



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

*We Are A Reconciling Congregation*



VOLUME 28 ISSUE 1 - JANUARY 2026

♦ 9:30 am Regular Service and Sunday School

This service is also available live on YouTube using the links on the Church's website.

**Visit us on the Web:**

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

[www.facebook.com/FUMCEG](http://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](mailto:office@fumceg.org)

**BELL (only) Email:**

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

**Announcements Email:**

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

**Pastor**

Rev. Mary Beth Blinn

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

Rev. Jennifer Williamson

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

Gail Welkley,  
**Administrative Assistant**

Lauren Lehmann,

**Sunday School Coordinator**

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

Martha Deyo, Organist

Robert Thomsen, **Choir Director**

Steve Green and Bob Rumsey  
**Custodians**

## WORSHIP IN JANUARY--CHRIST BRINGS ALL THINGS TOGETHER

**Sunday, January 4;** Epiphany Sunday and Holy Communion

Sermon: "From the Beginning"

Scripture: John 1:1-8 and Ephesians 1:3-14

Preacher: The Rev. Jennifer Williamson



**Sunday, January 11;** Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Service of Remembering our Baptism

Sermon: "You Are Beloved"

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

Preacher: The Rev. Mary Beth Blinn

**Sunday, January 18;** Human Relations Day with Offering

Sermon: "Following Jesus"

Scripture: I Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Preacher: The Rev. Mary Beth Blinn

**Sunday, January 25**

Sermon: "A Lit Path"

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23

Preacher: The Rev. Jennifer Williamson

## COOKIES AND CAROLS CONCERT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

2:00 pm -3:30 pm



COME ONE COME ALL TO OUR  
TRADITIONAL COOKIES AND CAROLS CONCERT

The season of Advent and Christmas is one of joy and excitement and sometimes stress and fatigue. Join us in the stress free Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, the 11th of January, and sing favorite carols, listen to gorgeous Choir anthems, enjoy contributions from other musicians and there will be a Christmas reading.

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The next regular meeting of the United Women in Faith will be on **January 5, 2026** at 2:00 pm in room 5/6. We will be making final plans for the roast beef dinner to be held on January 31, 2026. We will be having brownies for dessert. A signup sheet will be on the table in the foyer soon.

On **January 24th** from 9:00 am -12:00 noon we will need a crew to help with kitchen cleaning. Please let Patty Chartrand if you are available or just show up as there will be plenty to do. Have a Happy New Year.



## STORYTELLING NIGHT

### AMATEUR RADIO

**Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 7:00 PM**



Presenter Bryan Jackson, W2RBJ of East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association will provide an overview of amateur radio, including its history, the various technologies it uses today, and how to get licensed and on the air. Refreshments, door prizes and all are welcome!

## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025**

**12:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES save lives!**

Critical need for Platelets and Type O Blood given winter weather decline in donors. Make your appointment and come Friday the 16th of January and participate in our annual blood drive in memory of Sterling Lee Pierce, a beloved member of the Choir and Church.

Give Blood. Save Lives.

To Register: [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org). Use Red Cross Donor App



## ECO TEAM

### ELECTRICITY GENERATION – TODAY AND TOMORROW

Please join us in the Choir Room on Sunday January 25 at 11:00 am as Joe Visalli offers a presentation and question and answer period on electrical grid reliability, an important consideration as we face the challenge of growing electricity demand (e.g., data centers) and replacement of fossil fuel with renewable energy sources. According to the [US Energy Information Administration](#), in 2023, natural gas-fired power plants provided 46% of New York State's electricity net generation and renewable sources (hydropower, nuclear power, solar, wind and biomass) the remaining 54%. The New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) mandates that 70% of the state's electricity must come from renewable sources by 2030. The 16% increase in renewable energy presents a significant challenge for renewable energy growth.

Before retirement, Joe Visalli was the Research and Development Director for Energy Resources, Transportation and Environmental Programs at the NYS Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA). This responsibility covered renewable as well as fossil fuel technologies, batteries, electric vehicles and water/wastewater/solid waste technologies plus environmental programs in the Adirondacks. His presentation will cover the inherent physical characteristics and limitations of renewable and fossil fueled electricity generation and how these impact grid reliability. It includes concepts of comparative capacity factors and efficiencies, effects of high ambient temperatures and requirements for restarting electricity generation.

## MISSIONS

### DISASTER RELIEF



The Missions Ministry is happy to report that sixteen Flood Buckets (Cleaning Buckets) have been filled by the Missions Team. The buckets will soon be delivered to the nearest UMCOR warehouse to be stored until needed. The filled buckets contain essential relief supplies for families to start cleaning their houses after disasters like floods and hurricanes. Although we don't know specifically where the filled buckets will be needed, we know that they will be greatly appreciated by flood/hurricane victims in their time of need. The Missions Ministry would like to thank the congregation for their donations and support for this important project. We would also like to acknowledge the support of our local Home Depot for donating the empty buckets and lids.



Our thanks to Gary Klee for organizing and purchasing supplies. We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year filled with God's blessings.

**THANK YOU** ——You are a giving and generous church. Eight of you donated XL women's clothing and all donations are now in their new home. We are well supplied and don't need any more donations.

Carrie Larson

*Please join the*

**First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush**

1 Giligan Road, East Greenbush NY

*for a*

# **ROAST BEEF BUFFET**

## **JANUARY 31, 2026**

SEATINGS AT 4 PM AND 6PM

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

**CALL 518-477-9693**  
**BY JANUARY 29, 2026**

**TAKE OUT AVAILABLE**

**Cash Only**  
**Adults \$20.00**  
**Children 6 -12 \$10**  
**Under 6 Free**



**Sponsored by the United Women in Faith**

## MEET OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR, ROBERT THOMSEN

### **Tell us about your family and pets.**

My husband and I have an eight-year-old Vizsla named Otto (think Weimaraner or German Shorthaired Pointer, but brown).

### **Do you have any other jobs in addition to your job at FUMCEG?**

Outside of church, I'm a full-time hairstylist at a salon in Latham, as well as running a small business out of my home studio.

### **Where is your favorite place to visit, and where will you travel to next?**

Visiting family and friends in Norway is always at the top of the list. Next, we'll be visiting Mexico for a winter getaway and then returning to Norway again in June.

### **Do you have any hobbies?**

Attending live music! Concerts and performances of all different styles and sizes fill what little free time exists on our calendar.

### **Favorite foods?**

I'm a really big fan of potato chips...Wise original, to be exact. But another favorite is Fiskesuppe, a traditional Norwegian fish soup. Aside from the family and friends, it's the other thing that keeps me coming back to Norway.

### **What do you enjoy most at FUMCEG?**

The people of our congregation! All those who give their time, love, and efforts to our music program, as well as supporting our other ministries both in our community and globally....the church is the people, right?

### **Favorite hymn?**

Really? How do you expect the choir director to pick just one?! "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" is one of my favorite Christmas hymns. But "How Great Thou Art" is always one that gives me goosebumps.

### **Fun Fact:**

During the summer of 2002, I was a full-time performer in a country music revue called 'Country Spirit' at Six Flags Great Escape. Needless to say, I decided that summer not to pursue a career as a performer, and I am no longer a fan of country music.

The next Spotlight on Staff is coming in February. Who will it be?



CoNSERNS-U is very much in need of any kind of cereal and 100% juice—not punch. Please leave your donations in the bin marked CoNCERNS-U under the table in the church foyer.

## OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

### New Members Received in 2025

During the past year, we were blessed to receive 16 new professing members into our congregation. Also, 7 baptized members were received into the life of the church. Welcome and may God bless you all!

#### RECEIVED ON APRIL 27, 2025

Joshua L. DiGrigoli  
 Jaclyn D. Monroe  
 Amy M. Avery  
 Chong B. Jeavons  
 Leigh A. Yerdon  
 John Pole (Prem Deepak Pole John)  
 Rose Prapoorna Pole

#### RECEIVED ON OCTOBER 10, 2025

Kristen Johnson  
 William Johnson



#### CONFIRMED ON JUNE 15, 2025

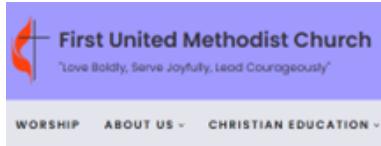
Juliana Davis  
 Brayden J. L. Russell  
 Sabrina S. Simmons  
 James T. Sweeney  
 Nora E. Trainor  
 Alicia C. Williams  
 Noah M. X. Williams

#### BAPTIZED

April 27, 2025 - Caleb M. DiGrigoli  
 May 11, 2025 - Lennox G. Hollers  
 - Bodhi T. Van Wagner  
 June 1, 2025 - Emma G. Stevenson  
 August 24, 2025 - Amaria A. N. Nicholas  
 October 12, 2025 - Isabella L. Tompkins  
 October 19, 2025 - Liam R. Johnson

## WEBSITE UPDATE

For the past few months, Church Council and our web manager, Val Perrotte, have made some enhancements to our church website that we want to share with you.



### About Us

Back to the drop-down under ABOUT US, you will click on COMMITTEES to see a reference guide for learning about the ongoing Ministries we offer. A link after each segment will connect you to a church member who can answer questions or perhaps discuss becoming a new member of the committee.

**REMINDER:** To those who donate online and have changed your giving amount for 2026, please remember to change your donation amount.

## FROM THE CHURCH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We have been informed that TSL will be moving all or possibly most of their operations to a new location sometime during the first quarter of 2026. Their financial support over the years has assisted in maintaining our program. Please keep the Church in mind as we move through this transition. —John Peterson

**Did you lose something?**, we may have found it! There is a small lost and found on the top shelf of the front hall closet. Also, small items such as keys and eyeglasses are sometimes put in the window of the main office. Check it out! You never know what you may be missing.



## IT'S COMING IN JANUARY!!!



It's our hot-off-the-press (printed and electronic) **Ministry Interest Check-list: Ways to use your Time, Talents and Treasures**. Stay tuned!

## POINSETTIAS

There are still a few people who have not paid for their poinsettias. Please see Kathy Van Buren or put your payment in the collection plate.

Also please stop by the church to pick up your plant if you have not already done so.