



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061

*We Are A Reconciling Congregation*



VOLUME 28 ISSUE 4 - APRIL 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](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCEG)

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**Church Office Hours:**

9:00 am to 1:00 pm M-F

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**BELL (only) Email:**

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**Announcements Email:**

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

**Pastor**

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Rev. Jennifer Williamson

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Katelyn Flintrop,

**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**



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

**April 2: Holy Thursday, 7:00 pm**  
Fellowship Hall

Holy Communion, Foot Washing service for those who would like to participate  
Worship leader: Pastor Jen Williamson  
Musical Offering by Sanctuary Choir

**April 2: Prayer Vigil through April 3**

You are invited to offer prayer for yourself, your family, our church, nation and world. Options are to pray from your home beginning Thursday, 8:00 pm through Friday, 3:00 pm or in person at the church Friday, 9:00 am -3:00 pm. Sign-up at

church or online. This is the link to sign up for the prayer vigil: <https://forms.gle/Hz2dmQ5roJkm7qZJ9>

**April 3: Good Friday 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary -

Choir Cantata: "The Lenten Sketches" by Joseph M. Martin  
Music, narration and projected art the last days of Jesus' life

**April 5: Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 am** in the Outdoor Chapel - (Inclement weather: Sanctuary) The sunrise service will celebrate with Holy Communion.

Worship leaders: Pastor Mary Beth Blinn and Robert Thomsen

**Easter Worship Service - 9:30 am** in the Sanctuary -

Worship leaders: Rev. Mary Beth Blinn and Rev. Jen Williamson  
Musical offering: Sanctuary Choir and brass ensemble

We look forward to seeing you all at our holy week services!

Pastors |Mary Beth and Jen



### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

Our next regular meeting is April 6 at 2:00 pm in room 5/6. All women in our congregation are welcome to attend.

### **MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE—SEWING MACHINES**

In April and May we will be collecting Operational Sewing Machines to be delivered locally to the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Used/new machines are needed to assist these individuals in transitioning to life and work in our communities. Do you, or someone you know, have one that is not being used? Would you like to underwrite the purchase of a new machine?

### **ECO TEAM**

Last month, our Eco Team joined with other volunteers from the community and St. Paul's United Methodist to hold a successful Castleton-On-Hudson Repair Café. Forty-one guests from Schodack and the surrounding towns brought 70 items to be fixed. The eleven volunteer Repair Coaches, including Fred Henson and Priscilla McCaughin, were able to repair 80% of the items and send away another 10% or more with advice or instructions for fixing it later. While lamps, clothing, wood products and dull garden shears were among the most common items Repair Coaches worked on, they saw cherished belongings ranging from a vintage clock to a hobby horse. Other volunteers, including Gary Klee, Fran Berger, Regina Wheeler, John Schmidt and Cindy and Kevin Conley, guided guests through the process. Guests expressed their appreciation with comments such as: "This is very helpful for those of us who are not handy and the volunteers are all very pleasant." The EcoTeam is planning another Repair Café for September.

### **RECYCLING**

Our next Recycling Day is Sunday, April 19. We will be collecting the following items at the parking lot garage for ½ hour before and after the 9:30 am service: - Clean clear, green, blue and brown glass bottles and jars. Labels are okay.

### **FLAT ROOF REPAIR UPDATE**

As of Sunday, March 22 we have reached 67% of our goal for roof repair. Our generous congregation has so far donated \$35,000 of the \$52,000 we need to repair the church roof. Thank you to all those who have donated.



*Thank you for making the  
4th Annual Community Art Show  
a tremendous success!*

Attendees enjoyed viewing 103 pieces of artwork created by 23 adults and 28 youth.

Our baked goods table generated \$493 in profit for the roof replacement project.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event and to all who worked so hard to make it a success.

The show was judged by Melissa Percoco, Jen Quail, and Rachel Liebener.

**Best In Show**

Acrylic – World Trade Center – Carolyn Abrams  
 Photography – Sunflower – Debra Levin-Kutner  
 Watercolor – Pretty in Pink – Sally Spring  
 Multimedia – Liberty – Amy Macris  
 Drawing – Blake – Ashley Secor  
 Oil – covered Bridge – Joan Wixsom  
 Quilting/Fabric – For the Love of Tulips – Suan Hurd  
 Other – Black Lotus Wood Bowl – Bill Francis

**Honorable Mention**

Acrylic – Hacienda – James Hamm  
 Photography – Flamingo – Joyce Letto and Crystal Lake – Debra Levin-Kutner  
 Watercolor – Beloved Angels – Carolyn Abrams & Mr. Fox – Amber Telford  
 Multimedia – Blue Cat – Ann Dusza  
 Drawing – Ther Mrs. – Alisha Secor  
 Oil – Blue – Cynthia Wynn  
 Quilting Fabric – Barnaby – Emily Carfi  
 Other – Kaleidoscope – Paige Caneen

The Art Show Committee consists of Beth Buckner, Nancy Keenholts, Barbara Morse, Carrie Larson, Amber Telford, and Lauren Lehmann



STORYTELLING NIGHT  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 7 PM

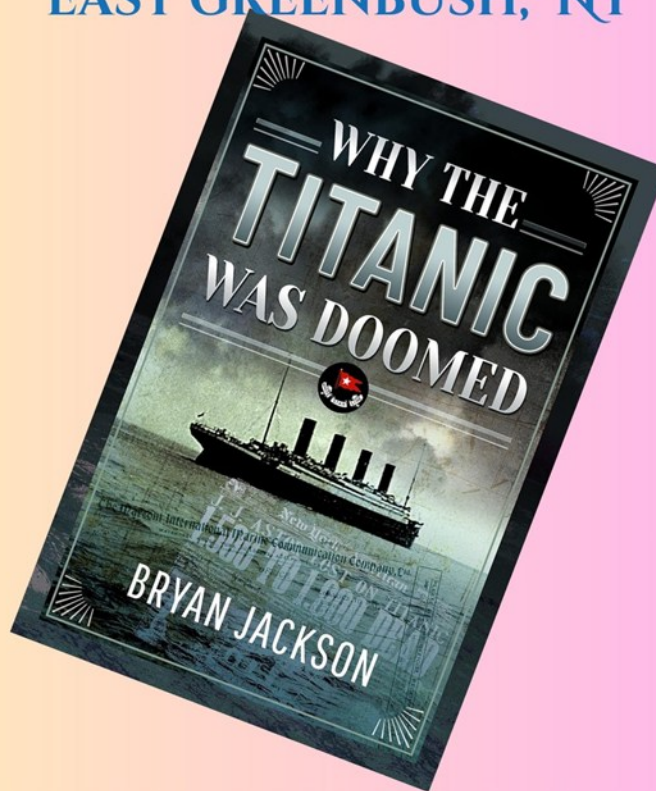
BRYAN JACKSON

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1 GILLIGAN ROAD

EAST GREENBUSH, NY



**ALL ARE WELCOME DOOR PRIZES REFRESHMENTS**

### DO WE NEED “CHANGE THE WORLD”?

People have asked, “Do we really need Change the World?” Thirteen years ago, our church decided to participate in a United Methodist program that was originally called “Sunday Serve”. It was a call to put our faith in action. Many critics of organized religion observed that Sunday church-goers gave lip service to doing good deeds but never did much themselves. Sunday Serve was an attempt to get parishioners out of their pews and into their communities. It fit with Jesus’ command to “... go and make disciples of all nations...” as well as to “Love one another. As I have loved you...” Our church changed the name to “Change the World.” It began with one Sunday in May, and has since expanded to include the entire month.



We encourage one another to share the love of God through a variety of activities and events. Christians have been trying to change the world for the better since the dawn of Christianity. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe that Jesus demonstrated radical compassion to encourage us to share God’s love. Since his death, others have come along to offer “booster shots”. Among them: John Wesley, Mahatma Gandhi, St. Francis of Assisi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, Bishop Desmond Tutu and Pope Leo.


We here at First United are blessed with a church that shares God’s love 24/7. May has simply become a “booster shot” month to focus special attention on God’s Grace and Love, and the importance of sharing that with others.



Change the World is Intentional Discipleship! So, in a world with so many problems and distractions, yes, we do need Change the World. We invite you to join the Movement! Please watch for a list of scheduled activities.

John Schmidt

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?



According to Matthew’s account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)

THE  
PROMISE OF



*Easter*

NEVER FADES.



# The First United Methodist Church of East Greenbush

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush NY 12061

**TEAMS UP WITH**



for a

## Drive Thru BBQ Chicken Dinner

Meal will include:

**½ chicken, baked potato, coleslaw,  
cornbread, and a brownie**

## Saturday, April 25, 2026

**4 pm to 6 pm**

**\$16 per person**

**Cash only, please!**