



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

*We Are A Reconciling Congregation*



VOLUME 27 ISSUE 7 - SUMMER 2025

- ♦ **8:30 am** Early Informal Service  
outdoor chapel weather  
permitting. In Fellowship Hall if  
raining.
- ♦ **9:30 am** Regular Service in  
Fellowship Hall
- ♦ Sunday School will resume in  
the Fall

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

**Visit us on the Web:**

[www.fumceg.org](http://www.fumceg.org)

[www.facebook.com/FUMCEG](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCEG)

**Phone:** (518) 477-9693

**Fax:** (518) 477-4336

### **Summer Church Office Hours:**

9:00 am to 1:00 pm M-F  
Through August 22

**Email:** [office@fumceg.org](mailto:office@fumceg.org)

**BELL (only) Email:**

[editor@fumceg.org](mailto:editor@fumceg.org)

**Announcements Email:**

[office@fumceg.org](mailto:office@fumceg.org)

Rev. Danyal Mohammadzadeh  
Pastor

[Pastordanyal@fumceg.org](mailto:Pastordanyal@fumceg.org)

Gail Welkley,  
Administrative Assistant

Lauren Lehmann,  
Sunday School Coordinator

[LLehmann@fumceg.org](mailto:LLehmann@fumceg.org)

Organist & Director of Bell Choirs  
temporarily unfilled

Robert Thomsen, Choir Director  
Steve Green, Custodian

**The Pastor's Message will return in future issues.**



On Sunday, June 1 our church celebrated **Children's Sunday**. On this Sunday Lauren Lehmann, Sunday School Coordinator, gave the sermon. Emma Lehmann and Lily Kettlewood were acolytes; Leonora and Henrettia Morton-Bentley were greeters. The opening prayer was lead by Patrick Mastin, Gracie Lehmann, Katherine Gattie and Grady Russell. Joseph Sweeney read the passage from the Bible; James Sweeney, Brayden Russell, Thomas Blanchard and Patrick Mastin were ushers for the offertory and ending with the entire Sunday School students singing with Laura Clark on the guitar. Our Sunday School has grown to around 40 students. It was a wonderful way to end the Sunday School season.

### **HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR JULY**

**July 6:** 4th Sunday After Pentecost—2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;  
Galatians 6L:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**July 13:** 5th Sunday After Pentecost— Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82;  
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

**July 20:** 6th Sunday After Pentecost—Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52;  
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

**July 27:** 7th Sunday After Pentecost—Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85;  
Colossians 2:6-16 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

## HERE IS THE LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

**August 3:** 8th Sunday After Pentecost—Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

**August 10:** 9th Sunday After Pentecost—Isaiah 1:1, 10-20; Psalm 50:1-8, 22-33; Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

**August 17:** 10th Sunday After Pentecost—Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80: 1-2, 8-19; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

**August 24:** 11th Sunday After Pentecost—Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 10-17

**August 31:** 12th Sunday After Pentecost—Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

## THE CONFIRMATION CLASS

On Sunday, June 15 we celebrated our 2025 Confirmation Class graduation. A reception in Fellowship Hall followed the service with a congratulatory cake and other goodies. The class consisted of James Sweeney,



Brayden Russell, Juliana Davis, Sabrina Simmons, Noah Williams, Alicia Williams and Nora Trainor (missing from the pictures). Reverend Jeff Matthews officiated. Congratulations to all.



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**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is right around the corner! **July 28-August 1, 2025** from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm. We still have room for a few more students. Please contact Lauren Lehmann at [LLehamnn@fumceg.org](mailto:LLehamnn@fumceg.org). Our theme this year is True North: Alaska- trusting Jesus in a Wild World. This promises to be a great time. See you there.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

September 27 is the Albany District meeting for the United Women in Faith. This meeting is being held at our church this year from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Lunch is provided by our Women In Faith group. The District office will provide a program with speaker from RISSE, an immigrant assistance program. If you are interested in coming to the meeting contact Patty Chartrand at [pjdc560@gmail.com](mailto:pjdc560@gmail.com). Our UWIF will cover the registration fee of \$12. Please join us for a wonderful day.



## MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE

We are taking the summer off from meeting at the church. But we still working on our projects. Crocheted and Knitted afghans must be 48" X 48" as required by the VA Hospital, Albany Med and Rensselaer County Hospice. In June we delivered the many beautiful and creative afghans done this year. The Care Shawls for ALS patients should be about 25-30" wide by about 50-60" long to wrap around. The shawl box is now empty so that could be your summer project. As we have for many years now, we will be making soft hats, any size, any color, any pattern, for kids with cancer for [hatsgiving.org](http://hatsgiving.org). The hats are delivered the first part of November. We usually have about 100 so let's get started. Please contact [aleta.schweigert@gmail.com](mailto:aleta.schweigert@gmail.com) or [reginagwheeler@gmail.com](mailto:reginagwheeler@gmail.com) if you need yarn or a ride in the fall. Enjoy the summer with family and friends.



Aleta Schweigert

## HELP WANTED: RING LEADER (OF THE MUSICAL KIND!) (PART TIME)

Help us spread the word! We are seeking a new director for the Handbell Choirs: The EmBELLishments and the CHIMettes. This position will begin in September 2025. The choirs perform one Sunday each month and hold weekly rehearsals from September through June. For more information and a complete job description, please contact Deb Rubenstein, SPPRC Chair, at [drubenstein@fumceg.org](mailto:drubenstein@fumceg.org). If you or someone you know are interested, please reach out so we can keep our church bells ringing!



## ORGANIST WANTED – COME MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!



Help us spread the word! We are seeking a skilled organist to help lead us in heartfelt worship. This position will begin in September 2025. Responsibilities include accompanying Sunday services, choir rehearsals, and occasional special services/holiday services. For more information and a complete job description, please contact Deb Rubenstein, SPPRC Chair, at [drubenstein@fumceg.org](mailto:drubenstein@fumceg.org). If you are dedicated, proficient on the organ and piano, and can hit all the right notes, we'd love to meet you!

**THE RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** honoring our own Sterling Lee Pierce will be held Saturday, **July 12** from 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Lee and many others in our church community benefited enormously from blood donated by you.



## THANK YOU FOR CHANGING THE WORLD!



Thanks to your efforts, our church continues to change the world! May was filled with activities designed to share the love of God. Starting with a 5K race to raise awareness of addiction and suicide prevention and ending with a joyful concert for residents of Hawthorne Ridge, we reached out to many,

near and far. Project coordinators Lorraine Beals, Aleta Schweigert, Lauren Lehman, Carrie Larson, and Kevin Conley did an outstanding job again this year. Our 12th annual event included: Participating in a 5K Run/Walk to raise awareness of addiction and suicide prevention, Food Drive to assist CoNSERNS-U Food Pantry and VA Center, Moonbee to create reusable menstrual kits for girls in third-world countries, Food Truck Festival, Conversation with Cynthia Becker & George Herrick, Card Making for shut-ins, Luncheon, Choir Sing at Hawthorne Ridge, Share the Love Calendars. Also 60 Redbird Shoeboxes filled. Total boxes since 2021: 282.

We thank everyone for participating, as well as the Finance Committee and Church Council for their continued commitment to the event, Robert Thomsen, Jackie Krahforst, Cindy McLaughlin, our Choirs, Pastor Danyal and Gail Welkley for their support. See the church website for more pictures at [fumceg.org](http://fumceg.org).

John Schmidt, Change the World Event Coordinator



There will be no meetings of the Finance Committee or Church Council during July.

Storytelling will resume in the Fall.

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.

## FROM THE ECO TEAM

Pope Francis (1936–2025) was head of the Catholic Church from 2013 until his death on April 21st. In honor of his life and his leadership in care of the poor and stewardship of the earth, we share *A Prayer for our Earth* from his 2015 encyclical, [Laudato Si](#).

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.*

*O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.*

*Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.*

***SPEND TIME WITH GOD THIS  
SUMMER***



# SHOO fly!



Make this candle to keep  
uninvited insects from your  
outdoor summer meals.

### What you need:

- Lime
- 10-20 whole cloves
- Birthday candle
- 4 toothpicks
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. Have an adult slice the lime in half.  
Cut off the rounded end of one half  
so it can stand without rolling.
2. Insert 10 cloves into the cut sides of  
each half.
3. Stand the bottom half on a plate.  
Insert the candle in the center.
4. Insert the 4 toothpicks in the cut side  
of the bottom half. Then place the  
other half atop the toothpicks.
5. Before dinner, have an adult light the  
candle that's between the two lime  
halves. The flame's heat will warm the  
lime and create a smell that insects  
don't like.
6. Supervise the flame. Blow it out when  
it reaches the bottom lime.



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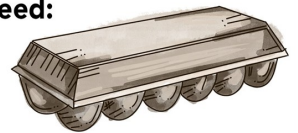
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Geodes look plain on the  
outside but contain beautiful  
crystals. Create these "rocks"  
to show how God makes us  
new on the inside.

### What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



### What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all  
the egg compartments so you can  
make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of  
Epsom salt and a drop or two of food  
coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside  
two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a  
spoonful of Epsom salt into those  
halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and  
shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with  
a coat of clear-drying glue.





