave for clergy and church workers whose family are expanding by birth, adoption, or foster placement. **Passed**

(Continued from page 7)

UNYAC2024.4 Clergy Time off Policy

Conference Committee: Committee on Equitable Compensation

Brief Rationale: This resolution calls on the UNYAC to support the wellness of all clergy persons who serve churches in the Upper NY AC by providing a consistent vacation and days off policies for all Pastors. **Passed**

UNYAC2024.5 End US Funding for Israel's Military Occupation of Palestine

Conference Committee: Conference Secretary

The UMC has long been opposed to the continued Israeli military occupation of the occupied Palestinian Territories. (United Book of Resolutions, #6111) **Passed**

UNYAC2024.7 United Methodist Properties and Events are Gun Free Zones

Conference Committees: Buildings Committees, Camping and Retreat Ministries.

Brief Rationale: In our society, where it seems anyone who wants one has a gun, the church leads to claim that they are a safe space in effort to truly be welcoming to all people. This resolution seeks to live into three General conference resolutions: #251, which affirmed that “the traditional role of the The UMC has been one of safety and sanctuary.” #5011 “Church is a Weapon-Free Zone;” and #3428, “Our Call to End Gun Violence”

Amendments included that security personnel, law enforcement, and other such persons are there to provide protection needed for that church. Also, instead of one policy across the board, local churches are to determine their own need for a safe gun free zone. **Passed**

The most exciting part of annual conference this year, was having the opportunity to witness the commissioning of our own Pastor Danyal. The ceremony was beautiful, and the holy spirit was present in this space.

The Bishop began with some comforting words of faith and hope. We celebrated the life and ministries of retirees, and those that have gone before us. Then, we witnessed the commissioning of the 4 individuals being commissioned for the work of full Elder in the UMC. We also celebrated one person being consecrated as Deaconess, and one person transferring into our Upper NY



Pastor is Ordained as a full Elder in the UMC.

Conference. It is a special moment, and we look forward to supporting Pastor Danyal as he works toward Ordination as a full Elder in the UMC.

We had so many wonderful speakers, presenters, times of worship, all times together we cherish as an annual conference. Victor Giso had an opportunity to speak about the importance of youth in the decision making process of our conference.

You can watch that message here.: <https://vimeo.com/952151666>

Many of the speakers, petitions, resolutions, general information is all available on our Upper NY Annual Conference Website: <https://www.unyumc.org>

There is a link on the home page, and you can also find information listed under “events”, 2024 Annual Conference. Information for the Jurisdictional Conference can also be found there.



Annual Conference is always a fascinating and spirit filled event. If you have never had the opportunity to go, I highly recommend trying it out, even just as a visitor, you will feel God’s presence, when holy conferencing with our UNYAC.

Laura Clark - Lay Member to AC

COFFEEHOUSE: SAVE THE DATES

Fall is around the corner and we think of cool nights, colored leaves and Coffeehouses. We are in our 20th year and somewhere close to our 100th show. We will have 3 regular Coffeehouse evenings and 2 where musicians perform within different Church sponsored events.

We hope to see you at all shows. Contributions help underwrite the Family Assistance Ministry which helps provide food, funds for medicine, gas and a helping hand in times of financial and family stress. Save these dates:

- Friday, **September 27** 7:00 pm -8:30 pm Coffeehouse
- Friday, **November 15** 7:00 pm -8:30 pm Coffeehouse
- Sunday, **January 12** 2:00 pm -3:30 pm
Cookies and Carols. An afternoon of music with the Choir and Coffeehouse performers
- Friday, **March 21** 7:00 pm -8:30 pm Coffeehouse
- Saturday, **April 5** (Time to be announced). Perform in the Music Corner during the Art Show
- Friday, **May 17** 12:00 noon -3:30 pm. Perform under the Music tent at the food Truck Festival

CoNSERNS-U

CoNSERNS-U serves individuals and families throughout rural Rensselaer County and the City of Rensselaer. Services include a food pantry, information and referral contacts, back-to-school supplies, emergency assistance, and holiday gift and food distributions. The food pantry provides a wide variety of nutritional foods, condiments, toiletries, etc., and allows for individual choices in a safe and compassionate environment. Clients make appointments to shop at the food pantry when it's convenient for them, and a group of dedicated volunteers are available to assist with the shopping.



CoNSERNS-U is always looking for donations to fulfill its mission, and the following items are most in need at this time: tuna, 100% fruit juice, canned fruits and vegetables, coffee, toiletries and laundry detergent. Right now, we are fortunate to have enough volunteers to cover all shifts, but this may change in the future. We

thank you for your continued support of others who are less fortunate.

Address: PO Box 28, 201 Academy St., Rensselaer, NY 12144 Phone: 518-463-8571

Please contact Mary Smith, Missions Liaison, with any questions.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Part-time Custodian needed Starting mid-September. 10 hours per week. Must be able to perform medium to heavy physical labor. Working knowledge of building cleaning and maintenance is requested. Must be able to work independently with minimal supervision. Flexible work schedule. Coverage for Lead Custodian when he is on vacation is desirable. Must pass background check. Work and personal references required. For more information contact Tom McLaughlin at 518-477-9837.

OUR STORY TELLING CONTINUES

STORYTELLING NIGHT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1 GILLIGAN ROAD, EAST GREENBUSH, NY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024 7PM

You are cordially invited to listen to Jenna Masters and Carmen Story of Masters' Apiaries at Story Woods Farm. They are excited to share their knowledge of beekeeping's role in providing flourishing and sustainable habitats for ALL polinators, not just honey bees!

Learn how a hive operates, how bees evolved to be collectors of nectar and pollen and even how to become a beekeeper yourself!

Refreshments will be served.

Join us!



On **October 2** at 7:00 pm, the speaker series will feature Jenna Masters and Carmen Story of Masters' Apiaries at Story Woods Farm. As a mother-daughter duo, Jenna and Carmen started their beekeeping journey in March 2020 - one month before Covid-19 shut down the world. The imposed isolation gave mother and daughter the opportunity to further their knowledge and commitment to bees and other pollinators. They joined two local clubs, attended seminars and obtained Master Beekeeper Certifications through Cornell University. They grew their business from 2 to 16 hives, established relationships with five retailers who sell their products and mentored aspiring beekeepers. Jenna and Carmen are excited to share their knowledge of beekeeping's role in providing flourishing and sustainable habitats for ALL pollinators - not just honey bees!

They will describe how a hive operates, how bees evolved to be collectors of nectar and pollen and how surrounding plants play a role. They will share what you can do to support honey bees and other native species. Most important, they'll discuss what you'll need to become a beekeeper, including classes, equipment, optimal location, and

more. The talk will last 60-90 minutes and will include a question-and-answer period. Refreshments will be served.



FIRST UMC OF EAST GREENBUSH

Volunteer Needed

Are you passionate about providing spiritual support and care to others?
We are looking for dedicated volunteers to join our Pastoral Care Team.

What You'll Do:

- Offer personalized spiritual guidance and prayer
- Provide Holy Communion to homebound members
- Address emotional and practical needs
- Foster a sense of belonging and community

How to Join: Contact Pastor Danyal Mohammadzadeh to inform him of your availability: Email: pastordanyal@fumceg.org

THE PASTORAL VISIT PROGRAM

a) Vision Statement

Our vision is to cultivate a compassionate and connected church community where every member feels valued, supported, and spiritually nurtured through personal visits.

b) Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide consistent and meaningful pastoral care through home visits and hospital visits, ensuring that every member of our church community receives spiritual support,

encouragement, and practical assistance. Through this program, we aim to:

- 1. Strengthen relationships within our church family.
- 2. Offer personalized spiritual guidance, prayer and Holy Communion.
- 3. Address the emotional and practical needs of our members.
- 4. Foster a sense of belonging and community.
- 5. Reflect Christ's love and compassion in all our interactions.

Pastoral Visit Request Form

First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: Phone Email

Reason for Visit:

Spiritual Guidance Prayer Holy Communion Emotional Support

Other: _____

Preferred Date and Time for Visit: _____

Additional Information or Special Requests: _____

Would you like to receive regular visits? Yes No

Signature: _____

Date:

