



THE

**Spire**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 82 No. 11

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

March 2019

## Future Sundays

- 8:30** Downtown Community Breakfast  
**9:00** Books for Children & Adults available  
**9:00** Sunday School  
**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 Gatherings  
**5:45** Confirmation Class  
**7:00** Bible Study: Acts

### Worship Text:

- Mar. 3 **Family Sunday**  
Matthew 10:1-14; "Shake the Dust Off"  
*A Service of Healing with Communion and Anointing*
- Mar. 10 **1st Sunday in Lent**  
*Daylight Savings Time begins*  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
"How to Take Refuge in God"
- Mar. 17 **2nd Sunday in Lent**  
Psalm 27; Luke 9:28-36  
"Getting Grounded, Even on Shaky Ground"
- Mar. 24 **3rd Sunday in Lent**  
Psalm 63:1-8; Isaiah 55:1-9  
"Being Fed and Given Rest by God"
- Mar. 31 **4th Sunday in Lent / UMCOR Sunday**  
Psalm 32; Joshua 5:9-12  
"Change and Letting Go"

### Second Hour Events/Programs:

- March 3 Luncheon Fellowship  
Orff Instruments  
Intersectional Justice Committee
- March 17 Annual Church Meeting

## It's our 6th Annual Lenten Photo Show!



**YES! SURPRISE! EMPTY!  
AFRAID! BELIEVE!**

Can you picture these concepts? They are the five weekly themes of the 2019 Lenten Photo Show. This will be our 6th Annual Photo Show and you can help make it our best!

During Lent, you are encouraged to submit photos that relate to the weekly themes, and on Easter Sunday, April 21st, we will all have the opportunity to see how our photographers picture the themes.

Photos, along with a theme and title, can be emailed to [fumcphotoshow@gmail.com](mailto:fumcphotoshow@gmail.com) or sent to the office. For full details, please see page 7. **Happy picture taking!**

## Enjoy Luncheon Sunday, March 3



Everyone is welcome to gather Sunday, March 3rd, for soup, to break bread, and to enjoy conversation together after Worship! We hope all can stay for this special fellowship time in Fellowship Hall.



**L E N T**





## From Our Pastor

I'm writing to you from the gate area of the Albany airport, waiting for the flights that will take me to St. Louis for the Special Session of General Conference for The United Methodist Church. At the special session, The Church will decide whether or not it is big enough to welcome all of God's beloved people. (Currently it is not, and excludes people who are LGBTQIA+ from full participation.) Along with MANY others, I've been working towards full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people for as long as I can remember, and I've been working on the Love Your Neighbor Strategy team for 4.5 years to try to influence this decision.

Until very recently, I was able to push past my nerves about this General Conference. I just did the work and kept focused. A few days ago something shifted in me. (I blame prayer.) I realized how grief-stricken I am to be part of a church that does such profound harm. I let myself think about how the church that has loved me into being who I am, and taught me of the God of love, has been the same one who has told countless others that they're not worthy of the same love. I've listened to queer and trans friends and church members and heard a refrain of "how long, O Lord?"

By the time you read this, General Conference will be over, and what is going to happen from my perspective will have happened. Whatever it is, we are having a service of healing and communion on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to shake the dust off our feet.

Right now, my anxiety is HIGH. My head aches, my attention span is a joke, and I keep searching for meaning and answers that simply aren't there. At the same time, I am aware that this General Conference is not about me, I'm not in the center, and my work is actually one of support for those who are in the center.

It is hard to feel this nervous and keep track of perspective and compassion. I keep asking for God's help with it. At the same time, I've been taught by Family Systems Theory that the first job of a leader is to manage their own anxiety so they don't pass it on and through the organization they manage.

So, for others who are feeling anxiety, and I can think of plenty of reasons why people might, I offer some of the skills I've been reminding myself in order to manage it:

- Drink plenty of water
- Eat healthily, even when you don't want to
- Exercise, preferably outside (which ice doesn't help with)
- Engage in open, honest, direct communication – remember that secrets build anxiety!
- Pay attention to breathing
- Spiritual practices can transform moments, days, even lives
  - ◊ Centering prayer is very important for me right now
- Acknowledge the anxiety – both to myself and to others
- Ask "what is it I'm so afraid of" and "how likely is that to happen, really?"
- Consider "what power do I have to change this?" (if some, do it, if none, don't.)
- Slow things down: Anxiety can lead us to make HUGE leaps in logic, and thus can preference us towards jumping to conclusions. Act slowly when possible.
- Remember the people and things that make you laugh, and seek them out
- Pay attention to the good, and to your gratitude for the good. Gratitude can change everything. (For example, I'm thrilled with people I'm expecting to see in St. Louis, and I'm so grateful I get to come home to all of you.)

From what I can tell, God needs our righteous indignation in the face of injustice, but also needs our laughter and joy in the face of delight. Peter Carmen, pastor at Emmanuel Friedens, recently told me that his impoverished Christian friends in Latin America are the happiest people he knows. He asks them how they can do that, when they face such oppression, and they tell him "They have taken everything else away, why would we give them our joy too?"

Amen to that!!! May we live in this world with our eyes open to see the brokenness, to call it to account, to transform the world to love – but may we find God's joy while we do it. It matters!

—Sara



Dear Friends,

It was so nice to receive your congregation's contribution...to the Chaplain Program at Ellis Medicine. Your support helps us in providing for the spiritual needs of people while they are hospitalized...it is because of your generosity that people in and around the Schenectady community are able to have someone present to offer prayer and spiritual comfort in emergency situations. Thank you. I hope you and all of your church family are happy and healthy. May God's blessings pour upon you now and always.

Very sincerely yours,  
Rev. Anthony Green, Director Pastoral Care



On behalf of the staff and board of directors of Schenectady Community Ministries, thank you for your continued and generous support. Your support, with others, provided for SICM to celebrate 50 years of service this past year. You encourage us to look forward. Sincerely, Rev. Phil Grigsby, Exec. Director

Dear Friends,

Your support has brought us to strength now, as opportunity, changing minds, and the Bible itself call for action to bring justice and equality to our Church. Thank you for your recent gift.. the generosity of Reconciling Communities like yours makes possible the lifesaving ministries of creating safe sanctuaries and just policies for people of all sexual orientations and gender identifies. Keep up with the ways you are helping RMN at [www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)....We've come a long way in 29 years and there is still much work to be done to manifest the peaceable kin-dom of God on earth today. We will put your gift to good use right away. Thank you for your Reconciling Community's inspiring support.

Many Blessings,

Jan Lawrence, Interim Executive Director

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your gift to support UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery, and Belinda Forbes, Missionary in Nicaragua....100% of your contribution is applied to the designed project(s) or missionary support. Giving through the Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Your gift supports missionaries and projects focused on evangelism, church development, education, disaster relief and rehabilitation, health services, and programs for children and young people. We are grateful for your support of this life-giving work....May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer, and  
Rev. Russell Pierce, Director, The Advance  
of General Board of Global Ministries



An ecumenical Worship Service will be held Wednesday, March 6th, at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph's Church, just across State St. The service is jointly supported by these churches: Emmanuel Friedens, St. Joseph's and First United Methodist.

Plan to gather with our neighbors for this special service and receive ashes as the season of Lent begins.



### ► "Church Night" on March 12

All Ministry Teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on *Church Night*, held the second Tuesday of each month. And all are welcome to gather for the Church Council meetings. The schedule is:

6:30 pm Ministry Teams meet

7:30 pm Church Council meets

### ► Church-wide Meeting March 17

Everyone is invited to gather after Sunday Worship on March 17th for our annual Church Meeting held in Fellowship Hall. We'll celebrate the ministries of the past year and look to the future! Reports will be presented and the 2018 Annual Reports booklet will be available.

## Daylight Savings Time

*Spring forward!* Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am March 10th.



## Altar Flowers


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





# MARCH 2019

## First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 12:00 noon Youth Group
<b>3 Family Sunday</b> <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Soup & Bread Luncheon —Orff Instrument Playing —Intersectional Justice Committee meeting 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>4</b> 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	<b>5</b> <i>Council Reports due</i> 2:00 PM Staff Mtg. 6:30 PM Forum: Schenectady Historical Society Program	<b>6 Ash Wednesday</b> 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Joint Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Joseph's	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 11:00 AM UMW Event: MoonBee 12:00 noon Youth Group
<b>10 1st Sunday in Lent</b> <i>Daylight Savings Begins 2am — set clocks ahead 1 hour</i> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>11</b> 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 6:30 PM Staff Pastor / Parish Rel. Committee 7:30 PM Finance Committee	<b>12</b> 2:00 PM Staff Mtg.  <b>Church Night</b> 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Stephen Ministers 11:30 AM-1:30 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> <i>Spire articles due</i>	<b>16</b> 10:30 AM Forum: Schenectady Historical Society Program 12:00 noon Youth Group
<b>17</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Annual Church Meeting 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>18</b> 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	<b>19</b> 2:00 PM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM Children & Youth Ministries Team	<b>20</b> 12:00 Women's Luncheon @ the Glen Eddy 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 12:00 noon Youth Group
<b>24</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 3:00 PM Concert: Young People's Chorus of NYC 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>25</b> 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	<b>26</b> 2:00 PM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM Trustees	<b>27</b> 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Fellowship 2:30 PM Music Committee 5:00 pm Serve Meal at City Mission 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:15 AM Youth: Serve Free Com- munity Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 12:00 noon Youth Group
<b>31 UMCOR Sunday</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study						

**We are in the season of LENT (purple) -  
Lent is a time when we practice repentance—turning away from wrong and toward God.**



## From our Adult Education Team

### ► History Lessons

On February 24th, Nancy Walden guided us through a discussion on the symbolism of the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary.

And join us in March for the following opportunities to learn more about the history of the Schenectady area, as well as the history of our church.

On Tuesday, March 5th, at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall, Michael Diana of the Schenectady County Historical Society will present "Changing Downtown: The Rise, the Raze, the Revitalization of Schenectady." He will also present two talks on Saturday, March 16th; one on "African American History in Schenectady," and one titled "In Whom We Trust: At the Crossroads of Faith and Community." The presentation starts at 10:30am in Fellowship Hall, with a light lunch available in between courses. Please consider attending one or more of these events.

### ► Poor Peoples Campaign in Albany

Several of us from First UMC recently heard the Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, speak at the University at Albany. He is National Co-Chair of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival along with the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. Rev. Theoharis will speak on March 16th, 6:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, 362 State St., Albany. Her discussion will be, "The New And Unsettling Force: An Uprising of the Poor and Working Class." There is a \$10 suggested fee for this event, which is being co-sponsored by the Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS.

### ► Rohr & Crossan: Spiritual Retreat Webcasts

Richard Rohr, J.D. Crossan, and Jacqui Lewis are hosting a spiritual retreat from March 28-31 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The event is entitled, "The Universal Christ: Another Name for Every Thing." Registration for the retreat is now full, but you may still register for webcasts of the event. For details, go to <https://cac.org/another-name-for-every-thing-the-universal-christ/> and click on the REGISTER button.



## Calling All Women: Enjoy Luncheon!

The next Women's Fellowship Luncheon will be on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon at the Glen Eddy in Niskayuna. All church women – friends as well as members – are encouraged to attend, so come if you can and let's enjoy time together. Lunch costs \$16 and there is no tax or tip. To let the Glen Eddy staff know how many people to expect, please try to RSVP by March 18 (although even at the last minute is ok) to Carolyn Micklas at [cmicklas@twc.com](mailto:cmicklas@twc.com) or 518-374-7742. Be sure to put the date on your calendar and plan to come. Hope to see you there!

## Gather for Book Discussion

### "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels"

by Jon Meacham

On **Saturday, April 6**, at 10 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. All are welcome...plan to pickup the book and attend the discussion.



**CALLING ALL WOMEN:  
UMW MoonBee Event**

On Saturday, March 9th, from 11 am-2 pm, we will be hosting a MoonBee event here at First UMC, sponsored by our United Methodist Women. Ellie von Wellsheim and the MoonCatcher Project (creating re-usable menstrual pads for girls worldwide) will offer a presentation and a MoonBee in Fellowship Hall. The presentation/discussion will be from 11-11:50 am, with a MoonBee to follow from 12-2 pm. This event is open to the public. For more information, contact Sue Learner.

**Enjoy Breakfast  
on Sundays**

Come early to church to enjoy breakfast and fellowship before we gather for Sunday Worship! Our Community Breakfast is free and served in Fellowship Hall on all Sundays from 8:30-9:30 am except on the first Sunday of each month.



**Like to do  
Needlework?**



The Needlework Ministry program (knitting, crocheting, sewing) welcomes all to participate in this program, which creates handmade items for various causes including donating items to those in need in our community. To learn more, including how to knit or crochet, contact Eileen Deming or Alice Nash.

**A  
Stephen  
Ministry Moment**  
**You must be the change  
you want to see in the world.**

Mahatma Gandhi



**NEW: Bible Study on Acts**  
**Sundays 7:00-8:30 PM**

The Young Adults Bible Study, led by Pastor Sara, is now focusing on Acts on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:30! Everyone is welcome to gather in Wesley Lounge for this weekly study.

**Serve Meal at the City Mission**  
**Wednesday, March 27**

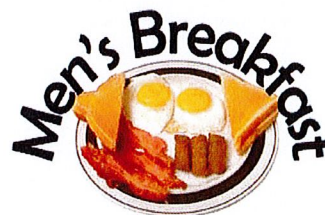
It's our church's turn to serve a meal at the City Mission on Wednesday, March 27th. Volunteers needed! The City Mission has a software signup process where each individual volunteering to serve is asked to create an account and sign-up in advance for each meal they'll attend.

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., Wed., March 27.

If you don't have a computer or have a problem signing up, call Lori at 518-346-2275 ext. 301.

2019 dates assigned to our church to serve are: Mar. 27, May 22, July 22, Sept. 25, Nov. 27. Volunteers must arrive by 5 pm. You'll be required to wear a hair net if you're not wearing a hat. Please let Mary Ann Marshall (518-355-1733) know if you've signed-up to help at a meal. Thank you.



**Calling all men!**

The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held Wednesday, March 27th, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Diner, State St. All men welcome.





## 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 to 10 AM and 11:00 to 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, title for the photo, and the theme your photos represent in the body of the email, and send the email to [fumcphotoshow@gmail.com](mailto:fumcphotoshow@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](http://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](mailto:fumcphotoshow@gmail.com)

or 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](http://www.fumcschenectady.org)) and Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/fumcschenectady](http://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 to 10 AM and 11:00 AM to 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 am to 10 am and from 11 am to 12 noon on Easter. Voting will be open during viewing hours. Light refreshments will be served.



# The Sunday School Scoop

March 2019



March 3	<b>Family Sunday—</b> No Sunday School. 11:30 am —Soup & Bread Luncheon —Intergenerational Activity: <i>Orff Instrument Playing</i>
March 10	9:00 am—Sunday School
March 17	9:00 am—Sunday School
March 24	9:00 am—Sunday School
March 31	9:00 am—Sunday School



## Youth Fellowship

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

On Saturday, March 31st, we'll meet at 9:15 am to help serve a free Community Brunch up at our neighbors at Emmanuel Friedens Church.

## FUMC's 2019 VIM Trip



Our church's Intergenerational Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Trip to Mission Central, Mechanicsburg, PA, is scheduled for April 22-26, 2019. Applications are now due! For more information and an application, contact one of the team leaders: Sylvester Doyer or Jan Huston, or the office.

## Signup for Summer Camp!

2019 United Methodist Church Summer Camp colored brochures will soon arrive! They list all the wonderful camps available for children, youth, and families. Keep an eye out for them in the narthex, or you can view it at [www.campsandretreats.org](http://www.campsandretreats.org).

## Scholarship Available

UNY Annual Conference (UNYAC) College Ministry has scholarship for undergraduate students:

Lottie Brown Grant: Preference is given to those entering some form of Christian service. A statement of your faith journey and philosophy of life is given high consideration. Application materials must be post-marked by April 10th.

For an application and more details, you can go to the conference's website at: [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org).

## Stephen Ministry Training

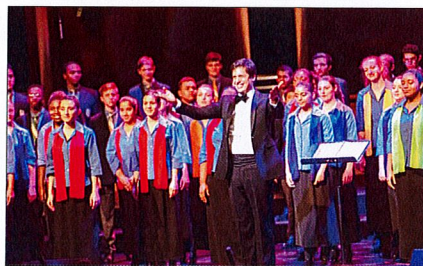
A Stephen Minister is a congregation member who is trained, commissioned, and supervised by Stephen Leaders to provide one-to-one Christian care to persons in need on behalf of the congregation. Stephen Ministers typically are assigned one care receiver at a time and meet with that person for about one hour each week. Monthly peer supervision meetings provide ongoing training and support to the Stephen Ministers. The 50-hour Stephen Minister training will begin March 2019 (time at the convenience of the participants). The cost is \$50; financial help maybe available. Following the training, Stephen Ministers commit to serve faithfully for a period of no less than two years.

If you're interested, please contact the office.



# Young People's Chorus of New York City

**Sunday, March 24 -  
3:00 PM**



It is a pleasure to announce that The Young People's Chorus of New York City (YPC) will perform in our sanctuary on Sunday, March 24th, at 3:00 p.m. Perhaps you've heard them here before – their previous concerts have been so delightful that we are bringing them back for the fourth time. We are looking forward to hearing these young musicians once again.

YPC was founded in 1988 by Francisco J. Núñez, its Artistic Director and a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow, in order to provide children of all cultural and economic backgrounds with a unique program of music education and choral performance while, at the same time, advancing a model of artistic excellence and humanity that enriches the community. Since then, over these past 30 years, this program has expanded to include several choruses along with opportunities to further the children's musical education and to help them develop academically, emotionally and as responsible, mature adults in our society.

Because of its excellence, YPC has received numerous honors and awards, including the National Medal of Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award, which is America's highest distinction for youth programs, presented at the White House. This was followed by performances at Lincoln Center, many TV and radio appearances, recordings, international tours, competitions, performances for Popes Benedict XVI and Francis, and the dedication of the 9/11 Memorial. Internationally, YPC performs around the world in choral competitions and festivals, and sings with choruses from other countries, thus fostering an appreciation of the diversity of cultures and their musical traditions.

By all means, don't miss this concert. You will enjoy a variety of musical styles presented by well-trained, charming young musicians. The concert is presented as a part of FUMC's ministry to the community, without charge to the audience, thanks to the generosity of the Ida Hill Dalton Fund and the contributions of patrons and advertisers. Enter the date on your calendar NOW and plan to bring friends and family. You'll get a better seat if you come early, because the church will be filled!

—Nancy Walden  
For the Music Committee

## Music Notes for March

### ~ Chimes

A fifth octave of chimes, to be used by the Handbell Choir, will be purchased thanks to money from the David Jacobs' memorial fund and donations from 12 generous individuals. Alberta Jacobs donated money to the church's Music Ministry in memory of her husband, David L. E. Jacobs, in October of 2017. We accept these gifts with humble gratitude and in thanksgiving for the vibrant music ministry that continues at FUMC. We are blessed by the generosity of these individuals.

### ~ Orff Ensemble

Several children and adults continue to meet in the Orff room the first Sunday of each month after worship to sing and play Orff instruments. We have recently added rhythm instruments to the ensemble. In February, we began learning a spiritual in celebration of Black History Month. Everyone is welcome to join us or just pop in to observe. We meet in the Orff Room which is upstairs just through the Handbell Room. Please contact Dominick Giaquinto or Diane Kingsland if you have questions.

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

### CLOTHING RACK NEEDED

The Music Committee is in need of a portable clothes rack for the March 24th concert. They would need it March 23rd and 24th. If you have one they can borrow, please contact Dominick Giaquinto or Diane Kingsland. Thank you.





Primetimers is a program of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. It offers educational and mission service experience for older adults. Exciting 5-10 day events offer opportunities for educational forums, cross-cultural exposure, faith-filled reflection, and greater exposure to the work of the United Methodist Church and the church universal. Primetimers' events are designed with less strenuous events than the traditional UMVIM teams. They continue to include peace and poverty, history, sustainability of resources, and living with and loving those of different cultural backgrounds. Primetimers information is available at [https:// www.umcmission.org](https://www.umcmission.org).

### **Two new trips are planned for 2019:**

► **The first trip is a Hands-on Cultural Exchange to Prague and Pilsen in the Czech Republic Sept. 6—16.** The focus will be on learning about the history of the United Methodist Church (UMC) in the Czech Republic as well as sharing in the mission work there. **In Prague**, a theology professor at Charles University will share a presentation about the history of Methodists in the Czech Republic and the John Wesley connection. The group will tour several Methodist churches, including an English speaking congregation, and participate in their outreach and worship service. They will tour Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge, the Old Jewish Cemetery, Old Town Square with the astronomical clock, the National Museum, and more.

**In Pilsen**, Primetimers will visit with members of a Methodist Church, their preschool and after-school programs, Bible study, lunch programs, and a drug and alcohol rehab center. They will engage in ministry alongside their partners as invited. They will also tour the famous Pilsner Urquell Brewery, St. Bartholomew's Cathedral, the Great Synagogue, Republic Square, The General Patton Museum, Karlstejn Castle, and the Underground Tunnels. The group will share in a cooking exchange class where they will learn to prepare a traditional Czech meal and Primetimers will prepare a Tex-Mex meal for the hosts. Housing will be in hotels in both cities. Cost is \$1550 per person and does not include airfare to and from Prague.

► **The second trip is to Paducah, KY, Oct. 1—8. It is entitled "Come to the Rivers: Faith on the Inland Waterway."** The focus will be on Kentucky's Appalachian Mountain heritage. The group will learn about the rich river culture that is headquartered in Western KY where the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Cumberland Rivers make their mark on the state. Native Americans used this region for religious ceremony and for burial. Frontier folks including Methodists Peter Cartwright, Harry Hoosier, and Francis Asbury found a fertile place for faith to grow near these waters. Modern religious expressions in the region are diverse and cross faith boundaries. The group will visit the Reelfoot Rural Ministry of New Harmony Historic District of Paducah, the Hotel Metropolitan, and the River Heritage Museum. They will connect with local churches in the region while discovering the distinctive faith of river communities and the river lore embodied in church life. They will experience and contribute to the mission needs and life of the hub of America's inland waterways. Housing will be in a local hotel. Cost is \$1000 per person.



**A third opportunity is offered by Educational Opportunities. It is not an official Global Ministries event but is targeted to a similar group. Leaders have led many UMVIM teams. This is a Missions Cruise to the Caribbean in January 18-25, 2020.** Stops will be in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, the Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas. The stops will include visits to churches and mission sites as well as opportunities for sightseeing, enjoying beaches, shopping, deep-sea fishing, and lots more. Prices range from \$1299-\$2149. See [www.eo.travel/missions](http://www.eo.travel/missions).

**More information is available on the Intersectional Justice bulletin board & from Jan Huston.**



## KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - January 2019

### PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

#### OUR PRAYERS

**Our Christian support is extended to:**

The family & friends of Paul Giemza, who passed away February 17 (Nancy Mohammadi's close friend)

**Our Christian support is also extended to:**

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

And to: Belinda Forbes, our Nicaragua missionary; VIM Teams; the United Methodist Church; and Schroon Lake Community Church & parsonage, destroyed by a fire.

#### OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
January 6	72
January 13	81
January 20 - <i>snowstorm</i>	
January 27	77

#### OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
January 6	\$4,176.01
January 13	2,438.00
January 20 - <i>snowstorm</i>	
January 27	3,453.35



#### OUR SERVICE

Date

- 1/6 —Youth Service: Led Epiphany Worship Service
- 1/23—Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTIAN Ministry Program
  - Served supper at the City Mission of Schenectady
- 1/25—Participated in MLK, Jr.'s Community Sabbath & Dinner @ Congregation Gates of Heaven
- 1/26—Youth Service: Served free Community Brunch
- 1/27 —Celebrated *Human Relations Sunday* which included special collection (\$98)
- Jan.—Continue to prepare & serve the Community Breakfast, free & open to all: # served=102; # volunteers=13
  - Altar Guild and Youth helped take down and store church holiday decorations
  - Mission Moments presented during Worship: *FUMC's Intergenerational VIM Trip; Stewardship Campaign*
  - Sunday 2nd Hour offered: Epiphany Celebration; and Ministry Team Meetings

## *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

### Be Invitational!





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March 28; articles due Mar. 15



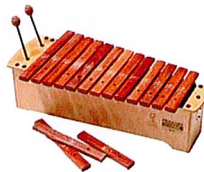
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**We are a church that loves to learn and  
yearns to be a gift of God to  
our communities.**

**Play Orff instruments!**

On Family Sundays, the first Sunday of the month, our Sunday School program is not held, but following Worship, an intergenerational activity is! Everyone of all ages is invited to gather to play Orff Instruments in our Music Room on the 2nd floor. No experience necessary. Instruction in sacred music is inherently good and fun!



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Coming in April:

Saturday, April 6

**Book Discussion**

Tuesday, April 9

**Church Night**

April 14-21

**Holy Week Services  
6th Annual Photo Show  
Floral Cross**

Monday-Friday, April 22-26

**FUMC's VIM Trip**

**WEBSITES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES**

**First United Methodist Church**— E-Mail: [fumcschenectady@yahoo.com](mailto:fumcschenectady@yahoo.com); Website: [www.fumcschenectady.org](http://www.fumcschenectady.org)  
**Albany District Office**— E-Mail: [albanydistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:albanydistrict@unyumc.org); Website: [www.unyumc.org/districts/detail/2](http://www.unyumc.org/districts/detail/2)  
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