



THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 83 No. 7

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

November 2019

SUNDAYS

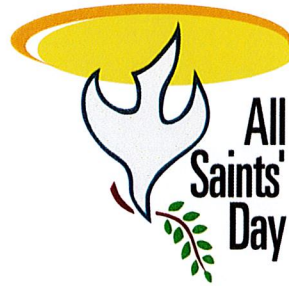
- 8:30 Community Breakfast Fellowship
9:00 Books available for Children and Adults
9:00 Children's Sunday School
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour Program:
—Adult Forums
—Luncheons
—Sermon 'Talk-Backs'
—Intergenerational Activities
—Ministry Team Meetings
7:00 Young Adults Bible Study

Worship Text:

- Nov. 3 **All Saints Day / Family Sunday**
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Luke 19:1-10
"Those Who Walked the Walk"
Nov. 10 **Organ and Tissue Donor / Commitment Sunday**
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Job 19:23-27a
"The Stories We Have to Tell (and tell, and tell)"
Nov. 17 Rev. Dana Carroll preaching
Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
Nov. 24 **United Methodist Student Day Thanksgiving Sunday**
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Philippians 4:4-9
"Connecting Joy and Gratitude"

Second Hour Programs:

- Nov. 3 Sermon 'Talk-Back'
Nov. 10 Annual Charge Conference
Nov. 17 Intersectional Justice Committee



Celebrate on November 3rd

This special 10:00 Worship Service will not only recognize the people who had inspired our faith and living, but also, it is a chance to remember that we are all called to be saints to one another. If you are not sure what a saint is, well then, we have a special treat just for you! Plan on being in worship Sunday, November 3rd, as we celebrate the true meaning of sainthood and the gift God has given us in the lives of others.

Join the Chancel Choir for Advent!



We extend an invitation to anyone who might be interested in singing with the Chancel Choir for the Advent season, which begins December 1st—First Sunday of Advent.

Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 in Fellowship Hall. If interested, please contact our Music Director, Dominick Giaquinto, by November 6.

Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 3rd. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday, November 2nd, or at 2 am on the 3rd.



THANKSGIVING



From Our Pastor

November will start, as it always does, with All Saint Sunday. The final Sunday of November this year will be our Worship celebration of Thanksgiving. The two fit together especially nicely, or especially terribly, depending on how deeply you are grieving. For those who have lost a loved one this year, the start of the holiday season is especially difficult. Many won't feel like "giving thanks," and it doesn't even feel honest to do so. For those a step further away from grief, starting the month giving thanks to God for those who inspired us, shared with us, and showed us how to live fits perfectly. It means the month begins and ends with gratitude.

This year I've been thinking a lot about the ways that God's love is embodied in human love. This feels particularly true to me in faith community. The joy of being in church is knowing people who have devoted their lives to goodness, and getting to learn why they do what they do, and how I can do what I do better. Based on my experience, faith is inherently communal. I know what I know because I was taught it, sometimes with words. I do what I do because I am following what others did and I found worthwhile. As I get to know each person better, they inspire me and challenge me in new ways.

Thus I've been thinking of the church as a collection of "partners in building the kindom." I know my own limits, and I can only do a small part of the work of co-creating the kindom with God. By myself, I'd be easily swallowed up by the brokenness and lose hope. But none of us are by ourselves in this process. This is part of the point of church. We are hope for each other, we are reminders of God's goodness for each other, we are more together than the sum of our parts, and through each other we know and see God. While God is our co-creator, I like the idea that we are partners in building the kindom together.

My grandfather and his brother ran a seafood store together. I was quite small when they sold it, but have gotten curious about it in recent years. My father grew up working in the store, so when I ask him questions about who did what, he knows. He is also always 100% clear. Apparently the brothers had firm lines between them and their spheres of influence and life would not have worked any other way. They were brothers, partners, neighbors, and best friends – but that required clarity of roles.

At the same time, my co-dean and I at camp have really flexible role differentiation. Some things she takes the lead on, some things I do, but most of the time we are pretty interchangeable. Largely we alternate on whose turn it is to "be bad cop."

That is to say, there are a wide range of models of partnership, and the church really embodies the whole range. Some skills are super particular, and some roles are very clear, and sometimes things overlap and are fuzzy around the edges. That said, for many among us it can be hard to figure out where they belong. Years ago I was told, "your community is the place where your gifts are received." I love that. I think it is true! And we, as partners in building the kindom, need a wide range of gifts to enrich our work together.

We also may need to invite new partners into the work of building the kindom. Much like Jesus' line, "the harvest is plenty but the workers are few," I think there is a lot of work to do and many hands are most likely to make light work. Perhaps some don't know their gifts are needed, or welcome. That may include some already in our midst. If God is nudging you to share a gift, let me know. Partners in building the kindom are always welcome, and they bring gratitude to our lives and our hearts.

—Sara

In Memoriam

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

† **William “Bill” Isles**, our dear friend and longtime active church member for nearly 70 years, who passed away on October 14th. A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary.



Please keep his wife, Lois, and their daughter, Debra Isles Bradt, and the family in your prayers.

Cards/notes of condolence may be sent to Lois and Debra at: 327 Oakridge Dr., Schenectady, NY 12306.

Annual Charge Conference Sunday, November 10

Everyone is welcome to gather on Sunday, November 10th, in Fellowship Hall after Worship to attend our annual Charge Conference with the Reverend Holly Nye presiding.

2019-2020 Directories

Our new Membership Directories, which include members and friends, our many Ministry Teams, and events for this new church year, are available for pickup at church in the narthex/lobby.

Note of Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you...for your donation to Campus Protestant Ministry here at Union College. I have been involved with CPM since my first year and have been so grateful to find a community that is accepting and encourages diversity of thought and perspective. In my experience, CPM is the organization on campus that fully embraces the value of inclusive community. We continue to seek ways to bring students of different backgrounds together to build a sense of understanding ... We're well-known on campus for our weekly "Dinner and Discussion Around Diversity" (DDD) event that happens every Tuesday evening of the term. DDD is led by students who take turns asking a "Big Question" that matters to them—not one that has been assigned by a professor. We're joined each week by Rev. Heather Kirk-Davidoff, our Campus Minister, and by George Woodzell, a member of the CPM board. ...CPM was able to start a new campus wide event this year called "Mindful Mondays." Every Monday, students, staff, and faculty are invited to join CPM for a 30 minute meditation and intention-setting practice....a practice that is both beneficial mentally and spiritually. ...Without donations like yours, we would not be able to continue to host events that bring our campus together and provide students like myself with a place to call home. Thank you so much for your support.

—Sincerely, Kathleen Sinatra,
Union College '21



E-Newsletter Available

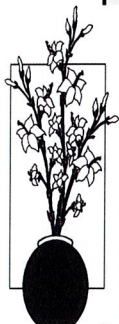
To receive *The Spire* via email instead of hard-copy, which saves valuable resources, please contact the office with your email address. Thank you.

Altar Flowers

We are grateful for Altar flowers given in October:

Oct. 13	in celebration of the baptism of Griffin Alexander Phillips
Oct. 20	in celebration of immigration given by Walter Grattidge
Oct. 27	in celebration of our 42nd Annual Concert Series given by Nancy Walden

If you would like to give the altar flowers for Sunday Worship, please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or contact the office.





November 2019

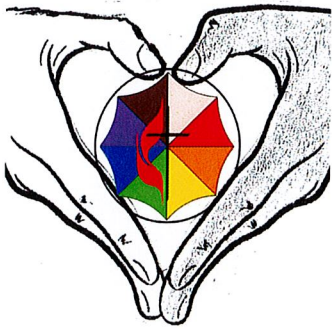
First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Calendar updates on website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					1	2 8:30 AM Early Response Team Training @ Shenendehowa UMC 11:00 AM Memorial Service for Bill Isles 12:00 noon Youth
3 All Saints Day / Family Sunday <i>Daylight Savings ends at 2 AM — Set clocks back 1 hour</i> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program: —Sermon 'Talk-Back' 1:00 PM VIM Team Leader Training @ Shen. UMC 7:00 PM Bible Study	4 2:00 - 4 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 2:00 PM Investment Committee 7:00 - 8:30 PM Adult Education Class: Book Study	5 Election Day Public Schools Closed: Staff Develop. Day <i>Council Reports due</i> 1:00 PM Staff Mtg.	6 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 - 8:30 PM Small Group Leaders	7 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8	9 12:00 noon Youth Group
10 Organ & Tissue Donor / Commitment Sunday 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program: —Pre-Conference 12:30 PM Church Conference 7:00 PM Bible Study	11 Veteran's Day (observed) Church Office Closed Public Schools Closed 4:00 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting 7:00 pm Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee	12 1:00 PM Staff Meeting Church Night 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	13 11:30 AM-1:30 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	14 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 <i>Spire articles due</i> 5:00 - 8 PM UMW Proj: Christmas Card Making	16 12:00 noon Youth Group
17 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Intersectional Justice Committee 7:00 PM Bible Study	18	19 7:00 PM Trustees 7:30 PM Children & Youth Ministries Team	20 12:00 PM Women's Luncheon 2:00 PM Adult Educ: Advent Class 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Small Group Leaders	21 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	22	23 12:00 noon Youth Group 4:00 PM Pizza Dinner, Hot Cocoa at Holiday Parade (5PM)
24 United Methodist Student Day 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 6:00 PM Thanksgiving Service @ Unitarian Universal Society (sponsored by Schenectady Clergy Against Hate)	25 2:00 - 4 PM Pastor "Drop-in" Office Hours 4:00 - 8 PM SUSTAIN Ministry: Sorting	26 1:00 PM Staff Meeting	27 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 2:00 PM Adult Education: Advent Class 5:00 pm Serve Meal at City Mission	28 Happy Thanksgiving! <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>Public Schools Closed</div>	29	30 9:30 AM Youth Service: Serve Free Community Brunch 12:00 noon Youth Group

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

Gratitude through Giving



2020 Stewardship Campaign

Our Stewardship campaign is currently underway. You should have received your forms in the mail and forms are also available at church. Please prayerfully consider what gifts you might share, both in service and financially for 2020. Our theme, "Gratitude in Giving," is reflected in our logo. Our pledges of gratitude are due back to the church by November 10.

If you have been unable to attend morning worship, please check out the church website to see and hear 4 video conversations with several long time members. Junice Wusterbarth, Nancy Walden, Rudy Dehn and Shirley Readdean have shared their thoughts about FUMC, what it means to them and why they continue their commitment to attend and support the church. Thank you.



Make Christmas Cards for Shutins

United Methodist Women (UMW) of First UMC is sponsoring a Christmas card making project Friday, November 15th, 5:00 - 8:00pm. All women are welcome. Whether you are crafty or not, don't worry, there is something for everyone to do! The fellowship of others is just as important as the actual card making. Stop by for the entire time or just drop in at any point you can. We will supply pizza, beverages, and the entire card making supplies. The cards we create will be given to our shut-ins and those in need of some cheering, either during the church Christmas caroling event or by mail. Please contact Shelley Frisoni with any questions.



Holiday Parade and Pizza Party!

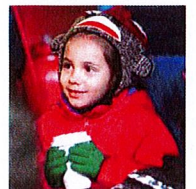
Saturday, November 23

SAVE THE DATE! The 2019 Schenectady Holiday Parade in Downtown Schenectady will be held on Saturday, November 23rd, at 5:00 p.m. and pass right by our church!

This will be the 51st edition of the Capital Region tradition. This year's theme will be "Sugar Rush!" The parade's floats, dancers, bands, vehicles, and even the attendees will be ready to sparkle and make this the sweetest parade ever. Get ready to enjoy everything sweet - candyland, gingerbread houses, candy canes, desserts and more!

To continue FUMC's tradition, we will be serving hot chocolate to parade attendees. The church will be open as a place to get warm and use the restrooms if needed. It's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and group fun! All church members and friends of all ages are welcome to gather at 4:00 pm for a free pizza party dinner prior to the start of the parade at 5:00. We will again be serving hot chocolate to the public starting at 4:30 pm.

To signup to enjoy the pizza dinner and/or to volunteer to help serve hot cocoa, sign-up on a Sunday, or contact Mary Ann Marshall or the office.



Gather for Church Night on November 12

Ministry work teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on Church Night, held the 2nd Tuesday of the month. All are 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.)

The Sunday School Scoop



Sunday School (9:00—9:45 am)

Every Sunday, except on the first Sunday of the month (Family Sunday), Sunday School is held upstairs in the classroom from 9-9:45 AM and all elementary grade children are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Volunteers needed to:

Our Sunday School teachers need backup help. Sometimes one or more of our teachers or helpers are not available. A few people who are willing to substitute on an occasional basis are necessary to sustain this very important program of the church. A substitute would work with one of the regular teachers and would have a lesson plan with a craft project.



To volunteer or to learn more about the program, please contact Elaine Troy, Amanda Taylor or Jan Huston.

Youth News



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

● Youth Group Fellowship—

Come enjoy fun & fellowship with activities in the Roof Lounge on Saturdays starting at 12 noon.

● Conference Youth Fall Gathering—

This annual event will be held Friday to Saturday, Nov. 8-9, at McKownville UMC on Western Ave., Albany, and include Worship, games and music. To register, go to www.unyumc.org/ccym.

● Joint Youth Service Project—

On Saturday, Nov. 30, we'll gather to serve a free community brunch at Emmanuel Friedens Church.

Women's Luncheon

The next Women's Fellowship Luncheon will be on Wednesday, November 20th, 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 \$17 (a slight increase) and there is no tax or tip. To let the Glen Eddy staff know how many people to expect, please try to RSVP by Nov. 18th (although even last minute is ok) to Carolyn Micklas at cmicklas@twc.com or 518-374-7742. Put the date on your calendar to plan to come. Hope to see you there!

Advent Devotional

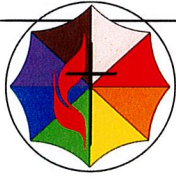
We are going to work on writing our own Advent devotional again this year. This time the theme will be "Waiting in Hope." Specifically, there will be texts that focus on the past – where we are taught to wait in hope because of God's faithfulness in the past; there will be texts that focus on the present – where we learn again to trust in God because of God's faithfulness in the present; and there will be texts that focus on the future – and God's promises for the future in which we hope.

Sign-ups will be available starting November 3rd with devotions due back Nov. 22. Books will be available on the first Sunday of Advent: December 1st.



Annual Stockade-athon

The Stockade-athon foot-race will be held Sunday, Nov. 10th. The course is the same as last year with the race starting at 8:30 am across State St. at Veteran's Park. Some streets will be blocked off again including at State St. and Nott Terrace where an officer will let you through to get to church. For details, including temporary street closures, check the newspapers or go to: www.stockadeathon.com.



Mission Moments

Delivered during Worship

► Volunteers In Mission & Early Response Team Opportunities

Delivered on September 22, 2019, by Jan Huston

I want to tell you about 2 wonderful opportunities! One is free. The other is \$25 and includes lunch! Both are easy to get to!



Both of them are Volunteers-in-Mission opportunities. Most of you know something about VIM. Many of you have participated in VIM activities and know how rewarding they can be. But just in case you need a refresher, I think VIM is one of the best things about the United Methodist Church! You might have heard about teams doing heavy rebuilding and hard work after disasters. That's one kind of VIM team. Many are less strenuous! There is something for everyone!!

Our youth, with Sylvester and Cliff, did disaster recovery in NC in August. Other teams in the past have done similar work in NC, MS, WV, NJ, and more. Every Monday for several years Jim Troy, Jane Baker's late husband Dan, and my husband Pete went to Middleburgh, NY, with other United Methodists to rebuild after Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Sandy. In 2015, this church sent a team to Hogansburg, NY, near the Canadian border to build a ramp on a Methodist Church. Most of the members of that church are Mohawk Indians. They were very hospitable and shared their culture, food, and friendship. Twice we have sent intergenerational teams to Mission Central in PA to help sort disaster supplies. Thoughts are beginning about sending an intergenerational team to Puerto Rico in 2020. If you'd like to consider that, talk with Sylvester or me.

Since 1988 (or 87) members of this church have participated in 10 or 11 teams to Nicaragua. (The history is fuzzy.) The work has included building homes after a hurricane or just because they were needed, health care, health education, building a community center, learning about coffee growing, building a place for high-risk pregnant women, and always forming friendships. Sandy George, who is here today and usually goes to Emmanuel/Friedens, spent several years working in Nicaragua with her husband John Detwyler. They introduced us to Belinda and her wonderful agency – Acción Médica Cristiana. Our teams have been privileged to be able to work with her. And now our church is fortunate to have a covenant relationship with Belinda.

So – back to the current opportunities! Trainings will be available Nov. 2 and 3 at Shenendehowa UMC. One is for being part of an Early Response Team (ERTs). ERTs go in soon after a disaster as self-contained teams to do the initial clean-up – mucking out, dealing with mold, putting tarps on homes, etc. Team members must be 18 years old. Specialized training will be on Sat. Nov. 2 at Shenendehowa, costs \$25 and includes lunch. Volunteers-in-Mission team leader training will be on Sun. afternoon Nov. 3 at Shenendehowa and is free. Interested and experienced people are invited to attend even if they might not want to become leaders. Registration for both is due by Oct. 15. Details about the trainings and about registration are in the bulletin and the Spire, or you can talk with me.



I'm afraid I've gone over the 3 minutes allowed for a mission moment, but VIM has enriched our lives and been so meaningful for those of us who have participated that I hope it's worth an extra minute of your time. And I hope you will follow up and participate in these life-changing experiences.

► Social Principles

Delivered on September 29, 2019, by Jan Huston

Last Spring, Elaine shared condensed versions of some of the United Methodist Social Principles with us. During the summer something popped up on my computer entitled, “Ask the UMC: Why do we have Social Principles? Where did they come from?” So I thought I’d share that with you before Elaine gets back to giving us the content of the principles.

The Methodist Social Creed, predecessor to the Social Principles, originated over a century ago to express concern over the exploitation of millions of workers in factories, mines, mills, tenements, and company towns during a time of rapid industrialization and growing prosperity in the US. Developed in 1908, the Social Creed was the first document of its kind written by a church.

Five Methodist Episcopal clergymen believed the denomination required an organization to lead it into social ministry. One was Harry Ward, a Chicago pastor in the stockyard district. He conducted funerals for packinghouse workers killed in frequent factory accidents. When he penned the Social Creed, he was thinking of these families.



The list of 11 reforms the church should champion included an end to child labor and the sweatshop system, rights of workers, a living wage and safer conditions.

At the 1968 union of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches, the social statements of both denominations were included in the first UM Discipline. These statements became the basis for a continually expanded and revised document of social commitments. Over time, it grew to include sections on family life, alcohol and other drug abuse, crime and rehabilitation, gambling, mental health, civil liberties, and peace with justice.

Six areas of concern form the major sections of the Social Principles: (1) the natural world, (2) the nurturing community, (3) the social community, (4) the economic community, (5) the political community, and (6) the world community. The Social Creed, reserved for the final section, is a resource for use in worship.

The Social Principles urge us to make a difference and to live differently in the world, but also to build a different kind of world than the one we have now. The principles have been in a process of revision with worldwide input since 2013 with the goal of making them more succinct, theologically founded, and globally relevant. The first full revision in 50 years will be presented to the 2020 General Conference.

Next week Elaine will share another section of the Social Principles with us.

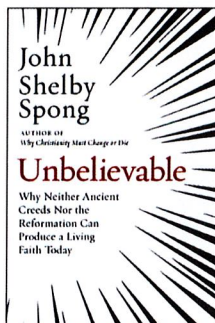
Daytime Advent Book Study

Starts Wednesday, November 20, at 2:00

The Adult Education team is offering something new this fall! In preparation for Advent, we would like to offer a book study during the daytime instead of our usual Monday nights. Please consider joining as Pastor Sara leads us in a Wednesday afternoon class, examining John Shelby Spong's new book on Christian belief systems and hope for the future. The class starts Wednesday, November 20, at 2:00pm. Please let us know you intend to participate by filling out the registration form in Sunday's bulletin or contacting the office.

Unbelievable: Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today by John Shelby Spong

"Five hundred years after Martin Luther and his Ninety-Five Theses ushered in the Reformation, best-selling author and controversial bishop and teacher John Shelby Spong delivers twelve forward-thinking theses to spark a new reformation to reinvigorate Christianity and ensure its future."



The books are available to us in paperback for \$16.15 through local bookstore, The Open Door. If you choose this option, have your order and payment in to church by November 10th, so that we will have the books available for pick-up from the church office before the first class session. Make checks out to First United Methodist Church, with "Spong book study" in the memo line. If you choose to order the book on your own, it is available from various vendors as follows:

- \$19.29 cokesbury.com (hardcover)
- \$16.79 amazon.com (paperback)
- \$12.99 amazon.com (kindl e-reader)

A Ministry Moment

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

~ Nelson Mandela ~

Schenectady Clergy Against Hate (SCAH)

Thanksgiving Service

The SCAH interfaith Thanksgiving service will be hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Sch'dy, 1221 Wendell Ave., at 6:00 pm Sunday, November 24. The service is intentionally interfaith, rather than generically faithful. It has been a joy for the past several years and we hope you will join us!



All men are invited to gather for the next Men's Breakfast Fellowship held Wednesday, November 27th, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Diner on upper State Street.

Serve Meal at the Mission

It's our church's turn to help serve a meal at the City Mission of Schenectady on Wednesday, November 27, at 5:00 pm. Volunteers needed!

To signup to help, go to www.schenectadycitymission.com and click "volunteer" then find First UMC's date to serve, e.g. November 27, or call 518-346-2275 ext. 301. And please let Mary Ann Marshall know if you signed up to serve.

Enjoy Needlework?



Participate in our Needlework Ministry program (crocheting, knitting, sewing). Handmade items are created then donated to those in need in our area. Generally, we work on hats and scarves as well as prayer shawls/blankets. Or, if you'd like to donate such handmade needlework, please bring it to the church office.

To learn more, including how to do needlework, contact Eileen Deming or Alice Nash.



Alternative Gifts—2019

Many of us have too much stuff. Many others don't have what they need. So the idea of giving alternative gifts was conceived. Instead of giving a material gift to someone who really doesn't need it (and might not even want or like it), we can give an alternative gift. We can give a monetary gift in honor of the person who doesn't need more stuff!

There are many worthwhile causes needing financial help. The Intersectional Justice Committee has chosen 5 which we hope you will consider using to honor someone on your gift lists.

Heifer International gives animals and training to people all over the world. The recipient of an animal is expected to give the first offspring to someone else. So it is "the gift that multiplies." Gifts are available in any size—from bees or baby chicks to water buffalo.

Church World Service is another organization that works in many ways in many countries. One of their programs is to give blankets to people who are suffering from disasters. Only \$10 will provide a good warm blanket to someone who needs it.

Acción Médica Cristiana (AMC) is the organization with which Belinda Forbes, our missionary, works in Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in this hemisphere. AMC works to empower poor communities to improve their health and development. They begin with basics such as good water and latrines. To give to AMC, write a check to the church with "AMC – Advance #14846A" in the notation.

FUMC's Community Breakfast Program offers a free breakfast to anyone in the community every Sunday except the first Sunday of each month. The number of people served ranges from about 50 to more than a hundred on any given Sunday. The program is supported by grants, a small amount in our church budget, donations, and many volunteers.

FUMC's Sustain Ministry grew out of our former Soap and Toilet Paper ministry. Soap, diapers, toilet paper, and basic hygiene items are not covered by food stamps. These basic supplies are given to about 120 families each month, and also receives a small amount in our church budget and benefits from donations and many volunteers.



More details about the international agencies is available on their websites and will be on a display in church. You can also ask members of the intersectional Justice Committee about all of the programs.

You can give to any of these by making out a check to the church and putting the name of the program in the notation. Or you can give directly to an organization if that would enable GE matching. Cards that you can give to someone to let them know of a donation you have given in their honor will be in the narthex in December.

We hope you will celebrate this season of giving by considering one or more of these worthwhile programs.



In Our Community...

► **Home Furnishings Program**—This program operates within our church and helps people in need with home furnishings. Items HFP needs more of include: small desks, small kitchen sets, futons, can openers, dish towels, sauce pans, toasters, shower curtains, liners & rings, toaster ovens. To donate an item(s), call 518-346-2444.

► **Interfaith Panel Discussion**—In celebration of the 550-year birth anniversary of its founder, the Guru Nanak Darbar Sikh Gurdwara (Temple) will hold an Interfaith Panel Discussion Saturday, Nov. 9, 5-8 pm at the temple, 1944 Union St. All welcome. Panel representatives from many religions will focus on topic: What is the purpose and relevance of religion, and how does your religion fulfill the purpose and relevance? The schedule is: 5-6:30 discussion; 6:30-7 meal; 7-8 musical program includes group from United Kingdom. For details, call 518-925-8061.

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES – September 2019

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Bill Isles, our dear friend & active member, who passed away Oct. 14 (see details on page 3)

The family & friends of Mary Ann Balmer, who passed away Oct. 8 (our former Dir. of Membership Development; cards of condolence may be sent to her husband, Robert, & the family at: 11711 N. Vega Ave., Maquon, WI 53097)

Christian support is also extended to:

Jan Butts	Barb Haverly	Marylois Tupper
Shirley Daniels	Courtney &	& Family
Eileen Deming	Jack McEwan	José Velasquez
June Dieffenbach	Mary Neville	Joe & Barbara
Liz Fogle	Shirley Rivest	Waring
Roark Frisoni	Rev. Bill Rowe	Doug Wood
Jen & Merrick Fuller	Heather Phillips	
the Greenwoods	Sands	
Jan Guzior	Dick Smith	

We celebrate with:

Griffin Alexander Phillips, who received the Sacrament of Baptism during Worship on October 13th. Welcome!

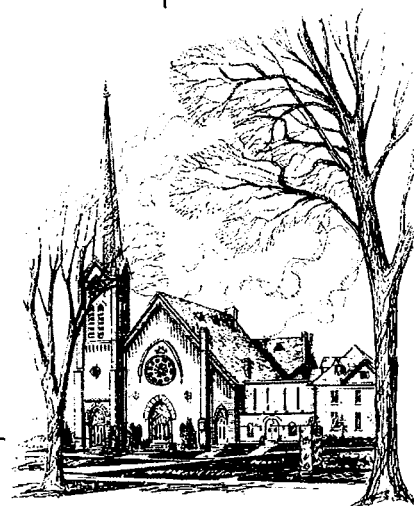
Gerry & Eleanor Pierce, who are celebrating their 68th wedding anniversary. Happy Anniversary!

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
September 1	41
September 8	48
September 15	66
September 22	75
September 29	73

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
September 1	\$ 5,310.00
September 8	2,727.00
September 15	2,263.00
September 22	5,892.00
September 29	3,248.70



OUR SERVICE

Date

- 9/8 —Bible Study resumed with all welcome on topic: "Through the Eyes of the Stranger"
- 9/6-8 —Participated in Mission u study @ Silver Bay, NY
- 9/15 —Homecoming Sunday celebration included guest musicians with all welcome
- 9/18 —Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry
- 9/20 —Our United Methodist Women (UMW) hosted MoonBee event; open to all women
- 9/22 —Sunday School resumed and welcomed all children and their parents/guardians
- Welcomed Belinda Forbes, our missionary in Nicaragua for Worship, forum & luncheon; all invited
- 9/23 —Gathered for meeting of welcoming/reconciling United Methodist churches @ Eastern Parkway UMC
- 9/25 —Served a meal to our neighbors at the City Mission of Schenectady
- 9/28 —Participated in Albany District UMW Fall Meeting @ Amsterdam UMC
- Youth Service: Served free Community Brunch
- 9/29 —Held Voter Registration during the Community Breakfast
- 9/30 —New 5-week book study began: "A New Day in the City: Urban Church Revival" with all welcome
- Sept. —Mission Moments offered: *Youth VIM Trip to NC*; *VIM & ERT Opportunities*; and *Social Principles*
- Community Breakfast prepared & served Sundays, free & open to all: #served=232 #wkly volunteers=9
- Through our UMW, we collected empty pill bottles for the Matthew 25 Ministry program
- 2nd hour programs offered: *Nicaragua Update*; Homecoming Luncheon; *FUMC Building Use Space*

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



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NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

Nov. 26; articles due Nov. 15



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We have an active Facebook page...share joys and concerns, events, photos, inspirational quotes!



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

**Rose
Window
encircles
Altar Cross**



Mark your calendar! The Sanctuary will be open 2-3 pm Wednesday to Friday, Dec. 4-6, for an opportunity for all to see the sunlight shine through the beautiful Rose Window & encircle the Altar cross.

Mark Your Calendar!!

Coming in early December:

Sunday, Dec. 1

First Sunday in Advent

Wednesday-Friday, Dec. 4-6

Rose Window Reflections

Sunday, Dec. 8

Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Church Night

Websites & 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