



THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 83 No. 1

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

May 2019

FUTURE SUNDAYS

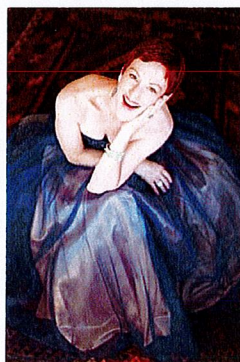
- 8:30 Community Breakfast Fellowship
9:00 Books for Children & Adults
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour programs
—Luncheons
—Adult Forum
—Orff Instrument Playing
—Ministry Team Meetings
5:45 Confirmation Class
7:00 Bible Study: Acts

Worship Text:

- May 5 **Native American Ministries / Family Sunday**
Acts 9:1-20; John 21:1-19
“Old Commandments”
May 12 **Mother’s Day**
Acts 9:36-43; John 10:22-30
“Giving Life”
May 19 Acts 11:1-18; John 13:31-35
“Changing the Rules?”
May 26 Pulpit Exchange with
First Reformed Church

Second Hour Events/Programs:

- May 5 Orff Instrument Playing
Church Tour: 2nd floor
CROP Walk
Concert at 3:00: Lisa Vroman
May 26 Intersectional Justice Comm.



Lisa Vroman, Lyric Soprano Sunday, May 5, at 3 PM

Lisa Vroman, lyric soprano, will present a concert of songs ranging from Classics to Broadway in our sanctuary Sunday afternoon, May 5th, at 3:00 p.m. We are indeed pleased to welcome her to this final concert

of FUMC’s 2018-2019 Concert Series. On stage and in concert, she has established herself as one of America’s most versatile voices. She has been regarded as a “musical and theatrical marvel” by the San Francisco Chronicle, as well as “one of American Musical Theater’s most beautiful voices” by Broadway producer Sir Cameron Mackintosh.

Ms. Vroman starred for over eight years as Christine in *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway and in San Francisco and Los Angeles. She is a frequent guest soloist with theater and opera companies both in the United States and abroad, and has held lead roles in musicals and operas such as *The Most Happy Fella*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma!*, *HMS Pinafore*, and *Die Fledermaus*, to name but a few. She has sung on separate occasions for Queen Elizabeth and several former presidents and 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. Recently she performed with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and l’Opéra de Rennes in France, and gave a multi-city concert tour in China.

Ms. Vroman holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education as well as a recently awarded honorary Doctor of Music Degree, both from the Crane School of Music at Potsdam, and a Masters degree in Fine Arts, Opera Performance, from Carnegie Mellon University. She is an active mentor and clinician with many colleges and universities and recently joined the teaching faculty of the Institute for American Musical Theatre in New York City.

Her concert at FUMC will be in a casual, cabaret style (no tables and wine, just delightful music!). Sounds like fun, so come join us. As always, the concert is free and all are welcome to attend. For more details about Lisa Vroman, visit her website at www.lisavroman.com; for more information about the concert, call the office at 518-374-4403.





From our Pastor

I've been obsessing a bit recently about an idea I came across in John Dominic Crossan's Who Killed Jesus: Exposing the Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Gospel Stories of The Death of Jesus. I quoted it in both the Palm Sunday and Easter Sermons. Crossan says that Jesus taught "that God has given *all human beings* the wisdom to discern how, here and now in this world, one can so live that God's power, rule, and domination are evidently present to all observers."¹ It was presented, in the book, as a difference of "eschatologies" - namely that Jesus wasn't teaching that the world as it was known was going to end and God

was going to act to recreate it. Instead, Jesus was teaching that the kin(g)dom of God is here and now, and we already have what we need to participate in it. Further, by participating in it, we bring it more and more into existence for everyone.

It isn't entirely clear to me why this has drawn my attention so whole-heartedly, particularly because this isn't a new idea to me. I already knew that Jesus was about empowerment, and that the kin(g)dom is here and now, and that we as humans have the wisdom we need to respond to the situations we find ourselves in. Yet somehow, said the way Crossan says it, it feels new all over again. It reminds me of what I once read in some Buddhist books about each person having within them a "precious gem" of infinite worth that cannot, under any circumstances, be harmed or blemished, and that that gem offers wisdom. It strikes me, again, that this is the idea of soul in Christianity, and the soul is a source of wisdom.

One of our challenges in Christianity, though, is that so much of the dialog in the church as a whole has focused on purity culture, which assumes that a soul can be tainted or harmed. But that would be like harming or tainting God, since our souls are part of the Divine (I also think a very reasonable claim can be made that our bodies are too, that's for another day.)

The question that I keep coming back to is: how do we access the wisdom that we already have? On Easter I offered some of the teachings of Parker Palmer as an answer, and I stick by those. I'm also happy to offer more of that if any of you want, I LOVE the teachings of Parker Palmer. The good news is that there are multiple answers to this question, and asking it is part of how we find them!

Part of what souls need to feel safe in sharing their wisdom is a community that supports, loves, asks, and makes space. This means not only not judging (we're good at that) but also not trying to "fix" (oh my goodness so much harder)! I believe that we are that sort of community and are capable of learning even more skills to become more of it. It is sort of like how the kin(g)dom is here and is capable of being here more. Anyway, this is a great thing, because not every faith community is a place where people are loved and accepted as they are, and space is made for further development of authentic being. But we are! And loved, accepted people change the world.

I'm really supposed to have a point in these articles, and I fear this one is a bit weak in point. But what I'm trying to say (I think) is this: you are doing a great job and I'm delighted to be in ministry with you in building the kin(g)dom AND it is worth thinking about how to make space for your soul to shine through as a gift to other souls who are feeling shy. Let's keep working on it AND celebrating it.

—Sara

¹ John Dominic Crossan, *Who Killed Jesus: Exposing the Roots of Anti-Semitism in the Gospel Stories of The Death of Jesus* (USA: HarperSanFrancisco: 1995) 47.



Notes of Thanks Received

A million thanks for inviting us back to First United Methodist Church. It is truly one of our favorite places to perform. Your generosity and care for our singers is unparalleled, and your audiences are so whole-heartedly enthusiastic. The choristers were thrilled at the raucous appreciation their performances received. It spurred them to give everything they had and more. It is a performance they will be talking about for a long time, as well as setting a new bar for them to surmount. Thank you again for the opportunity to perform for you and your audience again. With appreciation and warmest regards,
—Francisco J. Núñez, Founder
& Director Young People's Chorus of New York City

Thank you for your gift to SiCM! Your support provides for program and ministries ranging from direct assistance to those in need, as well as efforts to address root causes of poverty and injustice...You are a partner in providing hope to individuals who come to us; and hope for the communities we are a part of as we address broader concerns. On behalf of all involved with SiCM, I am deeply grateful for your encouragement.

Thanks to all!
—Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby
Schenectady Community Ministries

My thanks to the photographers who submitted so many wonderful photos to the Lenten Photo Show, to the people who viewed the photos online and at church, and to those who voted. Thanks also to Rev. Sara Baron for her leadership and for choosing the show's themes; to Tony Turner and Louis Patterson for coordinating the Coffee Fellowship with the show; to Dorie McArthur and Louis for helping with the food; to Alice Nash who managed the show's Facebook presence; to Kevin Kempf who managed the show's website presence; to Martin Manley for space planning and set up; to the Youth Group who helped set up and take down the show; to the Schenectady Photo Society for the use of its display racks; and to Linda Smith for coordinating outreach, receiving and processing the photos, distributing the photos to the Facebook page and website, preparing summaries and preparing the show's program.

Wasn't it nice to have the chance to celebrate Beryl Rockwell's 95th birthday at the show!

—Larry McArthur
Coordinator

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

Welcome our New Members

During Worship on Sunday, March 31, we welcomed new members into our church family:

Keira Welsch (*preparatory member*)
Liesel A. Welsch
Christine Yesse



Joint Church Meeting

On Tuesday, May 7, at 6:00 pm, we'll meet at Scotia UMC, 201 N. Ten Broeck St., with Eastern Parkway UMC as churches in welcoming all of God's people into the United Methodist Church.



Altar Flowers

We are grateful for the Sunday Altar Flowers given in April:

Apr. 21 in celebration of Easter

in honor and memory of Loved Ones

Apr. 28 in honor of George R. and Mavis M. Bailey

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

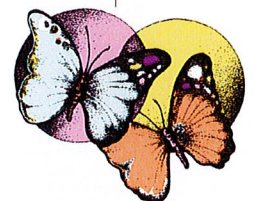


May 2019

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Calendar updates on website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4 12:00 noon Youth Group
5 Native American Ministries / Family Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program: —Orff Instrument Playing —Church Tour 2:00 PM CROP Walk 3:00 PM Concert: Soprano, Lisa Vroman	6 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	7 Council Reports due 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Joint Church Gathering @ Scotia UMC	8 11:30 AM-1:30 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11 12:00 noon Youth Group 1:00 PM Memorial Service for David Rathbun
12 Mother's Day 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	13 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 7:00 PM Staff Pastor Parish Rela- tions Committee	14 2:00 PM Staff Meeting Church Night 6:30 PM Ministry Teams meet 7:30 PM Church Council	15 Spire articles due 12:00 Women's Luncheon @ Glen Eddy 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	16 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17	18 12:00 noon Youth Group
19 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	20 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	21 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Children & Youth Ministries Team	22 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 5:00 pm Serve Meal at City Mission 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	23 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25 9:30 AM Youth Service: Serve free Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 12:00 noon Youth Group
					Family Camp Weekend @ Skye Farm	
26 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 11:45 AM Intersectional Justice Committee 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed Public Schools Closed	28 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Trustees	29 6:30-8:30 PM Bishop's Gathering @ Shenendehowa UMC re: Judicial Council Decision 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	30 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31	
Family Camp Weekend @ Skye Farm						



**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.**



Schenectady CROP Walk Sunday, May 5

What Does CROP Stand for?

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

Roughly 1000 CROP Hunger Walks happen every year in the U.S.; the 5K walk symbolizes the daily journey many must make for clean water.

The walk kicks off at Emmanuel Friedens Church on Sunday, May 5th, at 2:00 after a brief opening ceremony (no long speeches!). Registration begins at 1:00. Food will be collected to help fill the food van. One quarter of the money raised supports local efforts to support hunger and poverty fighting programs; the rest is used by Church World Service, an ecumenical agency, to alleviate hunger throughout the world. More information and envelopes to use to raise money are available from Elaine Troy and Pam DiMezza. Let's have a good turnout this year! All ages are encouraged to participate. Sometimes dogs walk too! Enjoy the walk and then relax at church afterwards at our final concert in this year's series!

A Stephen Ministry Moment

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

Nelson Mandela



Sunday Breakfast 8:30 - 9:30 AM

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

Hope to see you at the breakfast table!

"Church Night"

Tuesday, May 14

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

6:30 PM Ministry Teams meet

7:30 PM Church Council meets

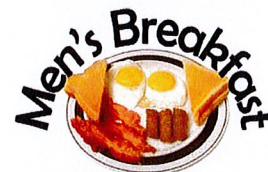
(notices will go out to teams scheduled to meet)



Calling All Women: Enjoy Luncheon!

The next Women's Fellowship Luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 15th, 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 May 13 (although even at the last minute is ok) to Carolyn Micklas at 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!



Enjoy breakfast at 8:30 am at the next Men's Breakfast Fellowship held Wednesday, May 22, at the Blue Ribbon Diner on State St.! All men welcome. Questions? Contact Bob Coppola.

Sunday Bible Study

A weekly Bible Study on Acts, led by Pastor Sara, is being held Sunday nights 7:00-8:30 in Wesley Lounge.

All are welcome to join our young adults for this study.



Music Notes for May



~ March Concert

Our March concert, The Young People's Chorus of NYC, was a beautiful and moving event. The extraordinary ensemble performed compositions from Mozart to Mamma Mia and everything in between. The 45 choristers were enthusiastically received by an audience of over 400. Those who stayed for the reception were treated to a moving a cappella piece performed by the male members of the chorus.

~ May Concert

A reminder that the last concert of the 2018-19 Concert Series will be held on Sunday, May 5th, at 3:00. Lisa Vroman, star of Broadway and concert stage, will delight us with a variety of styles. The exciting line up for the 2019-2020 Concert Series will be announced at this concert.

~ Chimes Arrived

Our last octave of chimes have arrived. The sound of the lowest ones is incredible. Be sure to check them out next time the Bell Choir plays.

~ Thank You

A special thank you to Jean Gustafson, Ruth Farrell, Roger Kingsland, Lisa Lane, Zach Long, Kathy Poppino, and Nancy Walden, who helped with a wonderful luncheon for the members of the Young People's Chorus and their staff.

Music Co-chairs:
Diane Kingsland and Shirley Readdean



Serve Meal at City Mission

Wednesday, May 22

It's our church's turn to serve a meal at the City Mission. Volunteers needed! Each person volunteering to serve at the mission is asked to create an account and sign-up in advance for meal(s) they'll be attending. To sign up 5 days or more ahead, go to: <http://firstumc.citymissionofscheneectady.volunteerhub.com>.

To sign up within 5 days prior of serving, go to: <http://www.schenectadycitymission.com> then click "volunteer" and find FUMC's dates to serve, e.g., Wed., May 22. Other volunteers may be solicited to sign-up at this time as too.

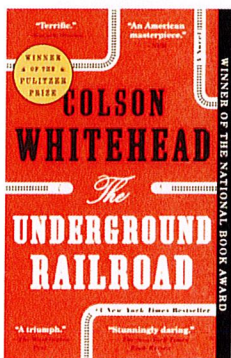
If you don't have a computer or have a problem signing up, please call Lori at 518-346-2275 ext. 301; give your name and dates you want to serve. Other 2019 Wednesday dates assigned to our church to serve are: July 24, Sept. 25, and Nov. 27.

Must arrive by 5:00 pm. Hair net provided if you're not wearing a hat. Please let Mary Ann Marshall (518-355-1733) know if you have signed-up for an upcoming meal. Thank you.

Church Library

Please remember to return books and DVD's to the church library or to the office for others to participate. Thank you.

Next Book Discussion — Sunday, June 2



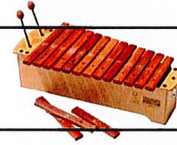
"The Underground Railroad: A Novel" will be discussed on Sunday, June 2, after Worship and the potluck lunch celebrating Christian Education Sunday. This book by Colson Whitehead is a Pulitzer Prize winner and a National Book Award winner as well as being recommended by Oprah's Book Club. It chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. As Whitehead re-creates the terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, he seamlessly weaves the saga of the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. "The Underground Railroad" is at once a kinetic adventure of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share. Everyone is welcome to participate. Plan to pick up a copy of this book from your local library or bookstore, and attend the book discussion on June 2nd!

The Sunday School Scoop

May 2019



May 5	Family Sunday— No Sunday School 11:30 am—Intergenerational Activity: <i>Orff Instrument Playing</i> —Church Tour: <i>Second Floor</i>
May 12	Mother's Day— 9:00 am— Sunday School
May 19	9:00 am—Sunday School (<i>last day</i>)
May 26	No Sunday School
June 2	Christian Education Sunday— 10:00 am— Worship Service 11:30 am—Church Potluck Picnic Luncheon



Calling all Graduates!

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



Youth News

All youth (ages 13-18) are invited to:

- ☉ **Youth Group Fellowship**—Come enjoy fun and fellowship together each week in the Roof Lounge on Saturdays at 12 noon.
- ☉ **Youth Service**—On May 25, we'll meet at 9:15 am to serve a free community brunch at Emmanuel Friedens. Then gather for fun fellowship activity.

Student Loans

Limited funds are available through the Board of Trustees for loans to students attending college in 2019-2020. Such loans are interest free when repaid on schedule, within 5 years of graduation, and are made possible by memorial donations and the repayment of previous loans. The Trustees will review applications and award amounts based on available monies that support the education fund. Applicants must be members of FUMC, or dependents of members.

Applications are available in the office or by e-mail request, and the forms, signed by the Pastor, must be returned to church by May 16, to the attention of Elaine Troy or Pam DiMezza. Questions? Contact Elaine: 518-356-2687; lanie600@nycap.rr.com, or Pam at pjdimezza@gmail.com.

Christian Education Sunday & Potluck Picnic Luncheon

June 2—Mark Your Calendar!



We'll celebrate Christian Education Sunday on June 2nd, which marks the end of our church school year. Everyone is invited to come enjoy this special celebration sponsored by our Children and Youth Ministries Team. Following the youth-led worship service, plan to stay to enjoy a potluck lunch. Please plan to bring a dish to share (salads, casseroles, etc.) Although we plan to eat inside, "picnicky" foods are encouraged. Watermelon and beverages provided.

Signups helpful; signup on a Sunday or contact the office....and plan to come to this fun annual event!



Mission Moments

Delivered during Worship

► **United Methodist Social Principles 2020 Revision**

Delivered on Feb. 10, Mar. 17 & 31 and April 7, 14, 28, 2019, by Elaine Troy

Principles are norms, rules or values that represent what is desirable and positive for an organization. Principles help determine the rightfulness or wrongfulness of our actions as a church. Principles govern both policy and objectives.

In April 2018

The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, operating with the tag line “Living Faith, Seeking Justice and Pursuing Peace,” released a Draft revision of the United Methodist Social Principles.

Over the next few months, we will be summarizing this DRAFT in Mission Moments, and inviting the congregation to think about the Social Principles as they apply to our community and congregation. We hope this is informative and thought provoking.

This document divides the Principles into 6 sections:

- THE COMMUNITY OF ALL CREATION
- THE NURTURING COMMUNITY
- THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY
- THE POLITICAL COMMUNITY
- THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
- THE WORLD COMMUNITY



Each of these Sections contains 10 or more subsections addressing what Lee Tupper might have called Prime Values. Since the document is so detailed, the congregation is encouraged to read the entire draft document at their leisure.

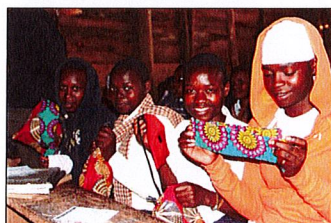
The entire document is available at: <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions/social-principles-revision/social-principles-2020/sp2020-english>

► **United Methodist Women: MoonCatcher Project**

Delivered on Feb. 17, 2019, by Shirley Readdean



Part of the purpose of UMW is to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministry of the church. To this end, First UMW is holding a mission event on Saturday, March 9, inviting everyone. This event will have 2 parts. A presentation on the MoonCatcher project by its founder Ellie von Wellsheim at 11am followed by an opportunity for hands on mission work (MoonBee) from noon until 2:00.



The Moon-catcher project is a mission project providing re-usable, washable menstrual pads and management kits to help keep girls in school. The project also supports women who make these kits at the country of distribution. Please come and join us for a truly incredible story, and rewarding day of mission work. Thank you.

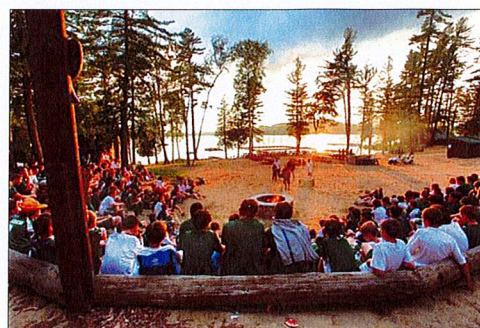
► United Methodist Camps

Delivered on March 10, 2019, by Pastor Sara

In the past few weeks I've been in some very sacred spaces filled with United Methodists who stand firmly in the grounding of God's love for ALL people. Last week, this was at the Love Your Neighbor Coalition worship the day after General Conference. This week it was yesterday, at an Upper New York gathering of those who want to organize for inclusion in our own conference.

One of the pieces that struck me in each of those gatherings were how many CAMP people were there. It was disproportionate, in each case. People I've known at camp, people I know who love other camps, camp people, are people who know a God of love, of inclusion, of radical hospitality, of Jesus as a radical faith leader calling for the well being of God's beloveds against systems that would oppress them.

Camp doesn't start out to create good theology. Camp starts out to provide a safe environment for campers to thrive, then adds to it nurture and fun, friendship and play, the wonder of creation, and time to simply be. Within all of that, at United Methodist Camps, is infused a sense of wonder of the God who loves us, a delight in creation as an expression of God, a chance to explore the Bible and get to know its curiosities, a space to ask deep questions, and enough time for the love of God's people to soak in far enough that the love of God can take hold too. Good theology is merely a normal outcome.



I loved camp as a kid. I was a very awkward kid, and although I was lucky to come from a loving home, I hadn't found acceptance at school when I started going to church camp. I did find acceptance at camp, and acceptance for many of the same things that kids at school teased me about. (Camp at its best celebrates people exactly where they are, like church.) That love soaked into me, and it stuck. I kept going to camp, and it was at camp that I started getting to ask big questions, and study big Biblical ideas, and build connections that would last.

Late on, I couldn't believe my good fortune when I was hired to work at camp after high school. That's when the deeper learning began – figuring out how diverse God's people really are, finding what challenged me, learning how deeply I could love, discovering how much I needed other people's help – and how much they needed mine – and finding out I could do many things I hadn't known I could. Later still, after I'd finished seminary and become a pastor, I got to take a try at directing, at being in charge at camp and making sure a whole camp full of people were doing well, all at once. That process has continued to stretch me, delight me, make me laugh, and give me space to grow. I'm 37, and I still go to camp every year, because my heart can't make it if I don't.

If you want to go to camp this year, I think you should take that seriously! For some, that may come in the form of our retreat at the end of the summer (it is handicap accessible), others may want to volunteer for a week (or a day), others still may want to be campers (the very best part) or simply drop off or pick up campers. Camp is one of the best expressions I know of the kingdom come to life, and its well worth seeking out.

Signup for Summer Camp and/or Family Camp Weekend

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



Skye Farm camp is located in the Adirondacks, just off Northway Exit 24 (1½ hrs. away). Another nearby camp is Sky Lake campground, located in Windsor, NY (2 hrs. away), which is where we'll return for our fourth annual church retreat in August! And where Pastor Sara serves as a camp counselor for a week most summers.

Both camps offer several summer camps to choose from and also offer summer jobs.

Open Houses:

- Sky Lake on Sunday, May 19
- Skye Farm on Saturday, June 1

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

Family Camp Weekend at Skye Farm—

Friday-Monday, May 24-27

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

Summer Camps to choose from include:

Adirondack Artists

Adirondack Canoe

Campolodean:

Horse...Extreme...Tech...Sports, etc.

Fins, Feathers, Fur, Bark & Sky

Music & Visual Arts

Rocks, Ropes & Rivers

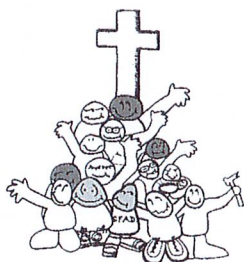
Special Needs

Unplugged

Water & Woods

Wranglers

X-Games Land & Water



Gathering: Judicial Decision

Our Upper NY Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb will host gatherings throughout the conference with the main focus on unpacking the Judicial Council's decision regarding the constitutionality of the petitions that made up the Traditional Plan affirmed by the delegates of the 2019 Special Session of The General Conference. It'll also be a time to help all understand what becomes part of the Book of Discipline on January 1, 2020, and what does not. These times will include an opportunity for questions and conversations about what God might be doing in and through The United Methodist Church in the future. There will also be a brief time of worship. All are welcome. A gathering will be held at Shenendehowa UMC, 971 Route 146 in Clifton Park, on Wed., May 29th, from 6:30-8:30 pm.



Celebrate Pentecost... and Wear Red!

On Sunday, June 9th, we'll celebrate Pentecost during Worship. Pentecost is the season we celebrate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through the life of the church. It's often referred to as the birthday of the church. Wear red — the color of the Spirit!

In Our Community....

► **Presentation: "Let's Talk About It Now"** will be held at Christ Community Church, 1010 NY-146, Clifton Park on May 1, 1-2 pm and discuss the advantages of taking charge of your final arrangements. Kathleen A, Sanvidge, funeral director and owner of Townley & Wheeler Funeral Home in Ballston Lake, will lead the program. All welcome. RSVP by calling 518-399-5022.

► **Schenectady Interfaith** will hold a dinner & program by the Sisters of St. Joseph's on Thurs., May 2, at Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, 1945 Union St. Dinner at 6:30 (\$15); program at 7:30. All welcome. To signup, call 518-370-2150.

► **Home Furnishings Program** operates from our church to provide good re-usable household items & furniture to those in need. Program needs include: small livingroom pieces, kitchen sets & desks, forks, curtains, medium-large pots, baking pans, can openers, curtains. To donate items, call 518-346-2444.

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - MARCH 2019

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

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

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

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
Jan Huston & sister's family	Doug Wood
Rev. Bob Long	Junice Wusterbarth

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

We celebrate with:

Beryl Rockwell, who celebrated her 95th birthday on Easter Sunday, April 21st. Happy Birthday!

Conor Reid Welsch, who received the Sacrament of Baptism during Worship on March 31. Welcome!

Keira Welsch, Liesel Welsch & Christine Yesse, who were received into church membership March 31. Welcome!

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
March 3	58
March 10	63
March 17	72
March 24	68
March 31	73

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
March 3	\$ 2,346.00
March 10	11,848.49
March 17	7,813.55
March 24	805.00
March 31	6,243.00



OUR SERVICE

- Date
- 3/3 —Offered program by Schenectady Historical Society on the revitalization of downtown Schenectady
 - 3/9 —Through our United Methodist Women (UMW), hosted a MoonBee event and project; open to all women
 - 3/13 —Distributed items to those in need through FUMC's SUSTAIN Ministry program
 - 3/16 —Offered 2 presentations with guest Michael Diana of the Schenectady Historical Society
 - 3/20 —Women's Luncheon held at Glen Eddy with all women welcome
 - 3/24 —Held concert featuring the Young People's Chorus of New York City; free and open to all
 - 3/25 —Special Sunday collection received for "UMCOR Sunday," formerly *One Great Hour of Sharing* (\$603)
 - 3/27 —Served a meal to our neighbors at the City Mission of Schenectady
 - 3/30 —Youth Service: Served free Community Brunch
 - 3/31 —Celebrated Sacrament of Baptism and welcomed new members during Worship
 - Mar. —Continue to prepare & serve Community Breakfast, free and open to all: # served=238; aver. # volunteers=11
 - Presented *Mission Moments* at Worship: PrimeTimers VIM; UM Camps; UMC Social Principles; UMCOR
 - Collected empty pill bottles for the Matthew:25 Ministries program through our UMW
 - Sunday 2nd Hour offered: Soup & Bread Lunch; Orff Instruments; Team Meetings; Annual Church Meeting

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



The Spire

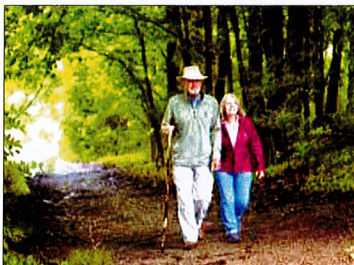
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603 State Street
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Serving Schenectady for over 225 Years

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NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

May 29; articles due May 15



Church Retreat in August

Please mark your calendar and consider joining us on Friday, Aug. 23rd—Sunday, Aug. 25th for a weekend re-

treat at the beautiful Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center! It will be a time of rest, focus and dialogue with intergenerational activities for all. Sky Lake is in Windsor, NY. Financial assistance through FUMC is available; please speak to Pastor Sara. To check out room accommodations in the Underwood Lodge, go to: www.skylakecenter.org.

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



Check us out on Facebook!

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Look what's coming in early June:

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Family Sunday

**Christian Education Celebration
with Potluck Luncheon
Book Discussion**

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 5-8

Upper NY Annual Conference

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Pentecost—wear red!

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