



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

We Are A Reconciling Congregation



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 3 - MARCH 2025

◆ **8:30 am** Early Informal Service suspended until May, 2025

◆ **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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EMBRACING THE WORDS OF JESUS

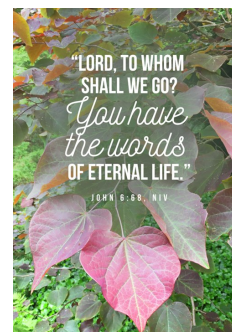
As we embark on the sacred journey of Lent, it is a time for reflection, renewal, and deepening our faith. Today, approximately 2.4 billion people around the world identify as followers of Jesus. Additionally, 1.9 billion Muslims honor Jesus as a prophet, and countless others, regardless of their faith or lack thereof, regard Jesus as a profound moral teacher. Yet, despite this widespread recognition, many people are unfamiliar with the core teachings of Jesus. Often, what people believe Jesus taught is not found in the Gospels. When Christians summarize their faith, they frequently focus on Jesus' death and resurrection, but there is so much more to His message.

The Gospels reveal that Jesus' teachings are profoundly significant. The four New Testament Gospels contain around twenty-five thousand unique words spoken by Jesus. Simon Peter recognized the importance of these teachings when he declared, "You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

These words of eternal life are not just historical artifacts; they are living and active, meant to guide and transform us today. To truly follow Jesus, it is not enough to acknowledge His death and resurrection. We must also immerse ourselves in His teachings about God and God's will for humanity. We are called to embrace these words and strive to live by them.

This Lent, we invite you to join us in a sermon series dedicated to exploring the words of Jesus designed by Adam Hamilton. Together, we will delve into the major themes and most significant ideas that Jesus imparted throughout the Gospels. Adam Hamilton's series, "The Message of Jesus," will guide us through six Sundays in Lent 2025, each focusing on a different aspect of His teachings:

1. **The Kingdom of God Has Come Near:** Understanding the central message of Jesus' ministry.
2. **The World's Most Important Sermon:** Reflecting on the Sermon on the Mount and its implications for our lives.
3. **He Spoke to Them in Parables:** Unpacking the parables and their timeless lessons.
4. **Who Do YOU Say that I Am?:** Exploring the identity of Jesus and what it means for us.



(Continued from page 1)

5. **Final Words:** Contemplating the significance of Jesus' final teachings before His crucifixion.

6. **The Resurrection and the Life:** Celebrating the hope and promise of the resurrection.

As we journey through Lent, let us open our hearts and minds to the transformative power of Jesus' words. May we not only hear them but also live them, allowing His teachings to shape our lives and our community.

Blessings, *Pastor Danyal*

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

MARCH 2; Transfiguration Sunday - Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37a-43a)

MARCH 5: Ash Wednesday - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

MARCH 9: 1st Sunday in Lent - Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

MARCH 16: 2nd Sunday in Lent - Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

MARCH 23: 3rd Sunday in Lent - Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

MARCH 30: 4th Sunday in Lent - Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Attention: Church Staff and Volunteers

Due to the many email scams that are happening now, we should do everything we possibly can to ensure scammers can't use us. Therefore, moving forward, any communication to the public for all church events and advertising should use a church email address that ends with @fumceg.org.

If you need assistance with a church email address, please contact fumcegadmin@fumceg.org.

REMINDER:

ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5 AT 7:00 PM



Don't forget to set your clock one hour ahead on Saturday, March 8 when you go to bed so you won't be late for church.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome to the season of rebirth, the Lent and Easter season is here! Does that mean Spring is around the corner? March is going to be very busy in the Sunday School classroom. We will continue our journey of the Bible, learning what happened to Jesus during his resurrection and in the new testament. Our classroom will transform, as Jesus did, for the Spring! We will invite some new "friends" and be able to watch the process of growth right in front of us! Hummhh.. who could be visiting?

Important dates for March:

Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025

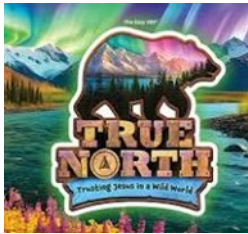
Pretzel Sunday March 30, 2025



YOUTH GROUP

Our mission project collection continues through the end of March. Our youth group will continue to collect hats and gloves, and warm weather gear for the Veterans Home located in Rensselaer County. Our meet up dates for March are Monday March 10 and Thursday March 27. Our first meet up will be planning for our Spring mission project, more to come! The second meet up will be prepping for our annual Pretzel Sunday event held at church on Sunday the 30th, an event that all LOVE! Bring a friend to youth group- share with them the joy and fun we have!

SAVE THE DATE:



Our VBS program will be held Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 1, 2025 from 5:00 pm -7:30 pm. The theme for this year's VBS will be True North: Alaska!

We are looking forward to planning this event for all the youth. More info to share in the upcoming months! Please email Lauren at LLehmann@fumceg.org if you are able to volunteer to help at our VBS program this year.

Many blessings, Lauren Lehmann

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The Thrift Sale is scheduled for May 2nd and 3rd. Yes, spring cleaning time already. The sale is for clothing: women's, men's, and children's. That also includes: shoes, coats, hats, handbags. Linens: bed sheets, pillow cases, blankets, towels, curtains, tablecloths, comforters. Housewares: pots, pans, dishes, glassware, bake ware, utensils, small appliances, jewelry. SETUP begins after services on **April 27**. Items can be dropped off on Sunday, April 27, 12:00 noon -3:00 pm, as well as from April 28-30 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.

We are not accepting toys, books, furniture, CD, DVD, electronic, holiday items or crafts.

The thrift sale hours are Friday, **May 2** from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday, **May 3**, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. There will be a snack bar both days. Saturday is bag day.

Nothing will be accepted after April 30. The sign-up sheets will be in the foyer on April 6. Help is always needed with setup and cleanup. Any amount of time you can devote to us is greatly appreciated.

Our next business meeting is March 3. Won't you join us?



MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSION

Knitting, Crocheting, Sewing, Chatting- Our group meets Tuesdays twice a month-March 11 and March 25- to enjoy visiting with friends while creating hand made items. We are using our Time, Talent and Treasures to meet some of the needs in our community and beyond. We are currently making: hat and mitten sets for Red Bird Mission in Kentucky, Care Shawls for Patients with ALS, and afghans 48”x48” for Hospice and the VA Hospital- all to be distributed in May. A new mission is for blankets for S.H.I.P.- Sheriff’s Homeless Improvement Project in Albany County. Some of us are experienced while others are learning a new skill. Everyone is welcome to join the group. Materials are available. More info contact: aleta.schweigert@gmail.com or reginagwheeler@gmail.com

CALLING ALL ARTISTS-CHILDREN AND ADULTS



It’s time to start selecting what pieces (up to 3) you will be entering in the April 5, 2-4 Community Art Show here. Any questions you have can be asked by an email to artshow@fumceg.org

CINDY MCLAUGHLIN IS RETIRING!

Scan here

Cindy McLaughlin, Director of Bell Choirs, will be retiring on June 30, 2025. The Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee would like to express their gratitude for her leadership over the past three years. Under her directorship, both the EmBELLishments and the CHIMettes have experienced significant growth. We truly appreciate her talents and dedication to the church’s Music Ministry.



Her professionalism, leadership, and skills have inspired the choir members she directs.

We wish Cindy many wonderful adventures and happy moments with her family in the years to come.

REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF NORTHEASTERN NY (RFB)

I volunteer at the RFB in Latham, one of the organizations our church supports through your stewardship pledges. The food bank is a not-for-profit organization that receives fresh and non-perishable foods, paper products, hygiene items and various other goods from local retailers, farmers and other sources.

During my weekly 1½ hour shift, I sort through food and other items to separate the “good” from the “bad.” The good food and products are boxed up for the over 1000 local food pantries and other agencies in 23 NYS counties to purchase for a small fee per pound, although produce and some other foods are free to all agencies. The bad food is donated to local farmers to feed their pigs. In 2024, 24,000 volunteers donated 60,000 hours of service sorting through 45,000,000 pounds of food and feeding 350,000 people every month.

I started with the regional food bank in 2020, and I truly enjoy this volunteer gig. At times it is fast-paced and chaotic, but it is rewarding to know I’m helping to solve the food waste issue while providing food for community members who are struggling with food insecurity. The RFB is always seeking volunteers, both individuals and groups.



Volunteers can sign up for day or evening shifts (<https://regionalfoodbank.ny>, 518-786-3691).

Submitted by Cindy Conley

UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF

On Sunday, March 2 at 11:00 am, Kristina Clark, Conference Director of Missional Engagement, will present on the United Methodist Committee on Relief. She will talk about UMCOR in NY, in the USA, and in the world. Her talk will include how UMCOR decides which disasters to respond to, how it coordinates with other relief organizations, its funding sources and how it decides which countries to send missionaries to. Her presentation will be given by ZOOM and will be held in the choir room.



She will give a 30-minute presentation with 10 minutes for questions.

A large blue graphic with white text and a central photograph. The text at the top reads "12th Annual Change the World" in a white, cursive font. Below this is a central photograph showing two women kneeling on a sandy beach, working together to plant small white flowers. At the bottom, the text reads "Coming in May! Make a Difference! Suggestions? Contact John Schmidt" in a white, cursive font. The background of the graphic features several white light rays emanating from the top and bottom, creating a sense of depth and focus on the central image and text.

*12th Annual
Change the World*



*Coming in May!
Make a Difference!
Suggestions? Contact John Schmidt*

Storytelling Night
Wednesday, April 2
7PM



All Are
Welcome!
Refreshments

Haley & Poppy
The Story of Ed Fennell
and his daughter Haley
Non-Verbal Developmental Disabilities
First United Methodist Church
1 Gilligan Road, E. Greenbush, NY

Storytelling Night begins at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 2.

S.H.I.P. Welcomed at FUMC

Storytelling Night on February 5 featured Vivian Kornegay, Special Projects Coordinator of the Albany County Sheriff's Homeless Improvement Program. (S.H.I.P.) The innovative program at the Albany County Correctional and Rehabilitative Services Center is designed to utilize extra space due to declining inmate populations. SHIP provides adequate transitional housing to assist homeless individuals with a clean independent housing atmosphere so that they can get their lives back on track. These individuals also have the opportunity to get connected with other services to assist them in being successful when they move into their own permanent housing. Vivian's program was a refreshing relief from the constant barrage of criticism of law enforcement. Vivian shared personal success stories of residents and expressed her joy with the opportunity she has to help others regain their lives. We salute Vivian and Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple Sr. for their efforts to find creative solutions to the Homeless crisis.

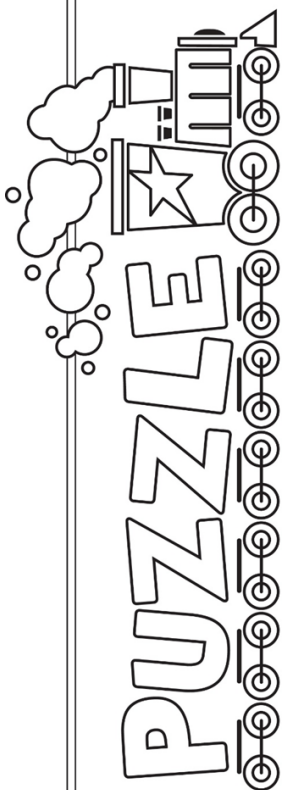


John Schmidt, Caring Ministries Coordinator

THANK YOU

On behalf of Matie Flowers' family and mine, I want to thank all the members of the church who made the celebration of Matie's life a wonderful, beautiful and moving service that we will never forget. The pastor, choir and director, organist, church staff, members, volunteers and the United Women in Faith all combined to make it happen. And a special thank you to the tech team who live-streamed the service so that people who could not attend were able to see and hear it--plus, made a copy of it for posterity. Thank you all.

Joe Visalli



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>a. We
b. Above all,
c. My command
is this:
d. And over all
these virtues
put on
e. Greater
f. See what
great
g. There is
no fear in</p> | <p>1. each other as I have
loved you. John 15:12
2. has no one than this: to
lay down one's life for
one's friends. John 15:13
3. But perfect love drives
out fear. 1 John 4:18
4. each other deeply,
because love covers
over a multitude of sins.
1 Peter 4:8
5. the Father has lavished
on us, that we should
be called children of
God! 1 John 3:1
6. because he first loved
us. 1 John 4:19
7. which binds them all
together in perfect
unity. Colossians 3:14</p> |
|--|---|



Answers: a, b, d, c, 1, d, 7, e, 2, f, 5, g, 3

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Starting on Ash Wednesday, the church traditionally observes Lent, a 40-day period of repentance and reflection. As we prepare for Easter, families can focus on Jesus' life and ministry, culminating in his death and resurrection.

Use this Lenten Bible Reading Plan, along with a kid-friendly Bible version, for family devotions. With older kids, you can expand the readings to the surrounding paragraph or chapter. Discuss how each reference to Christ ties into God's plan of salvation.



DAY 1
Genesis 3:15

DAY 2
Isaiah 7:14

DAY 3
Matthew 1:20-21

DAY 4
Luke 2:11

DAY 5
Luke 2:52

DAY 6
Mark 1:9-11

DAY 7
Matthew 4:10

DAY 8
Matthew 4:18-20

DAY 9
Luke 6:27-31

DAY 10
Matthew 11:28-30

DAY 11
Luke 4:40-41

DAY 12
Luke 8:24-25

DAY 13
Matthew 12:8

DAY 14
Mark 6:41-42

DAY 15
Luke 9:20-22

DAY 16
John 3:16-17

DAY 17
John 6:35

DAY 18
John 8:12

DAY 19
John 10:14-15

DAY 20
Mark 10:13-16

DAY 21
Mark 9:2-3

DAY 22
Matthew 20:17-19

DAY 23
Luke 19:9-10

DAY 24
Matthew 14:25-27

DAY 25
Luke 10:36-37

DAY 26
John 11:25-27, 43

DAY 27
John 12:3

DAY 28
Matthew 21:8-9

DAY 29
Mark 11:15-16

DAY 30
John 17:17-19

DAY 31
Luke 22:3-6

DAY 32
Mark 14:22-24

DAY 33
John 13:3-5

DAY 34
Matthew 26:39

DAY 35
Luke 22:63-65

DAY 36
Mark 15:22-26

DAY 37
Matthew 27:50-54

DAY 38
John 19:40-42

DAY 39
Luke 24:1-8

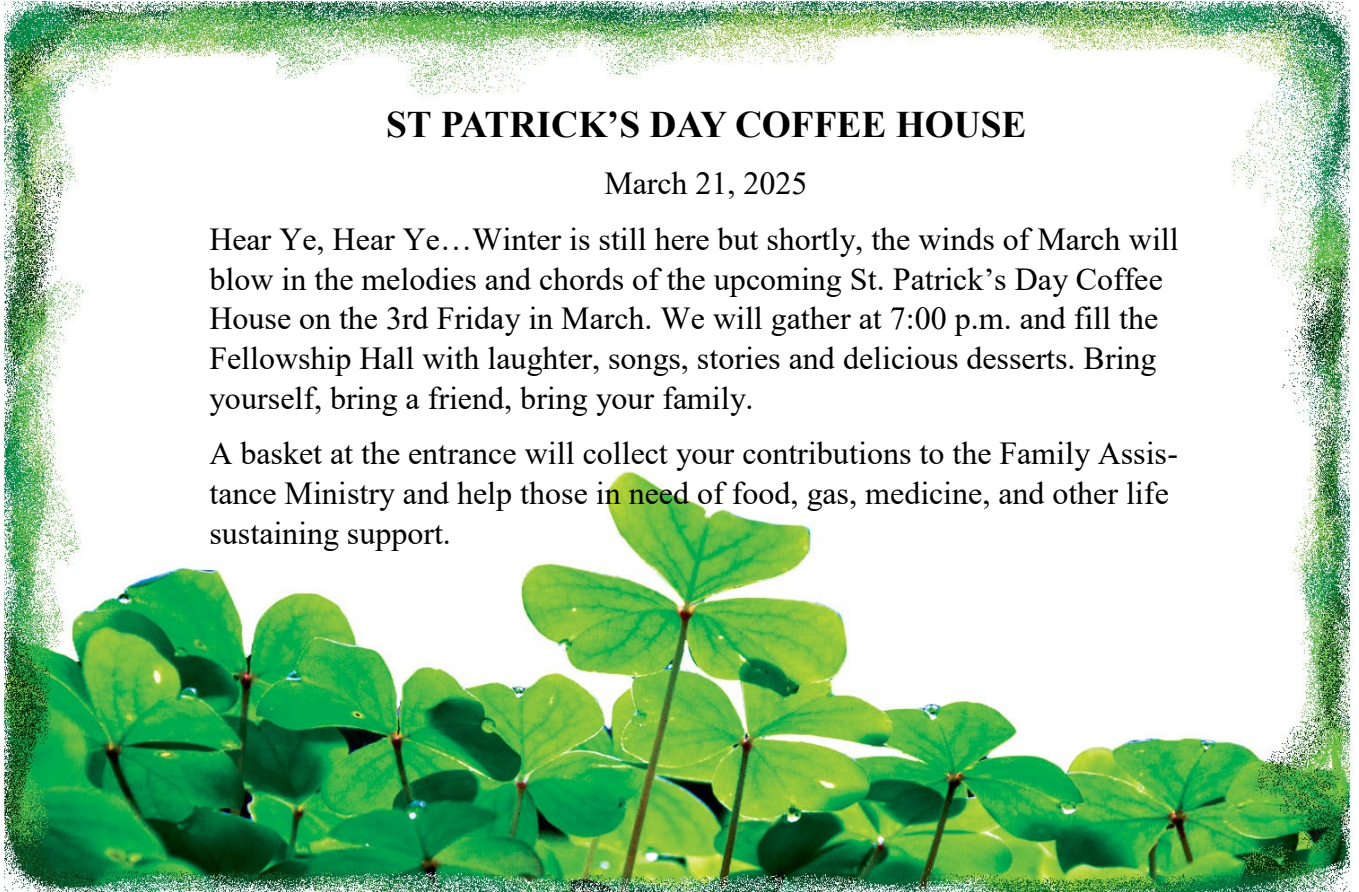
DAY 40
Matthew 28:19-20

ST PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE HOUSE

March 21, 2025

Hear Ye, Hear Ye... Winter is still here but shortly, the winds of March will blow in the melodies and chords of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Coffee House on the 3rd Friday in March. We will gather at 7:00 p.m. and fill the Fellowship Hall with laughter, songs, stories and delicious desserts. Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring your family.

A basket at the entrance will collect your contributions to the Family Assistance Ministry and help those in need of food, gas, medicine, and other life sustaining support.





[Click here](#) to sign up for the GYPC email list and be the first to know about registration and other event announcements.

WHAT IS IT?

The 2026 Global Young People's Convocation (GYPC) is a worldwide gathering for United Methodist Youth that takes place every four years. This event is open for registration for active members of the United Methodist Church and those who are connected with and interested in learning more about the Methodist connection. We focus the event on young people between the ages of 12-35; however, adult chaperones and those who serve young people are also encouraged to attend.

WHERE IS IT?

Dublin, Ireland, at the Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport Hotel.

For more information please see Laura Clark at 518-396-7778 or llc1129@yahoo.com.