



THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 82 No. 12

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

April 2019

FUTURE SUNDAYS

- 8:30** Downtown Community Breakfast
9:00 Books for Children & Adults
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour Programs:
—Adult Forum
—Intergenerational Activity
—Luncheons
—Ministry Team Gatherings
5:45 Confirmation Class
7:00 Bible Study: *Acts*

Worship Text:

- April 7 **Family Sunday**
Psalm 126; John 12:1-8
"Figuring Out Priorities, Discernment
as Prayer Practice"
April 14 **Palm Sunday**
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40
"Crying Out"
April 21 **Easter**
Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:1-12
"A New Thing"
April 28 **2nd Sunday of Easter**
Acts 5:27-32; John 20:19-31
"Refusing to be Silent"

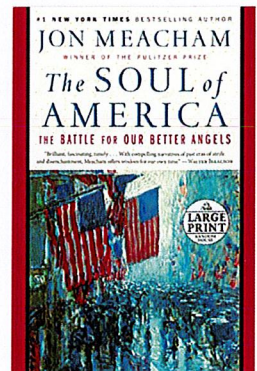
Second Hour Events/Programs:

- April 7 Intergenerational: Orff Instruments
April 14 Flowering Plant Sale
April 21 **Easter:** Floral Cross displayed
6th Annual Photo Show
April 28 Ministry Team Meetings

Gather for Book Discussion

**"The Soul of America:
The Battle for Our Better Angels"**
by Jon Meacham

On **Saturday, April 6th**, at 10:00 AM, a book discussion will be held on "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels" by Jon Meacham. Named one of the best books of the year by NPR in 2018. Our current climate of partisan fury is not new, and in *The Soul of America* Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Painting surprising portraits of Lincoln and other presidents, and illuminating the courage of such influential citizen activists as Martin Luther King, Jr., Meacham brings vividly to life turning points in American history. While the American story has not always—or even often—been heroic, we have been sustained by a belief in progress even in the gloomiest of times. In this inspiring book, Meacham reassures us, "The good news is that we have come through such darkness before"—as, time and again, Lincoln's better angels have found a way to prevail. (416 pages)



Everyone is welcome to pickup a copy of the book and gather for the discussion on Saturday, April 6th.

Holy Week

begins on Palm Sunday, April 14

Lenten Photo Show

Share your photos!

See inside for schedule & details!





From Our Pastor

I have always really loved Holy Saturday. It is the quiet in between – after the horror and brokenness of Good Friday, but before the triumph of Easter Sunday. In churches, Holy Saturday is mostly a day of preparation. At FUMC Schenectady, the musicians will be at practice early in the day. Those who beautify our space will be moving, adjusting, considering, and perfecting so that when we walk in on Sunday the church itself will be prepared to fill our spirits! The same energy is happening in many homes. Food is prepared, tables are set, eggs are hardboiled and dyed, and for those with children Easter baskets are prepared.

Saturday is often a lot of work! The wonder of Easter Sunday doesn't just appear out of a vacuum, it is the result of much shared labor. Then, every year like a miracle, we gather in the sanctuary, with a cross decorated with flowers, the music starts, and along with magnificent brass and organ accompaniment, we sing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." Easter comes, and it is glorious.

Together, in April, we will be in the season of Easter. We will be focused on the stories of the Risen Christ, remembering time and time again that not even death can stop God's work in the world. (This is especially good news because systems of domination/oppression/violence have no greater threat than death, and yet that threat isn't sufficient to stop God!)

Yet, collectively and holistically, I think we are in an extended season of Holy Saturday. We live in an era of exhaustive change. The institutions and norms of our society are in major transition. What has seemed to be the steady, reliable parts of reality itself are in decay. This is particularly true in churches who, as a whole, have been in decline since the 1950s and no longer have the influence (or attendance) that they once thought they'd always keep! It is particularly true in The United Methodist Church, where anxiety over change has come to a tipping point and the future of the denomination is remarkably uncertain.

Some of the challenges in The United Methodist Church are related to our status as a global church, and the many different points of view that are held together in one body. That is a very good symbol for the changes in the world right now. Different points of view are now more powerful, more audible, and more imperative to our collective well-being. While most of the wealth and power in the world is still held by very few self-similar individuals; the transition is to much more diverse and complicated shared power. Women, people of color, the queer and trans communities, people living in poverty, immigrants, people with disabilities, and non-Christians (to name some) are finding voice and power. We are moving into an era of shared wisdom and profound growth, one that I think will result in a fuller humanity for us all.

However, we aren't there yet! We're in the midst of the pain of transition. The brokenness of Good Friday is still with us, but the triumph of Easter isn't here quiet yet. We are living an extended Holy Saturday.

This is, mostly, good. Holy Saturday is a beautiful day. It is also really difficult. Holy Saturday lingers with the pain of Friday, sits in profound grief and sadness for what was, and only HOPES that Easter will come. In this Easter season (and beyond) I invite you to see the dismantling of what has been, and the confusion of what will be as a part of God's work of moving us to a fuller Easter, a better world, a fuller piece of the kingdom. It just might make the transition a little bit less anxiety ridden, and a lot more hopeful.

—Sara

Letters of Gratitude



Thank you for your gift to Bread for the World... Working together, we are a powerful voice for changing the policies and conditions that allow hunger to persist. Your gift in the early weeks of the new year is especially helpful as Bread for the World members and staff reach out to newly elected (and re-elected) members of Congress. Thanks to you, we can be a voice of concern and compassion for those who struggle with hunger and poverty....Your faithfulness and generosity are creating hope and opportunity for so many. Thank you again.

Sincerely, David Beckmann, President

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for your recent gift...We are genuinely grateful for your generous support as we celebrate our 75th anniversary! Your thoughtful gift helps provide livestock and training in sustainable farming techniques for a family in need. Your support makes a huge difference to so many, and we cannot do this work without your partnership....We have seen the power of working with communities when project partners Pass on the Gift of the offspring of their livestock, as well as the gift of hope and inspiration to others in their community; in 2017 alone, we were able to assist over 2 million families through both the direct gift of livestock and Heifer families Passing on the Gift. We are excited by the progress that we all continue to make in support of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals of zero hunger by 2030...

Yours for a better world, Marlene Plain,
Community Engagement—Heifer International

Dear Friends of HFP,

On behalf of the Board of the Schenectady Home Furnishings Program, thank you for your financial gift in support of our program. Your support plays a vital role in our ability to fulfill our mission to provide basic home furnishings to families and individuals in transition and need throughout Schenectady County. Many thanks for your generous contribution and for the continued support of the Home Furnishings Program over the years. Thank you again, for helping us help others.

Sincerely, Wayne Brule, Treasurer

Thank you ...for your generous gift to the Africa University Direct Scholarship Fund. The General Board of Global Ministries forwarded your contribution to our office....Thanks to your support, Africa University is providing students with an excellent education and a good quality of life. Your gift and others like it support access for financially disadvantaged students who are striving to become the first college graduates in their families. With your investment in scholarships, their dreams of transforming their families and communities can become reality. Thank you for being a part of a ministry that is making a difference. Together, we are changing Africa. Yours sincerely,
James H. Salley, Assoc. Vice-Chancellor

CHURCH NIGHT on April 9

All Ministry Teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on *Church Night*, held the second Tuesday of each month. After the team meetings, the Council will meet and is open to all. The schedule is: 6:30 pm Ministry Teams meet then at 7:30 pm, the Church Council meets.



Altar Flowers

We are grateful for the altar flowers given in March:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 3/24 | to the glory of God and in memory of the parents of Roger & Diane Kingsland |
| 3/31 | in memory of the Rev. George & Mavis Bailey, and in honor of Keira and Conor Welsch |

To give altar flowers for Sunday Worship, please see the signup poster on the hallway bulletin board, or contact the church office.





April 2019

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	2 Council Reports due 2:00 PM Staff Mtg	3 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	4 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9:00 AM Alb. Dist. UMW Spring Mtg. @ East Greenbush 10:00 AM Book Discussion 10:00 AM Spring Work Day 12:00 noon Youth Group
7 Family Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Orff Instrument Playing —Church Tour: 1st floor 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	8 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 7:00 PM Staff Pastor / Parish Relations Comm.	9 2:00 PM Staff Mtg Church Night 6:00 PM Welcom- ing Ministries Team 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	10 11:30 AM-1:30 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Distribution 2:30 PM Music Committee 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13 12:00 noon Youth Group 12:00 noon Spring Work Day
14 Palm Sunday 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program —Flowering Plant Sale —Church Tour: Basement 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	15 Spire articles due 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	16 2:00 PM Staff Mtg	17 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Joint Ecumenical Wor- ship @ Emmanuel Friedens Church	19 Good Friday Public Schools Closed	20 Holy Saturday 10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 1:00 PM Worship Service, Sanctuary (Youth sponsored)
21 EASTER 8:30 AM Annual Photo Show 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:00 AM Floral Cross setup 11:00 AM Annual Photo Show	22 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	23 7:00 PM Trustees	24 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast	25	26	27 10:00 AM Spring Work Day
	FUMC Intergenerational VIM Trip					
	Public Schools Closed					
28 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program —Investment Committee —Intersectional Justice Committee 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	29 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	30 2:00 PM Staff Mtg				

**We are in the season of EASTER (white or purple) -
Easter and the Sundays following Easter are a time when we celebrate the new life we find through Jesus.**



Letters of Support

► Letter from Rev. Peter J.B. Carmen of Emmanuel Friedens Church, which was printed in their March 2019 newsletter, "The Envoy":

Like Emmanuel Friedens, our next door neighbors at Schenectady First United Methodist Church are committed to marriage equality and to the full welcome and inclusion of all. Recently the United Methodist Church had a deeply divisive and painful gathering of their international denomination, as they sought to find a way to maintain unity and reckon with the issues around the welcome and affirmation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We hold in prayer our neighbors at Schenectady First United Methodist Church, along with all other United Methodists, following a meeting that yielded more pain and highlighted the deep division, without bringing about a way forward for those committed to inclusion.

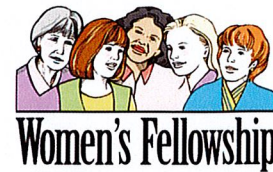
..The national leadership of the United Church of Christ on Feb. 25 sent an open letter to United Methodists, which expresses feelings we at Emmanuel Friedens Church share, whether our denominational heritage is American Baptist, United Church of Christ, or something else...!

We quote...paragraphs of the UCC letter as excerpts here. The full text is available online at <http://www.ucc.org/> an open letter to the united methodist church 02262019.

"We hold in prayer those whose past wounds have been reopened by the recent debates of the governing body gathered in St. Louis. The Body of Christ has, throughout its long history, not always been kind and loving to those who live outside its established norms and conformities. We confess to our own history and complicity with racism, misogyny, transphobia, and homophobia. Our hope is that we can and will continue to struggle with our closed hearts and minds as we seek to live more fully into the vision of God's shalom for all...."

We understand that it is with great sadness and a good deal of grief that many will have been left to feel unwelcome in a spiritual home that gave you hope, sustenance, and nurturance. Many of us have felt...that same rejection—and know full well the grief that attaches to it."
Emmanuel Friedens and First United Methodist are closely allied—we share youth ministry, share service at meals, share worship from time to time! We stand in solidarity with our neighbors as they seek some way to maintain unity without sacrificing a deep commitment to compassion, integrity and justice.

► Card with many signatures received from the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady. The large card is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway and reads:
To our Neighbors at the First United Methodist Church of Schenectady, We witness your courage, your struggle, and your faith!
With love and Solidarity—
Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady



UMW Upcoming Events

—**Spring Meeting**...On Saturday, April 6, the Albany District United Methodist Women will hold the annual Spring meeting at East Greenbush UM Church, 1 Gilligan Rd., starting at 9am. The program speaker will be Mike Block, Director Missional Engagement at Upper NY Annual Conference. All women are welcome.

Hygiene Kits and kit items will be collected.

Hygiene Kit items:

1 hand towel, 1 washcloth, 1 comb (min. 6" long), 1 toenail or fingernail clipper, 1 bar soap (3 oz. or larger; no ivory or Jergens), 1 adult toothbrush, 10 Band-Aids (¾" x 3"), 1 one-gallon size resealable bag, and \$1 for toothpaste.

To donate a kit and/or any above items, bring them to First UMC by noon on Friday, April 5th. For details, contact Shirley Readdean.

—**Mission u @ Silver Bay**...From September 6-8, the Albany District Mission u 2019 will be held at Silver Bay YMCA in Lake George with the theme: "Radical Discipleship—Then and Now." Studies being offered are:

—*Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*

—*Women United for Change: 150 Yrs in Mission*

—*What About Our Money? A Faith Response*

All are welcome. For more information or to register, go to www.unymission.org.



Alternative Christmas Gifts

Alternative Christmas gifts are financial donations that benefit designated programs while honoring the person(s) in whose honor they are given. Cards have been made available so that the donor can give a card to the person in whose honor the donation has been made.

In December 2018, FUMC received the following amounts as alternative gifts:

Babyfold upgrade	\$213.00
Church World Service blanket program	285.00
FUMC's Community Breakfast	810.00
Heifer International	765.00
Home Furnishings Program	240.00
FUMC's Sustain Program	565.00

† HOLY WEEK †

Everyone is welcome to gather for the following special services and events, which offer an opportunity to experience the meaning, struggles and joy of the most powerful week in the lives of the disciples and Christ.

PALM SUNDAY

April 14



Worship Service

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Flower Sale

Following Worship, our Children and Youth Ministries Team will hold a potted flowering plant sale to raise funds for activities and needed supplies. Cost will range from \$4-\$6, depending on the size of the plant.

Church Tour

After Worship, all are invited to tour part of the church.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

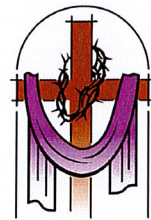
April 18

Ecumenical Worship

According to the Gospels, on Jesus' last night with his disciples, he offered them profound blessings. This was the start of the Communion Tradition. In remembrance of these blessings, we'll gather at 7:00 pm at Emmanuel Friedens Church to worship with our neighbors together in community.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 19



HOLY SATURDAY

April 20

Worship Service

Our youth are thrilled to invite you to an innovative experience of Worship at 1:00 pm on Holy Saturday. Holy Saturday is a time of waiting, a time after remembering the death of Jesus and before remembering the power of life. The holy time of waiting and being in-between will be the focus of this unique Worship.



EASTER SUNDAY

April 21

Easter Service—While worship is scheduled to begin at 10:00 am, please consider coming a little bit early. Not only will the Floral Cross start blooming to life during the Prelude but you will certainly want to be there to hear wonderful prelude music by the Schenectady Brass Quintet, our guest musicians! Also please bring a fresh cut flower or one will be provided, for all to place in the floral cross.

Floral Cross—After worship, our floral cross will be set out for all to see and enjoy.

Photo Show—The photos submitted during Lent will be on display before and after Worship (8:30-10 & 11:00-12) for everyone to view and vote for their favorites in each of these five themes: *We, Surprise, Empty, Afraid and Believe.*



The Sunday School Scoop

April 2019



April 7	Family Sunday— No Sunday School 11:30 am —Intergenerational Activity: <i>Orff Instrument Playing</i> —Church Tour: First Floor
April 14	Palm Sunday— 9:00 am —Sunday School 11:30 am —Flowering Plant Sale —Church Tour: Basement
April 21	Easter Sunday — No Sunday School 8:30 & 11:00 am—Easter Photo Show held in the Gathering Room
April 28	9:00 am—Sunday School

Signup for SUMMER CAMP!



Several camps are owned and operated by the United Methodist Church and offer wonderful camping experiences for children, youth and adults. Skye Farm camp is located in the Adirondacks, off Northway Exit 24. Another nearby camp is Sky Lake, located in Windsor, NY. Pastor Sara usually serves as a camp counselor at Sky Lake each summer. Both camps will hold an Open House: Sky Lake on May 19th (1:30-5pm) and Skye Farm on June 1st (10am-3pm). If you have a child or grandchild, plan to enroll them for a week at a summer camp. Here a few of the many camps offered:

- Anglers
- Music & Visual Arts
- Campolodean: sport...tech...horse...etc.
- Rocks, Ropes, Rivers
- Adirondack Peaks
- Performing Arts
- Bike the Trail.

For a full list of camps and to register, go to: www.skyefarmcamp.org or www.skylakecenter.org. Discounts available if register by May 1st, and camp scholarships may be available.



Youth News

All youth (ages 13-18) are welcome to gather Saturdays at 12:00 noon to enjoy fun and fellowship together.

From April 22-26, 2019 / Spring break, our youth, along with several other church members, will participate in FUMC's Intergenerational Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Trip to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA. Mission Central is a United Methodist depot where disaster recovery supplies are collected from the Northeast before they are sent to those in need. To learn more, go to: www.missioncentral.org.

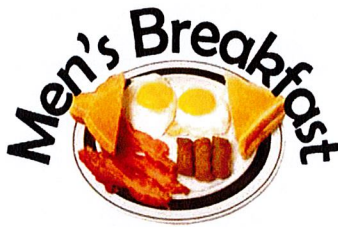
Spring Work Days

We'll be holding Spring Cleanup days on Saturdays in April and everyone is invited to join in as we spruce up our church and the grounds. The dates are as follows:

- April 6 at 10:00 AM
- April 13 at 12:00 NOON
- April 27 at 10:00 AM

Please mark your calendar and plan to bring work gloves, or supplies will be provided.





The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, April 24th, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Diner on State St. All men are welcome to gather on the fourth Wednesday of each month! Contact Bob Coppola with any questions.

Music Notes for April

~ Chimes

Our fifth octave of Schulmerich chimes is on order! We now have 61 bells and chimes! The chimes have a more mellow sound than the hand bells and they are used in conjunction with the bells to bring out the melodic line in a piece of music. We are so appreciative of the 12 generous donors and the David Jacobs' memorial fund which funded the chimes.

~ Concert on May 5

A reminder that the final concert of our 2018-2019 Concert Series will take place on Sunday, May 5 when we welcome lyric soprano Lisa Vroman. Lisa is well known for her role as Christine in The Phantom of the Opera. Join us to hear a variety of music from the classics to Broadway.

~ 2019-2020 Concert Series

We are working on finalizing plans for the 2019-2020 Concert Series. This is shaping up to be another fabulous season. The announcement for the next season will be announced at the final concert.

—Diane Kingsland & Shirley Readdean
Co-chairs of the Music Committee

E-Newsletter Available

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



Lyric Soprano Lisa Vroman to Perform on Sunday, May 5

On Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 3:00 pm, First United Methodist Church will present the final concert of our 2018-2019 Series when we welcome the American

lyric soprano Lisa Vroman. A graduate of the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY and Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Ms. Vroman has established herself as one of America's most versatile voices performing music from Broadway to classics, on stage and in concert. Lisa starred for several years on Broadway as Christine in The Phantom of the Opera. In that same role she garnered Theatre Critics' awards in a record breaking run in San Francisco.

Lisa is a frequent guest soloist with theater and opera companies, and orchestras including those in San Francisco, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Malaysia, Seattle, Cleveland and Hong Kong. She has performed with guest artists such as Dick Van Dyke, Patti Lupone, Bebe Neuwirth and Nancy Dussault. Her solo CD, **Broadway Classic**, features Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe along with 47 of San Francisco's finest orchestral players. Ms. Vroman had the honor of singing at the Profiles in Courage Award Dinner in Boston at the JFK Library, as a guest of the Kennedy family. She has also sung on separate occasions for Queen Elizabeth, former presidents Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Please join us for a delightful afternoon of music from the Classics to Broadway. The concert is free of charge and all are welcome to attend. For more information, call 518-374-4403.

A Stephen Ministry Moment

"You must be the
change you want to see
in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY 2019 LENTEN PHOTO SHOW

First United Methodist Church of Schenectady invites you to participate in its 2019 Lenten Photo Show.

You can participate in any or all of three ways:

1. SUBMIT PHOTOS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN
2. VOTE FOR THE PHOTOS YOU THINK BEST REFLECT THE THEMES OF THE SHOW
3. VISIT THE SHOW ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21 (8:30 - 10 AM and 11:00 - 12 NOON)

1. SUBMIT PHOTOS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN

For each of five weeks during Lent, First United Methodist Church of Schenectady has chosen a different Lenten theme. During each of these weeks we will be accepting one to three photos that you have taken that reflect the weekly theme. The themes are:



Photo by Alice Nash

March 10-16: YES

March 17-23: SURPRISE

March 24-30: EMPTY

March 31-April 6: AFRAID

April 7-13: BELIEVE

You may submit your photos either electronically or in hard copy.

- To submit your photos electronically, save them as JPG files of between 300bpi and 3MB, attach them to an email, enter 'Photo Show' as the subject of the email, type your name, address, telephone number, a title for the photo, and the theme your photos represent in the body of the email, and send the email to fumcphoto-show@gmail.com.
- To submit your photos in hard copy, print them out on 8x10 photo paper, enclose them and a completed copy of this form in an envelope, and send the envelope to FUMC Lenten Photo Show, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305. Copies of this form may be downloaded from the church's website at www.fumcschenectady.org or may be obtained by calling the church office at 518-374-4403.

First United Methodist Church of Schenectady Lenten Photo Show: ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ ☐ Check here if under 18 yrs. old

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Theme that the photo represents (choose one per entry):

☐ YES

☐ SURPRISE

☐ EMPTY

☐ AFRAID

☐ BELIEVE

TITLE OF THE PHOTO: _____

Email to: fumcphotoshow@gmail.com

Mail to: **FUMC LENTEN PHOTO SHOW, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305**

By submitting a photo the photographer gives FUMC copyright privileges to display the photo.

Photos will not be returned.

2. VOTE FOR THE PHOTOS YOU THINK BEST REFLECT THE THEMES OF THE SHOW

On a weekly basis, the photos submitted for each of the themes will be posted on First United Methodist Church's website (www.fumcschenectady.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fumcschenectady). You may go to either of these sites to vote for the photo or photos that you think best reflect the themes. You may also vote if you visit the show in person. Please vote only once for any given photo.

3. VISIT THE SHOW on EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21 (8:30 - 10 AM and 11:00 - 12 NOON)

On Easter Sunday, April 21, as many of the photos as possible will be on display at First United Methodist Church of Schenectady. You are invited to view the photos from 8:30 to 10 am and from 11 am to 12 noon on Easter. Voting will be open during viewing hours. Light refreshments will be served.

Save the date!!!
Schenectady's
CROP Walk on May 5



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 5th, at 2:00pm after a brief opening ceremony (no long speeches!). Registration begins at 1:00. 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 will be available from Elaine Troy. Let's have a good turnout this year! All ages are encouraged to participate. Sometimes dogs walk, too!

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



EASTER FLOWERS 2019

Spring flowers will be ordered to help beautify our Altar for Easter Sunday. You can participate by giving a donation, or by ordering plants to take with you after Worship. All donor names will appear in the bulletin. Please use the form below.

Orders need to be in by Thursday, April 11th.

Easter Flowers 2019 — *Donation & Order Form*

Your Name _____ Phone: _____

In Celebration of Easter _____

OR

In Memory / Honor of _____

A. I would like to donate \$_____ to the Altar Guild to use as they see fit in decorating the Altar.

OR

B. Please order only the plants you intend to take with you.

of Lilies _____ (\$12 each)

of Mums _____ (\$12 each)

Total \$_____ donation

Last day to place order: Thursday, April 11, 2019

Please make checks payable to First United Methodist Church, with the notation, "Easter Flowers." Mail check and form to: FUMC Altar Guild, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305-2111, or place in the offering plate. If you prefer, you may email your request to fumcflowers@gmail.com. You may also submit your donation electronically by using the tab Electronic Giving at www.fumcschenectady.org (please select "Another Purpose" and write in "lilies.")

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - FEBRUARY 2019

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

Our PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends Emma Helton and Roberta Miller, who passed away recently (Bob Slater's step-mother & aunt)

The family & friends of Janice Polsinelle, who passed away on March 15 (Alma Polsinelle's daughter-in-law)

The family & friends of Karen Christman, who passed away February 28 (Diane & Roger Christman's sibling)

The family & friends of Anna Cunningham, who passed away February 28 (Nancy Mohammadi's cousin's daughter)

Our Christian support is also extended to:

Andrea Bailey	Mary Neville
Jan Butts	Shirley Rivest
Shirley Daniels	Rev. Bill Rowe
June Dieffenbach	Rev. Jan McClary Rowell
Liz Fogle	Bob Slater
Jen & Merrick Fuller	Dick Smith
Jan Guzior	Doug Wood
Jack & Courtney McEwan	

And to: Belinda Forbes, our missionary in Nicaragua; VIM teams; Schroon Lake Community Church destroyed by fire; and to Muslim families decimated in Christ Church.

We celebrate with:

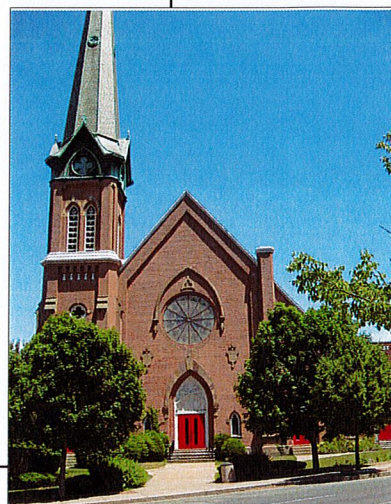
Lois Isles, who joined First UMC, Schenectady, on March 6, 1949 and is now celebrating her 70th anniversary of church membership. Congratulations & Thank You!

Our PRESENCE

Date	Worship
February 3	54
February 10	65
February 17	64
February 24	85

Our GIFTS

Date	Amount
February 3	\$3,988.60
February 10	2,012.25
February 17	2,201.00
February 24	2,299.72



Our SERVICE

Date

- 2/3 —Special collection taken on *Souper Bowl Sunday* for area food pantries (\$188.60)
- 2/9 —Book Discussion held on "Out of Many Faiths: Religious Diversity & the American Promise" by Eboo Patel
- 2/13 —Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry Program
- 2/13 —Trip to SUNY Albany: Presentation by Rev. William Barber, II, as part of Martin L. King, Jr. Celebration
- 2/16-17 —Joint Youth Sleepover / Lockin with all youth welcome
- 2/17 —New weekly Bible Study began on Acts
- 2/23 —Youth Service Project: Served free community brunch
- 2/23-26 —Participated in Special Session of General Conference
 - Continue to prepare & serve the Community Breakfast, free & open to all: # served=226; # volunteers=12
 - Presented Mission Moments at Worship: UM Social Principles; UMW MoonBee Project; Schenectady Works
 - Sunday 2nd hour offered: Orff Instruments; UMW Officers Meeting; and Forum: *Stained Glass Windows*

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Be Invitational!



The Spire

First United Methodist Church
603 State Street
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NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

April 25; articles due Apr. 15



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



Sunday Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join our young adults for Bible Study, led by Pastor Sara and focusing on Acts. This weekly study is held on Sunday nights 7:00-8:30 in the Gathering Room.



Invitation

Would you simply enjoy a visit or 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 May:

Sunday, May 5

**Family Sunday
CROP Walk**

Concert: Lisa Vroman

Tuesday, May 14

Church Night

Wednesday, May 15

Women's Luncheon

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