

THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Vol. 82 No. 1

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

May 2018

FUTURE SUNDAYS

- 8:30** Community Breakfast Fellowship
9:00 Books for Children & Adults available
9:30 Second Cup Café
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:15 Sunday School
11:30 Second Hour programs
—Luncheons
—Adult Forum
—Sermon 'Talk-Back'
—Ministry Team Meetings
7:00 Bible Study: Isaiah

Worship Text:

- May 6 **Family Sunday**
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
- May 13 **Mother's Day**
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
- May 20 **Pentecost / Heritage Sunday**
Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15
- May 27 **Peace with Justice Sunday**
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Second Hour Events/Programs:

- May 6 CROP Walk
Concert at 3:00: Vincent Dubois
- May 20 Youth Fundraiser: Luncheon
Book Discussion on "Gunfight..."
- May 27 Intersectional Justice Committee
Youth Fundraiser: Car Wash



Vincent Dubois, Organist Sunday, May 6 at 3:00

In just a few days, at 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 6th, we will have the pleasure of hearing the distinguished French organist Vincent Dubois perform in our sanctuary. He is one of the three titular organists (meaning chief, or principal organists) at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, a position achieved by only the very best French organists. He is considered to be one of the finest concert organists to appear on the world stage in many years.

He has won major prizes in organ competitions, performed in major concert venues around the world and been a guest soloist with several orchestras and ensembles in the United States and Europe. He has taught organ master classes at such prestigious institutions as Yale, Curtis Institute and Oberlin, is Continuing Guest Artist at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and has made highly acclaimed recordings of great organ music, such as that by Liszt, Vierne and Dupré. A review in *The American Organist* says of the Liszt recordings, "These performances stand up to or possibly surpass the best on the market. Dubois possesses maturity far beyond his years. He plays with consummate passion and breathtaking virtuosity, yet with absolute technical control."

Mr. Dubois' recital on May 6th will include transcriptions of music of Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Fauré and Saint-Saëns, and organ music by Widor, Vierne, Duruflé and Dupré, closing with his own improvisation. It will be a varied and very exciting program.

This concert is the final one in FUMC's 40th Concert Series, which we have been celebrating with some very fine musicians (remember Harmonic Brass and Cantus?). The concerts are a part of the church's music ministry and are a gift to the community. They are free of charge and open to the public. We hope you will plan to come to the concert and be a part of a large and appreciative audience.



From our Pastor



I am currently in a time of bodily-imposed rest. On Good Friday I busted my knee skiing, and have spent the time since then doing physical therapy to prepare for surgery. After surgery I face a lot more physical therapy, and – if all goes well – a full recovery. However, for the time being, I'm simply incapable of doing most of the things I normally do. I'm getting more time for rest, reflection, prayer, reading, and pondering. It isn't actually all that easy to let go of all the things I think I should be doing, or want to do, or wish I could do. But, for the most part, there is goodness in this too.

Of course, it took me a few weeks, a lot of pressure from people who love me, and reading repeated articles on the value of rest before I was able to truly live into that conclusion. (I'd love to pretend I am wise enough that I didn't need all those things, but that pretending would lack integrity and anyway most of you know me better than that.)

So, from this space of imposed rest, I want to tell you what I'm remembering:

- We are not our productivity. Sure, the “protestant work ethic” argues otherwise, but we are already beloved by God for who we are – not what we do. Being beloved by God is enough.
- God is the God of Sabbath, the one who offers rest to all creation so we can be well and whole. Rest is important for our full humanity and for relationships. Both of those things take time. Also, if we don't take the rest we are offered, it finds us.
- It is harder to do less, because you have to make more decisions about what to prioritize. When I'm not in bodily-imposed rest I sometimes do things because it is easier to do them than to decide not to.
- One of the great benefits of not being able to do things is having the time to listen: to people, to myself, and even to God. There is a lot of need for listening, and it is quite important.
- No matter how old we are, we all need things that are playful and fun. (This is why I was skiing during Holy Week, it has been my greatest form of play.) No matter how heavy the world is around us, we need things that are playful and fun. We also need humor and laughter. They're worth seeking out. They are usually even worth the price of failure (like a busted knee, not entirely sure on this one yet).
- There is more love and support in the world than I tend to remember, or think is possible.
- There is sufficient wisdom, capacity, and willingness in the church for the work that needs to be done to continue when I can't do it. That doesn't mean my contributions aren't important! It simply means it is possible for me to rest without anything falling apart.
- It can be really nice to have a good excuse for things I don't want to do. (Although it is awful not to be able to do things I really do want to do.)
- Modern medicine is miraculous.
- At times, our bodies or our lives give us rest. Either we can savor it, or we can fight it. What we gain from the time may depend on which way we take it.
- We are interdependent, we need each other, and we can't stand alone. (Sometimes literally.)

I hope you all find good reasons to find rest this month. I hope none of them are imposed on you, but that you do it anyway! I promise, there is goodness in rest, in Sabbath, and in play. Thanks be to God for all of life, including its complications.

—Sara



Celebrate Pentecost....and Wear Red!

On Sunday, May 20, we'll celebrate Pentecost during Worship. Pentecost is the season we celebrate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through the life of the church. It's often referred to as the birthday of the church. Wear red — the color of the Spirit!

In Memoriam

We extend our Christian support to the families and friends of:



† **Doris Clark**, our dear friend and long-time active member for over 60 years, who passed away on April 15th. A Memorial Service celebrating her life will be held in June; date and time will be announced. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Cards/notes of sympathy can be sent to her niece, Mrs. Robert Rosenberger, 6499 Spring Plow Ln., Columbia, MD 21045; and/or to her nephew's widow, Brenda Kiger, 1680 Smith Ln., Glen Rock, PA 17327.

† **Shirley Thomas**, our dear friend and longtime member for over 60 years, who passed away on April 13th. A Memorial Service celebrating her life will be held in late May or early June; date and time will be announced. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Cards/notes of sympathy can be sent to her son, Alan Thomas, and the family at 5 Colleen Ct., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.



Thanks for Supporting the Lenten Photo Show!

Thanks to the photographers who submitted so many wonderful photos to the show, to the people who viewed the photos online and at church, and to those who voted. Thanks also to Rev. Sara Baron for her leadership and for choosing the show's themes; to the Music Program for participating; to Bob Slater and Tony Turner, the Coffee Fellowship leaders, for accommodating the show in the Gathering Room; to Dorie McArthur for helping with the food; to Alice Nash who managed the show's Facebook presence; to Dominique Hess and Kevin Kempf who managed the show's website presence; to Martin Manley for space planning and set up; to the Schenectady Photo Society for the use of its display racks; and to Linda Smith for coordinating outreach, receiving and processing the photos, distributing the photos to the Facebook page and website, preparing summaries and preparing the show's program.

—Larry McArthur, Coordinator

(A list of photos that received the most votes in the show is on the Pastor's Pondering Board, and posted online at our website and Facebook page.)

“Church Night” Tuesday, May 8

All Ministry Teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on *Church Night*, held the 2nd Tuesday of the month. And everyone is always welcome to attend the council meetings. The schedule is:

6:30 PM Ministry Teams meet

7:30 PM Church Council meets

(notices will go out to teams scheduled to meet)



E-Newsletter

This newsletter is available electronically and in hardcopy. If you would prefer to receive it by email, which saves valuable resources, please contact the church office with your email address. Thank you.

Altar Flowers



We are grateful for the Sunday Altar Flowers given on:

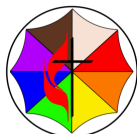
Mar. 11 in honor of the Cantus Concert

Apr. 1 in celebration of Easter

Apr. 22 in loving memory of (the Rev.) George & Mavis Bailey

Apr. 29 in celebration of the birth of Hana Leo Rogozinski

To give altar flowers for Sunday Worship, contact Ann Farrell at 518-867-7654.



May 2018

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sundav	Mondav	Tuesdav	Wednesdav	Thursdav	Fridav	Saturdav
		1 Reports due for Church Council 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	2 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 <div>Organist Practicing-S (all day)</div>	5 9:00 AM Youth: Trip to Mosque 9:45 AM Church Trip to Mosque Open House
6 Family Sunday 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 1:30 PM CROP Walk 3:00 PM Concert: Vincent Dubois—Notre Dame, Paris	7 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	8 9:30 AM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 2:00 PM Staff Meeting Church Night 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	9 12:00 - 1:00 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 6:30 PM Reconciling Event Planning 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 	12 11:00 AM Youth Group
13 Mother's Day 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs	14 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 7:00 PM Staff Pastor / Parish Relations Comm.	15 Spire articles due 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM The Gathering	16 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 <div>National UMW Assembly in OH</div>	19 11:00 AM Youth Group
20 PENTECOST 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Youth Fundraiser: Luncheon —Book Discussion 7:00 PM Bible Study <div>National UMW Assembly, OH</div>	21 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 6:30 PM Adult Education/Carl Lecture Team	22 9:30 AM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Trustees	23 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 am Stephen Ministers 12:00 - 1:00 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 <div>Family Camp Weekend @ Skye..</div>	26 9:30 AM Youth Service: Serve Free Community Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 11:30 AM Youth Group
27 Peace with Justice Sunday 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:15 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Youth Fundraiser: Car Wash —Intersectionl Justice Comm. 7:00 PM Bible Study <div>Family Camp Weekend @ Skye Farm</div>	28 Memorial Day Church Office Closed Public Schools Closed	29 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	30 5:00 PM Serve Meal @ the Schenectady City Mission	31 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal		

We are in the season of PENTECOST (red) - The season which we celebrate the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit through the life of the church; sometimes referred to as the birthday of the church.



Schenectady CROP Walk Sunday, May 6

What Does CROP Stand for?

Communities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty

Roughly 1000 CROP Hunger Walks happen every year in the United States. The 5K walk symbolizes the daily journey many others must make for clean water.

The walk kicks off at Emmanuel Friedens Church on Sunday, May 6th, at 1:30 after a brief opening ceremony (no long speeches!). Registration begins at 12:30. One quarter of the money raised supports local efforts to support hunger and poverty fighting programs. The rest is used by Church World Service, an ecumenical agency, to alleviate hunger throughout the world. More information and envelopes to use to raise money are available from Elaine Troy. Let's have a good turnout this year! All ages are encouraged to participate. Sometimes dogs walk, too!

You'll have time to enjoy the walk with friends and then relax at a concert at FUMC afterwards!

A Stephen Ministry Moment

**"Life is what we make it—
always has been,
always will be."**

Grandma Moses



Enjoy Breakfast! Sundays 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Everyone is invited to come enjoy this community breakfast that is served prior to Sunday Worship from 8:30-9:30 am. The meal is free and served in Fellowship Hall on all but the first Sunday of each month.

Hope to see you at the breakfast table!

UMW News

On April 21, the Albany District United Methodist Women (UMW) held its Spring meeting at Calvary United Methodist Church. The topic was Outreach Coordinator of Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless.

Moving on to future programs:

—**May 18-20**, First United Methodist Church, Schenectady, will be represented at the National UMW Assembly in Columbus, OH, by three members.

—**June 10**, there will be a UMW presentation of reflections of the National UMW Assembly.

—**September 7-9**...looking to the fall, Albany District Mission U will be held at Silver Bay. More information to follow.

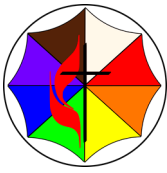


A Change for the Women's Fellowship Luncheons

The twelve women at the April Women's Fellowship luncheon had a good time getting to know each other better while enjoying a delicious lunch. It was fun! We all decided, however, to hold the luncheons every other month rather than once a month, but still on the third Wednesday, and so the next luncheon will be on June 20th, again at noon at the Glen Eddy. Save the date now, but look for more information in the June Spire. Just remember— no luncheon in May.



Enjoy breakfast at 8:30 am at the next Men's Breakfast Fellowship held Wednesday, May 23, at the Blue Ribbon Diner on State Street! For more information, contact Bob Coppola.



MISSION MOMENTS

Delivered during Worship

► Things of My Very Own

Delivered on Sunday, March 4, 2018, by Rayn Boncie, guest speaker

Mission Statement: Things of My Very Own, Inc. provides crisis intervention services to children impacted by extensive abuse and/or neglect.

Services are also available to children who are, solely due to the lack of items necessary for sustainability, at risk of a Child Protective Services intervention. Our goal is to keep children together with non-abusive family members, and out of the foster care system, whenever possible.



In November 2017, Things of My Very Own, Inc. received global media coverage and was featured on media outlets including: Good Morning America, Yahoo News, ABC News National, Woman's World Magazine, etc. The coverage resulted in us receiving approximately 140 emails per hour and countless telephone calls from around the world, many asking us to expand our organization to their area. The remarkable effects of our programs gaining world-wide attention gave the organization further credibility and dramatically increased the number of children in crisis that were referred to the organization. In December 2017 alone, the organization provided services to over 2,707 individuals, putting further stress on the few employees and resources that the organization has available.

At current, the organization is set to run out of mattresses by the end of next week. We have worked for a decade to negotiate contracts with several vendors. These negotiations have resulted in us being able to purchase many needed items for a fraction of retail prices. We have the ability to purchase brand-new, Tempur-Pedic Mattresses at ~\$58 per piece. Our minimum order is \$7,000. You can help us to keep children with their non-abusive parents and out of the foster care system by donating online at www.thingsofmyveryown.org. Tax-deductible donations can also be mailed to: Things of My Very Own, Inc. 249 Green Street; Schenectady, NY 12305.

► United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Delivered on Sunday, March 18, 2018, by Jan Huston

Next week in our bulletins there will be an envelope for donating to UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief. It might be dated March 11. But that doesn't matter. We got off schedule and decided to do it this way.



I think you have all heard about the wonderful work of UMCOR. The donations given on this Sunday cover all of the administrative costs of UMCOR. This means that when there is a disaster or other crisis, 100% of the money given for assistance can go directly to help the people who have been affected.

Because UMCOR keeps their operating costs under 10% of the total budget, undesignated gifts may exceed administrative needs. If that happens, the

money is given to under-funded programs. It also might be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event before funds can be raised.

In addition to responding to disasters, UMCOR provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

I've been impressed for a long time by what I've known about UMCOR. But when I was preparing this, I googled them. They are even more amazing than I thought – providing help and relief all over the world in many different kinds of situations! When you have a chance, look them up and you can see some of the work of the United Methodist Church.

There is a small amount in our church benevolence budget that will be given to UMCOR, but we encourage you to consider using this opportunity next Sunday to help support this program which provides relief to people in very difficult situations all over the world.

► **Native American Ministries Sunday**

Delivered on Sunday, April 8, 2018, by Rev. Bob Long

Good morning. I have been asked to share a bit about Native American Ministry Sunday.

“Hau, Kola!” Say it with me: “Hau, Kola!” What did you just say? You just said, “Hello, Friend.” Native Americans communicate in relationship. Therefore one does not just say, “Hello.” “Hello” is linked with: “Friend,” “Son,” “Daughter,” “Grandfather,” “Grandmother,” “Sister,” “Brother,” “Mother,” “Father,” “Aunt,” “Uncle.” You are who you are because of your relation to others around you.

“Aho.” Say that with me: “Aho.” “Aho” means “Thank you.” “I am grateful.” Gratitude and thanks are expressed throughout the day. Everything encountered is a gift. For each gift one expresses gratitude: “Aho.” Do these sound like values that emerge from a people of inferior spirituality -- who are unintelligent – and who need others to lead them into a civilized life?

Too significant a part of US culture today does to Native Americans what it does to Martin Luther King, Jr. United States culture has created a warm, fuzzy myth about King, the HERO, who gave his life for civil rights for people of color. And in doing so we have pushed out of awareness, to where we do not have to deal with them, the implications of King's vision, his passionate expression of compassion and fair-justice – for full human rights – for indigenous people and the poor and oppressed throughout the world, including the USA.



In this same way, too significant a part of US culture has created convenient myths about Native Americans. We liken them to a “curious primitive people, who unfortunately have a naive way of life” ... all of which gives us to believe that they need us in ways that we do not need them ... and that we should control their life and destiny because of our perception of their need.

In reality, however, when we open ourselves to follow the lead of the UM Committee on Native American Ministries, we discover that Native Americans offer fascinating observations to these cultural misrepresentations. “Mostly Native traditional values are so similar to biblical values that historically

Native People were confused as to why missionaries came to them instead of helping their own people.” [papers handed out at SLF, 2008] Or, again, “Native American spiritual practices and faithfulness to ancient traditions rest on understandings that are not alien to the Christian experience.” [same source] “Our challenge as Christians,” says Thom White Wolf Fassett, himself both Native American of the Seneca Nation and an United Methodist clergy person, “is to understand why our [Christian] expressions of sacred values may be alien to indigenous people.” [Fassett, *Giving Our Hearts Away*. p. 124]

The Native American Ministries Sunday offering supports mutual ministry with Native Americans where Native Americans can discern and direct areas of focus. The mere need for such ministries brings both sadness and deep joy. The sadness emerges from the reality that in our culture today there is an intentional increase in dehumanizing and discrediting of all people of color ... which includes Native Americans.

On the other hand, the deep joy comes from the emphasis lifted up by the Native American Sunday offering ... the deep joy of the inner integrity of Native American spirituality and its similarities with the essence of the Christian faith. I want you to know that your gifts to the Native American Sunday offering release peoples of both spiritualities for interaction, dialogue, common engagement and mutual affirmation. That release in turn opens the way for the Native American “circle of life” to interact with the “beloved community” toward which Jesus leads us ... until we can see both of them intertwined as expressions of Wankantanka, “Great Grandfather” and of “Abba, Daddy,” whom Jesus worshiped.

The joy emerges in the celebration that we are all God's children of equal value and have vast gifts to share with one another. The joy wells up like flowing springs when we heed the similarities of “stop before” and “listen to” “the fullness of LIFE” to which our spiritualities lead us. And the joy brings spectacular brilliance when we join spirit and mind and heart and hands to fulfill the purpose to which both faiths call us: in the words of Chief Tecumseh, “fulfilling your purpose in the service of all people,” and in the word of Jesus, “Feed my lambs; tend my sheep” ... “as you do it with one of the least of these, you do it to me.”

I ask you to join me in making a significant gift of financial support for Native American Ministries either today or next Sunday using the envelope found in today's bulletin.

Aho!

► **Primetimers Mission Volunteer program**

Delivered on Sunday, April 15, 2018, by Jan Huston

If you read the Spire carefully, some of this will be a repeat. But it won't be exactly the same so I hope that's OK.



The UM Church has a Mission Volunteer program that we haven't heard much about lately. It's called Primetimers. It's similar to Elderhostel or Road Scholar in that it's a program for older adults. Participants do some hands-on volunteer work, but the emphasis is on increasing cultural understanding. Programs have been both in the United States and in other countries.

Quite a few people from this church have participated in Primetimers in the past. Jim and Elaine

Troy, and Pete and I went to a program based in a Methodist retreat center on St. Simon's Island, GA, several years ago. John and Charles Wesley were on that island and we learned about Methodist history. We also had a boat ride on the Okefenokee swamp and enjoyed another island and the Atlantic coast. Our service project was loading empty oyster shells into net bags which were then put on the reefs so that new oysters could attach and grow there. Nancy Walden and Nancy Oldow and others participated in a program based at Gulfside on the Mississippi coast. This retreat center is where Virgia spent much of her childhood. But the place was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina and has not been rebuilt. The group toured the Heifer Project farm and headquarters and the Clinton Library among other things. The Oldows and Lee and Bonnie Adkins went to an island off the coast of SC and learned about the Gullah people. Another group went to LA where they stayed at Sager-Brown which is both a retreat center and a large depot similar to Mission Central. That group helped in the warehouse and visited New Orleans and other parts of LA. There are also international programs. Pete and I joined a team that went to Italy. We started in Milan and went to Florence, Rome, and Naples. We learned about the work the Methodists and Waldensians are doing together to assist refugees and reduce poverty. Our service project was doing a little gardening in a beautiful retreat center where we spent a night.

The Board of Global Ministries has been moving from NY City to Atlanta. During the move, the Primetimers program was less active. There is only one program left this year. It's to Nicaragua in Oct. It is in partnership with El Porvenir, a group that supports self-help water and sanitation projects. The trip will include a visit to the historic city of Granada, a visit to a volcano, a boat ride on Lake Nicaragua through tiny volcanic islands, and more. It's an opportunity to visit this beautiful country and meet some of the people in a less physically demanding way than traditional Volunteers in Mission teams. More details are in the Spire or I can give them to you later.

I'm hoping that when the program organizers get settled in their new offices, they will resume some of the kinds of programs they had in the past. I'll try to keep you informed. Or you can get on the email list by going to www.umcmmission.org/primetimers



PRIMETIMERS
.....
SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Adult Education News

Guest preacher, the Reverend Dr. Barbara Thorington Green, will be leading worship on Sunday, April 29th, as a precursor to our annual Church-wide Retreat. Barbara Thorington Green will be our presenter for the retreat, scheduled for Aug. 24-26 at Sky Lake in Windsor, NY. Please consider setting aside time in August to join us.

The Al-Hidayah Islamic Community in Latham has extended an invitation to members and friends of First UMC to be their guests at an Open House at the Mosque on Saturday, May 5, from 9:00am – 11:30am. The focus of the Open House will be an explanation of Ramadan. Ramadan lasts from May 16 - June 16 for 2018. We will carpool from the First UMC parking lot at 9:45am. Please respond to the office, 518-374-4403, or to Bob Long, 518-372-1083, if you plan to attend. Please keep in mind that inside the mosque, head-scarves are expected for women and all are asked to remove their shoes.

A new study based on John Dominic Crossan's series, "The Challenge of Paul" will begin Monday, October 1, 2018. Jim Sprenger will lead this 6-week course examining the apostle Paul. Details to follow.

Youth News



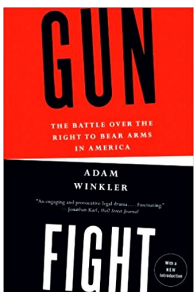
FUMC Youth continue to do monthly service projects and seek ways to grow and be a sign of the all inclusive love of God within their community and church.

FUMC Youth, during their spring recess, did their first Intergenerational VIM Trip. Youth and members from the congregation went to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA, to volunteer for a week. This experience was great for our youth and members of the congregation who participated on this VIM Trip. FUMC Youth had an opportunity to experience and see another side of VIM other than recovery work. The trip was also a time for youth and members of the congregation to interact and spend time getting to know each other. Everyone returned excited and expressing interest in doing another intergenerational trip in the near future. The youth are planning a VIM Trip to Hogansburg in August before returning to school; more about this trip later. FUMC Youth and parents will continue to do fundraisers to help offset the experiences for their mission trips. FUMC Youth continue to do monthly service projects, and seek ways to grow and be a sign of the all inclusive love of God within their community and church.

—Sylvester Doyer, Youth Leader

(Check the calendar for May youth activities.)

Book Discussion — Sunday, May 20



The April/May book study will be on *Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America* by Adam Winkler. *Gunfight* is a timely work examining America's four-centuries - long political battle over gun control and the right to bear arms. In this definitive and provocative history, Adam Winkler attempts to reveal how guns—rather than abortion, race, or religion—are at the heart of America's cultural divide. Using the landmark 2008 case *District of Columbia v. Heller*—which invalidated a law banning handguns in the nation's capital—as a springboard, Winkler brilliantly weaves together the dramatic stories of gun-rights advocates and gun-control lobbyists, providing often unexpected insights into the venomous debate that now cleaves our nation. 20 illustrations are included.

In the aftermath of the mass shootings at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas high school in Parkland, FL, the Las Vegas massacre, the Orlando massacre and countless other mass shootings, it is critical that we be more fully educated on this subject in order to more effectually engage in conversation and advocacy for effective changes to gun regulations.

You can get a copy of this book from your local library or bookstore, or contact Kevin Nelson (kmichael07@yahoo.com), who will order a copy for you (\$15.) The book discussion will be held on Sunday, May 20th, after the Worship service at church.

The Sunday School Scoop

May 2018



May 6	Family Sunday — No Sunday School
May 13	11:15 am— Sunday School: Theme is Story and Art : “Seaside Mobile”
May 20	11:15 am—Sunday School: Theme is Music : “Déjà Vu” (Play)
May 27	11:15 am—Sunday School: Theme is Science : “Making a Seine”
June 3	Christian Education Sunday 10:00 am Worship Service 11:30 am Church Potluck Picnic Luncheon

Calling all Graduates!

The office is collecting the names of members and friends of FUMC, who are graduating from high school, college and graduate school this year. Please call or email news of your graduate!



Student Loans

Limited funds are available through the Board of Trustees for loans to students attending college in 2018-2019. Such loans are interest free when repaid on schedule, within 5 years of graduation. The loans are made possible by memorial donations and repayment of previous loans.

The Trustees will review applications and award amounts based on the available monies that support the education fund. Applicants must be members of FUMC, or dependents of members.

Applications are available in the Church Office or by e-mail request for an electronic copy. Completed forms, signed by the Pastor, must be returned to the church by May 16, to the attention of Elaine Troy. Questions about this program may be directed to Elaine at 518-356-2687 or at lanie600@nycap.rr.com.



Christian Education Sunday & Potluck Picnic Luncheon

**June 3—
Mark Your Calendar!**

We will celebrate Christian Education Sunday on June 3, which marks the end of our church school year. Everyone is invited to come enjoy this special celebration sponsored by our Children and Youth Ministries Team. Following the youth-led worship service, plan to stay to enjoy a potluck lunch.

Please plan to bring a dish to share (salads, casseroles, etc.) Watermelon and beverages will be supplied. Signups are helpful. Please sign up on a Sunday or contact the church office.

We hope everyone can attend this annual fellowship event!

Signup for Summer Camp and/or Family Camp Weekend

Christian camps are owned by Upper NY Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, and offer wonderful camping and retreat experiences for children, youth, adults and families.



Skye Farm camp is located in the Adirondacks, just off Northway Exit 24 (1½ hrs. away). Another nearby camp is Sky Lake campground, located in Windsor, NY (2 hrs. away), which is where we'll return for our third annual church retreat in August! And where Pastor Sara serves as a camp counselor at a special needs camp most summers. Both camps offer several summer camps to choose from and both will be holding an

Open House:

- Sky Lake on Sunday, May 20
- Skye Farm on Saturday, May 26

If you have a child or grandchild, plan to enroll them for a week or more at one of these camps! Some camps available are listed below. For a full list and to register, see the camp brochure at church or go to: www.skyefarmcamp.org or www.skylakecenter.org.

Family Camp Weekend at Skye Farm—

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

You won't want to miss this great get-away with family and friends! Meals are provided. Come for the weekend or just a day! Stay in a cabin or bring your own tent or camper. For details and/or to register, call 518-494-7170.

Summer Camps to choose from include:

Aquasphere

Adirondack Pikes

Bike the Trail

Campolodean:

Animals...Extreme...Tech...Sports, etc

Fins, Feathers, Fur, Bark and Sky

Hook, Line and Sinkers

Music & Visual Arts

Rocks, Ropes & Rivers

Special Needs

Unplugged

and many others.

Volunteers Needed to Serve City Mission Meal

The City Mission has a newer software signup process. Each individual volunteering to serve a meal at the City Mission is asked to create an account and sign-up in advance for each meal they'll attend.

To signup 5 days or more in advance, go to:

<http://www.firstumc.citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com>

To signup within 5 days prior to serving, go to:

<http://www.schenectadycitymission.com>;
click "volunteer" and find FUMC's date to serve, e.g., Wednesday, May 30th. Other volunteers may be solicited to sign-up during this time too.

If you do not have a computer or have a problem signing up, please call Lori at 518-346-2275 ext. 301; give your name and date you want to serve.

These 2018 Wednesday dates are assigned to our church to serve at the mission:

May 30, August 22, December 19

Arrival time is no later than 5pm. You'll be required to wear a hair net if you're not wearing a hat. Please let Lois Atkinson (518-377-8249) know if you've signed-up for an upcoming meal. Thank you.

In Our Community...

► **Mother's Day Piano Recital** held Sunday, May 13th, 3-4:30 pm at the University at Albany, Performing Arts Center, 1400 Washington Ave., Recital Hall—2nd floor PAC 266. All are welcome to a free classical piano recital performed by SUNY graduate Robert Louis La Rocca, pianist and composer. Music is dedicated to all moms who by strength, love and sacrifice enrich our lives, as the songs selected in this performance. This classical concert will feature selections composed by Beethoven, Schumann, and Chopin. Questions? Call 518-442-3995.

► **Opioid Prevention & Awareness Summit** will be held May 19th, 9:30-12:30 pm, at North Main St. UMC in Gloversville, 316 No. Main St. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Event includes DEA Agent presenter, a sharing of personal experience, and panel of reps. from many agencies. For details, call 518-725-7323.

► **Home Furnishings Program**, which operates from our church, has announced "Needs of the Month" and includes: living room furniture, small kitchen table sets, dressers, blankets, large pots, flatware. To donate items, call 518-346-2444.

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - MARCH 2018

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to the family & friends of:

Doris Clark, who passed away April 15th (see pg. 3)
Shirley Thomas, who passed away April 13th (see pg. 3)
Roseann Groncki, who passed away on April 6th
Coreen Wall, who passed away on March 24th

Christian support is also extended to:

Rev. Leon Adkins, Jr.	Jen & Merrick Fuller
Pastor Sara (knee injury)	Courtney & Jack McEwan
Jan Butts	Mary Neville
Michele Cole	Clare Racicot
Ross Corbett	Shirley Rivest
June Dieffenbach	Bob Slater

And to: Belinda Forbes, our Nicaraguan missionary; and those effected by natural disasters, poverty and/or violence everywhere.

We celebrate with:

Lindsay Martin & Dave Rogozinski, who welcomed a baby girl, Hana Leo, born on April 22nd. Congratulations!

Bob Slater, who retired on April 12th, after 19 years at the main public library. Happy Retirement!

John Daniel Falotico, who became a Schenectady Fire-fighter & Paramedic on March 30th. Congratulations!

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
March 4	62
March 11	67
March 18	71
March 25	78

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
March 4	\$ 2,075.50
March 11	2,839.00
March 18	6,115.00
March 25	2,633.00

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Those served this month:

Children (infant-17)	25
Adults (18-64)	123
Elderly (65+)	<u>62</u>

Total 210



OUR SERVICE

- Date**
- 3/11 —Held concert featuring renowned men's vocal ensemble, Cantus; free and open to all
- 3/20 —Participated in SICM's 50th anniversary celebration held at Glen Sanders Mansion
- 3/21 —New fellowship formed: Women's Luncheon held bimonthly with all women welcome
- 3/25 —Special Sunday collection received for "UMCOR Sunday," formerly *One Great Hour of Sharing* (\$292)
- 3/31 —Youth Service: Served Community Brunch
- Book Discussion held on John Dominic Crossan's book, *God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now*
- Mar. —During Holy Week, we offered and/or participated in: Palm Sunday Service; Maundy Thursday Service; Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walk; Holy Saturday Service; Easter Worship w/guests, Schenectady Brass Quintet
- Continue to serve the Downtown Community Breakfast on Sundays, free and open to all
- Distributed items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry
- Presented *Mission Moments* at Worship: Things of My Very Own; FUMC's Music Ministry; UMCOR Sunday
- 2nd Hour programs offered: *Human Trafficking*; Youth Soup & Sandwich Luncheon Fundraiser; Flowering Plant Sale; Sermon 'Talk-Back'; and Intersectional Justice Committee

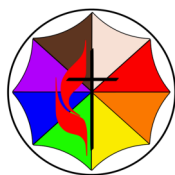
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors — Be Invitational!



Warm wishes are extended to our birthday celebrants: (Call with your birthday!)

MAY

May 1 Amanda Sovern	11 Neville Henry	16 Alivia DeAngelo	26 Frank Rodriquez
3 Liz Fogle	11 Karyn McCloskey	18 Mary Anderson	28 Walter Grattidge
7 Maurice Seymore	14 John Daniel Falotico	18 James McFarland	30 Betty Duel
8 Lisa Whelan	14 Elaine Troy	21 Natalie Neil	
10 Dick Smith	15 Sylvester Doyer	22 Monica Prass	



The Spire

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NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

May 24; articles due May 15



Church Retreat in August

Please consider joining us Fri., August 24—Sun., August 26 for a weekend retreat at Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center. It will be a time of rest, focus and dialogue with intergenerational activities for all. Dr. Barbara Thorington Green will be our guest presenter. The theme is being negotiated. Sky Lake is located in Windsor, NY. Financial assistance through FUMC is available; please speak to Pastor Sara. To check out room accommodations and the Underwood Lodge, go to: www.skylakecenter.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Look what's coming in early June:

**Thursday to Saturday, May 31-June 2
Upper NY Annual Conference**

**Sunday, June 3
Family Sunday
Christian Education Celebration
with Potluck Luncheon**

**Sunday, June 10
Sermon 'Talk-Back'**

***We are a church that loves to learn
and yearns to be a gift of God
to our communities.***



Check us out on Facebook!

**[http://www.facebook.com/
FUMCSchenectady](http://www.facebook.com/FUMCSchenectady)**

Websites and E-Mail Addresses

First United Methodist Church—

E-Mail: fumcschenectady@yahoo.com

Website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Upper New York Annual Conference—

Website: www.unyumc.org

Albany District Office—

E-Mail: albanydistrict@unyumc.org

Website: www.unyumc.org/districts/detail/2