

THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 81 No. 4

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

August 2017

FUTURE SUNDAYS

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

Worship Text:

- Aug. 6 1 Kings 1:11-31
1 Kings 2:13-25
Aug. 13 Jeremiah 44:15-19
Aug. 20 1 Kings 21:1-16
Aug. 27 Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Second Hour Programs:

- Aug. 6 Car Wash—Youth Fundraiser
Aug. 13 Needlework Ministry
Aug. 20 Sunday School Teacher Orientation
Needlework Ministry
Intersectional Justice Committee



Study Series

Mission u at Lake George

- Theme:** “Learning for the Transformation of the World”
Date: Friday-Sunday, Sept. 8-10
Where: Silver Bay; near Lake George
Register by: due early August

Each year, the Conference United Methodist Women arrange opportunities to learn more about global missions through Mission u. This program offers learning, worship, meditation, fellowship and fun! Studies are offered in 3 regions of NY state each year. The closest to us is Region 1:

Eastern Region I— Silver Bay YMCA
Silver Bay, NY, on beautiful Lake George

The two studies offered this year are:

- (1) Spiritual Growth Study:
Living as a Covenant Community
- (2) Geographic Study:
Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States

Everyone is welcome at Mission u—women and men, members and non-members of the United Methodist Church. For information on the studies and the study leaders, see page 11.

For further details and to register (due early August), brochures are at church or go to: www.unymission.org. Signup today!

August 25-27

CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT!



Signup today!

***Registration
and details
on flyer insert.***

Old Maps No Longer Work

Poem by Joyce Rupp
(In place of Pastor Sara's message)

I keep pulling it out -
the old map of my inner path.
I squint closely at it,
trying to see some hidden road
that maybe I've missed,
but there's nothing there now
except some well-travelled paths.
They have seen my footsteps often,
held my laughter, caught my tears.

I keep going over the old map
but now the roads lead nowhere,
a meaningless wilderness
where life is dull and futile.

"Toss away the old map," she says
"you must be kidding!" I reply.
She looks at me with Sarah eyes
and repeats, "toss it away.
It's of no use where you're going."

"I have to have a map!" I cry,
"even if it takes me nowhere."
I can't be without direction."
"But you are without direction,"
she says, "so why not let go, be free?"

So there I am—tossing away the old map,
sadly fearfully, putting it behind me.
"Whatever will I do?" wails my security
"trust me" says my midlife soul.

No map, no specific directions,
no "this way ahead" or "take a left."
How will I know where to go?
How will I find my way? No map!
But then my midlife soul whispers:
"there was a time before maps
when pilgrims travelled by the stars."

It is time for the pilgrim in me
to travel in the dark,
to learn to read the stars
that shine in my soul.
I will walk deeper
into the dark of my night.
I will wait for the stars.
Trust their guidance.
And let their light be enough for me.

In Memoriam

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



† **Glendon "Denny" Penske**, our
dear friend and longtime active member
of over 60 years, who passed away re-
cently. Her service included many years
in the Babyfold, caring for our youngest
family members on Sundays.

A Memorial Service celebrating her
life will be held around September in
the sanctuary. Please keep her daugh-
ter, Gail Collins, and the family in your
prayers. Cards and notes of condolence
can be sent to Gail and the family at:
518 Mohawk Ave., Scotia, NY 12302.

Notes of Thanks

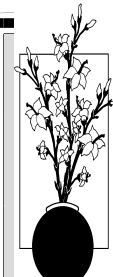


*FUMC Youth would like to thank
everyone who has contributed to
our efforts to raise monies to-
wards our August mission trip to West Virginia.*

*The youth and their leader and co-leaders
truly appreciate your continued encourage-
ment and support. Our next and final car wash
will be held on Sunday, August 6th, after Wor-
ship from 11:30-2:00. Wishing everyone a safe
and enjoyable summer.*

—Sylvester Doyer, Youth Leader

*Shirley Readdean expresses gratitude and is
very thankful for the loving care, support and
prayers she received over the past several
months during her illness, surgery and recov-
ery. She feels blessed to be part of the First
UMC family. Thank you to everyone!*

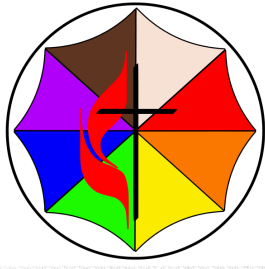



Altar Flowers

**To give altar flowers for
Sunday Worship, contact
the Ann Farrell at 867-7654.**

August 2017

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:00 PM Staff mtg.	2 12:00 PM -1:00 SUSTAIN Ministry	3	4	5
6 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 11:30 AM Car Wash 11:30 AM Needlework Ministry 7:00 PM Bible Study	7	8 2:00 PM Staff mtg.	9 12:00 PM -1:00 SUSTAIN Ministry	10	11	12
13 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Books to Children & Adults 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 11:30 AM Needlework Ministry 7:00 PM Bible Study	14	15 2:00 PM Staff mtg.	16	17	18	19
Youth Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Trip to West Virginia						
20 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Books to Children & Adults 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 11:30 AM Intersectional Justice Com. 11:30 AM Needlework Ministry 11:30 AM Teacher Orientation 7:00 PM Bible Study	21 7:00 PM Staff Pastor / Parish Relations Committee	22 2:00 PM Staff mtg. 7:00 PM Trustees	23 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Fellowship 12:00 PM -1:00 SUSTAIN Ministry	24	25	26
				Church-Wide Retreat @ Sky Lake		
27 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Books to Children & Adults 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Punch Fellowship 11:30 AM Needlework Ministry Church-Wide R...	28	29 2:00 PM Staff mtg.	30	31		

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

Celebrate our 2017 Graduates Congratulations!

We recognize and congratulate the following members and friends of our church family who graduated this year:



High School

Shane Phillips

Scotia Glenville HS

In the fall, he'll attend

State University of New York at Buffalo

College and Graduate School

Connor Archambault

BS degree in Exercise Science

Springfield College, MA

(Connor plays semi-pro soccer.)

Joshua Bradt

Ph.D. degree in Physics

Michigan State University, MI

(Josh, grandson of Bill & Lois Isles, has been at MSU and the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory (NSCL) since June 2013, studying and conducting experiments in nuclear physics. His thesis involved an experiment using a new gas-filled charged particle detector built at NSCL called the Active-Target Time Projection Chamber. Josh was also very involved in a mentoring group to promote diversity in the sciences.)



Summer Music at FUMC

Worship at 10:00 AM

August 6

TENORS & BASSES OF CHANCEL CHOIR

August 13

AMANDA DAME - Flutist

August 20

JANE BAKER - Soprano

August 27

DOMINICK GIAQUINTO - Organist

September 3

JENNIE MOAK - Organist

September 10

DAVID READ - Baritone

A Stephen Ministry Moment

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

~ Nelson Mandela ~



Car need cleaning? Youth Car Wash Sunday, August 6

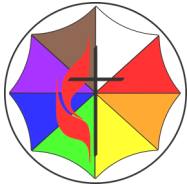
Our youth are fundraising to support their next Volunteers in Mission trip, which will be to West Virginia this month, Aug. 13-19. Their final car wash will be held on Sunday, August 6th, after Worship in the parking lot from 11:30-2 pm. The cost is \$5 exterior wash; \$10 exterior wash and vacuuming.

Enjoy Fellowship before Worship

Come early on Sundays for these free programs:

- **Community Breakfast**— Meal is served 8:30-9:30am weekly except on 1st Sunday of each month.
- **Books for Children & Adults**— Books are distributed in Fellowship Hall 9-9:30 during the breakfast.
- **Second Cup Café**— Held in Library 9:30-9:50 am. Stop in for coffee and/or read the newspaper!





MISSION MOMENTS

Delivered during Worship

► **Africa University**

Delivered on June 11, 2017, by Shirley Byers, guest speaker

Celebrating 25 years of Africa University --- a United Methodist Institution

African Methodist Bishops came to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry with a gleam in their eyes and a dream in their heart. African local church laity and clergy dreamed of a United Methodist University in Africa.

The 1988 General Conference was within 9 votes of being unanimous in exuberantly supporting the whole project. In 1992 the first classes were held in old farm buildings on property the church owned in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. 42 students were matriculated in the Faculties of Theology and Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Fast forward to 2017 to celebrate 25 years and more than 7000 graduates making a difference in 32 African countries---graduates from the Faculties of Education, Management and Administration, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Health Services. Most faculties now offer graduate degrees. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance may soon award the University's first doctoral degrees. Today we celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday. Graduates of the Institute of Peace, Leadership, and Governance are working to create peace and teach processes of creating peaceful communities in African countries.



Graduates --“Changing Africa: Learning there. Living there. Leading there. Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.”

In 1989 after General Conference voted to establish Africa University - a United Methodist Institution, Pastor Carl Byers walked to Troy Conference from Nassau, Bob Long rode his bike and other participating pastors and laity raised more than \$10,000 for AU.

In 2011, Upper New York Annual Conference voted with only 1 “no” vote to raise \$1,000,000 for scholarships to be awarded at AU in perpetuity. \$603,000 has been raised.

In the year that Virgia Phoenix was awarded the Denman Award for laity, friends of First UMC Schenectady, and family and friends of Virgia initiated a scholarship in honor of Virgia. Bob Long continues to ride to conference and rides to support the Virgia Phoenix Scholarship.

We're celebrating AU's 25th birthday with parties across conference with African music, games, food and gifts.

Continues on next page.....

► The Labor-Religion Coalition

Delivered on July 9, 2017, by the Rev. Emily McNeill, guest speaker

Good morning. I'm Rev. Emily McNeill and I'm the director of the Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State. I'm very happy to be able to worship with you all this morning and to share with you a bit about the work that we do at the Labor-Religion Coalition.

The Labor-Religion Coalition is based not far from here, in Latham, but we work statewide. Our mission is to unite faith, labor and community in a statewide movement for social, racial and economic justice, grounded in our deeply held moral and democratic values. We envision a New York in which every person has enough to eat and a safe place to live, where everyone can access healthcare, education, and a good job, and where no one is discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, ability, or national origin. We believe that this kind of just society is possible in New York, and that our values compel us to work to make it a reality. For myself and for many of the people in our network across the state, those values come from our Christian faith and from the life and ministry of Jesus. For others, those values are rooted in Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism or humanism. And still others don't identify with any particular religious tradition but also hold deep convictions about the dignity of all people and our moral duty to build a more just society.

So what does the work of uniting faith, labor and community in a movement for justice look like? Part of what we do is partner with other organizations on campaigns for specific policy changes at the state level. For example, we're part of the Campaign for NY Health, which is working to pass legislation that would create a universal healthcare system that would cover every resident of New York State. We also are part of a coalition called Challenging Incarceration, which was part of passing Raise the Age legislation this year, so that 16 & 17 year olds are no longer automatically charged as adults. Other campaigns we're part of focus on immigrant rights, worker justice, and funding for public schools and social services.



Truth Commission on Poverty
held at FUMC, Schenectady on July 13

We also know, though, that we have to do more than take on single-issue campaigns. To create the kind of New York I spoke about earlier, we need a movement that brings people together across the different issues that we care about, across different regions, and across lines of race and class and religion. To be successful, we need to cultivate deep connections of solidarity and compassion. To help facilitate some of these connections, this summer and fall we are organizing a Truth Commission on Poverty in NYS. These Truth Commissions are places where people come together to talk about how poverty, racism and other injustices are impacting them and their communities -- and to talk about what is already being done or could be done to respond.

The first event happened in Cuba, NY - a small town in rural Allegany County - on June 1. The second is going to be right here in this church on Thursday at 5pm, and the third will be on Long Island on Sept. 12. We are also collecting written or recorded testimony from folks who can't come to one of the events. The goal is to build a better understanding of what people are facing in our communities and why, and to identify and connect directly impacted leaders across the state. Our hunch is that we are going to find commonalities across these very different parts of New York State in terms of what we are facing now and the change we want to see. In October, we are hosting a statewide gathering in Binghamton to reflect on what we hear through this process and to plan for how we can take action together to respond. Rev. William Barber, who you may know from the Moral Mondays Movement in North Carolina, will be the keynote speaker and will talk about how this statewide effort in New York can connect with the national effort to build a new Poor People's Campaign.

I know that is a lot of information, but I will be sticking around after worship and am happy to talk with any of you who have questions or would like more information.

I hope you'll consider joining us for the Capital Region Truth Commission this Thursday right here at 5 pm. You can also visit laborreligion.org - all one word - to learn more about any of the work I mentioned and to sign up to be a part of this important work!



Calling All Sunday School Teachers!

We are having Orientation this year on Sunday, August 20th. Meet Ally Klein after church to get the year's lesson plan and teaching schedule. If you would like to sign-up to teach, call the office and Ally will get the paperwork rolling!

Have a fun safe rest of the summer and hope to see you soon!

—Ally Klein

Children & Youth Ministries Coordinator

(Sunday School begins Sept. 10th; theme: *Story and Art.*)

**Mark your calendar—
Homecoming Sunday
September 24th!**

Enjoy Needlework!

Everyone is invited to participate in Needlework Ministry (knitting, crocheting, sewing), which gathers most Sundays after Worship in Wesley Lounge. Handmade items are created then donated in our area for those in need.

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



Men's Breakfast Fellowship

Wednesday, August 23,
8:30 AM at Blue Ribbon Diner
on State St. All men welcome.

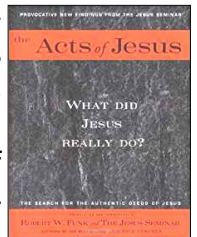
E-Newsletter Available!

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.

September Book Discussion

On July 23rd, the scripture readings were from John 6:1-21—the stories about Jesus feeding the five thousand and Jesus walking on water across the Sea of Galilee. Have you ever read such stories and wondered, “Did these stories really happen?” If so, our September book discussion is for you! For our next book study, and in honor of John Dominic Crossan’s visit in September, the Intersectional Justice Committee is inviting the congregation to read, *The Acts of Jesus: What Did Jesus Really Do?* which we will discuss on Saturday, September 16th, at 10 AM. Crossan’s visit will be the following weekend.

Crossan is a New Testament scholar, historian of early Christianity, former Catholic priest, and a member of the Jesus Seminar. The Jesus Seminar was a group of 150 critical biblical scholars and laymen who have been foremost in the field of historical Jesus research. Their special contributions have been related to uncovering the authentic words and deeds of Jesus. Marcus Borg, a previous lecturer at FUMC, was also a member.



Their seminal and most popular work was *The Five Gospels: What Did Jesus Really Say?* And the companion to that is *The Acts of Jesus: What Did Jesus Really Do?* By Robert W. Funk and The Jesus Seminar. Funk was the convener of the Jesus Seminar until his death in 2005.

The Acts of Jesus, despite being a long book, is organized in a particularly accessible way that makes it easy to read and participate in the discussion. The parts that are critical to read are the introduction and the concluding chapter, “What Do We Really Know About Jesus?” In between are translations of half a dozen gospels and specific chapters on the birth/infancy stories and the empty tomb/appearances/ascension. You are encouraged to read as much of the in between material as you find interesting and engaging. Kevin M. Nelson (kmichael07@yahoo.com) can provide you with a gently used copy of *The Acts of Jesus* for \$16 or you can get your own through a library or other source. The following discussion near the end of October is going to be about the previously scheduled *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* by Bill McKibben

Church Retreat at Sky Lake

August 25 – 27, 2017

Register today! Registrations needed by August 20
(Weekend Schedule on next page)



Last year's retreat was so successful that another family weekend retreat at Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center is scheduled! Again, this will be a time of focus and dialogue with intergenerational activities for all. Our guest presenter will be Bishop Susan Hassinger, who was "our" Bishop from 2006-2010. Sign-in will begin at 5:30pm Friday, August 25th and check-out will be at 2:00pm on Sunday, August 27th. Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center is located 23 miles east of Binghamton in Windsor, NY.

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 Aug. 20th.

Lodge rate for the weekend, which includes meals, is \$158 for adults; \$139 for youth/teens; \$64 for children age 4-12. Tent Camping is also available for the weekend at a greatly reduced rate [check with Rev. Bob Long]; meal costs for the weekend for those tenting are \$60 for adults/teens; \$30 for children age 4-12.

To check out room accommodations and the facilities at the Underwood Lodge, go to: <http://skylakecenter.org/camp-and-retreat-center/our-facilities>.

Church Retreat 2017 – 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) _____ Camp (tents not included)

Dietary Accommodations (Please list any special needs): _____



First UMC, Schenectady, Family Weekend at Sky Lake
August 25 – 27, 2017

Theme and Topics

Theme: “Do Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly with God”



Friday: “Come to me, ... and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11: 28 CEB)

Saturday: “Put on my yoke, and learn from me” (Matt. 22:29 CEB)

Sunday: “My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:30 CEB)

Susan Wolfe Hassinger

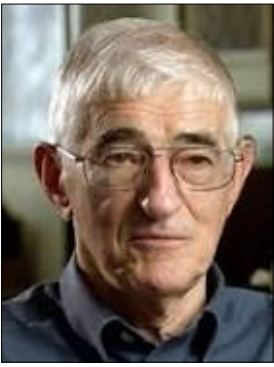
Susan Wolfe Hassinger was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church in 1996. She was the Bishop of the Albany area from 2006-2010.

Bishop Hassinger has worked with congregations and church organizations of various sizes, settings, and racial/ethnic backgrounds in conflict transformation, visioning, team building, and congregational development.

Her training, in addition to extensive work in conflict transformation, has included organizational development, family systems as applied to groups and organizations, anti-racism and white privilege, and leadership for change. Bishop Hassinger has also facilitated groups, including the annual conference, in processes of decision-making in addition to or instead of parliamentary procedure. Her practice of spiritual discernment with individuals and groups draws on the “holy conferencing” of John Wesley, as well as such diverse perspectives as the Quaker clearness committee and the Ignatian spiritual exercises.

Bishop Hassinger has been part of the design team and was the first president of JustPeace Center for Conflict Transformation and Mediation. She has also served on a task force on Theological Education and Leadership Formation that included representatives of the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools. That task force has produced a working document “A Wesleyan Vision for Theological Education and Leadership Formation for the 21st Century.” Bishop Hassinger continues as bishop-in-residence and lecturer at Boston University School of Theology.





John Dominic Crossan presenting Carl Lectures in September !

John Dominic Crossan is coming to First UMC. He will provide two lectures on Saturday, September 23, at 10:00 am and 1:30 pm, with lunch in between. He will preach on Sunday morning, September 24, with a time for engagement in second hour following worship. We are blessed to have one of the world's most significant biblical scholars as our guest lecturer. As usual, we will not keep Dr. Crossan only to ourselves but invite the widest community. You are encouraged to save these dates now and invite others whom you know might be interested.

John Dominic Crossan was born in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, in 1934. He was educated in Ireland and the United States, received a Doctorate of Divinity from Maynooth College, Ireland, in 1959, and did post-doctoral research at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome from 1959 to 1961 and at the École Biblique in Jerusalem from 1965 to 1967. He was a member of a thirteenth-century Roman Catholic religious order, the Servites (*Ordo Servorum Mariae*), from 1950 to 1969 and an ordained priest from 1957 to 1969. He joined DePaul University, Chicago, in 1969 and remained there until 1995. He is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies.

He was Co-Chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996 as it met in twice-annual meetings to debate the historicity of the life of Jesus in the gospels. He was Chair of the Parables Seminar in 1972-76, Editor of *Semeia. An Experimental Journal for Biblical Criticism* in 1980-86, and Chair of the Historical Jesus Section in 1993-1998, within the Society of Biblical Literature, an international scholarly association for biblical study based in the United States. He was elected Vice President of that Society for 2010-2011 and President for 2011-2012.

He has received awards for scholarly excellence from the American Academy of Religion in 1989, DePaul University in 1991 and 1995, and an honorary doctorate from Stetson University, DeLand, FL, in 2003.

He has lectured to lay and scholarly audiences across the United States as well as in Ireland and England, Scandinavia and Finland, Australia and New Zealand, Brazil, Japan, and South Africa. He has been interviewed on 200 radio stations, including four times on NPR's "Fresh Air" with Terry Gross. He has been interviewed on television networks in England and the United States by major news agencies as well as on cable programs such as A&E, History, Discovery, and the National Geographic Channel.

He has written twenty-eight books on the historical Jesus, the apostle Paul, and earliest Christianity, and his work has been translated into thirteen foreign languages, including Polish, Hungarian, Russian, as well as Korean, Chinese, and Japanese. Five of those books have been national religious bestsellers for a combined total of twenty-four months. The scholarly core of his work is the trilogy from *The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant* (1991) through *The Birth of Christianity: Discovering What Happened in the Years Immediately After the Execution of Jesus* (1998), to *In Search of Paul: How Jesus's Apostle Opposed Rome's Empire with God's Kingdom*, co-authored with the archaeologist Jonathan L. Reed (2004).

Along with Marcus Borg, he has co-authored a series of books: *The Last Week: A Day by Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem* (2006); *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about the Birth of Jesus* (2007); and *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon* (2009).

His most recent publication is *How to Read the Bible and Still Be a Christian: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis through Revelation* (March, 2015).



Skye Farm Celebrating 75th Anniversary!

The celebrating continues! An Alumni Weekend will be held Sept. 1-4 at Skye Farm Camp in celebration of 75 years of ministry! During the weekend, we'll reminisce with former staff and volunteers, and hold a special chicken BBQ! Take a break from life, slow down, pull up a chair and share some memories around a campfire with your friends and family! Come for all or part of the weekend. Registration forms are in the narthex and in the office.

Also, a special banquet in celebration of Skye Farm will be held at Saratoga UMC Nov. 4! Mark your calendar and watch for details!



Mission u 2017

September 8 - 10

continued from front page....

Register today to enjoy this special weekend of fellowship, singing, worshiping, learning and fun!

Mission u, sponsored by the UMW, will be held at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Retreat Center on beautiful Lake George at Silver Bay.

The two studies being offered this year are:

1) **Spiritual Growth Study:**

Living as a Covenant Community

This study examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God's character and eternal love for us. It will enhance your understanding of how God works with us, in us, and through us. 2 classes are scheduled, one with leader, Rebekah Sweet and one with Margaret Scott.

2) **Geographic Study:**

Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church In the U.S.

This study will give an overview of the three missionary conferences in The United Methodist Church: The Alaska UM Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference, and the Oklahoma Conference are a hybrid of home and international missionary work. Study leader will be J. Ann Craig.

For registration form, pickup a brochure at church or go online to: www.unymissionu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-Mission-u-Silver-Bay.



In Our Community....

- **NOTE: New Calling System**—Beginning on August 19, a new phone calling system will go into effect in our 518 area code, which means we'll all have to dial our area code plus the 7-digit phone number to make calls. An Area Code Overlay was approved by the NY Public Service Commission and we now have an additional area code for our area: #838; in addition to #518. Newer phone numbers will be assigned the new area code. For more information, go to: <http://www.dps.ny.gov/> or call Time Warner Cable at 800-828-2211.
- **Interfaith Peace Run/Walk**, to benefit the School Backpack Program, will be held on Aug. 19, at 9:30 am at Crossings of Colonie, 580 Albany-Shaker Rd., Londonville; sponsored by American Sikhs for Humanity. T-shirts, refreshments, and prizes will be given out. To register (\$25; after Aug. 12, \$30), email: americansikhsforhumanity@gmail.com.
- **Home Furnishings Program**, which operates from our church, helps those in need with household items and is in need of several items, including: small dressers, coffee & end tables, frying pans, forks, sharp knives, can openers, drinking glasses, coffee makers, and blankets. Call 346-2444 to donate an item(s).
- **Thursday Musical Club**, an all-women's chorus, who rehearse here at First UMC, invites all women of all ages to sing and perform a wide-variety of musical styles for the enjoyment of its members and the public. With a tradition of excellent musical leadership, it offers two seasonal performances each year—one in April and one in December. All singers welcome...no auditions! Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 am here in Fellowship Hall from September to April. The December concert is scheduled for Dec. 2 at 3:00 pm. To signup or for more details, go to: www.tmc singers.org or <http://facebook.com/ThursdayMusicalClub>.

First United Methodist Church CONCERT SERIES 2017-2018



40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

The fall of this year marks the beginning of our yearlong celebration of the 40th anniversary of the church's Concert Series. Presented as an outreach of the church's music ministry, the Concert Series was established as an opportunity to present free concerts of world-class musicians as a gift to the community.



Harmonic Brass, Munich

Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 3:00 pm

As a favorite of our Concert Series audiences, it seemed only appropriate that Harmonic Brass will return to First United Methodist Church to help kick off our year of celebrations. Performing for the tenth time in our Series, Harmonic Brass will once again delight the audience with one of their trademark dazzling virtuoso performances.

Cantus, Men's Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 3:00 pm

Cantus - Acclaimed as "the premiere men's vocal ensemble in the United States" (*Fanfare*), Cantus engages audiences in a meaningful music experience and ensures the future of ensemble singing by mentoring young singers and educators. Cantus is acknowledged around the world for their programmatic versatility, artistic excellence and charismatic personality.




Vincent Dubois, Organist

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 3:00 pm

Newly appointed as one of the three titular organists at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, France, Vincent Dubois is one of the finest concert organists to appear on the world stage in many years. As a winner of the 2002 Calgary International Organ Competition and the International Competition of Toulouse, France, in that same year, Mr. Dubois established himself as a performer in major concert venues throughout Europe, North America, Asia and the Pacific.

We hope that you will mark your calendars and plan to attend each of the concerts in this anniversary year!

CALLING ALL CONCERT PATRONS: We invite anyone interested in becoming a Patron to help us celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Concert Series to do so by filling out the form below and returning it to the church with your tax-deductible donation. It is through the generosity of Patrons and the church's Ida Hill Dalton Fund that we are able to continue this wonderful tradition of music and gift to the community.



If you're interested in being a patron of the Concert Series, you may send donations to:
 First United Methodist Church, 603 State St., Schenectady, NY 12305.
(Please make checks payable to FUMC with note "Concert Series")

Name: _____	Suggested amount:
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Telephone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
E-mail (optional): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

All donations are greatly appreciated.

KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - JUNE 2017

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Glendon "Denny" Penske, our dear long-time friend and member, who passed away recently (see page 2 for details)

The family & friends of Kyshaye Bailey, who passed away on July 7th (Tiffany & Andrea Bailey's granddaughter)

Christian support is also extended to:

Jan Butts	Sandy Buschak-Jackson	Claire Racicot
Ross Corbett	Courtney & Jack McEwan	Shirley Readdean
Rudy Dehn	Carolyn Micklas	Shirley Rivest
June Dieffenbach	Mary Neville	Nancy Walden
Jen & Merrick Fuller	The Phillips Family	

We celebrate with:

Bill and Lois Isles, who celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on July 22nd. Happy Anniversary!

Amanda & Shaun Brennan, who welcomed their first child; a baby girl named Addalynn Ruth, born on July 12th. Congratulations!

Mike & Thann Miglore, who celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary & Thann's 86th birthday on July 1st. Happy Anniversary & Happy Birthday!

Our Class of 2017 graduates. Congratulations!

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
June 4	73
June 11	63
June 18	65
June 25	68

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
June 4	\$ 4,249.00
June 11	1,863.00
June 18	6,901.00
June 25	1,089.60

Community Breakfast

Those served this month:

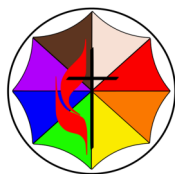
Children (infant-17)	20
Adults (18-64)	159
Elderly (65+)	34
Total	213



OUR SERVICE

- | Date | |
|------|--|
| 6/4 | —Celebrated Christian Education Sunday with Confirmation and a picnic that followed, open to all |
| 6/7 | —Through our Intersectional Justice Comm., members went to Sen. Tedisco's office in support of NYS Health Act |
| 6/10 | —Book Discussion on <i>What We Are Fighting For Now Is Each Other: ...of Climate Justice</i> by Wen Stephenson |
| | —Hosted both sessions of an Advanced Lay Speaking Course, co-lead by Michele Cole |
| | —Gathered with our neighbors at the Guru Nanak Dabar Gurdware (Sikh Temple) for a community fair |
| 6/11 | —Peace with Justice Sunday celebrated with special collection received (\$90) |
| | —Participated in the Pride Parade and Festival in Albany's Washington Park |
| 6/18 | —Held Youth Car Wash Fundraiser in support of VIM Trip to West Virginia (\$171) |
| 6/24 | —Youth Service: Served free Community Brunch |
| 6/25 | —Welcomed guest violinist Michael Emery for Worship through FUMC's Dalton Fund |
| June | —Sunday 2nd hour programs offered: Picnic; Needlework Ministry; forum on "Domestic Violence"; car wash |
| | —Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry program |
| | —Presented <i>Mission Moments</i> at Worship: <i>Miracle on Craig Street</i> ; <i>Africa University</i> ; <i>SICM Summer Lunch Prog.</i> |
| | —Community Breakfast prepared and served on Sundays; free and open to all |

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



The Spire

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

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Albany, NY
PERMIT 773

Serving Schenectady for over 200 Years

NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

Aug. 31; articles due Aug. 15



Invitation

Would you simply enjoy a visit or would you 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, please call 374-4403.



Coming in September...

watch for details!

- ▶ **Chancel Choir**
- ▶ **Handbell Choir**
- ▶ **Sunday School**
- ▶ **Church Night**
- ▶ **Homecoming Sunday**
- ▶ **John Dominic Crossan visit**

WEBSITES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

First United Methodist Church—

E-Mail: fumcschenectady@yahoo.com

Website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Albany District Office—

E-Mail: albanydistrict@unyumc.org

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

Upper New York Annual Conference—

E-Mail: info@unyumc.org

Website: www.unyumc.org



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<http://www.facebook.com/FUMCSchenectady>