



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

We Are A Reconciling Congregation



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 9 - OCTOBER 2024

◆ 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

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

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Robert Thomsen, Choir Director

Cynthia McLaughlin, Director of
Bell Choirs

Steve Green, Custodian



Harvest and Gratitude: A Wesleyan Reflection

As we gather to celebrate the harvest season, it is a perfect time to reflect on the blessings we've received and the spirit of gratitude that John Wesley so passionately taught.

Wesley, the founder of Methodism, believed deeply in the importance of recognizing God's abundant grace in our lives and responding with heartfelt thankfulness.

Wesley once said, "Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it." This reminds us that gratitude should be at the core of our spiritual practice, intertwined with our prayers and daily reflections.

In this season of harvest, we are reminded of the fruits of our labor and the bounty that God provides. It's a time to give thanks not only for the physical harvest but also for the spiritual and communal blessings we enjoy. Wesley's teachings encourage us to see every good gift as a sign of God's love and to respond with generosity and joy.

At First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush, let us embrace this time to express our gratitude through acts of kindness, service, and giving. Whether it's sharing a meal with a neighbor, volunteering our time, or supporting church initiatives, each act of gratitude helps to build a stronger, more loving community.

We are called to be faithful stewards of the blessings we have received. Stewardship is not just about financial giving; it encompasses our time, talents, and treasures. Each act of generosity, no matter how small, contributes to the greater good and furthers God's work in our community. Wesley famously advised, "Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can." This simple yet profound guidance encourages us to work diligently, manage our resources prudently, and give generously. By doing so, we honor God with our finances and support the mission of the church.

Let us consider how we can embody this spirit of stewardship in our daily lives. Whether through volunteering, supporting church initiatives, or helping a neighbor in need, every contribution makes a difference.

As we celebrate this harvest season, may we be ever mindful of Wesley's call to live lives of thankfulness and generosity, recognizing that in giving thanks, we draw closer to God and to one another.



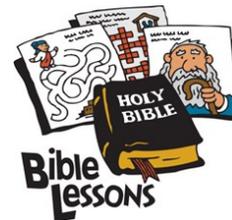
Blessings, Pastor Danyal

SUNDAY SCHOOL

What a wonderful September we had! We learned all about the book of Genesis and how God created this beautiful Earth.

Don't forget to check out our Google Classroom to see what we are doing each Sunday. It is also a great resource for any children who miss a Sunday, and want to learn the lesson. On the Google Classroom parents can find important dates and upcoming projects and lessons.

For October- We will move into the book of Exodus and explore all that it has to teach us!



YOUTH GROUP

We had our first gathering and it was AWESOME! We chatted and got to know each other better with some fun interactive games. We made vision boards for goals we would like to achieve this year in youth group. We have a lot of events planned for this fall- we hope the teens can join us!



Be sure to check the Google Classroom for upcoming events and meetups!

October community events:

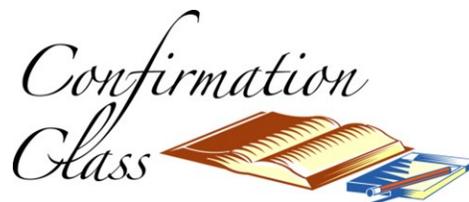
Sock-tober: The youth will be challenging themselves and others in the capital region to collect the most pairs of new socks. The socks will be donated to the charity "THINGS OF My Very Own", and distributed to those in need. We will be asking the congregation for support.

Community leaf raking for those in need: the youth will be joining other local church youth programs to help this fall with leaf clean up. Let us know if you need help- we would be glad to add you to our list!

Be Blessed,
Lauren Lehmann
LLehmann@fumceg.org

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Spread the great news! Confirmation classes will be starting Sunday, **October 6** and run through Sunday, June 8, with students confirming for the year on Sunday, June 15. In addition to an updated curriculum, we have many fun projects, trips and community service events planned for this year. If your child is in the 8th grade or up, and would like to confirm this year please contact me.



Amanda Reehl
Reehl.Amanda0517@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Our Brooks barbecue is **October 5**. This year we are trying something new. The event will be a drive-thru and no reservations are required. Our next monthly meeting is **October 7**. The deadline for tickets to *Aspire* is **October 22**. The *Aspire* event for women is on **November 2**. We want to car pool to Rotterdam with as many women as possible for this event. Contact Patty Chartrand or Kathy Van Buren.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

On Sunday, **October 6** during the worship service, we'll begin Stewardship Month. We are choosing to change the way this 2025 campaign will be handled. A detailed letter of the new process that the giving Campaign will follow will be mailed to all our 300 members the week of October 6. You will be asked to make a personal commitment to the church as a way of thanking God for his good works through the church. **October 27** is Consecration Sunday when we will return our Giving envelopes. A tasty coffee hour will follow, hosted by the Finance Committee.



SENIOR LUNCH

The Fall Senior Lunch will be on **October 16** at 12:00 noon in Fellowship Hall. Phone calls will be made so we can have a head count. If you do not get a phone call, please call the church office and let Gail know you are going to attend. The menu is still being finalized, but it is bound to be delicious. You don't have to be a senior to attend. See you there.



NEWS FROM THE ECO TEAM PRESENTS

The year 2024 is on track to be the hottest year on record. Intense heat, wildfires and flooding are reducing food supplies in many parts of the world. The CROP Hunger Walk raises funds for hunger relief and development projects. On **Sunday, October 20**, join Danyal, Amanda, John, Janet, Jess, Val, Kevin, Patty, Jules, Kevin and Cindy on the [Castleton CROP Hunger Walk](http://www.castletonny.org/CROP_Hunger_Walk). Please register to walk or donate at www.crophungerwalk.org/castletonny. Every contribution helps bring some relief to those in need. For more information, contact Kevin Conley (518-253-4907).



ART SHOW!



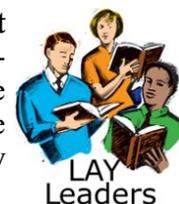
ART SHOW

The Art Show committee is starting to plan for our 2025 upcoming Art Show. If you are interested in helping with the art show please come to the planning meeting on **November 3** at 11:00 am in room 16 . We would love to have you there.

Amber Telford

LAY LEADERSHIP: SENSING A CALLING TO SERVE?

An informational Lay Leadership class will be held on **Sunday, October 27, in Room 16, at 11:00 am**. The term "lay leader" is commonly used in various contexts, encompassing the laity, lay leader, and lay leadership committee. In this presentation, we will respectfully explore the concept of Certified Lay Leadership and examine the diverse levels of involvement. We will also consider how you can embark on your own meaningful and fulfilling journey in lay ministry. If you have questions, please see Laura Clark.



MISSION MOMENT: JAJJA'S KIDS, KAMPALA, AFRICA

Our Church's Missions and Social Responsibility Team, with your help, supports many local, national and international programs. Jajja's Kids (Jajja meaning Grandmother) was founded in 2008. We have supported this creative, wonderful program since its birth. Diane Reiner (US) and Ronnie Sseruyange (Ugandan young adult street person) met on the streets of Kampala in 2008 while Diane was traveling with a photography group. From this acquaintance and dreams of helping, began Jajja's Kids. Twenty boys, 4-12 years of age, were helped with contributions from us and others. Our funds helped bring hope for a future.

We helped:

- Clothe, feed and provide a place to live by first renting a garage, then a house, then building a home

- Pay for education for all children.

- Pay for health care, community outreach, home care and support staff

The children have grown into teenagers and young adults. They all are in school and have goals of who they want to become: doctors, lawyers, teachers, social workers, farmers, etc.

They are all proud of participating in self-sufficiency activities. They make:

- sandals from used tires

- work on the farm land purchased with some of our donations, raising crops to feed themselves and sell.

- They started a small bakery selling cakes



Ronnie and Diane have visited our church so we can keep up to date on the lives of the children who are growing into adulthood. Each is committed to giving back to their home and community by working on fundraising at home, continuing education in professional areas and contributing part of their salaries if they are working. They continue to need our support and help given COVID, climate change and unstable country infrastructure.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS VALUABLE MISSION PROJECT!

Submitted by CJ Larson, Missions Member

COFFEEHOUSE: SAVE THE DATES

Fall is here! The leaves are starting to turn to bright reds, yellows and oranges and the Coffeehouse is preparing for our 20th year and somewhere about 100 shows. 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, **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

MISSIONS NEEDS

Flood Buckets to the Rescue!

It's that time once again to think ahead and help prepare for the inevitable natural disasters. Floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and fires ravage our planet at an increasing rate. Fortunately, UMCOR has a plan in place to assist those who are hit hard. We have been doing our part to help out by preparing "flood buckets" filled with necessary supplies for the clean-up. With your assistance, we plan to fill 15 buckets in November.

If your budget allows, any of the items listed below would be appreciated and put to good use. Items are needed by **October 16**.

One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent. One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (No spray cleaners). One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap. One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener (three solid, or three gel fresheners also acceptable). One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable. Pump spray bottles must have protective covers). One scrub brush (with or without handle). 18 re-useable cleaning wipes. (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels. Remove from packaging). Five scouring pads sponges (No stainless-steel pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging). 36-50 clothespins. One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line). One 24 count roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes. Remove from packaging). Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness; no surgical masks). Two pairs kitchen gloves, (Durable for multiple uses). One pair work gloves (Cotton with leather palm or all leather).



If you are able to contribute, please leave the item(s) in the bin in the foyer. Your help is much appreciated.

Gary Klee

A SIX-WEEK SPIRITUAL QUEST

FINDING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION IN OUR EXPANDING UNIVERSE

Dates: Tuesdays from **October 22 to November 26**

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Week 1: Awe and Wonder in Creation; NASA Discoveries

Week 2: The Creator and the Cosmos; Expanding Universe and Galaxies

Week 3: Interconnectedness of Creation; Life on Other Planets and Galaxies

Week 4: Humanity's Place in the Universe; Finding Spiritual Direction in Our Expanding Universe

Week 5: Practical Applications and Spiritual Practices

Week 6: Living with Wonder and Gratitude

Location: Online - Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81124232993>

ALL ARE WELCOME

To register and receive the study guide, please call the First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush before October 15: (518) 477-9693

Designed, Written, and Led by Pastor Danyal

MAKING A DIFFERENCE: “SEEKING THE LOST”

Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ. My name is Albert Liaquat. I became a member of this church shortly after I moved here from Pakistan, a couple of years ago. I was invited to join the Missions Team and gladly accepted. I chose this church because it feels like a true community where people genuinely care about each other.



The teachings here align with my beliefs, and I appreciate the way the church emphasizes personal growth, spiritual development and service to others. The sense of belonging and warmth I felt when I first visited made a lasting impression on me, and the opportunities for involvement and outreach match my desire to make a difference in the lives of others. It feels like the right place for my spiritual journey to take place.

My family comes from a very humble background. My father worked hard to make a better life for us. Keeping in mind all those hard times, we committed to aim to support people who are living in hard conditions in Pakistan and around the world. We feel that is our responsibility to reach the unreached people without any preference to race, religion and color. We actually have supported people from our earnings for the last 15 years and now we feel the need to expand our vision to reach as many people as we can and encourage like-minded people to join us as there is an increasing need to support those who are suffering. To this end, I have established “Seeking the Lost,” a 501-c non-profit charitable organization to assist those families in Pakistan hardest hit by recent and continued flooding.

I am grateful to my new church for helping “Seeking the Lost” reach the unreached. Early this year, your generous donations assisted twenty families affected by floods in District Rajanpur, Deraghazi Khan, Punjab, Pakistan. These people testified that no support from any public or private organization has ever reached them! They are so thankful to you for your support.

Unfortunately, there are many more families in this region of Pakistan whose lives have been torn apart by flooding. They have lost everything. If you are able and interested in helping, please make a donation to the church, adding “Seeking the Lost” in the memo section. You may contact me directly at 518-870-2614 or Albert_15200@yahoo.com

Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

Albert Liaquat

CELEBRATING OUR BEING A RECONCILING CONGREGATION



On Sunday, September 22, our church celebrated our becoming a “Reconciling Congregation”. Thirteen years ago, after many meetings and question and answer sessions, our church chose to formally announce we accepted all people to our congregation whether they were black, white, LGBTQ+. This was before the Global Methodist Church adopted this practice. We have tried each year to have a brunch after worship service to commemorate this momentous occasion. Thank you to the kitchen crew who prepared French Toast, bacon, sausage and fruit. The Fellowship Hall was all decked out for the occasion.

George Herrick was one of the first to request our adoption of being a reconciling congregation. He gave a short speech that gave some of the history of our becoming a reconciling congregation. He also received a Certificate of Appreciation for all the work he had done to make us a reconciling congregation and all the support he has given this church.



DON'T MISS THESE EVENTS



**Drive Thru
Saturday, October 5
4:15-6:15 p.m.**

Treat your family to an easy, hearty meal to celebrate Fall!

Dinners include ½ chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, dinner roll, and butter,

* Chicken Dinner for \$16* Chicken Only \$9

Cash Only Please

**Where:
First United Methodist Church
1 Gilligan Road
East Greenbush**

Why:

To Benefit the United Women in Faith Mission Projects.

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 pollinators, 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!



Aspire

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

Author & Bible Teacher
MELISSA SPOELSTRA



Comedy by
KAY DODD



Music by
MIA KOEHNE



**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

VIP/Reserved Includes reserved seats and a snack bag

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

