



THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

603 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305 (518) 374-4403 / (Fax) 374-6060

Website: www.fumcschenectady.org E-Mail: fumcschenectady@yahoo.com



Vol. 82 No. 7

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

November 2018

SUNDAYS

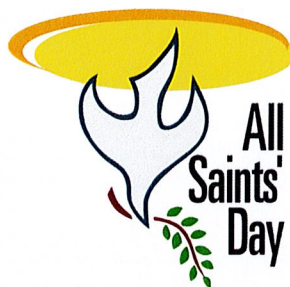
- 8:30** Community Breakfast Fellowship
9:00 Books available for Children and Adults
9:00 Children's Sunday School
9:30 Second Cup Café
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
 Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour Programs
 —Adult Forums
 —Intergenerational Activities
 —Luncheons
 —Ministry Team Meetings
7:00 Young Adults Bible Study: *Book of Luke*

Worship Text:

- Nov. 4 **All Saints / Family Sunday**
 Psalm 24
 John 11:32-44
Nov. 11 **Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday**
 Virgia Phoenix, *preaching*
Nov. 18 **Thanksgiving Sunday**
 Joel 2:21-27
 Matthew 6:25-33
Nov. 25 **United Methodist Student Day**
 Psalm 93
 John 18:33-37

Second Hour Programs:

- Nov. 4 *Family Sunday:* Orff Instruments
Nov. 11 Intersectional Justice Committee
Nov. 18 Youth VIM Presentation
Nov. 25 New Members Class



Celebrate on November 4th

This special 10:00 Worship Service will not only recognize the people who had inspired our faith and living, but also, it is a chance to remember that we are all called to be saints to one another. If you are not sure what a saint is, well then, we have a special treat just for you! Plan on being in worship Sunday, November 4th, as we celebrate the true meaning of sainthood and the gift God has given us in the lives of others.

Join the Chancel Choir for Advent!



We extend an invitation to anyone who might be interested in singing with the Chancel Choir for the Advent season, which begins December 2nd—1st Sunday of Advent.

Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 in Fellowship Hall. If interested, please contact our Music Director, Dominick Giaquinto, by November 1.



THANKSGIVING

Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 4th. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday, November 3rd, or at 2 am on the 4th.





From Our Pastor

Marcus Borg has a theory of stages of development that I come back to time and time again in my thinking. Borg presents them as stages of theological thought, but I've always thought that they're more broadly useful as stages of worldviews. Perhaps those are the same thing, perhaps not.

The study "Living the Questions" summarizes the stages this way:

Pre-critical naïveté – an early childhood state where we take it for granted that what the significant authority figures in our life say is true are, in fact, true.

Critical thinking – One takes inventory of all those things you learned as a child

Post-critical naïveté – the ability to hear the Biblical stories as true stories – even as you know that their truth does not depend on their factuality.¹

To take it a bit further, in pre-critical naïveté, a person believes what they're told, particularly by authority figures, about how things work. This applies to the ways the world works as well as what the Bible means. Linards Jansons, a Lutheran pastor and scholar from Australia, says that pre-critical naïveté "is marked by a high degree of overlap between the perceived world of the bible, and one's lived world. Because the Scriptures are God's word, they give an objectively realistic account of the world's story, and of the natural and supernatural realities that make it up. Indeed, from a pre-critical perspective much of what is real *is* supernatural."²

The critical stage is the time when a person starts questioning everything. It can be very disorienting. What we once trusted, we no longer do. Making sense of the world is a struggle, things appear to be very different than we once assumed. In terms of our relationship with God and the Bible, Jansons says, "a hermeneutic of suspicion now becomes stock in trade for approaching the biblical text, and any religious claim, for that matter. In place of naïve acceptance, we now inquire about causes, processes, motivations, agendas, biases, hidden meanings, and the like."³

Post-critical naïveté "is an intellectual attitude that accepts the genuine insights of the critical disciplines – no matter where they lead – but still continues in the path of faith."⁴ It is a stage of hope, of deepened meaning. To some degree, it requires making peace with ambiguity, and then finding wonder in all that is anyway. It makes space for something once perceived as a cold hard fact to now be a metaphor, and a life-giving one at that. This is the stage of finding meaning within a world of confusion, brokenness, and beauty.

It can be very tempting to rely heavily on the critical stage, to see what is wrong and break it down. It feels important to remember that it is not the final stage of development though. We must see what is broken and what is real! It is important! But then, we keep going. We keep looking. We look for the "fingerprints" of the God-of-Love's actions even within the brokenness. We claim hope, meaning, and courage.

In November, we often focus on gratitude, and that's wonderful. It can also be difficult, particularly when there is much despair around us. I suspect that the work of gratitude is one of the ways we can enter and stay in post-critical naïveté though. Gratitude can come while seeing brokenness, for the little bits of hope and healing that emerge despite it all. So, I encourage us all to take this month for gratitude, and watch what happens when we look at the world around us through that lens.

—Peace, Sara

¹ David Felten & Jeff Procter-Murphy, *Living the Questions* Participant Guide for Session 2, *thinking theologically* (HarperOne, 2005) pg. 5.

² Linards Jansons, *What is the Second Naïveté? Engaging with Paul Ricoeur, Post-Critical Theology, and Progressive Christianity* a presentation to the teaching faculty of Australian Lutheran College, 30 Oct. 2014. Found at https://www.academia.edu/14690650/What_is_the_Second_Naïvet%C3%A9_Engaging_with_Paul_Ricoeur_Post-Critical_Theology_and_Progressive_Christianity on Oct. 25, 2018, pg. 1.

³ Jansons. 2.

⁴ Jansons. 2.

In Memoriam

*We extend our Christian support to
the family and friends of:*

† **Rev. Leon "Lee" M. Adkins, Jr.**, our former pastor and dear friend, who passed away on October 25th. He served as our senior pastor from 1990 until his retirement in 1993, and was the Albany District Superintendent from 1984-1990.

A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held here at First UMC in the sanctuary at 1:00 pm Sunday, November 4--All Saints Day. Please keep Bonnie, their children and the family in your prayers. Cards/notes of condolence may be sent to his wife, Bonnie Totten Adkins at: 100 Eastview Terrace, Apt. 161, Middlebury, VT 05753.



Bread Recipes

Sue Learner is sharing the bread recipes she used for World Communion Sunday, held October 7th. Thank you, Sue! Here are the websites, where the recipes can be found:



- ♦ Puerto Rican Water Bread
(Pan de Agua) by Hector Rodriguez
<https://www.thespruceeats.com/puerto-rican-water-bread-2138108>
- ♦ Puerto Rican Sweet Mallorca Bread
(Pan de Mallorca) by Meseidy
<https://thenoshery.com/mallorca-bread-soft-puerto-rican-sweet-bread-rolls/>



Altar Flowers

We are grateful for Altar flowers given in October:

Oct. 14 in celebration of the baptism of Hana Leo Rogozinski

Oct. 21 in celebration of immigration

In celebration of the baptism of Anna Bonfante

If you would like to give the altar flowers for Sunday Worship, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or contact the office.

Notes of Thanks



When FUMC's Volunteers in Mission intergenerational team went to Mission Central in PA in April, there was more money raised and donated than was spent. It was decided that \$500 would be donated to the Silver Spring Retreat Center where the team had been housed. This wonderful facility charged the team a very small amount for very comfortable lodging. We recently received a thank you letter from the coordinator of the center:

Thank you sincerely for your generous donation of \$500 to the Silver Spring Retreat Center. Our church's mission includes the operation and maintenance of the center so mission and church groups can stay affordably. Your donation will help to keep our Center going and help with the costs. We hope to be able to host the First United Methodist Church of Schenectady again.

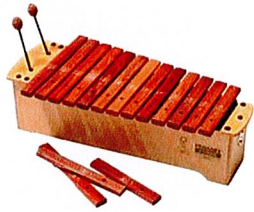
*—With Gratitude, Karen Karkuff, Coordinator
Silver Springs Retreat Center*

First UMC's Caring Ministry would like to thank the ladies of First United Methodist for the love, time, effort and delivery in creating some beautiful cards for them! Thank you!

—Submitted by Lisa Lane

E-Newsletter Available!

If you receive *The Spire* in hard-copy form and would prefer to get it by email, which does save valuable resources, please contact the office to confirm we have your email address. Thank you.



Learn to Play Orff Instruments

Starting on Sunday, November 4th, we're going to use Family Sunday's differently.

Family Sundays remain the first Sunday of the month, and the 9:00 AM Sunday School will not happen. Instead, for the 2nd Hour (after worship) there will be a chance for our children AND any adults who wish to, to play our Orff instruments together. We're hoping to work on an Advent arrangement together, to be played during worship in December. Instruction in sacred music is inherently good, and fun!

Forum on Solidarity @ FUMC Wednesday, Nov. 7

Following Election Day, our church will host a special program, sponsored by Schenectady Clergy Against Hate on Wednesday, November 7th, at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. The evening will offer a Schenectady conversation in the midst of a divided nation.

Clergy members from a wide variety of faith traditions will offer their answers to "What draws us together? What is bigger than our differences? Why does our togetherness matter?" intermingled with shared music.

Everyone is invited to this free community event.



Gather for Church Night on November 13

Ministry work teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on Church Night, held the 2nd Tuesday of the month. All are 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.)

FUMC Hosts Racial Justice Training

Racial Justice Training, conducted by Citizen Action of New York, will be hosted by our church on Saturday, November 10th, from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

For more details and/or to register, please go to Schenectady Leadership Development Training (<https://actionnetwork.org/events/schenectady-leadership-development-training/>) It is part of a series of free trainings that Citizen Action is holding in Schenectady throughout the Fall.



Christmas Parade and Pizza Party!

Saturday, November 17

The 50th annual Gazette Holiday Parade will be held Saturday, November 17th, at 5:00 pm and will pass right by our church!

The theme for this year is "Golden Anniversary 1968 - 2018...shine, sparkle, and light the way into the Holiday Season!" The floats, dancers, bands, vehicles and parade attendees may be the biggest and the brightest this year! It's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and group fun! All church members and friends of all ages are welcome to gather at 4:00 pm for a free pizza party dinner prior to the start of the parade at 5:00. We will again be serving hot chocolate to the public starting at 4:30 pm.

To signup for the dinner and/or to volunteer to help serve hot cocoa, sign-up on a Sunday or contact the church office.





Book Program

During the Sunday Community Breakfast, we offer free books to children and adults, thanks to donations of books...thank you, donors! At this time, we're happy to report we have several boxes of books so no more donations are currently needed.



November 2018

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:15 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	2	3 12:00 noon Youth Group
	4 All Saints / Family Sunday <i>Daylight Savings ends at 2 AM — Set clocks back 1 hour</i> 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Orff Instrument Playing 1:00 PM Memorial Service for the Rev. Dr. Leon Adkins, Jr. 7:00 PM Bible Study	5 2:00 - 4 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 7:00 PM Study Series	6 Election Day Public Schools Closed: Staff Develop. Day Council Reports due 2:00 PM Staff Mtg.	7 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00-8:30 PM Solidarity Fellowship sponsored by SCAH	8 6:15 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 AM Racial Justice Training 12:00 noon Youth Group
11 Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 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	12 Veteran's Day (observed) Church Office Closed Public Schools Closed 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	13 Church Night 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	14 9:00 AM Stephen Ministers 11:30 AM-1:30 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 2:00 PM Staff Mtg. 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	15 Spire articles due 6:15 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 3:00 PM Investment Committee	17 12:00 noon Youth Group 4:00 PM Pizza Dinner, Hot Cocoa at Gazette Christmas Parade (5 PM)
18 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Youth VIM Presentation 7:00 PM Bible Study	19 2:00 - 4 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 6:30 PM Adult Education / Carl Lect. Team 7:00 pm Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee	20 9:00 AM-5:00 PM SUSTAIN Ministry / Home Furnishings Giveaway Day	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving! <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>Public Schools Closed</div>	23	24 9:30 AM Youth Service: Serve Free Community Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 12:00 noon Youth Group
25 United Methodist Student Day 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —New Members Class 6:00-8 PM Thanksgiving Service @ Islamic Center, sponsored by SCAH	26 2:00 - 4 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	27 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30-7:30 PM Schenectady Youth Rise Up 7:00 PM Trustees	28 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	29 6:15 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 	
We are in the season of PENTECOST / IN KINGDOMTIDE (green) - Ordinary (numbered) time when we focus on the mission of the church.						

The Sunday School Scoop



Sunday School (9:00—9:45 am)

Every Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month, special activities for our children in Grs. K-6 are held in the Gathering Room from 9-9:45 am. The activities relate to the theme of the day's worship service and vary according to the children's interests, and can include: crafts, games, stories, and songs. Parents are welcome to stay too and participate with their children.

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. Then, after Worship, all ages are welcome to learn to play Orff instruments!

Volunteers needed 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.
2. Be present! On Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45AM we need extra adults with caring hearts and a sense of joy in children to be present with our kids.

If you're interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Elaine Troy or Jan Huston.

Youth News



All youth (ages 13-18) invited to:

● Youth Group Fellowship—

Come enjoy fun & fellowship with activities in the Roof Lounge on Saturdays starting at 12 noon.

● Youth Fall Gathering—

Sponsored by Conference's Council on Youth Ministries, this event will be held on Sat., Nov. 10th, 9:30-4:00 at First UMC in Voorheesville and will include Worship, games and music. Cost is \$10. To register, go to www.unyumc.org/ccym.

● VIM Presentation at Second Hour—

Sunday, Nov. 18, after Worship, we'll talk about our Volunteers In Mission trip to Kentucky.

● Joint Youth Service Project—

Saturday, Nov. 24, gather to serve a free community brunch at Emmanuel Friedens Church.

Safe Sanctuaries

Training at FUMC

(no charge)

The new and improved Safe Sanctuaries Training will be offered on Saturday, Dec. 1st, from 9:00am-12noon. Everyone who currently works with children and vulnerable adults will be expected to attend. Those who may work with children in the future are eagerly invited to attend. Everyone who is interested is welcome.

Please register for the training by calling the church office. Don't wait until the last minute.

The lead trainer is Pastor Doug Mackey, who served us awhile ago, and is a very interesting presenter.

—From Children and Youth Ministry Team

Annual Stockade-athon

The Stockade-athon foot-race will be held Sunday, Nov. 11th. The course is the same as last year with the race starting at 8:30 am across State St. at Veteran's Park. Some streets will be blocked off again including at State St. and Nott Terrace where an officer will let you through to get to church. For details, including temporary street closures, check the newspapers or go to: www.stockadeathon.com.

Seeking Cookbook

The office is seeking a copy of a cookbook made up by our church and includes many recipes by our members, both present and past. The spiral cookbook cover reads, *Our Cup Runneth Over: 1872-1972* and includes a lovely pen and ink drawing of the church. If you have a copy and no longer need or want it, please contact the office so it can be shared and a copy placed in our archives.



New Members Class

Become an FUMCer!

A New Members Class will be held after Worship on Sunday, Nov. 25th. Come talk to Pastor Sara and others about this church, its history, the United Methodist Church, and what membership means. Please contact the office if you intend to come.

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 1st Sunday of each month. Hope to see you at the breakfast table!



2018-2019 Directories

Our new Membership Directories, which include members and friends, our many Ministry Teams, and events for this new church year, are available for pickup at church in the narthex/lobby.

A Stephen Ministry Moment

"We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us."

~ Nelson Mandela ~

Thanksgiving Service Sunday, Nov. 25 @ 6:00 PM

A joint Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by Schenectady Clergy Against Hate, will be held at the Islamic Center of the Capital District, 21 Lansing Street, N., in Schenectady, on Sunday, November 25th. Everyone is welcome to attend the service will be begin at 6:00 pm.



Calling all Men: Enjoy Breakfast!

All men are invited to gather for the next Men's Breakfast Fellowship held on Wednesday, November 28th, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Dinner on upper State Street. Plan to gather on the fourth Wednesday of each month!

Annual Charge Conference Sunday, December 2

Mark your calendar! Everyone is welcome to gather after Worship on Sunday, December 2nd, in Fellowship Hall to attend our annual Charge Conference with the Reverend Holly Nye presiding.

Enjoy Needlework?



Participate in our Needlework Ministry program (crocheting, knitting, sewing). Handmade items are created then donated to those in need in our area. Generally, we work on hats and scarves as well as prayer shawls/blankets. Or, if you'd like to donate such handmade needlework, please bring it to the church office. To learn more, including how to do needlework, contact one of the coordinators, Eileen Deming or Alice Nash.



Alternative Giving Suggestions

The Intersectional Justice Committee is encouraging all to consider "alternative giving" for Christmas and other celebrations. Most of us have too much "stuff" while many in the world are suffering without the basic necessities. Alternative (or additional) giving allows us to honor others by giving a gift in their name to a cause or organization which seeks to improve the lives of others. This year we are focusing on 5 alternatives. Displays will be available at church. You can also learn more about each option by talking with a member of the Intersectional Justice Committee.

Church World Service: *Blanket program*—\$10 blanket offers warmth to someone experiencing a crisis.

FUMC SUSTAIN (Soap) Ministry — Soap and other basic hygiene products are not covered by food stamps. Any size donation will help with the hygiene of needy Schenectadians.

Heifer International — "The gift that multiplies." Animals and training in their care are given worldwide. Recipients give the first offspring to someone else, thereby spreading the gift. Any donation is helpful, but you have the option of "buying" specific animals.

Home Furnishings Program of Schenectady County — This program recycles furniture by giving donated furniture & other household items to people in need who have been referred by agencies in the county.

Community Breakfast Program is held at our church every Sunday except the first Sunday of each month to provide a good breakfast and hospitality to people of Schenectady.

Checks can be made out to FUMC with a notation of the agency to which you are donating. Or you can donate directly to the agency. Cards, which you can give to the person you are honoring, will be available in Wesley Lounge on Sundays.



We hope you will consider this meaningful way to share love at Christmas.



In Our Community...

► Home Furnishings Program—

This program operates within our church and helps people in need with home furnishings. Items HFP is in needs of includes: small dressers, small kitchen table sets, twin and queen sheets, blankets, large pots and pans. To donate an item(s), contact the HFP at 518-346-2444.

► SiCM Concert of Thanksgiving —

The Music Company Orchestra will present a benefit concert Sunday, Nov. 4th, at 3:00 pm at First Reformed Church, 8 North Church St., Schenectady. A free-will offering will go to support Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) programs and services. Music will include Egmont Overture, music from West Side Story, Overture to Candide, Blue Tango. Please bring a canned/nonperishable food item for a Thanksgiving dinner for the SiCM Food pantry, such as: cranberry sauce, pumpkin, yams, corn, stuffing. Questions? Call 518-374-2683.

► Trip to the Holy Land in 2020—

Clergy and members of Syracuse United Methodist Ministries invite all to join them on a trip to the Holy Land, Feb. 11 - Feb. 21, 2020. This trip will include visits to: Caesarea, the Sea of Galilee, Cana, Nazareth, Samaria, Jacob's Well, Masada (Judean Desert), the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and others. The cost of the trip starts at \$3,248; leaving from JFK Airport. It includes basic tour and guided sightseeing, airfare, surcharges, taxes, fees, hotel gratuities, daily buffet breakfast and dinner, deluxe motor coaches, first-class hotels, and more. Registration is open; receive a discount of \$150 with early registration. For a copy of the brochure with more details and registration form, contact Rev. B.J. Norris at www.bjnorrix@gmail.com or 315-726-2815.

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES – September 2018

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Sharon Melius, who passed away Oct. 9th (Mark & Paul Coppola's mother; cards may be sent to them at: 1303 Sunrise Blvd., Sch'dy, NY 12303)

The family & friends of Steven Armstrong, who passed away Oct. 7th (Barbara Armstrong's brother)

The family & friends of the Roland Neil, who passed away on September 13 (Cliff DaVis' cousin)

The family & friends of David Rathbun, who passed away recently (Lisa Rathbun Read's brother)

Christian support is also extended to:

Rev. Leon Adkins, Jr.	Liz Fogle	Mary Neville
Andrea Bailey	Jen & Merrick	Clare Racicot
Jan Butts	Fuller	Shirley Rivest
Ross Corbett	Jan Guzior	Rev. Bill Rowe
Ron Cromer	Emily Hart	Rev. Jan McClary
Shirley Daniels	Courtney & Jack	Rowell
June Dieffenbach	McEwan	Bob Slater

We celebrate with:

Anna Bonfante, who received the Sacrament of Baptism during Worship on Oct. 21. Welcome!

Hana Leo Rogozinski, who received the Sacrament of Baptism during Worship on Oct. 14. Welcome!

Chris Rambo, Jr. & Shannon (Reifenburgh), who celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary Oct. 13. Happy Anniversary!

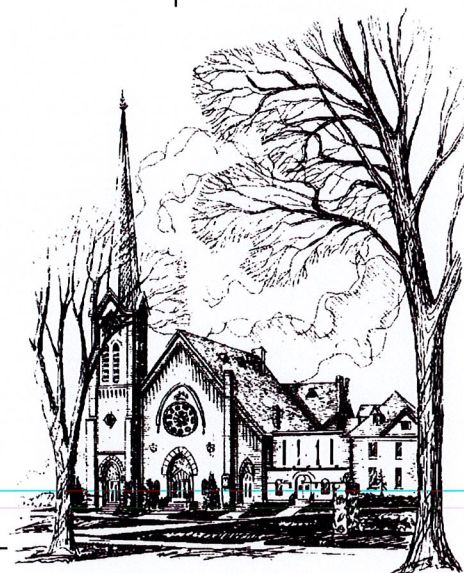
Julia (Clunn) & Michael (Chipp) Austin, who celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary Oct. 8. Happy Anniversary!

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
September 2	129
September 9	72
September 16	67
September 23	62
September 30	69

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
September 2	\$10,421.50
September 9	1,190.00
September 16	9,405.00
September 23	4,520.00
September 30	2,317.50



OUR SERVICE

Date

- 9/2 —Celebrated the Marriage of Revs. Jane Baker & Jim Sprenger during Worship with all welcome
- 9/7-9 —Participated in Mission u study @ Silver Bay, NY
- 9/16 —Homecoming Sunday celebration included guest musicians and a recognition of those with 50+ yrs. membership
- Sunday School Orientation welcomed all children and their parents/guardians
- 9/23 —Outing to SUNY Oneonta to hear author Bryan Stephenson, who wrote "Just Mercy"
- 9/29 —Outing to neighbors at Al-Hidaya Center/Mosque for tour & open house
- Youth Service: Served free Community Brunch
- 9/30 —Concert featured Raúl Prieto Ramírez, organist; free and open to all
- Sept. —Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry
- Continue to prepare and serve the free Sunday Community Breakfast. Total served=258; Aver. # Volunteers=12
- 2nd hour programs: Wedding Reception; Homecoming Cook-off Luncheon; Intersectional Justice Committee

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



Happy Birthday!

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

Nov. 1 Roger Kingsland	14 Ernie Readdean	18 Nancy Quackenbush	26 Zach McCloskey
2 Jennifer Collins	16 Martin Manley	20 Laurel Rockwell	29 Nancy Walden
7 Brenda Arley	17 Brooke Bardwell	22 Steve Barry	30 Josh McFarland
10 Shelley Frisoni	18 Michael Lonergan	23 Elizabeth Harnden	
10 Stephanie Kempf	18 Brendan Lynn	25 Abigail Messick	



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Serving Schenectady for over 200 Years

NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

Nov. 28; articles due Nov. 15



'Like' us on Facebook

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

We have an active Facebook page...share joys and concerns, events, photos, inspirational quotes!



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

**Rose
Window
encircles
Altar Cross**



Mark your calendar! The Sanctuary will be open 2-3 pm Wednesday to Friday, Dec. 5-7, for an opportunity for all to see the sunlight shine through the beautiful Rose Window & encircle the Altar cross.

Mark Your Calendar!!

Coming in early December:

Saturday, Dec. 1

Safe Sanctuaries Training

Sunday, Dec. 2

**First Sunday in Advent
Orff Instrument Playing
Annual Charge Conference
Gathering: A Way Forward**

Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 5-7

Rose Window Reflections

Sunday, Dec. 9

Christmas Caroling

Websites & 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