



First United Methodist Church

We are a Reconciling Congregation

The Bell



September 2026

Regular Service and Sunday School 9:30 am

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

Outdoor Chapel Service 8:30 am (July & August)

Visit us on the Web:

www.fumceg.org

www.facebook.com/FUMCEG

Church Office

Phone: (518) 477-9693

Fax: (518) 477-4336

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

Email: office@fumceg.org

BELL Email:

editor@fumceg.org

Announcements Email:

office@fumceg.org

Pastor

Rev. Debbie Earthrowl

pastordebbie@fumceg.org

Administrative Assistant

Katelyn Flintrop

Sunday School Coordinator

Lauren Lehmann

LLehmann@fumceg.org

DISCIPLE: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY



There are two opportunities to participate in what I have found to be one of the very best Bible studies – giving an overview of the entire Bible while building discipleship.

Beginning Monday, September 21, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, you may participate in the online group through Zoom, or beginning Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, you may participate in person at the parsonage (29 Kriss Krossing, East Greenbush).

This 34-week study involves daily readings, as well as weekly class time. For those who prefer to listen to the readings, I will be posting them daily to my Facebook page as my morning devotions for the duration of the study. If you wish to participate, or if you have questions, please email me at pastordebbie@fumceg.org so that you may receive more detailed information. I look forward to every opportunity to offer this study, and to walk beside others as we grow in our discipleship!!!

Are you already a member of First United Methodist Church, East Greenbush? Awesome! If not, would you like to explore becoming a member? If so, please contact Debbie by calling 518-391-3215 or emailing at pastordebbie@fumceg.org



This fall, we will have opportunities for both those exploring membership AND those who are already members to study what it means to be United Methodist, and to be a member of a United Methodist congregation.

It's always good to check in again with our identity as followers of Christ who choose to do this as United Methodists.

LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

September 6 – 15th Sunday After Pentecost: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20



September 13 – 16th Sunday After Pentecost: Exodus 14:19-31, 15:1b-11, 20-21; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 14:1-12

September 20 – 17th Sunday After Pentecost: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Acts 2:14-21, 33-35; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 – 18th Sunday After Pentecost: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Acts 3:1-19; Matthew 21:23-32

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Happy Fall everyone. We are gearing up for an active fall. Our first meeting is September 14th at 2:00 pm in the Multi-purpose Room. We will be discussing the Brooks Barbeque in October. We are still having the clothing drive through October 31. So, bring clean bagged clothing only to room 13. Our meetings are open to anyone so please join us September 14 at 2:00 pm.



MADE BY HAND WITH LOVE OUTREACH MISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2026

Our group will meet Tuesdays, September 8 and 22 from 10:00 am -11:30 am in the Multi-purpose Room. We have been able to organize our stash in that room. The summer was productive. We have made 16+ Sesame Street Hats and 6+ Bluey Hats for hatsgiving.org for kids with cancer. These soft warm hats will be delivered to this local organization in early November before Thanksgiving. As always we continue to make afghans 48"x48" for Hospice and Veterans at the VA Hospital, and shawls for ALS patients. Contact us if you need more information or YARN.



A Special Thank You to Carol and Danielle for all of the scarves! We have ideas for them this fall. Also Special Thank You to the creators of all the beautiful afghans which were left in the office for us. They will be greatly appreciated by those who receive one.

If you or someone you know, would like to learn to knit or crochet, contact us and we can make arrangements. Materials will be supplied. We would love to introduce a new skill to students/parents.

aschweigert@fumceg.org or rwheeler@fumceg.org

MISSIONS

VRH, Cleaning Supplies Welcome Basket Donations: The Missions and Social Responsibility Committee will be collecting items for Van Rensselaer Heights, a HUD subsidized senior apartment complex in Rensselaer NY. They have 107 apartments and to qualify people must be low income and over the age of 62 or disabled. Starting August 9-September 20, we will be collecting any small-size cleaning supplies and baskets in a bin in the foyer. The youth group will put the baskets together and add welcome signs/cards for the new VRH residents. A sample of the supplies and basket I purchased totaled \$16 from the Dollar Tree, see pictures upper left. Your donation is appreciated.



On July 13, a beautiful hot summer morning, we brought one of the Bluebird houses, built during our Change



The World Sunday, to Van Rensselaer Heights as a gift to their garden. We were warmly greeted by Renee and residents who love their garden and heard of the coming of the Bluebird house. The feeling one immediately gets when stepping into the back yard is you are entering the Garden of Eden...a garden of hope and love...a garden wrenched from the barren and empty back yard 4 years ago. The first year the garden started with the existing 3 trees and marigolds



donated by our church. It is now multiple gardens with multiple stories, donated garden ornaments, donated flower and vegetable plants and soil and freshly grown vegetables to share. We, the First United Methodist Church of EG, are a small part of this miracle of beauty, grown from the work of our Church and residents of VRH, and grown with LOVE.



Thank you, Lorraine Beals

CROP HUNGER WALK

Climate change is making disasters more intense and more frequent. Sometimes disasters related to climate change – such as wildfires, floods or hurricanes – strike instantly and families lose their homes in a matter of minutes. Together with the impact from conflict, people are being displaced in record numbers. Church World Service (CWS) helps people on the move to access clean water, food and supplies, and when the time is right, CWS begins long-term recovery. The Castleton CROP Hunger Walk assists CWS in its mission. One-quarter of the money raised is directed to The Anchor Food Pantry in Castleton. The remaining funds CWS services in the nation and abroad. We set out for the 3.2 mile walk on Sunday, October 18 at 1:00 pm from The Anchor Food Pantry. There is also a 1 mile walk for children or others needing a shorter walk. To support the walk, please register to walk or donate at www.crophungerwalk.org/castletonny. Walkers ask friends and family to pledge to support their walk. Supporters may also donate with a check made out to the church with CWS/CROP in the memo field. For more information, please contact Kevin Conley (kconley@fumceg.org).



REPAIR CAFÉ

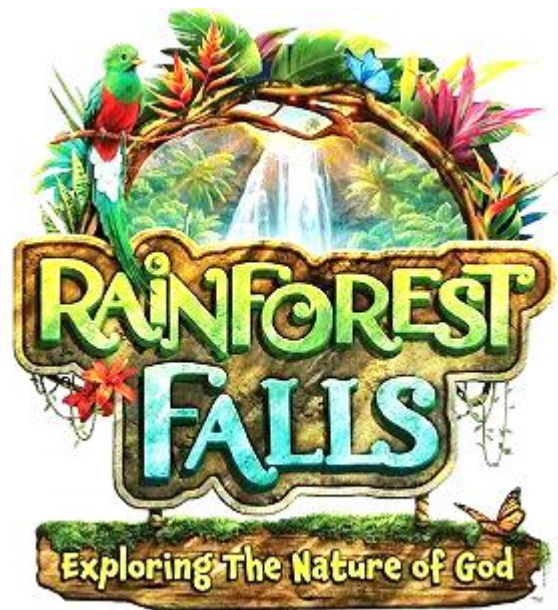
Once again, our church's EcoTeam is collaborating with St. Paul's United Methodist Church to offer the Castleton-On-Hudson Repair Café. This event will be held on Saturday, September 12th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at St. Paul's UMC, Carney Road in Castleton. If you are unfamiliar with a Repair Café, it is a free community event where volunteer Repair Coaches bring new life to an item that is broken, ripped, has stopped working or become dull. The volunteers show guests how to restore items and save them from the landfill. You may bring lamps, small appliances, electrical items, computers and digital devices, clothing, textiles, bikes (non-electric), chairs and other small wooden furniture, tools for sharpening or books with damaged binding. When held in March, forty guests brought 70 items to be repaired or sharpened. Repair Coaches were able to repair 80% of the items and send away another 10% or more with advice or instructions for fixing it later. For more information or to volunteer, please contact CastletonOnHudsonRC@gmail.com.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Vacation Bible school was a huge success this year as we had 45 campers join us for an adventure exploring nature with God. We thank our adult and Jr volunteers for their help along the way! Here are some snapshots of the fun we had! We look forward to seeing all the children on rally day, September 13 at 9:30 am.





THANK YOU, THANK YOU, MARY MAC!

Last May, our Youth, with the help of several adults put together several bluebird houses as part of our Change the World Month. One of the birdhouses was presented to Mary McIntosh in appreciation for her many years of dedication and service to our church community.



Birdhouses were also given to George Herrick, currently at Brookdale in Niskayuna, The Van Ornaments, Van Rensselaer Heights, and our church courtyard.

Thanks to all who assisted in the construction (and thanks from the birds for their new homes!)



FINANCE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Donation of appreciated stock to the church allows the donor to avoid tax on any gain in value and to deduct the full value of the donation. That makes donation of stock gifting one of most tax-advantage ways to give. We have entered into an agreement to have GivingIQ receive and process donations of stock on our behalf through their DonateStock.com website. A link on the church's giving page (fumceg.org/giving) enables donations of stock to be made easily. Take a look at fumceg.org/giving for more information.



2. The Finance Committee has a responsibility to promote stewardship in our church. Donating money is only one of the ways to practice stewardship in our church. Volunteering our time to church activities and groups is a form of stewardship. One of the ways that we would like to promote stewardship in the church is to have a stewardship moment once a month in the church service and/or Church Bell where a congregation member could share what activity they do for the church and why it is important for them to do it. If you feel that you would like to participate in the stewardship moments, please contact Pastor Debbie or Art Sanderson.

3. The Finance Committee has set dates for our fall financial drive which will start on October 4th and end on October 25th . It will be run in a similar manner to what we have done during the last two years. We will be asking everyone to make a commitment to God to support the church through their financial gifts and gifts of time. We will not be looking at those commitments as they are between God and you. However, our goal is to increase the number of commitments made by 10% over the 87 commitments made last year. Please prayerfully consider what you can do next year to support our church's program.

LOOKING FOR HOSTS



Thank you to all of you who hosted gatherings during the summer months. There is still time to host a small gathering during the fall months. Gatherings may take place at the church, in your home, at a park, pumpkin patch, apple orchard, or at a café — evenings, weekends, or daytime, whatever works best for you. Pastor Debbie has requested that gatherings be kept to 5–7 people or up to 3 families with children.

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Katelyn Flintrop, Administrative Assistant, by email at office@fumceg.org or by phone at 518-477-9693. Katelyn will work with you and Pastor Debbie to arrange a date and time. A sign-up sheet will also be available in the foyer.

Thank you for helping us welcome Pastor Debbie into our church community!

The Transition Team: Deb Rubenstein, Justin Naef, Kaitlin Morton-Bentley, Jean Sheviak and Colleen Rumsey

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

Mental Health is a major concern today. Mental health awareness is vital because it breaks down social stigma, helps people recognize early warning signs, and encourages individuals to seek timely medical care. The Mental Health Matters ministry in our church is supporting and recommending two events coming up in October that we encourage you to consider. They are both 5K Runs/Walks. If you are unable to participate, your donation would



be greatly appreciated and put to good use. The first is NAMIWALK, being held on Saturday, October 3 beginning at 10 AM at Washington Park Parade Ground in Albany. Registration is free. For information, visit: <https://www.namiwalks.org/capitalregion>

The second event, another 5K Run/Walk is the 10th Annual Summer Smith Addiction Awareness 5K Memorial Walk, set for Saturday, October 24 beginning at 10:00 am at Guilderland High School, 8 School Road in Guilderland Center. Summer Smith was a loving mother of three boys who lost her 12-year battle with addiction on January 9th, 2015.

Summer's mom Kristin has established this race in her memory. Summer desired to live a life in recovery and fought hard to overcome the disease of addiction. For registration or to make a donation, please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/GuilderlandCenter/SummerSmith5kAddictionAwarenessMemorialRun>

FALL FESTIVAL COFFEE HOUSE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

WELCOME fellow fall festival followers to our first Coffee House of the Season of Musical events. Melodious music, delicious delicacies, sassy storytelling and the Mistress of Chatter jokes abound. We hope to see you there.

STORYTELLING NIGHT

"THE POWER OF STORYTELLING"

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1 GILLIGAN ROAD
EAST GREENBUSH, NY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 7PM

AMY MACRIS

ARTIST, AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR, EDUCATOR

AMY WILL DRAW ON HER EXPERIENCES IN PUBLISHING,
EDUCATION AND THE ARTS TO EXPLORE HOW STORIES
CONNECT US ACROSS GENERATIONS, INSPIRE CHANGE, AND
LEAVE LASTING IMPRESSIONS.



AMY'S WEBSITE: AMYMACRIS.COM
ALL ARE WELCOME-REFRESHMENTS-DOOR PRIZES

AN INVITATION TO CREATE

The Church Council invites you to join an Ad Hoc Group (3 meetings) with the task of developing new pathways to meet the Family Assistance needs of our church family.

To learn more, please contact Carrie Larson at cjlarson64@gmail.com

