



THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 83 No. 2

The Reverend Sara E. Baron, Pastor

June 2019

FUTURE SUNDAYS

- 8:30** Community Breakfast
9:00 Books for Children & Adults
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour Programs:
—Adult Forums
—Luncheons / Picnics
—Orff Instruments
—Ministry Team meetings
7:00 Bible Study: Book of Acts

Worship Text:

- June 2 **Christian Education Sunday**
Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11
“Ascension??”
June 9 **Pentecost / Confirmation Sunday**
Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21
Youth leading Worship & sharing faith statements
June 16 **Peace with Justice Sunday**
Father’s Day
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8
“Wisdom, She Calls”
June 23 **Graduation Sunday**
1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42
“Sheer Silence”
June 30 JJ Warren Preaching!!!

Second Hour Events:

- June 2 Potluck Picnic Luncheon
Book Discussion
Schenectady Pride Parade
June 9 Albany Pride Parade & Festival



Celebration on June 2— Christian Education Sunday

Potluck Picnic Luncheon

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 event, sponsored by our Children and Youth Ministries Team.

After the 10 am Worship Service, plan to stay to enjoy a potluck lunch! Please plan to bring a dish to share, if able (salads, casseroles, etc.)

Although we plan to eat inside, “picnicky” foods are encouraged. Watermelon and beverages will be provided. Signups helpful but not necessary, through the church office.

We hope everyone can join our children and youth for this annual fellowship event.



Celebrate Pentecost... & our Confirmation Class!

On Sunday, June 9th, we’ll celebrate Pentecost during Worship, which will be lead by our Confirmation Class and youth group.

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!





From our Pastor

There have been a lot of statements written and passed around since General Conference 2019, and many of them have been good. One of them has been great. UM-Forward (UM-Forward.org) hosted a gathering last week that centered persons of color and the queer and trans people, which they abbreviate as PoC+Q+T, and they put their “proclamation” on their website. I considered sharing part of it, or even all of it with you in this article, but it is 5 pages long and it all seems so interdependent and well written that I don’t feel comfortable deciding which parts to share and which parts not to. I’m going to share JUST one tiny part, but I encourage you to read it, and sign it if you agree with it.

The one part I’m going to share is one that solved a language issue I’ve had for years. When I was in seminary I was informed that “liberal” is a word that many people of color associate with white dominance, and that the word “progressive” was preferred. I’d fully embraced that change when I was informed that “progressive” is now ALSO associated with white dominance and that it should not be used either. White dominance is a powerful reality, and I know that many well-meaning organizations have perpetuated white dominance, and given the words a bad name. In fact, I think the first language switch was likely done without sufficient meaningful change, which meant that the same realities impacted both words. However, I’ve struggled for years with the fact that I just didn’t have another word I could use. Language matters, and communicating clearly matters, and there is something that I want to say when I’ve used the word “progressive,” other than the white dominate part. So, I asked, “How can I express open minded, expansively loving, working towards justice, and even intersectionality in one word? What am I supposed to say?” An answer didn’t come.

Until, that is, this proclamation. In the preamble, the proclamation says,

“As liberationists—those who strive for collective liberation of PoC+Q+T—we reject gradualism and incrementalism. We declare “progressive” as an inadequate descriptor for this moment. Progress is relative; liberation is an absolute. Mere progress participates in gradualism that whispers: “Be content that things are better today than yesterday.”¹

And there is the answer!!! The word I’ve been searching for is “liberationists” and it means “those who strive for collective liberation.” Because of the history of the church and the world, persons of color and queer and trans people are consistently denied liberation, and that acknowledgement is imperative. I do not believe “liberationists” to be limited to only those groups of people, rather I expect that in saying it strives for collective liberation that means for ALL people, starting with those who currently have the least liberation, and working together until all have full liberation.

I’m so RELIEVED to have the word I’ve been needing. (You can expect to hear it entirely too often from now on.) I’m also particularly aware of its challenges. To claim to be a liberationist is a challenge, it requires a whole lot of checking one’s self, making sure that people who are striving for liberation are the ones whose voices and needs are centered, and checking for white dominance, heteronormativity, transphobia, classism, sexism, etc. It feels like a word that challenges me. Thanks be to God. And thanks be to God that such a gathering existed, wrote such a proclamation, and is willing to lead into the future. (Perhaps some among us want to go to their next gathering???)

—Sara

¹ “Loved and Liberated: A Proclamation from Our Movement Forward Summit” found at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0WCRla0wK2SZjM4n6J-kzFxYvk_MpwQLQeLdgLhCwXaXWOg/viewform

In Memoriam

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



† **Mark Abbey**, a friend and member of 40 years, who passed away recently. A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held on Saturday, June 15, at 11:30 am in the sanctuary. Please keep his brother, Roy "Erik" Abbey and the family in your prayers. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Erik at 1816 Earl Dr., Bel Air, MD 21015.

Safe Sanctuaries and Photography/Videos/Permission

First United Methodist Church is committed to the protection and well-being of all, especially children and vulnerable adults. Our Safe Sanctuary policy provides guidelines for guarding privacy during church related events. In relation to taking pictures and videos – our guidelines require permission from those involved before pictures are taken and definitely before any photos are shared on social media. It is the policy of our Youth programs that no photos be taken without permission, that no photos of children be shared on social media and that no children's names are used if group photos are shared. Please contact Jan Huston or Elaine Troy if you have any questions or would like to have a copy of the photo permission form.



"Church Night" on June 11

All Ministry Teams are invited to hold meetings on *Church Night*, held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. And all are welcome to gather for the Council meetings. The schedule is:

6:30 pm Ministry Teams meet
7:30 pm Church Council meets

Notes of Thanks



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation ...in support of our Active Samaritan fund. Your thoughtful generosity will allow us to continue serving those who might not otherwise afford counseling. All monies received are used to subsidize fees for those who do not have adequate means to cover the cost of therapy. Your covenant partnership with us is extremely important. Thank you again for your generosity. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in ministry with us! It is much appreciated. Thank you.

—David C. Olsen, PhD, Executive Director
Samaritan Counseling Center of the Capital Region

Thank you to everyone who offered prayer and kindness, and sent cards, food and greetings while I was recovering from hip surgery. I am doing very, very well, a good bit of that because of each of you.

—Bob Long

Thank you for your gift from First United Methodist Church to 350.org!...your support is instrumental as we fight to keep more carbon in the ground, mobilize more people to take action in their communities, and successfully hinder fossil fuel profits and infrastructure.

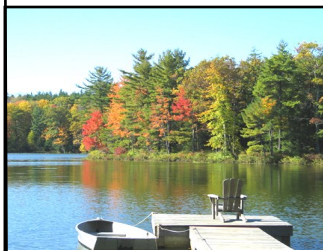
Your partnership is helping us achieve what would've been called impossible just years ago: pipelines like the Kinder Morgan and Keystone XL have not been built thanks to people-powered resistance, \$8 trillion in managed assets have divested from fossil fuels, and major cities and towns are keeping fossil fuels in the ground and committing to 100% renewable energy for all.

The impact of your support is being felt far and wide. And this year, we're going even bolder to combat the climate crisis. With your partnership and activism, we will:

- Demand true climate leadership by urging elected officials to support the Green New Deal and transition away from fossil fuels;
- Stop fossil fuel development and initiate a rapid shift to 100% renewable energy for all;
- Encourage thousands of people to join the global Fossil Free network; and
- Strengthen the climate movement by working with diverse progressive partners on a just transition.

Your support is an inspiration to us: it keeps our hope alight and perseverance steadfast. We're grateful that you're with us in this fight. Thank you again.



—Mary Boeve, Executive Director, 350.org



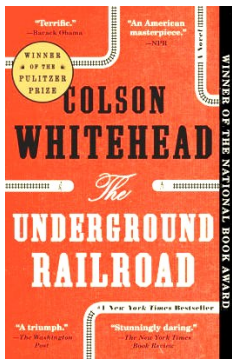
Coming in August...
CHURCH RETREAT!
see details on pg. 11



June 2019
First United Methodist Church, Schenectady
Calendar updates on website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12:00 noon Youth Group 3:30 PM Columbarium Committal Service for Philip Launer
2 Christian Education / Family Sunday 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM Annual Potluck Picnic Luncheon 12:30 PM Book Discussion 5:45 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Bible Study	3 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours	4 Council Reports due 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	5	6	7	8 12:00 noon Youth Group
			Upper New York Annual Conference			
9 PENTECOST  8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship , led by Confirmation Class / Youth 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd hour Programs 7:00 PM Bible Study	10 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 6:30 PM Staff Pastor / Parish Relations Comm.	11 2:00 PM Staff Meeting Church Night 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	12 11:30 AM-1:30 SUSTAIN Ministry: Distribution	13	14 Spire articles due	15 11:30 AM Memorial Service for Mark Abbey 12:00 noon Youth Group
16 Peace with Justice Sunday Father's Day 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd hour Programs 7:00 PM Bible Study	17 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 6:00 PM Joint Welcoming Church Meeting @ FUMC	18 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Children & Youth Ministries Team	19	20	21	22 12:00 noon Youth Group
23 Graduation Sunday 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd hour Programs 7:00 PM Bible Study	24 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	25 Public Schools last day 2:00 PM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM Trustees	26 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast	27	28	29 9:30 AM Youth: Serve Community Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 12:00 noon Youth Group
30 8:30 AM Breakfast 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd hour Programs 4:00 PM 20th Anniversary Celebration for Music Director						

We are in the season of PENTECOST (red) - The season which we celebrate the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit through the life of the church; sometimes referred to as the birthday of the church.



Book Discussion

Sunday, June 2

"The Underground Railroad: A Novel" will be discussed on Sunday, June 2nd, after Worship and the potluck luncheon 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!

2019 Graduates



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

On June 23rd, a special recognition of our 2019 graduates will be held during Worship.

Enjoy Summer Camp

Several Christian camps are owned by our 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 and another nearby camp is Sky Lake, located in Windsor, NY, which is where we'll return for our 4th annual church retreat in August! If you have a child or grandchild, plan to enroll them for a week or more at one of the several camps available. For a camp list and to register, see brochure at church or go to: www.skyefarmcamp.org or www.skylakecenter.org.

A Stephen Ministry Moment

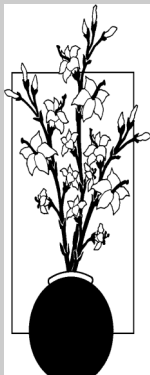
**"Whatever affects
one directly, affects
all indirectly."**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bible Study on Sundays

The Sunday evening Bible Study is focusing on the Book of Acts and led by Pastor Sara. Everyone is welcome to join our young adults for this weekly study, held from 7:00-8:30 pm in Wesley Lounge on Sundays.

Altar Flowers



We are grateful for the altar flowers given in May:

- 5/5** in honor of Shirley Readdean's daughters, Cyndee and Lyndi, and in honor of her brother-in-law, Ernest
- 5/12** in honor of Drew Vickery
- 5/19** in memory of Donald and Shirley Krauter

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

Music Notes for June



~ 2019-2020 Concert Series

An exciting line up for the 2019-2020 Concert Series has been announced. Harmonic Brass will be returning October 6th, 2019. Elizabeth Pitcairn (violinist) will be joining us on March 29, 2020 and Isabelle Demers (organist) will close the season on May 10th, 2020. We are looking forward to hosting these marvelous musicians. Please look for more specific details in the coming months.

~ Lisa Vroman Concert

Our last concert of the 2018-2019 season, featuring soprano Lisa Vroman was fabulous. Lisa and her accompanist, Shane Schag, delighted more than 200 audience members with a cabaret style concert. Special thanks to the Potsdam Alumni Association for providing the funds for our reception.

~ 20th Anniversary Celebration

You are cordially invited to join the Music Committee as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Dominick Giaquinto's music ministry here at FUMC. Details, a formal invitation and RSVP form are found on page 9.

Music Co-chairs:
Diane Kingsland and Shirley Readdean



Enjoy 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.

Pride Parades & Festival

All welcome to join members of our Intersectional Justice Committee in these upcoming events:

► Schenectady Pride Parade will take place on Sunday, June 2nd, from 2:00-6:30 pm at the downtown Jay Street marketplace.

► Albany Pride Parade & Festival will be held Sunday, June 9th. The parade steps off at noon from the State Street side of Washington Park and marches around to Madison Ave. After the parade, the Capital Pride Festival runs all afternoon.



Joint Church Meeting

On Monday, June 17th, at 6:00 pm, everyone is welcome to gather here at First UMC, for a joint church meeting with Scotia UMC and Eastern Parkway UMC as churches in welcoming all of God's people into the United Methodist Church.



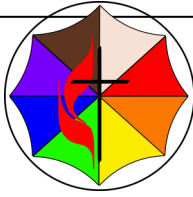
Youth News

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

- **Youth Group Fellowship**—Come enjoy fun and fellowship together each week at church on Saturdays at 12 noon.
- **Youth Service**—On June 29, we'll meet at 9:15 am to serve a free community brunch at Emmanuel Friedens Church, our neighbors on Nott Terrace. Then, we'll gather for a fellowship activity.

E-Newsletter

Our newsletter, *The Spire*, is available electronically and in hardcopy. If you would prefer to receive it by email, which does save resources, please contact the church office with your email address. Thank you.



Mission Moment

Delivered during Worship

► Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM)

Delivered on May 12, 2019, by Elaine Troy

SiCM, as an organization, is considering some changes for the future. Following recommendations that came out of a facilitated retreat 2 years ago, SiCM is now discussing the possibility of transitioning from a “membership model” to “an interfaith partnership model.” This statement, from 2 SiCM delegates, explains.....

By having interfaith organizations as a part of SiCM, we will increase our resources, be able to reach out to more people which may be in need, and by working together for a unified goal, learn that we all have more in common than not in common. Bonds will be created which in turn can bring more unity and strength to Schenectady and outlying areas.

To begin the process of change, a resolution was presented for consideration at the May 7th SiCM meeting by Messiah Lutheran Church in Rotterdam. SiCM has asked each member church to make their congregations aware of this resolution, to discuss the resolution and to develop an opinion, either for or against. Such opinions will be presented at the next SiCM meeting on June 4th. Discussions will continue over the summer. A final vote may be possible at the September meeting.



A Mission Moment begins the discussion here at FUMC. Church Council will also address the resolution at its next meeting. And the text of the resolution is included here.

Towards an Interfaith Future for Schenectady Community Ministries

A resolution submitted for consideration at the May 2019 Assembly of Schenectady Community Ministries by the delegates of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Whereas the religious character of the Northeast United States has greatly changed in the last fifty years to include peoples of many organized faiths and those of unaffiliated faith convictions;

Whereas we live in a time of increasing attacks on houses of worship, especially those of religious minorities;

Whereas experts have shown that serving alongside one another is one of the best ways for people of different faiths to understand one another;

Whereas fifty-four percent of individuals living in Schenectady County and seventy-three percent of individuals living in the City of Schenectady struggle to make ends meet;

Whereas one of three purpose statements in the *Constitution of Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SiCM)* includes: “develop understanding, trust and cooperation among religious organizations and to encourage their membership in the organization;”

Whereas a second of three purpose statements in the *Constitution of Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM)* includes: “challenge religious organizations, both member and non-member, and their individual members, and the general community, to provide greater involvement and service in the urban community;” now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the assembled delegates of the Schenectady Community Ministries (doing business as Schenectady Inner City Ministry) makes the following amendments to the *Constitution of Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM)*:

1. Amend “Article III Membership, Section 1” to state: “Membership in SICM is open to all faith communities and parishes whose governing body officially endorses “Article 2 Purpose” of this constitution and notifies SICM in writing that such an action has been take. Member congregations are expected to provide financial support (monetary and/or in-kind), volunteers, active delegates and opportunities for SICM to present information about or seek support for its programs.
2. Amend “Article III Membership, Section 3” to state “Each member congregation or parish shall be represented by two lay delegates and one clergy delegate.”
3. Amend “Article 2 Purpose” to replace two instances of the word “urban community” with “local community.”

Resolved, that the assembled delegates of Schenectady Community Ministries (doing business as Schenectady Inner City Ministry) memorialize its Steering Committee and Executive Director to:

1. Immediately reach out to potential interfaith partners to discern interest in joining the organization.
2. Convene a representative group of member and potential interfaith member congregations and parishes to further reevaluate “Article II Purpose” of the *Constitution of Schenectady Inner City Ministry* and propose any changes deemed necessary.
3. Consider any other changes needed to the *Constitution of Schenectady Inner City Ministry*, particularly in light of other recommendations coming out of the 2017 SICM Summit.
4. Begin undertaking the necessary legal steps to officially change the name of *Schenectady Inner City Ministry* to *Schenectady Community Ministries* or a similar representative name.
5. Submit a formal written report and recommended further action at the first Schenectady Community Ministries assembly in the fall of 2019.

If you have any comments or opinions to share, please contact Elaine Troy or Shirley Readdean.





Enjoy breakfast at 8:30 am at the next Men's Breakfast Fellowship held on Wednesday, June 26th, at the Blue Ribbon Diner on State Street! All men are welcome. Contact Bob Coppola with any questions.

Sunday Breakfast

Everyone is welcome to come to church early on Sundays to enjoy the Community Breakfast served 8:30-9:30 am; prior to Worship. This meal is free and served each week in Fellowship Hall except on the 1st Sunday of the month.



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 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.



20th Anniversary Celebration

All are cordially invited to attend a dinner honoring Dominick Giaquinto as we celebrate his 20th anniversary as director of music ministries at First United Methodist Church. The details are:

Date: Sunday, June 30, 2019

Time: 4:00-7:00 PM

Place: Turf Tavern, Scotia, NY

Price: \$40.00 per person which includes buffet dinner & gift



RSVP to Nancy Walden or Ruth Farrell by June 15th. Checks, made out to cash, may be mailed to Nancy Walden at 215 Glen Eddy Dr. Niskayuna, NY 12309 or Ruth Farrell at 144 Barbin Rd, Esperance, NY 12066 or given to one of them at church.

Included with the gifts, we will present Dominick with an appreciation memory book which will be available to sign at the dinner. You may also send your cards, letters or notes to Diane Kingsland at PO Box 672, Altamont, NY 12009 and she will include them in the book. If you are unable to attend the dinner but would like to contribute toward a gift, please send your contribution to Nancy or Ruth.

Anniversary Celebration Registration

Please fill out this RSVP form and return with your check by June 15.

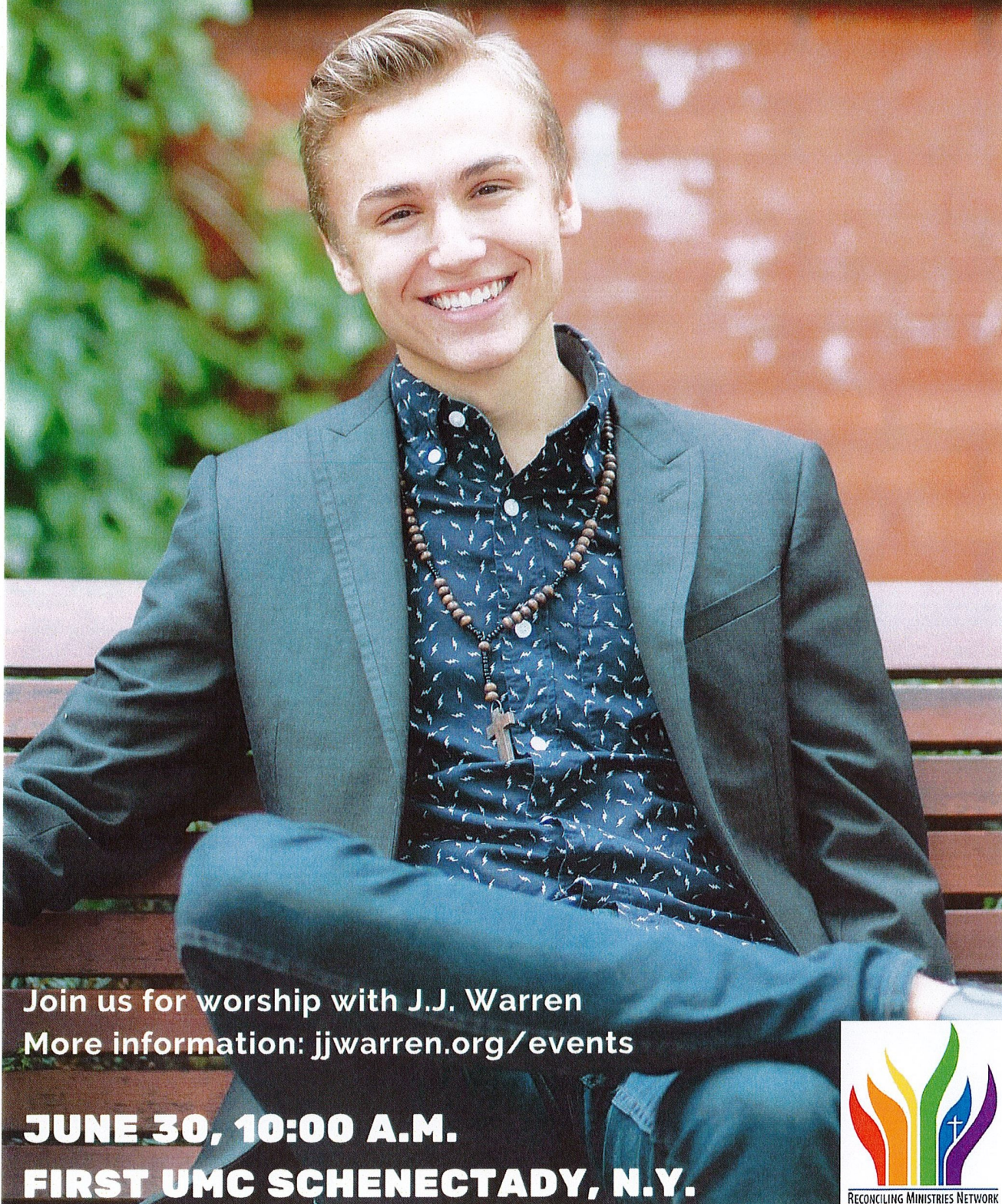
Name(s): _____

Phone and/or email: _____

attending: _____

FORWARD TOGETHER

Reclaiming Our Church Through Radical Love



Join us for worship with J.J. Warren
More information: jjwarren.org/events

JUNE 30, 10:00 A.M.
FIRST UMC SCHENECTADY, N.Y.





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. A previous tentative party date of Aug. 11th was cancelled. Mark your calendar to plan to gather on August 10th to celebrate with Rudy!

Church Outings:

Enjoy Baseball Games!

Let's get together again this summer for a couple Tri-City Valley Cats games! We are looking to get groups together for:

Dates: **Sat., July 27** w/ fireworks

Mon., August 5 w/bobble-head giveaway

Time: **7:00 pm**

Place: **Joseph L. Bruno Stadium / "The Joe"**
Located on HVCC's campus in Troy

Cost: **\$8.00 per seat**

In order for us to get the best seats / tickets together, we would need to know by June 25th. If you're interested in going, please contact Bob Coppola (barmstrong2343@gmail.com.)



Let's have some fun together outside of our regular routines and "PLAY BALL".....

Church Retreat—August 2019

Please consider joining us 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, focus and dialogue with intergenerational activities for all.

The Rev. Dr. Meredith Vanderminden will be our guest presenter (her bio is included). The 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>. Financial assistance through FUMC is available; please speak to Pastor Sara.



Meredith is an Elder of the United Methodist Church and the Senior Pastor of Christ Church in Glens Falls. She is also the Founder and Executive Director of Art Divina, an organization that specializes in helping both churches and individuals find a deeper connection to the Holy through various forms of creative experience. Meredith earned her MDiv. at Drew Seminary and her DMin. in Arts and Theology from Wesley Seminary. She served on many worship teams for both the Troy and Upper New York conferences. Meredith enjoys helping non-artists embrace their God-given creativity and find ways of expressing and expanding their faith.

Electronic Giving Available

If you're interested in using the electronic donation system to make pledge payments, to make donations to church benevolences, to repay student loans or for other purposes, go to our church website (www.fumcschenectady.org) or read the QR code here. The website contains a button that will take you to the electronic donations signup page. The signup page will walk you through the process of signing up. If you prefer to sign-up on a paper form, you may pick up an authorization form from Linda in the office.



KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - APRIL 2019

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Trevor Litchmore, who passed away on April 30 (Jessica Minter's children's father)

The family & friends of Bishop C. Dale White, our friend and former are United Methodist Bishop, who passed away March 29 (cards of sympathy can be sent to his daughter, Teresa Kuczynski, at: PO Box 153, Salisbury, VT 05769)

Christian support is also extended to:

Andrea Bailey	Nancy Mohammadi
Jan Butts	Jack & Courtney McEwan
Shirley Daniels	Mary Neville
Rudy Dehn	Shirley Rivest
June Dieffenbach	Rev. Bill Rowe
Liz Fogle	Dick Smith
Roark Frisoni	José Velasquez
Jen & Merrick Fuller	Doug Wood
Jan Guzor	Junice Wusterbarth
Jan Huston & sister's family	

We celebrate with:

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

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
April 7	75
April 14	81
April 21	133
April 28	69

OUR GIFTS

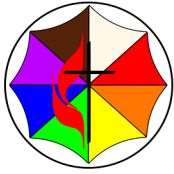
Date	Amount
April 7	\$ 2,297.00
April 14	6,902.00
April 21	2,236.00
April 28	1,314.25



OUR SERVICE

- Date
- 4/6 —Book discussion offered on "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels" by Jon Meacham
 - Participated in the Albany District UMW Spring meeting @ East Greenbush UMC
 - Spring Church Work Day held
 - 4/10 —Distributed items to those in need through FUMC's SUSTAIN Ministry program
 - 4/13 —Spring Church Work Day held
 - 4/14 —Palm Sunday flowering plant sale supported youth activities (\$288)
 - 4/21 —Before & after Easter Worship, held 6th annual Lenten Photo Show with photos submitted on themes: *Yes, Surprise, Empty, Afraid, and Believe*
 - 4/22 —4/26 FUMC's Intergenerational VIM Trip to Mission Central, PA, took place
 - 4/27 —Spring Church Work Day held
 - Apr. —During Holy Week, we offered or participated in: Palm Sunday Service; Maundy Thursday Service; Holy Saturday Service; and Easter Worship w / creation of floral cross & guests, Schenectady Brass Quintet
 - Presented *Mission Moments* during Worship on: UMC Social Principles (3 parts presented on Sundays)
 - Continue to serve Community Breakfast Sundays; free & open to all; # served=183; # volunteers=11
 - Sunday 2nd hr. programs offered: Orff Instruments; Church Tour - 1st flr.; Flowering Plant Sale; Church Tour - basement; Floral Cross displayed; Photo Show w/ 95th Birthday Celebration; Ministry Team Mtgs.

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



The Spire

First United Methodist Church
603 State Street
Schenectady, New York 12305

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage Paid
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PERMIT 773

Serving Schenectady for over 200 Years

NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation



Our Stephen Ministers are trained to help provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty, such as the loss of a loved one, chronic illness, unemployment, separation or divorce, hospitalization, loneliness or discouragement. Stephen Ministers provide one-on-one caring for about an hour each week to those facing a life crisis. It is a ministry of presence and is strictly confidential. Their job is to listen to you, to help you talk about your concern(s), to help you express and understand your feelings, and to help you find solutions or come to terms with your problem(s).

The congregation's role is to contact the pastor if you're facing a crisis and might want a Stephen Minister, you know of someone who might benefit from this program, or you'd like to be a Stephen Minister or Leader and go for training.



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

Websites and E-Mail Addresses

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