



THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 83 No. 3

The Reverend Sara E. Baron, Pastor

July 2019

Future Sundays

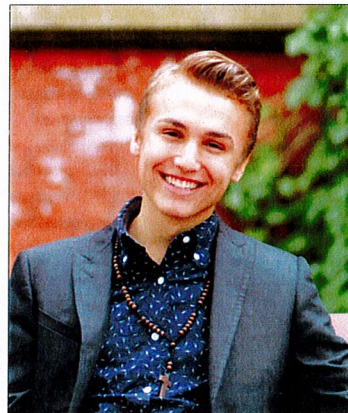
- 8:30 Community Breakfast Fellowship
9:00 Books for Children & Adults
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Punch Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour Programs
7:00 New Bible Study

Worship Text:

- July 7 2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
"Find Hope"
July 14 Psalm 25:1-10
Luke 10:25-37
"Find Compassion"
July 21 Psalm 66:1-9
Isaiah 66:10-14
"Find Joy"
July 28 Rev. Jim Sprenger preaching

Second Hour Programs:

- July 14 Youth Fundraiser: Car Wash
July 21 Book Discussion
July 28 Youth Fundraiser: Car Wash



Welcome JJ WARREN

**Guest Preacher
on
Sunday, June 30**

We're pleased to announce that J.J. Warren will be our guest preacher at our 10 AM Worship Service on Sunday, June 30th!

J.J. is a senior at Sarah Lawrence College, just outside New York City, and is a certified candidate for ministry in The United Methodist Church. He spent an academic year studying Biblical Hebrew and theology at Oxford University, England. Last summer, J.J. had his first preaching tour, "Renewal," where he was invited to speak at eight churches in New York state. He has spent the past four years preaching at churches and youth events, founding a progressive Christian community on his campus, leading the Young Adult Ministries Team of the Upper NY Conference, and was a lay delegate to the special session of the General Conference in February where he made his impassioned speech for inclusion and unity, which was featured by the Huffington Post.

J.J. has been featured in Study Breaks Magazine, the Sarah Lawrence Phoenix, and has a free YouTube Bible study, "Called to Love." J.J. is excited to announce that his summer 2019 tour, "Forward Together," will be expanding to cities across the U.S.! To learn more, visit <http://www.jjwarren.org>.

Coming in August... CHURCH WIDE RETREAT!



***Signup
today!***

***See page 11
for details!***



From Our Pastor

Recently I've been lucky to be in a series of wonderful conversations with some of you. They weren't planned or formal, they happened in the regular course of ministry, but they've got me thinking! One of you asked me questions about my priorities, asking if I care more about dismantling systems of injustice (racism, sexism, heteronormativity, impoverishment) than I do about the church. That was a GREAT question, because it gave me space to think about the answer. Without the question, I couldn't have known my answer.

So, here is my answer: the point of the church is to build the kingdom of God. That's the point of being a Christian too, the church is the place we work together to do it, under assumptions that we can do more together than apart, and that we need each other to be at our best. (Please do not hear anything in this that dismisses very closely shared values of other faith traditions, I do not mean to claim we're the only ones who care about making the world better! Rather, I'm speaking from our tradition knowing that other traditions also come to similar conclusions within their frameworks.)

Building the kingdom of God means working towards making this world into one where everyone can survive AND thrive. It means extending the shared values of kin out into the world. It means acknowledging that each and every human being is a beloved child of God, and we need to change the world so every person has a chance to live fully. All of that means that building the kingdom of God is quite intimately correlated with dismantling systems of injustice, and one of the major reasons I love my work is that I get to spend my life building the kingdom of God.

There was pushback, as well there should be, about what my role is in nurturing and supporting people doing the work of kingdom building versus doing it myself. There was also pushback about the imperative work of inviting others into this work with us. Thank God for the pushback. It isn't really my job to DO the kingdom building, it is my job to empower the kingdom building. Sometimes I go out into the world in my clergy collar and use the privilege and moral authority granted by the church to speak on your behalf for vulnerable people. Most of the time though, my job is to make space for others to do that sort of stuff, and it always has to be kept in balance.

Another wonderful conversation I've recently had made space to talk about who God is and isn't. After all, the childhood myths that God is all-powerful and everything that happens is because of God's will is really scary once we see how broken the world is. Based on the wonderful questions asked, I shared that I believe that God is love, and God works in the world by encouraging all of us to be the best we can and share the love we have as well as we can. God is an encourager, and we all get to choose whether or not we listen. God wants to build the kingdom, but doesn't (or can't?) impose anything on us. Instead, God loves, and we get to respond.

Finally, I had a wonderful conversation about whether or not the impact of religion on the world is good. While I really hope it is, and I have great examples to back me up, I've never been sure. However, I am sure that the impact of this faith community on the world is good, and that we are moving the world toward the kingdom together. There are so many big and wonderful questions among us, and I'm thankful for those willing to engage in conversation with me about them. I hope you are fussing at big and important questions, and discussing them with people. There are a lot of things to wonder about, and a well thought out question is a gift. Thanks to you as a whole for giving such good gifts. (And feel free to offer more pushback.)

—Sara

Welcome Cleaning Service

This past December, Martin let us know that he was going to retire from his full time position with us. SPPRC and the Trustees have been carefully considering all options regarding cleaning, and maintaining our building and grounds. We are so thankful to Martin for continuing part time in a maintenance position, and to Alice Nash for taking care of our cleaning while we found our way forward.

We are pleased to welcome Williams Commercial Cleaning Service to First UMC Schenectady. Roy Williams is going to be cleaning our building, and you'll likely see him around. Roy is a Schenectady resident, and he and his wife Aisha Williams are business partners in Williams Commercial Cleaning.

2019 Graduates

The office is collecting the names of members and friends of FUMC, who are graduating from high school and college to acknowledge their achievement. Call with your graduate!



Renewal Leave

Pastor Sara will be on "Renewal Leave" from July 22-August 22 this summer. Pastor Bob Long will be available for pastoral care, and a wonderful series of retired clergy will be filling the pulpit. The lay leadership of the church, of course, will make sure that everything stays up and running – like always.

Altar Flowers



If you would like to give altar flowers for Sunday Worship, please see the signup poster on the hallway bulletin board or contact the office.

Notes of Thanks



Dear First UMC,

Thank you for your gift to Methodist Federation of Social Action (MFSA)... Your generosity enables us to mobilize progressive United Methodists to work on issues of peace, poverty, and people's rights. MFSA is telling the story of what lived faith looks like by mobilizing United Methodists to be agents of sacred change in the church and the world. Your gift will help us accomplish the following:

- Expand our organizing for 2020 General Conference
- Be a more powerful voice of conscience in imaging what the United Methodist Church or its successors, will be in the future, advocating for more people of color, LGBTQIA+ persons, women, young people, people with disabilities, laypeople to be present at the table(s).
- Speak as people of faith who are grounded in God's love, care, and compassion for all people, and train more people to do the same.
- Empower organizing in areas without regional offices
- Resource our regional offices...offer training & support
- Expand our justice-seeking congregation program
- Participating in more coalition building work in the church, across the US, and around the world.
- Expand the progressive justice-seeking movement of Jesus followers, to transform the world!

Now is the time to embolden our work on racial justice/equity, economic justice, reproductive rights, environmental justice, Palestinian human rights. LGBTQIA+ inclusion, and more. Together we will continue to education, witness, and work for more just and inclusive communities in our church and our world. Thank you for your bold witness.

—Bridget Cabrera, Exec. Director
Methodist Federation of Social Action

Dear Friends,

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. These are difficult times. We find hope and energy in the fact that new churches are moving forward to become reconciling everyday! Our movement is very strong. Keep up with all the ways you are helping RMN at www.rmnetwork.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/RMNetwork. Please do not hesitate to contact my colleague Kathy Cheney-Egan at kathy@rmnetwork.org if you have any questions or comments. We will put your gift to good use right away. Thank you for your Reconciling Community's inspiring support!

Many blessings,
Jan Lawrence, Interim Exec. Director
Reconciling Ministries Network



July 2019

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2	3	4 Independence Day Church Office closed	5	6
7 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 7:00 PM Bible Study	8 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	9 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 4:00 PM Investment Committee	10 11:30 AM-1:30 PM SUSTAIN Ministry	11	12 11:00 AM-3 PM Home Furnishings / SUSTAIN Giveaway Day	13 12:00 noon Youth Group
14 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program —Youth Car Wash 7:00 PM Bible Study	15 Spire articles due 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 6:30 PM Joint Welcoming Church Meeting @ Scotia UMC	16 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	17	18	19	20 12:00 noon Youth Group
	FUMC Volunteers at SiCM Summer Lunch Program for Children					
21 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program —Book Discussion 7:00 PM Bible Study	22 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	23 7:00 PM Trustees	24 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 5:00 pm Serve Meal at City Mission	25	26	27 9:30 AM Youth: Serve Community Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 12:00 noon Youth Group 7:00 PM Church Outing: Valley Cats Baseball
28 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program —Youth Car Wash	29	30	31			

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

Membership News

Updates to our church directory:

New Members—

We welcomed our newest church members, the Confirmation Class of 2019, who joined during Worship on June 9 (*Faith Statements on pg. 8-9*):

Francesca DiMezza
Christopher Evans
Ann Greenwood
Donesia Lonergan-Moore

Friends on the Move—

Warm wishes are extended to members of our church family, who recently moved:

Barbara Waring
The Massry Residence, Room 230
182 Washington Ave., Extension
Albany, NY 12203

Joe Waring, Barbara's husband
Daughter of Sarah Nursing Home (mail can be sent to Barbara at the above address.)



Save the date...

It's Rudy's 100th Birthday!

Rudy Dehn, our dear friend and longtime active member, will turn 100 on August 12th! A birthday celebration, hosted by his family, is planned for Saturday, August 10th, here at First UMC from 1:00-3 pm. Signups helpful through the church office.

Mark your calendar to plan to gather on August 10th to celebrate with Rudy!

Help our Sunday School kids!!!

You are needed for occasional (maybe up to 3 times per year) help with FUMC's Sunday School and/or Babyfold. Our elementary school children have 2 excellent teachers – Elaine Troy and Amanda Taylor. Barb Armstrong is usually available to take care of the youngest children in Babyfold. But once in a while one of them is unable to be at church. The United Methodist Safe Sanctuaries policy requires 2 adults to be present with children. This is for the safety of both the children and the adults.

Our Sunday School is held from 9:00 to 9:45 every Sunday except the first Sunday of each month during the school year. There is always a lesson and a craft prepared by our teachers; a helper will know what to do. Or if you have something you would especially like to share with these children, talk with our teachers about your idea. Sunday School for elementary children will resume in September.

Young children are welcome in Babyfold during the worship service any time during the year.

Please consider being available for occasional help. Talk with Elaine, Amanda, Barb, or Jan Huston about your interest and availability.



Summer Camp for Kids

There are still openings in some of the camps offered at Skye Farm and Sky Lake Campgrounds, which are operated by the United Methodist Church. These camps offer our children and youth wonderful experiences of an outdoor world of fun, joy and love during summer. For details, see the colored brochure in the narthex/lobby or go to: www.campsandretreats.org.



Summer Music at Worship

July 7

BARB HAVERLY - Soprano

SUE LEARNER - Soprano

July 14

DAVID READ - Baritone

July 21

Piano and Organ Duets

DIANE KINGSLAND - Piano

DOMINICK GIAQUINTO - Organ

July 28

ITEKE PRINS - Organ

August 4

DIANE KINGSLAND - Organ

August 11

DIANE KINGSLAND - Organ

August 18

ITEKE PRINS - Organ

August 25

TENOR AND BASSES OF THE CHOIR

September 1

DOMINICK GIAQUINTO - Organ

September 8

HANDBELL QUARTET

A Stephen Ministry Moment

**"Shared joy
is double joy, and
shared sorrow
is half-sorrow."**

Swedish Proverb

NEW Bible Study

The Sunday evening Bible Study, led by Pastor Sara, is now focusing on a new topic entitled, "Through the Eyes of the Stranger." Everyone is welcome to join our young adults for this weekly study held on Sundays from 7:00-8:30 in the Wesley Lounge.



Summer Lunch Program: Volunteer for a few hours of fun July 15-19

Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) will again be coordinating summer lunches for Schenectady children. Without this program many kids would not have a midday meal throughout the summer. Lunches are served at sites specifically targeted to reach the largest number of children. At the sites, nearly 100% of the children qualify for free or reduced price lunches when they are in school. The NYS Education Department and the US Department of Agriculture fund SiCM's summer lunch program by reimbursing SiCM for each meal served. Lunch is available to youth 18 years old and under. SiCM expects to feed more than 1000 children per day at 18 different sites throughout the city. Last summer over 34,000 meals were served. The food is prepared at a central location and then brought to the distribution sites where it is given to the children by volunteers. FUMC's week to serve this year will be from July 15-19. We will be at Schenectady's Central Library. Volunteers are to arrive at 11:15. Lunch will be served 11:30 -12:45. We will have 2 to 4 volunteers each day.

Please sign up for one or more days by contacting Jan Huston or Barb Armstrong.



Youth Fundraisers

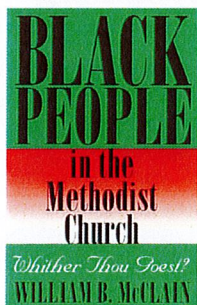
Our Youth Group will hold Car Wash fundraisers to help support their mission trip to North Carolina in August. The car washes will be held in our parking lot after Worship from 11:30 am—2 :00 pm on:

Sunday, July 14

Sunday, July 28

The cost is \$5 for exterior wash and \$10 for an exterior wash and vacuuming.

Your support is appreciated...and please let your friends and neighbors know!



Book Discussion

The next book discussion will be on "Black People in the Methodist Church" by William B. McClain, which has been recommended by Virgia Phoenix. According to the description, Dr. McClain "has written a fascinating and insightful

account of one segment of Methodism's complex history. The early circuit riders, abolitionists, John Wesley himself...all are here. [A] unique account of the struggles within United Methodism, the disastrous 'uniting' conference of 1939, and the setbacks that forced a segregated faction to rise from its ashes."

The discussion will be on Sunday, July 21st, after the 10 AM service. This book has somewhat limited availability, but you can order a used copy on Amazon (generally for a low cost), see if one of the local bookstores can procure a copy, or possibly borrow a copy from another reader after they have finished with it.

E-Newsletter Available!

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



Serve Meal at City Mission

Wednesday, July 24

It's our church's turn to serve a meal at the City Mission on Wednesday, July 24th. Volunteers are 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.citymissionofschenectady.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., July 24.

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

The remaining 2019 dates assigned to our church to serve are: July 24, Sept. 25, Nov. 27.

Volunteers must arrive no later than 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 an upcoming meal. Thank you.

Drivers needed for SUSTAIN Ministry Program

Through FUMC's SUSTAIN Ministry program, we provide a vital service to many in our community. Our mission dollars stretch further because of our ability to purchase diapers, soap, toilet paper, etc. at low cost at the Northeastern Regional Food Bank. We distribute these personal care items to our neighbors in need once a month.



SUSTAIN Ministry is looking for people with a vehicle willing to drive to the Food Bank at least once a month to pick up the items needed. The Food Bank is located on New Karner Rd., Latham (off Rt. 7 near Faddegons Nursery.)

If interested in volunteering, please contact Beth Long-Velasquez (beth12309@gmail.com) or the church office.



Congratulations & Welcome to our Confirmation Class of 2019

The following Faith Statements were delivered during Worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th, by our Confirmation Class:



► Faith Statement by Francesca DiMezza

I believe that God is an interpretation of Hope in people's minds but not an actual being up in heaven.

Jesus was someone who gave people bravery and hope to believe in what they thought was right, he brought hope by making people believe he looked out for them.

I'm not sure if there is a holy spirit but if there is I think of it as this second part of someone that when in crisis takes over to control and calm the situation.

The point of church is to feel connected with God or feel connected in that there is hope in the future.

The Bible tells us stories of miracles and much more. We can learn much about religion from it but also learn what people thought many years ago.

A good life is in which you are happy and feel content with who you are and what you have and your relationship with God. You don't need to be the richest person alive to have a good life or have kids or a significant other. All that matters is that you are happy and content and that God is looking after you.

► Faith Statement by Christopher Evans

I do believe in God, the person that he is though, I am not quite sure yet, one thing that I do know for sure is that he will always have open ears to whatever you have to say. Also, he will give you his best answer/advice that he can. My understanding of Jesus is that he was there for people when they needed him most. When they needed the most help for daily activities, such as picking wheat, making cloth, he would be there to help in any way he can. The way that he impacts me today is that he sets a good example of how every human being should act regardless of whom they may be helping. In regards to the holy spirit, I think about it in a way that makes sense to me. It is that the holy spirit is something that helps you make your decisions based on things that your ancestors might have done. Their presence, when it is felt, it may allow you to think on behalf of them, that would be one of my interactions with the holy spirit. For me, the point of church is to allow the human that is on earth the chance to be able to connect with the people that are no longer on earth, but are a figure from above. I think that worship is a big part of this as well because you come to church to worship, and that is a big part of church. I think that there is value in the Bible. I think that it allows us to be incorporated into the past of our culture by learning about what is believed to have happened around Jesus and God. Another point in the Bible that I have found is that it helps to make sense of what we worship and give us some context of why we worship these things. I think that spirituality is a very important part of our culture and that we should honor not only the life that we have here on earth but also our afterlife. The spirits may help to guide you to go on the right path when the road ahead looks unsteady. My personal experiences with prayer is that it is something that I turn to if I am having a very hard time with something, or if it is the complete opposite from that, if I have just done something incredibly good, I will pray and thank God for what amazing thing just happened. But if something bad has just happened, I will ask God for guidance and only the best intentions for what is to come. I think that a good life is like when you are happy and you are able to help other people be happy and that will help you feel like a better person. Also, a good life would be like when you are able to not only help people be happy, but help them improve their overall quality of life. Also, you could have a good life when you are with the people that you love and they reciprocate that love. I think that would be a good life not only for you, but for all the other people you are helping and the people that you interact with on a day to day basis.

Faith Statements...Page 1 of 2

► Faith Statement by Ann Greenwood

I believe that a good life is a life with happiness and some goal to achieve in the future. Happiness to me is a feeling of no worries and no excess thinking. Just enjoying the moment for as long as possible. To have a good life, you need happiness on a daily basis, and you need a goal for your future self to keep working forward.

I believe that worship is any form of prayer people use to communicate with God. I think prayer is a way of calming your mind to only focus on God. Prayer can be more than just talking to God. It can be coloring, or anything that allows you to be creative.

And I believe that church is a place where people come together to learn and worship, because people are mostly social creatures, who need each other as well as God.

► Faith Statement by Donesia Lonergan-Moore

God is a spiritual figure known to be the creator of well mostly everything, but for me God is a representation of self-peace and comfort. God is there to listen and won't always give answers back but maybe you'll find your answers just by talking in the comfort of God, he won't fix every problem the world makes but will calmly show a sign of the right path to go in which relates to the Holy Spirit where many people believe in a higher power that shows activity in fixing the world into the way he wants it by force. "The holy spirit is God's power in action, his active force. (Micah 3:8; Luke 1:35) God sends out his spirit by projecting his energy to any place to accomplish his will. —Psalm 104:30; 139:7" The God I believe in doesn't completely interfere but he does give you options on how life can be in hopes of things getting better. As we sit here and call God our father I believe as a community we are the sons and daughters of God but I do not believe one is favored more than the other for example Jesus, as I came to confirmation I never understood why we were all the sons and daughters of God but Jesus was considered THEE son of god but after I started to understand that he was no more important to god than me, you, or anyone that lived during his era. He just focused and understood the little things that god was showing him, he took them as lessons and started sharing these lessons with other people. The Bible is a course of scriptures or stories. Some people may believe in the Bible and some may not, my view on the aspect of the Bible is not based on the scripture itself but what the scripture is trying to come across. The Bible for me is based off life and death and the way you live life until death comes. I've had the choice to consider joining the church but over time it was difficult for me because I didn't know if this church fit me, this church is like home, sometimes you want to take a break and go to your friends house but after a while you're always going to want to go back home where the people you love are or the people that make you feel welcomed and comfortable. By saying that in my opinion the point of the church is to make you feel welcomed as it is

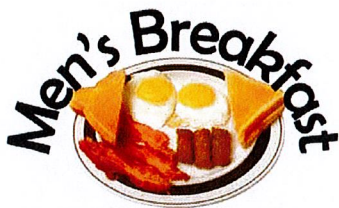


in your own home although the church does have jobs to fulfill like teaching us more about the Bible, any church we go to can do that but it's the church that makes you feel most welcomed that you will actually listen. God in other words symbolizes kindness, understanding, patience and forgiveness. The importance of this is to know that God is with us and we carry a piece of him inside of us so if we live life carrying those four words life would just be better and that's what living a Godly life is for me.



Joint Church Meeting

On Monday, July 15th, everyone is welcome to gather with Eastern Parkway UMC at 6:30 pm for a joint meeting at Scotia UMC, 201 N. Ten Broeck Street, as churches in welcoming all of God's people into the United Methodist Church.



Calling All Men!

The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, July 24th, at 8:30 am at Blue Ribbon Diner on State Street. All men welcome. If you have any questions, contact Bob Coppola.

Enjoy doing Needlework?

The Needlework Ministry program (knitting, crocheting, sewing) welcomes all to participate. Through this program, handmade items are created 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.



Invitation

Would you enjoy a visit or would 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.

Upper NY Conference Mission u 2019



Studies

Theme:

"Learning Together for the Transformation of the World"

Mission u was created by Methodist women in the early 20th century in order to educate women and inspire them to a sense of mission at home and around the world. The United Methodist Women (UMW) remain dedicated to the planning and promotion of this program. At Mission u, you will have an opportunity to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context as we "learn together for the transformation of the world."

The three studies offered this year at three different sites within our conference are listed below and will include: Worship and singing, interest groups around current issues, audiovisual presentations, and great fellowship! All are welcome.

Here are the 2019 courses offered this summer:

Spiritual Growth Study:

"Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship"

Issue Study:

"What About Our Money? A Faith Response"

Special Study:

"Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission"

Here are the dates & sites the courses will be held:

Cazenovia College—July 12-14

Located in Cazenovia, NY

Children & youth programs; childcare available, ages 1-5

\$200; children \$20 or \$50 for family

Registration deadline: July 1

Asbury Camp & Retreat Center—July 25-27

Located in Silver Lake, NY

\$235 Double; \$275 single

Registration deadline: July 1

Silver Bay Conference Center—September 6-8

Located in Lake George, NY

\$300 triple; \$320 double; \$440 single; \$245 commuter

Registration deadline: August 1

For more details about this year's studies, of which, scholarship funds are available, visit Mission u's website at www.unymissionu.org, or call 518-233-0238.

Beauty Abounds!!! Church Retreat @ Sky Lake

August 23 – 25, 2019



Join our church family from Friday, August 23, to Sunday, August 25, for a weekend retreat at Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center! It will be a time of rest, various forms of creativity and connection. Our guest presenter this year will be The Rev. Dr. Meredith Vanderminden. Rev. Vanderminden specializes in helping both churches and individuals find a deeper connection to the Holy through various forms of creative experience. Meredith enjoys helping non-artists embrace their God-given creativity and find ways of expressing and expanding their faith. Our theme will revolve around spirituality and creative expression.

Sky Lake is located in Windsor, NY. To check out room accommodations and the Underwood Lodge, go to: <http://www.skylakecenter.org>. Linens and meals are all provided with accommodations at Underwood Lodge. Special dietary accommodations are available upon advanced request. Financial assistance through First UMC is available; please speak to Pastor Sara. To reserve a spot, your registration form and payment need to be turned in to the Church Office by August 5th.

Lodge rates for the weekend, which includes meals, is \$187 for adults (18+); \$167 for youth/teens (12-17); \$64 for children (under 12). Check out the facilities at the Underwood Lodge at: <http://skylakecenter.org/camp-and-retreat-center/our-facilities>.

If you have any questions, contact Louis Patterson (destined25@gmail.com) or the church office (fumcschenectady@yahoo.com).

Church Retreat 2019 – Registration Form

To sign up for the retreat, please provide your name, phone, etc., below and place in the offering plate or return to the Church Office.

Name(s) _____

Email _____ Phone _____

of adults _____ # of youth/teens: _____ # of children (age 4-12) _____

Accommodations: _____ Underwood Lodge (meals included)

Dietary Accommodations (Please list any special needs): _____

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - MAY 2019

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

- The family & friends of Gertrude "Trudy" Guidos, a friend & former member, who passed away on June 14; cards/notes of condolence can be sent to her husband, Ray, and the family at: 3747 Peachtree Rd., NE, Suite 916, Atlanta, GA 30319.
- The family & friends of David Boggs, a friend & former member, who passed away June 12; cards/notes of condolences may be sent to his sister, Janice Boggs Kirshenbaum at: 92 Ash Tree Ln., Schenectady, NY 12309.
- The family & friends of Barbara O'Brien, a friend & former member, who passed away on June 7; cards/notes of condolence can be sent to her daughter, Diane Barnes, at: 198 Northern Pine Rd., Gansevoort, NY 12831.

Our Christian support is also extended to:

Andrea Bailey	Jen & Merrick Fuller	Rev. Bill Rowe
Jan Butts	Jan Guzior	Dick Smith
Shirley Daniels	Kristen Johnson	José Velasquez
Rudy Dehn	Jack & Courtney McEwan	Nancy Walden
June Dieffenbach	Nancy Mohammadi	Joe & Barbara Waring
Liz Fogle	Mary Neville	Doug Wood
Roark Frisoni	Shirley Rivest	

And to: Belinda Forbes, our Nicaraguan Missionary; and Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Teams.

With Celebrate with:

Our Confirmation Class, who completed the class & were received into full church membership during Worship on June 9th. Welcome!

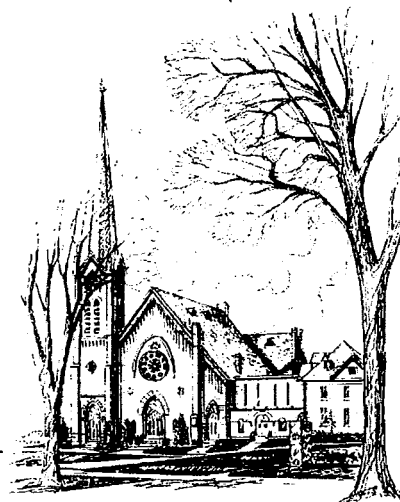
Walter Grattidge, who celebrated his 95th birthday on May 28th. Happy Birthday!

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
May 5	62
May 12	66
May 19	71
May 26	61

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
May 5	\$4,475.00
May 12	2,030.00
May 19	7,777.00
May 26	4,994.00



OUR SERVICE

Date	
5/5	—Special collection taken for Peace with Justice Sunday (\$158) —Participated in CROP Walk to help raise funds & awareness to fight hunger —Concert featured Lisa Vroman, Soprano; free and open to all
5/7	—Participated in Joint Welcoming Church gathering at Scotia UMC
5/8	—Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry program
5/22	—Served meal at the City Mission of Schenectady
5/25	—Youth Service: Served free Community Brunch
May	—Presented <i>Mission Moments</i> during Worship on 3 Sundays on: <i>UMC Social Principles</i> —Continue to serve Community Breakfast Sundays; free & open to all; # served=152; aver. # volunteers=11 —Sunday 2nd hour offered: Church Tour - 2nd flr.; Intersectional Justice Comm.; Extended Coffee Fellowship

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



The Spire

**First United Methodist Church
603 State Street
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NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

July 24; articles due July 15



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We have an active facebook page...share joys and concerns, events, photos, inspirational quotes, etc.



**Enjoy Breakfast
on Sundays**

Everyone is invited to come enjoy the Downtown Community Breakfast, served on Sundays 8:30-9:30 am prior to the start of the Worship service. The meal is free and served in Fellowship Hall each week except on the first Sunday of each month. Hope to see you there!



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

Websites and E-Mail Addresses

First United Methodist Church—

E-Mail: fumcschenectady@yahoo.com

Website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Upper New York Annual Conference—

Website: www.unyumc.org

Albany District Office—

E-Mail: albanydistrict@unyumc.org

Website: www.unyumc.org/districts/detail/2