



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

We Are A Reconciling Congregation



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 6 - JUNE 2025

- ♦ 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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Cynthia McLaughlin, Director of
Bell Choirs

Steve Green, Custodian



Dear Family of FUMC,

We are delighted to share with you the wonderful news of our church's growth and health over the past few years. As we reflect on our journey, we have seen significant increases in worship attendance, new memberships, and overall engagement within our congregation.

Each year, we have named our journey with a different title to reflect our experiences and growth:

- **2021:** Recovering from Covid
- **2022:** Transitional Year
- **2023:** Year of New Beginnings and Renewed Vision
- **2024:** Season of Stability and Growth

Here are some highlights of our progress:

- **Average Sunday Service Attendance:**
 - o **2021:** 62 (Recovering from Covid)
 - o **2022:** 64 (Transitional Year)
 - o **2023:** 89 (Year of New Beginnings and Renewed Vision)
 - o **2024:** 117 (Season of Stability and Growth)
- **New Members Joining Our Congregation:**
 - o **2021:** 4 (Recovering from Covid)
 - o **2022:** 1 (Transitional Year)
 - o **2023:** 12 (Year of New Beginnings and Renewed Vision)
 - o **2024:** 13 (Season of Stability and Growth)
- **Missional activities, outreach programs, community activities, and small groups:**
 - o **2021:** 8 (Recovering from Covid)
 - o **2022:** 6 (Transitional Year)
 - o **2023:** 15 (Year of New Beginnings and Renewed Vision)
 - o **2024:** 24 (Season of Stability and Growth)

To celebrate these blessings and give thanks to God, we are organizing a thanksgiving worship and brunch **on Pentecost, June 8, 2025, at 9:30 am**. We would be honored to have you and your family join us for this special occasion.

The celebration will include a worship service (Sunday service from 9:30 am to 10:30 am) led by Pastor Danyal, during which time we invite you



to receive Holy Communion. Following the service, we will host brunch, providing an opportunity for fellowship and thanksgiving.

At First United Methodist Church in East Greenbush, we are deeply committed to serving our community through a multitude of direct services. Our mission work, book study, themed Bible studies, pastoral care/ outreach services, mission group, eco group and family assistance ministries aim to provide support and aid to those in need.

We offer a rich array of activities including Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and youth group to engage and educate our young members. Our storytelling sessions bring the community together, while the “Made with Love” handcrafts group and “Mental Health Matters” group offer support and fellowship. We strive to make a positive impact through these programs and many others, including, but not limited to, our annual Art Show, and community Food Truck Festival.

We believe that your presence will greatly enrich our celebration and provide encouragement to our family as we continue to grow in faith and community.

We look forward to worshipping and celebrating with you.

Pastor Danyal

HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

June 1—7th Sunday of Easter—Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

June 8—Pentecost Sunday—Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

June 15—Trinity Sunday—Proverbs 8:1-4, 22,31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 22—2nd Sunday After Pentecost—1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

June 29—3rd Sunday After Pentecost—2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-63

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

Children's Sunday will be **June 1st!** This will be a special day at church to celebrate all of the hard work and dedication the children have put forth this year! I encourage your attendance on June 1st, as the children will be "running the show", as we have been calling it. They will be participating in service with readings, singing, and scripture reading. Awards will be handed out, and fun will be had by all! June 1st will also be the last day of Sunday School.



VBS is right around the corner! We will be collecting sponsorships, looking for volunteers in many areas, and encouraging the children to preregister. The dates for VBS are July 28-August 1, 2025 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. Our theme this year is True North: Alaska- trusting Jesus in a Wild World.

I would like to thank each and every one of the children and their families for their support this year. It is with great joy that I can say we have built a spectacular program and it would not have happened without your continued support. I look forward to what summer and next year brings!

With love, Lauren Lehmann

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. June, 2025, Volume 27, Issue 6. **George Herrick**, Editor Emeritus; **Kathy Van Buren & Shawna Lambert**, Editing and Production Team; **Dave Caneen and Paul Deming**, Photographers; **Marian Smith**, Envelope Labeler.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



Aloha! All women are invited to join the United Women In Faith's last meeting/luncheon on Monday, June at 2, 12:00 noon at Soho Asian Bistro, 751 Columbia Turnpike, East Greenbush. It will be a Hawaiian theme, so break out those colorful tropical prints and join us for a fun time! Please email Lorraine Beals at Isbeals@nycap.rr.com or text 518-961-4050 by May 30. Hope to see you there.

On **September 27** the United Women in Faith are hosting the Albany District Fall meeting at our church. Their guest speaker is from RISSE. This is a program we support through our Missions. We will have a light lunch. If you are interested in attending please contact Patty Chartrand at pjdc560@gmail.com.

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICES OF EMMAUS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Love your neighbor is at the heart of most faith traditions. Among our neighbors in the Capital Region are many newcomers to the United States. Refugees and immigrants strengthen our communities as they build new lives. Would you like to serve your neighbors, and get to know them better? Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, located in the former Emmaus United Methodist Church in Albany, works to support refugees and immigrants to build new lives and thrive in the Capital Region. It does this through language classes, immigration and employment assistance, youth programming, and case management. In recent years, our church supported RISSE through annual contributions, donations of bicycles and by helping to build its playground and outfit it with benches and a picnic table.



You can help RISSE help its neighbors. Individual or family volunteers can help newcomers with:

- **skills and knowledge for daily living (shopping, transit, navigating medical and school systems**
- **Tutoring**
- **Conversation sessions to strengthen English speaking skills.**

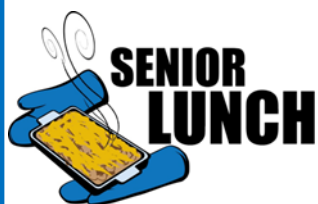
Want to volunteer, or learn more about volunteering? Please click "Get Involved" on their website, <https://www.risse-albany.org/>.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the missions committee I'd like to thank everyone who donated items for Van Rensselaer Heights supply closet. I dropped off roughly six bags May 1st that was greatly appreciated.

Lorraine Beals

SENIOR LUNCH June 4 at 12:00 noon



Everyone is welcome to get together for a great lunch and even better, fellowship. Spring is finally here and it is time to get out of your house and visit with friends. The menu will include pulled pork, salad, fruit, and desserts.

Calls will be made, but if you do not receive a call, please call the church office to let us know you will be there. We need to have an estimate of the number of people for planning. Thanks and hope to see many of you then, and bring a friend.

OUR 2025 GRADUATES



Ellie Keenholts is the granddaughter of Nancy and Mark Keenholts

She will graduate with honors from Columbia High School and attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor majoring in Political Science this fall.

Juliana Davis is graduating from 8th grade at Goff Middle School. Throughout her time at Goff, Jules has excelled academically taking accelerated math and science classes, and consistently making High Honor Roll, Nifty Nineties, and President's List.



Jules is also a Girl Scout Cadette and is bridging into a Senior this spring. As a Girl Scout, Jules earned her Bronze Award for her service project to clean up litter in her local community. She is currently working to earn her Silver Award educating cat lovers and the community about Feline Infectious Peritonitis in cats and the recently approved FDA treatment.

Jules participates in Chorus and Art club at school and she is the president of Defenders of Mother Earth (DOME) club.

Jules is also an accomplished violinist and loves sharing her talent. She has participated in NYSSMA for the last two years and was selected to play in the Suburban Council music festival this year. At church, Jules plays in Chimettes and often plays violin for special events.

Jules also plays on the JV tennis team at Columbia and does a great deal of volunteer work.

Please join us in congratulating Jules on her middle school accomplishments and wishing her well as she becomes a freshman at Columbia HS!



We are celebrating **Brayden J. Leslie Russell's** 8th Grade Elevation on the night of June 27.

Through his junior high years, Brayden has been active in Modified Soccer (as goalie or on field), JV Tennis, Ski Club, Jazz Band, Band, Chorus and Student Council. We are proud of

his accomplishments, including solo and band NYSSMA and High Honors. He is looking forward to High School and continuing to be active in the Music Department and Accelerated classes.

Grace Templeton, daughter of Margaret Templeton, will graduate in May from Syracuse University with a Master's Degree in Audio Arts with a specialization in Music Business.

James Sweeney, son of Jessica and James, and grandson of Tom and Cindy McLaughlin, will be graduating from Goff Middle School on Friday, June 27. He maintained a spot on the High Honor Roll all school year long while playing hockey, lacrosse, baseball, saxophone and participating in Goff's Jazz Band and the church's chimettes choir, youth group and confirmation class.

CHANGE THE WORLD SUNDAY YEAR 12 UPDATE



As of this writing, several Change the World activities have been completed. A full report will be included in the next edition of The Bell. Change the World is a month-long attempt by members of our church and community to share God's love with our neighbors. Several church members joined



hundreds of area residents to participate in the 5K Run/Walk for Addiction Awareness and suicide prevention on May 3 in Guilderland.

Congratulations to Nora Trainor for placing second in her age group! We held a successful Food Drive on Sunday, May 4. Donations went to residents of the VA Center in Albany, and our local food pantry in Rensselaer. Carrie Larson hosted her annual potting party on May 12, creating beautiful potted plants for local residents of senior living facilities.

HISTORY OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AS TOLD BY CYNTHIA BECKER AND GEORGE HERRICK

Cumulatively, between them, George and Cynthia represent our Church's history with 181 years of attending the Church. Cynthia's parents and grandparents helped found the church and combined with other key families...the Lemka's, Hennegers, Beckers,.....supported the church through easy and difficult years.



Cynthia's stories of her early years in Sunday school in the hallways at the former Appleland church home, now Doggie Day Care, and the changes in the Methodist Church home from earlier church homes to our current building were informative and charming. Her recollection of earlier programs like the Mother Daughter Banquets, the women of the church refusing to have a large kitchen built in our current facility in order to remove the responsibility of cooking Church Dinners reminded us of life in different times than now. Her stories of Aunt Mable Henninger and the midnight thief and others charmed and intrigued us.



George's knowledge of the church is encyclopedic. He regaled us with mountain climbing stories with Rev. Stan Moore, of youth group experiences, of his work with confirmation classes, taking them to NYC and Philadelphia and more. He challenges us to be passionate about who we are and what we can offer others.

Both George and Cynthia were babies born into the church, baptized, confirmed and growing up in the church. Both saw the church as an internal part of their lives, a safe wonderful place of activities, friends, music, worship and acceptance...a place to give to others and be given to. Their advice to us is to always grow and change...transformation is a constant in all our lives and being inflexible leads to the demise of a church.

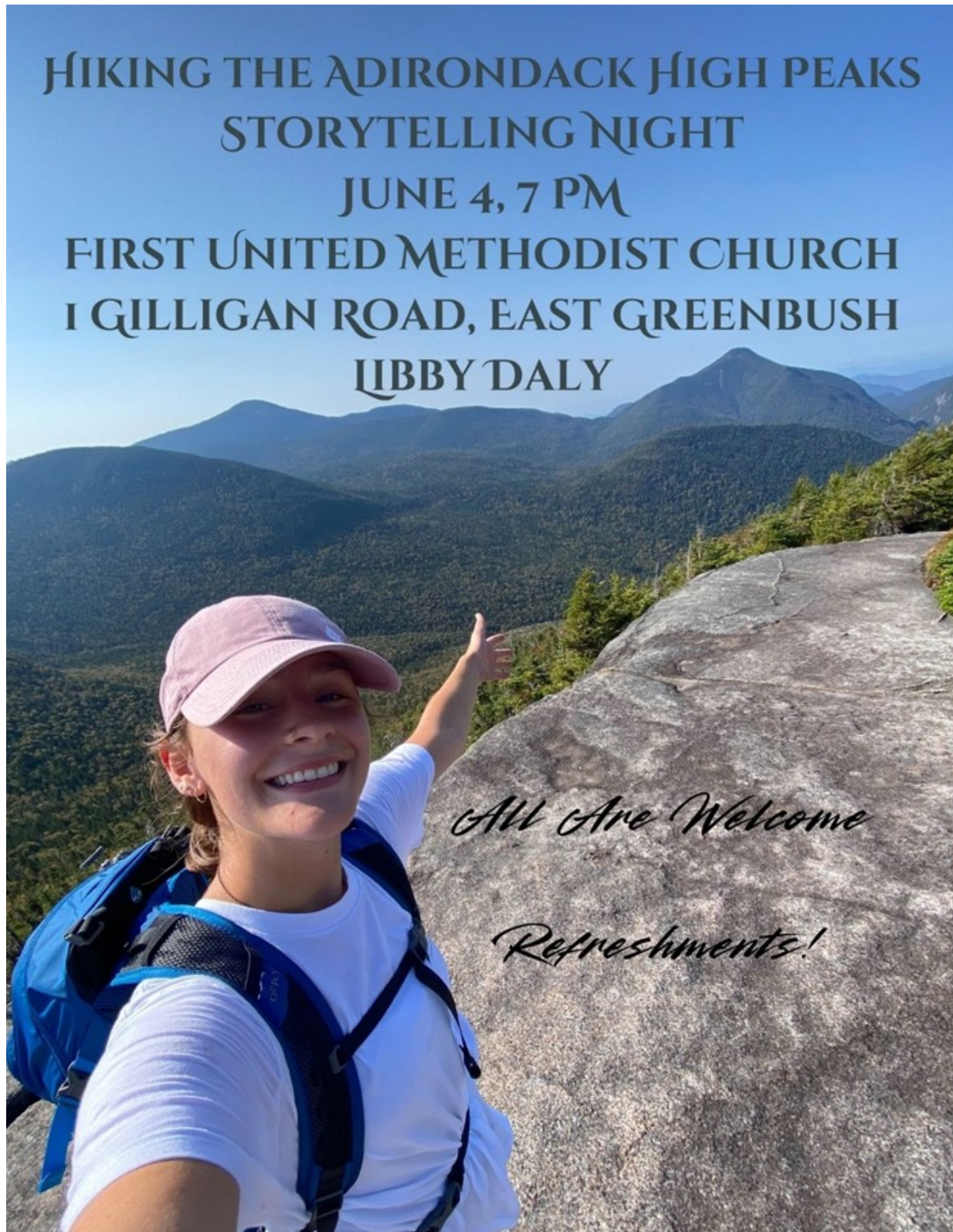
Approximately 45 people, new and long time members, attended this informative, fun and illuminating hour long session seeing the early church through Cynthia and George stories and memories.

HIKING THE ADIRONDACK HIGH PEAKS STORYTELLING NIGHT

JUNE 4, 7 PM

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1 GILLIGAN ROAD, EAST GREENBUSH

LIBBY DALY



All Are Welcome

Refreshments!



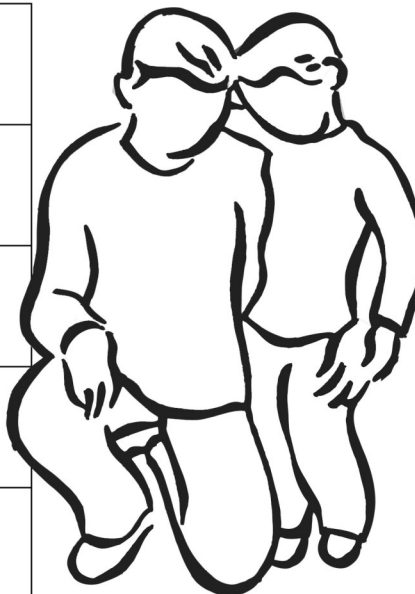
FATHERS OF FAITH

Fathers do amazing things for their families, but the greatest gift our dads can share with us is their faith in God.

Complete this puzzle to read Isaiah's advice to fathers.

*Directions: Working left to right, first write down all the 1's in the word blanks.
Continue with the 2's and finally the 3's.*

1 The	2 as	3 tell	1 living
2 I	3 their	1 the	2 am
3 children	1 living	2 doing	3 about
1 they	2 today	3 your	1 praise
2 parents	3 faithfulness	1 you	



_____, _____, _____, _____,
 _____; _____
 _____.

Isaiah 38:19, NIV

Answers: The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about your faithfulness. Isaiah 38:19, NIV

This is a reminder, if you still wish to receive The Church Bell each month we must have your email address. Beginning with the September, 2025 issue we will endeavor to cut back on the number of Bell issues sent through the Postal Service.

