



THE *Spire*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 82 No. 5

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

September 2018



It's Homecoming Sunday! **September 16 — *Come One, Come All!***

On September 16th, we'll celebrate **HOMECOMING SUNDAY!** Let us all re-gather after the joys and rest of the summer for Worship at 10:00 am followed by a luncheon to share our joys and hopes in this day of celebration in the life of the church! The service will feature a special recognition honoring church members, who joined in 1968 and now have fifty years of membership at FUMC! We'll also welcome guest instrumentalists, who will play, and our Chancel Choir back, who will sing!

Then, after Worship, our celebration will continue with a luncheon of Chili and Mac and Cheese...it's a Homecoming Cook-off! We hope everyone can attend and participate in our Cook-off!



Schedule for Sept. 16:

- 8:30 AM - Community Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - Books Distributed
- 9:00 AM - Sunday School Orientation
- 9:15 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 AM - Second Cup Café
- 10:00 AM - Worship Service
- 11:00 AM - Coffee Fellowship
- 11:15 AM - Homecoming Cook-off
- 7:00 PM - Young Adults Bible Study

On your mark, get set, cook!

Our Homecoming Cook-off will be held in Fellowship Hall after Worship, and if it's like our last one, will be a great success with a variety to choose from! No prizes will be given but you'll surely enjoy much fun, food and fellowship! To participate, the two choices of dishes to cook and bring to church for lunch are Chili or Mac & Cheese. And/or you're welcome to bring fruits or vegetables if you'd like.

To help us plan for our Homecoming Cook-Off luncheon, please signup on a Sunday or contact the office to let us know which dish you'll be preparing and bringing to share.

Mark your calendar to gather September 16th after being spread out during our summertime excursions and celebrate Homecoming Sunday, as we begin an exciting new church year in ministry together!



Everyone is welcome...so invite your family and friends too for this special worship time, and for, what will surely be some mealtime fellowship fun afterwards!

FUTURE SUNDAYS

8:30 Community Breakfast Fellowship

9:00 Books for Children & Adults

9:00 Sunday School

9:30 Second Cup Café

10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care

available

11:00 Coffee Fellowship

11:30 Second Hour Programs:

Adult Forum

Sermon 'Talk-Back'

Luncheon Fellowship

7:00 Bible Study: "The Book of Luke"

Worship Text:

Sept. 2 *Wedding Celebration at Worship*
Romans 12:9-18; Matthew 7:24-27
Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Sept. 9 Psalm 146; James 2:1-17

Sept. 16 **Homecoming Sunday**
Isaiah 50:4-9a; James 3:1-12

Sept. 23 Psalm 1; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Sept. 30 Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20

Second Hour Programs:



Programs Resume

Everyone is welcome to participate:

► YOUTH GROUP—9/1

All youth ages 13-18 are welcome to gather for fellowship on Saturdays at 11:30 am.

► CHANCEL CHOIR—9/6

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. We welcome singers! See page 4 for details.

► COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—9/9

Following worship, enjoy some coffee & fellowship time.

► CHURCH NIGHT—9/11

"Church Night" is usually held the 2nd Tuesday of each month and offers time for our ministry teams to hold their monthly meetings prior to the Church Council meeting.

► HANDBELL CHOIR—9/12

Weekly rehearsals are held Wednesdays from 6:45-8:00 pm. For details, see page 4.

► SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION—9/16

All children, youth and their parents/guardians are invited to attend for this year's new and exciting program.

► BOOK DISCUSSION—10/14

Our Intersectional Justice Committee selects books for all to read then a book discussion is held. Details on page 7.



Special Birthday Wishes

FUMC is fortunate to have had the opportunity to celebrate one of their greatest treasures. We celebrated 14 of our current and previous parishioners who are 90 and above this year. What a true gift we have been given and please know that while some of you may not be able to come through our doors Sunday morning, you are with us in spirit. Happy birthday to

Bonnie Totten Adkins

Rev. Lee Adkins, Jr.

Shirley Daniels

Rudy Dehn

Walter Grattidge

Stewart Hettig

Bill Isles

Bob Mackeown

Shirley Rivest

Beryl Rockwell

Fran Summerville

Lee Tupper

Grace Jorgensen Westney

Junice Wusterbarth



Altar Flowers

We are grateful for the Altar flowers given during the summer:

July 1 in loving memory of Jim Farrell

July/Aug. from the flower gardens of members of the congregation

If you have a flower garden & are willing to share your blooms and/or you would like to give the altar flowers for Sunday Worship, please contact the office.



From Our Pastor

Recently, I've been thinking about urgency. More specifically, I've been thinking about the difference between what is urgent and what is important. Once in a while, the two overlap, but more often what is important gets cast aside for what is urgent. It seems that our society is piling more and more things into the "urgent" categories, and it doesn't seem that it is helping us thrive. Of course, somethings are urgent! However, it can get difficult to tell the difference between truly urgent and just very noisy.

At the crux of this issue is one of the questions religion is fundamentally about: what makes a good life? My claims that the urgent is not always the same as the important implies I have some idea of how to figure out what is important. It turns out, I think I do! My best guess as to what makes for a good life is: connection and contribution.

To be specific, I think we need to connect to other people, to God, and to our authentic selves. Additionally, we need to make contributions beyond ourselves. Some of us who are very lucky get to make a living doing things that contribute (vocations), others find ways to contribute primarily with non-work time (avocations). The balance between needs for connection and needs for contribution vary among us, and change in different parts of our lives. The ways we need connection and the ways we seek to make contributions vary too.

(I may well be missing some very important aspects of good living, and I'm nearly certain I'm over simplifying. I'll be looking forward to your feedback and suggestions on moving on to perfection.)

If these two pieces are as important as I think they are, there is some very good news attached. First of all, a good life is possible! Secondly, it is likely to coincide with some happiness (these also happen to be things that help humans be happy). Thirdly, a good life is inherently interdependent, and involves expanding the goodness to others.

Connection and contribution are not heavy burdens. Connection to the Divine is a joy, and hopefully you already know some people you also truly enjoy! Connection gets to be to and with people we like. Even connection to self (often the scariest of the three) can result in great relief and lightness, particularly if it happens in the great outdoors. There are many, many ways to contribute, and we each get to decide how we wish do so. We can pick ways that are particularly fun, or particularly meaningful, or particularly important, or with particularly great people.

It also feels like very good news that these two linked pieces of a good life, connection and contribution, are interwoven into all that we are as a Church. We are a place of connection: to God, to self, and to others! Worship, at its best, offers all three, as do many of our study groups and music ministries. We are also a place of contributions. Our ministries, as well as our committees, offer great opportunities for people to use their gifts to contribute to the greater good. I can't think of anything we do that isn't about connection and contribution.

If, however, you are feeling disconnected or as if your contributions aren't welcome, please let me know! I have hope that we can work on it together.

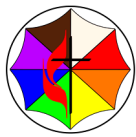
In the meantime, please pay attention to what is important, and don't let the myths of urgency distract you from the things of goodness: connection and contribution.

—Sara


Enjoy Fellowship before Sunday Worship

- **Community Breakfast**—8:30-9:30 am in Fellowship Hall on all but first Sunday of a month
- **Books for Children & Adults**—Books available during the Sunday breakfast; 9-9:30 am.
- **Second Cup Café**—Stop in the library 9:30-9:50 for coffee and/or to read the newspaper!



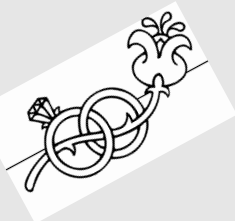


September 2018
First United Methodist Church, Schenectady
Calendar updates on website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2 Family Sunday 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am Wedding Reception 7:00 pm Bible Study	3 Labor Day Church Office Closed	4	5	6 Public Schools start 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	1 11:30 am Youth Group
						8 11:30 am Youth Group
9 8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am 2nd Hour Programs 7:00 pm Bible Study	10 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 7:00 pm Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee	11 2:00 pm Staff Mtg. Church Night 6:30 pm Ministry Team Meetings 7:30 pm Church Council meets	12 6:45 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	13 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 11:30 am Youth Group
						Mission u Studies @ Silver Bay, NY
16 Homecoming Sunday 8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 am Sunday School Orientation 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am Homecoming Cook-off 11:30 am Investment Committee 7:00 pm Bible Study	17 11:00 AM Altar Guild 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 6:30 PM Adult Educ / Carl Lecture Team	18 2:00 pm Staff Mtg.	19 11:30 AM-1:30 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Distribution 6:45 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	20 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22 11:30 am Youth Group
						UNYAC UMW @ Chautauqua Instit.
23 8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am 2nd Hour Programs 11:45 am Intersectional Justice Committee 7:00 pm Bible Study	24 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	25 2:00 pm Staff Mtg. 7:00 pm Trustees	26 8:30 am Men's Breakfast Fellowship 6:45 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 Church Outing: Canoe/Kayak Adventure 9:30 am Youth: Serve Free Com- munity Brunch 11:30 AM Youth Group
						
30 8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 3:00 PM Concert: Organist						

We are in the season of PENTECOST / IN KINGDOMTIDE (green) - Ordinary (numbered) time when we focus on the mission of the church.

Wedding Celebration during Sunday Worship!



**Rev. Jane L. Baker
and
Rev. James R.
Sprenger**

*Invite You to Celebrate with Us
As We Pledge to Entrust
Our Lives to Each Other
Before God*

*Sunday, September 2, 2018
10:00 O'clock in the Morning*

*First United Methodist Church
Schenectady*

Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

**If you would like to make a gift in our honor,
please make a donation to the
Youth Ministry Fund
at First United Methodist Church**



"CHURCH NIGHT" Resumes Tuesday, September 11

Ministry Teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on *Church Night*, and everyone is always welcome at the council meetings. The schedule is:

6:30 pm Ministry Teams meet

7:30 pm Devotions & Church Council

(notices will go out to teams meeting.)

Choir News

*Make a joyful noise unto the
Lord, all the earth...*



♪ **Chancel Choir:** On Thursday, Sept. 6th, at 7:00 pm, the Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church will begin another choir year. Rehearsals are held in Fellowship Hall. We welcome singers in all voice parts.

♪ **Handbell Choir:** On Wednesday, Sept. 12th, at 6:45 pm, the First United Methodist Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals, held in the Music Room on the 2nd flr. Openings are available to serve on the choir or as substitutes.



If you are interested in becoming a member of either choir, please contact our Director of Music Ministries, Dominick Giaquinto, at 518-374-4403 ext. 104.

A Stephen Ministry Moment

**"You will find as you look
back upon your life that the
moments when you have
truly lived are the moments
when you have done things
in the spirit of love."**

Henry Drummond

Signup for our E-Newsletter!

Our monthly newsletter, *The Spire*, is available electronically as well as hardcopy. If you would prefer to receive it by email, which does save valuable resources including trees, please contact the office to confirm we have your email address. Thank you.

The Sunday School Scoop



Children and Youth Ministry Team News

The Children and Youth Ministry team is developing new programs for children in grades K—6. We will not have Sunday School like we did last year. Instead we will have something different!!

From 9:00-9:45 every Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month, there will be special activities for children in the Gathering Room. This is the big room on the left when you enter from Chapel Street. The activities will be related to the theme of the day's worship service and will vary according to the children's interests. There might be crafts, games, stories, and songs. Parents are welcome to stay in the room and participate with their children during this time. Volunteers are needed to be a second adult in the room. If you are willing to help once a month or more, please contact Elaine Troy or Jan Huston.

The first Sunday of each month, children's time during worship will be based on Bible stories enriched by the use of special figures which will help to make the stories more meaningful. We expect that the whole congregation will enjoy this.

Join us on Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 16, at 9:00 in the Gathering Room for a preview of coming events!! The regular programming will begin on Oct. 14.

Volunteers needed for our Program



Do you enjoy kids?

Do you appreciate the love of this community?

Do you want to be sure we are passing on our stories and our values?

Children and Youth have TWO ways that they're looking for help from those who answer "yes" to any of the above questions. They are looking for people willing to:

1. Get trained in the "Children and Worship" Stories, so that those can be told in worship, with various story tellers. This is a great way of telling Bible Stories, and we're lucky to have the resources. We even have an amazing trainer in Elaine Troy. If you would be willing to learn this method, please let Elaine Troy or Jan Huston know about your openness!
2. Be present! On Sunday mornings from 9-9:45AM we will be needing extra adults with caring hearts and a sense of joy in children to be present with our kids. We already have people willing and able to lead activities (although we'll take more if you are willing!), but we do need others who can be a helping hand and a gentle presence. If this is you, please let Elaine Troy or Jan Huston know about your openness!

Young Adult Bible Study

The Young Adults and Young at Heart are studying the Book of Luke! The study is held on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30 in Wesley Lounge. Everyone is welcome. You may want to bring a Bible and any commentary that you think is worth working with (acknowledging that you might not have any). Pastor Sara is the facilitator/teacher, but everyone's voice is what makes it worth attending! RSVP to the office if you'd like; ask Sara if you have any questions.





Raúl Prieto Ramírez, Concert Organist

**Sunday, September 30
3:00 PM**

With the start of FUMCs new church year comes the start of our 41st Concert Series, and the first of these concerts will be performed by Concert Organist Raúl Prieto Ramírez on Sunday, September 30th, at 3:00 pm. Mr. Ramírez, a Spanish organist, is the new Civic Organist for San Diego, California, and the Artistic Director for the Spreckels Organ Society. As such, he will be playing at least 44 free Sunday afternoon concerts per year on the Spreckels Organ in San Diego's Balboa Park and is responsible for Balboa Park's annual International Summer Organ Festival. The Spreckels Organ, by the way, is the largest outdoor organ in the Western Hemisphere. It is 103 years old, has 4,518 pipes and is capable of playing the full range of organ masterworks.

Raúl Prieto Ramírez is among the elite of international organists. He performs in major music festivals, churches and concert halls in Russia, Europe and the United States, he lectures at universities and conservatories, and is an adjudicator in international competitions. He is a composer as well as a performer, and has written compositions for chamber groups, solo instruments, and, of course, the organ. He has been widely recorded and interviewed for radio and television in the United States as well as Europe and has performed in concerts with his wife, pianist Maria Teresa Sierra.

His performances have been highly acclaimed. From a reviewer for Spain's *Le Monde*: "A musician of impressive versatility and mature understanding for such a young performer." And from *Perm News* in Russia: "One of the most brilliant and talented organists on the international concert scene."

With comments like these, why would you want to miss this concert! Furthermore, it's free and open to the public, and, as with all our concerts, given as a part of our music ministry to the community. Tell your friends about it and set aside September 30th for an afternoon of exciting music.

—Nancy Walden
For The Music Committee



The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 26th, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Diner, State St.! All men are welcome to gather on the 4th Wednesday of each month for this fellowship time. Contact Bob Coppola with any questions.

Video Study: The Challenge of Paul

When: **Monday Nights** (5 weeks)
Oct. 8—Nov. 5

Where: **Wesley Lounge**

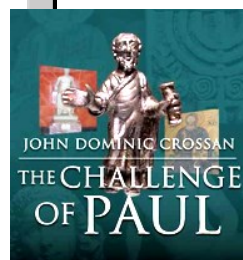
Time: **7:00-8:30 PM**

Led by: **Rev. Jim Sprenger**

***Everyone is welcome to gather for
this exciting free study.***

The Challenge of Paul is a series of short videos by New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan. The video series consists of short (15 - 18 minutes) videos and will be accompanied by printed discussion guides. Dr. Crossan will present such topics and issues as the search for the historical Paul, how to read a Pauline letter, and Jewish covenant vs Roman Empire, among other topics. It is anticipated that two videos will be presented at each session.

To signup, look for signup slips in the Sunday bulletins or contact the office.





United Methodist Women

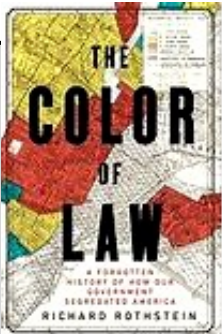
Mark your calendar! All women are invited to the below upcoming United Methodist Women (UMW) events:

► **Caring Ministry & UMW Card Project**—We'll meet in the Gathering Room Saturday, Oct. 13th, from 10 am to 1 pm to make greeting cards for our Caring Ministry.

► **Annual Fall Meeting**—This special gathering will be held on Saturday, Oct. 20th, at Alplaus UMC, 1 Brookside Pl. The theme is "Stomping Out Hunger."

► **Adult Forum w/ Guest**—On Sunday, Oct. 21st, we'll welcome guest speaker, Elizabeth Moran, Water & Natural Resources Director at Environmental Advocates of New York. She will present a forum entitled, "Clean Water in Peril" after Worship. All are welcome.

For more information on these events and others, contact Shirley Readdean or the church office.



September/October BOOK DISCUSSION

Book:

The Color of Law: The Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America
by Richard Rothstein

When: Sunday, October 14, at 11:45 AM

Where: Gathering Room at church

**Led by: Kevin Nelson, Chair
Intersectional Justice Committee**

This "powerful and disturbing history" exposes how American governments deliberately imposed racial segregation on metropolitan areas nationwide (*New York Times Book Review*.) All welcome. Contact Kevin at kmichael07@yahoo.com for details about ordering a book, or you can get your own through other source.

Save the date!!

Sacrificial Lunch

World Communion Sunday!

October 7th will be World Communion Sunday when communion is celebrated by Christians all over the world. FUMC will follow the worship service with a sacrificial lunch. This light lunch will help us recognize the hunger which many people endure both in this country and in other parts of the world. Sign-ups and more information will be available.

Great Opportunity!!!

VIM Training

UM Volunteers in Mission team leader training will be offered on Saturday, Oct. 27th, from 9:00-3:00 here at First UMC, Schenectady. Training will be led by Sylvia Reimer, an experienced team leader and member of the Upper NY Conference UMVIM steering committee. She and her husband, Marvin, have been participating in UMVIM teams since 1991. They have led both domestic and international teams. They were GBGM medical missionaries in Zimbabwe for 3 years. Sylvia will be assisted in the training by Jan Huston and Cindy Schulte, who are also experienced team leaders.

The \$30 cost covers lunch and books. This training is valuable for anyone interested in being either a team leader or a more effective team participant. Having a trained team leader not only promotes more effective teamwork, but is essential to obtain team insurance, grants, or scholarships for team members. For more information, to help with logistics, or to obtain a registration form, contact Jan Huston at hustonjp24@gmail.com. Forms are also available in the hall near the library or from the church office. Registration is due by Oct. 6 so that materials can be obtained and lunch can be arranged.

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES—July 2018

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Ester Badgley, who passed away on August 8th (Brendan Lynn's grandmother)

Christian support is also extended to:

Rev. Leon Adkins, Jr.	Jan Guzior
Adalynn Brennan	Emily Hart
Jan Butts	Randolph Henry
Michele Cole	Courtney & Jack McEwan
Ross Corbett	Mary Neville
Ron Cromer	Clare Racicot
Shirley Daniels	Shirley Rivest
Rudy Dehn	Rev. Bill Rowe
June Dieffenbach	Rev. Jan McClary Rowell
Jan & Merrick Fuller	Bob Slater

And to: Belinda Forbes, our Nicaragua missionary; our home-bound; and Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Teams.

We celebrate with:

Rudy Dehn, who celebrated his 99th birthday on August 12th, and with our other members & friends, who turned 90 and above this year. Happy Birthday! (see details on page 2)

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
July 1	51
July 8	50
July 15	57
July 22	67
July 29	55

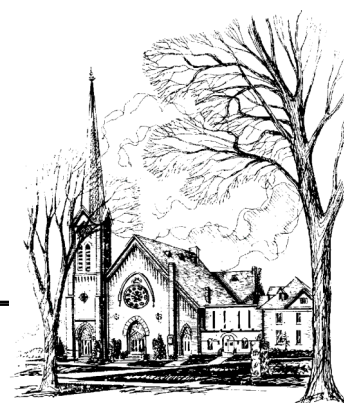
OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
July 1	\$3,525.50
July 8	1,313.00
July 15	1,277.50
July 22	3,675.00
July 29	3,654.00

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Those served this month:

Children(infant-17)	17
Adults (18-64)	129
Elderly (65+)	<u>78</u>
Total	224

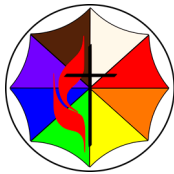


OUR SERVICE

Date

- 7/1 —Hosted Youth VIM Team from Ohio, who served in our community
- Youth BBQ Luncheon fundraiser held to raise funds for our youth VIM Trip to Kentucky
- 7/4 —Worked with Youth VIM Team on FUMC Projects
- 7/9 —13 Distributed lunch to children & youth through SICM's Summer Lunch Program
- 7/22 —27 Pastor Sara served as Camp Counselor at Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center
- 7/28 —Youth Service: Youth served free Community Brunch
- 7/29 —Welcomed guest soloist Dave Read, who added to our musical offerings at Worship
- July —Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry program
- Collected boxes of markers for children through Schenectady Clergy Against Hate
- Continue to prepare and serve the Community Breakfast on Sundays; free and open to all

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



The Spire

First United Methodist Church
603 State Street
Schenectady, New York 12305

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Serving Schenectady for over 200 Years

NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

September 27; articles due Sept. 15



**Canoe / Kayak
Adventure**

Come join us for a canoe/kayak adventure! We're looking to travel up to Speculator, NY, Saturday, Sept. 29, to enjoy the beautiful Adirondack mountains and the fall air. Want to go? Please contact Barb Armstrong for details.



Invitation

Would you simply enjoy a visit or would you like to talk and have someone listen to your concerns? If for any reason you would like a personal visit from the pastor or a lay caregiver, call 518-374-4403.

Mark Your Calendar!

Coming in early October:

Sunday, October 1

**World Communion
Sacrificial Luncheon**

Monday, October 8

New Study Series begins

Tuesday, October 9

Church Night

Saturday, October 13

UMW Caring Card Project



'Like' us on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/FUMCSchenectady>

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

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