

THE Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Website: www.fumcschenectady.org E-mail: fumcschenectady@gmail.com



Accessible

Vol. 81 No. 10

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

February 2018

FUTURE SUNDAYS

- 8:30** Downtown Community Breakfast
9:00 Books available for Children & Adults
9:30 Second Cup Café
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
Infant & Toddler Care available
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour Programs/Events
—Sunday School
—Needlework Ministry
—Forums
—Ministry Team Gatherings
7:00 Bible Study: *Abundance*

Worship Text on Sermon Series

- Feb. 4 ***Souper Bowl / Family Sunday***
Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39
Feb. 11 ***Transfiguration Sunday***
2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9
Feb. 18 ***First Sunday in Lent***
Genesis 1:1-2a
Feb. 25 Deuteronomy 10:12-22

Second Hour Programs:

- Feb. 4 Youth Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser
Feb. 11 Forum: VIM Talk on Northern Ireland
UMW Executive Meeting
Feb. 18 Intersectional Justice Committee
Feb. 25 Annual Church Meeting



Thanks to our children and youth for leading us in worship on Epiphany Sunday; great job and excellent service young people.

The youth will be having their 2nd fundraiser to raise money for their mission trips. They are having a spaghetti luncheon on Sunday, Feb. 4, after morning worship with eat in and carry out.

We, the youth and youth leaders, would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and continued support.



COME ENJOY A SPAGHETTI DINNER ON FEBRUARY 4TH, AFTER WORSHIP! EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT. Signup on Sunday, Jan. 28th or by contacting the Church Office.



Annual Church Meeting

Sunday, February 25

All church members and friends are invited to gather for our annual Church Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, February 25th, after Worship.

We'll celebrate the ministries of the past year and look to the future! Reports will be presented and the 2017 Annual Reports booklet will be available.

SICM Assembly at FUMC

Tuesday, February 6

Everyone is welcome to gather Tuesday, February 6th, for the Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) Assembly to be held in Fellowship Hall. February's assembly will offer refreshments at 6:45 pm with the meeting starting at 7:00 and feature a program entitled, "Services for Refugees and Immigrants."



From Our Pastor

I talk a good game about the importance of bodies, the holiness of embodiment, the reality of finitude, self-care, and patience with ourselves. I'm able to talk that good game because I spend a lot of time having chats with myself about those topics, and I need a lot of reminders.

A few days ago I was in one of my favorite places – the middle of a ski slope – when I got a very humbling reminder about the potential downfalls of embodiment. That is, I was in the middle of skiing a beautifully challenging mogul trail when all of a sudden, for no discernible reason whatsoever, my back objected. This would seem much more reasonable to me if it had happened in the midst of a fall, or some sort of imbalance I overcorrected, but it didn't. One second I was skiing along normally and the next I was standing immobilized trying to decide if I had to call ski patrol to get me down.

I didn't. I managed to get down the slope (phew!), down the mountain (great!), out of my ski boots (ow!), to my car (alright!), and even drove myself home (OUCH!). Then I spent several days horizontal, working with ice packs and heating pads, pain medicine, and very very light stretches.

Here is the crazy and wonderful thing: they worked!! Each day I've gotten noticeably better. Healing has happened much faster than I expected. 5 days post injury I can do anything I want to or need to do, except sit for extended periods. Sitting is definitely still a no-no. That's OK though, I've been told sitting is the new smoking.

In the midst of this temporary pain and limitations, I've found myself with some extra compassion. Even a little bit of temporary pain has humbly reminded me of how many people live with chronic pain, and how much energy that drains from their resources. I've been sending prayers and connecting love to those in chronic pain. Even my minor mobility limits have brought my attention to the physically disabled, and those with regular mobility limitations. The world assume our bodies function, and that's not always true. I've also been sending prayers and connecting love to those with mobility limitations and physical disabilities.

The hardest part for me has been admitting my own weakness. I had to end Bible Study early on Sunday because my capacity had reached it's limit. I've done a lot of work from my couch in the past few days, which meant conversations of why I'm not in the office. I ABHOR admitting my own weakness, enough that some self-reflection is going to be needed in the future on why I hate it SOOOOO much.

Ironically, everyone I've spoken to about my back has responded with compassion, gentleness, humor, and support. Admitting what I can't do has allowed others to step in and help me, and given people ways to connect to me.

Most of you have already learned these lessons, even I've learned these lessons before, but somehow I need them over and over again: human bodies don't always work the way we want them to, vulnerability can be a wonderful gift, we don't have to be able to do everything to be loved. Nevertheless, I'm grateful for a community of God's people who have taught me these lessons again. Furthermore, I'm grateful to know you'll work with me on them again next time, and that you'll let me work on them with you time and time again. This whole embodiment thing – it takes some work.

- Sara



Altar Flowers

We are grateful for the altar flowers given in January:

1/7 in loving memory of the Rev. Dr. James A. Farrell

To give altar flowers for Sunday Worship, contact Ann Farrell (867-7654).

In Memoriam

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

† **Rev. Dr. Brolin C. Parker**, our former District Superintendent and former Pastor at Saratoga Springs UMC, who passed away January 11th. Cards of condolence can be sent to his son, Nathan, and the family c/o Barber Memorial Home, 428 Main St., Johnson City, NY 13790.

† **James F. Norton**, a longtime friend & church member of 60 years, who passed away Dec. 21st. A Memorial Service celebrating his life is being arranged for sometime in May. Cards of condolence can be sent to his sons, David & Timothy, and the family c/o Carleton Funeral Home, P.O. Box 67, Hudson Falls, NY 12839.

† **John A. Bistline**, a longtime friend & former member, who passed away on Nov. 26th in Longwood, FL. He was a member from 1952-1984 before moving to Florida, where he continued his thoughtful support for First UMC until his passing. Cards of condolence can be sent to his daughter, Anne, and family at: 2206 Bennington Dr., Fishkill, NY 12524.

Notes of Thanks



Thank you for your generosity! Your gift will support families like Maria's and will help to fund essential trainings for farmers. Your gift will help make dreams come true. You may remember Maria's humble dream is to feed her family and send her children to school. That seems like such a small dream, but you are truly giving her the world and helping her dreams come true with your gift. In 2018, Maria will learn how to make organic compost and insecticides, she will learn how to use techniques that protect her crops from climate change and she will receive seeds to plant fruits and vegetables to improve her family's diet. Thank you for supporting people like Maria and her family....We are grateful for everything you are making possible.

Thank you so much for your gift! Blessings!

Emily Hewes

Development Director, CEPAD USA

Thank you for your gift to SICM! Your support provides for programs and ministries ranging from direct assistance to those in need, as well as efforts to address root causes of poverty and injustice.

In this challenging economy, we are encouraged by you and others who step forward to provide support. An African proverb states: "Hope is the foundation of the world." You are a partner in providing hope to individuals who come to us; and hope for the communities we are a part of as we address broader concerns. On behalf of all involved with SICM, I am deeply grateful for your encouragement. Thanks to all for your partnership!

-Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby

Exec. Director, Schenectady Inner City Ministry

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." —Maya Angelou

Throughout the year, it's easy to get caught up in our day to day lives. But during the holiday season, we are reminded of our blessings....we are reminded of how much we have and how little others do. Those less fortunate though, feel the strain of poverty year-round....our most vulnerable neighbors struggle to obtain those things which we often take for granted: food, shelter, clothing, and quiet rest. Your generous gift to Bethesda House this winter will provide comfort to the disadvantaged members of our community... Thank you for your donation...your love, your joy, your compassion, and your support of our mission. ...As we close out our 25th year of service, we are continually blessed to have friends and supporters like you. Many blessings to you and yours for this New Year.

Kimarie A. Sheppard, Exe. Director

Sunday Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to join our young adults Sunday nights from 7-8:30 for the Bible Study, led by Pastor Sara, on "Abundance." This study will continue to dispel the myth of scarcity, but more so will remind us of the abundance God gives us.

Gather for February's Church Night

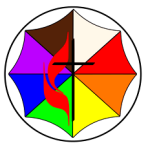


This month's *Church Night*, held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, is set for February 13th. All Ministry Teams are welcome to meet, and everyone is welcome to gather for council meetings. The schedule is:

6:30 PM Ministry Teams meet



7:30 PM Church Council meets

(Notices will go out to teams meeting)



FEBRUARY 2018

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<i>1</i> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 10:30 AM Youth Group & Prep for Spaghetti Lunch
<i>4</i> "Souper" Bowl / Family Sunday 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Program —Youth Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 6:30 PM SICM Assembly Meeting in Fellowship Hall	<i>7</i> 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<i>8</i> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 10:30 AM Youth Group & Movie
<i>11</i> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Sunday School —Forum: VIM to N. Ireland 12:30 PM UMW Exec. Mtg. 7:00 PM Bible Study	<i>12</i> 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor Office Hours	<i>13</i> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting Church Night 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	<i>14</i> Ash Wednesday 12:00 - 1:00 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 7:00 PM Joint Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Joseph's Church	<i>15</i> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM (The) Connection: Planning	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>
					Youth Sleepover	
					6:00 PM Youth Sleep-over begins	
<i>18</i> 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Sunday School 11:45 AM Intersectional Justice Committee 7:00 PM Bible Study	<i>19</i> President's Day Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Lenten Study Series	<i>20</i> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	<i>21</i> 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<i>22</i> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 9:30 AM Youth Service: Serve Free Community Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 10:00 AM Book Discussion 11:30 AM Youth Group
Youth Sleepover	Public Schools Closed					
<i>25</i> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —Sunday School —Annual Church Meeting 7:00 PM Bible Study	<i>26</i> 2:00 - 4:00 PM Pastor Office Hours 7:00 PM Lenten Study Series	<i>27</i> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Trustees	<i>28</i> 8:30 AM Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 am Stephen Ministers 12:00 - 1:00 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal			

**We are in the season of EPIPHANY (green) -
During Epiphany, we celebrate the ways God is revealed through Jesus.**

Souper Bowl Sunday February 4



Super Bowl Sunday has become the 2nd most popular day for eating in our culture (behind Thanksgiving) and is a wonderful time for all of us to remember that there are many in our community who face food insecurity for part of each month. The Schenectady Inner City Ministry (SICM) Emergency Food Program is once again participating in the national *Souper Bowl Sunday* appeal. 100% of the money raised will help the SICM Emergency Food Program feed those who are hungry in Schenectady County. In 2016, the pantry served over 408,000 meals to over 45,000 individuals, indicating that the challenge of hunger for many people in our county continues. SICM can purchase food from the Northeastern Regional Food Bank for \$.16 per pound, so monetary donations go a long way toward providing food for those in need.

On Sunday, Feb. 4th, "soup" cans will be available for your donations. Come prepared with either cash or a check so you will be ready to help fill the cans! Donations by check should be made payable to FUMC with "souper bowl" in the notation.

A Stephen Ministry Moment

**"Everyone can be great...
because anybody can serve."**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

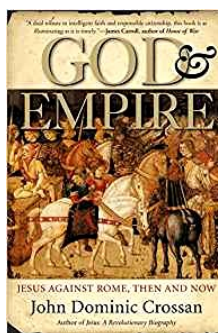


The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, February 28th, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Diner on State St. All men are welcome to gather on the fourth Wednesday of each month! Contact Bob Coppola with any questions.

VIM Trip to Northern Ireland! *You are invited!*

On Sunday, February 11th, at 11:30 am, Pat and Mike Thomas from the Burnt Hills UMC will tell us about their annual VIM trips to Northern Ireland after Worship in Fellowship Hall. There were many years of fighting and "troubles" there. Although the situation is much more peaceful now, the VIM team's primary emphases will be on increasing understanding and improving relationships. Come learn about another way that VIM teams show "Christian love in action."

February's Book Discussion



The February/March book study will be on the book entitled *God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now* by renowned biblical scholar John Dominic Crossan, who was the Carl lecture series lecturer here at First UMC this past fall.

From the divine punishment and promise found in Genesis through the revolutionary messages of Jesus and Paul, John Dominic Crossan reveals what the Bible has to say about land and economy, violence and retribution, justice and peace, and, ultimately, redemption. In contrast to the oppressive Roman military occupation of the first century, he examines the meaning of the non-violent Kingdom of God prophesized by Jesus and the equality advocated by Paul to the early Christian churches.

The first-century Pax Romana, Crossan points out, was in fact a "peace" won through violent military action. Jesus preached a different kind of peace—a peace that surpasses all understanding—and a kingdom not of Caesar but of God. The Romans executed Jesus because he preached this Kingdom of God, a kingdom based on peace and justice, over the empire of Rome, which ruled by violence and force. For Jesus and Paul, Crossan explains, peace cannot be won the Roman way, through military victory, but only through justice and fair and equal treatment of all people.

If you don't have a copy of the book from the fall lecture, you can try your local library or see Kevin Nelson (kmichael07@yahoo.com), who will order a copy for \$11. The discussion will take place Saturday, March 24th at 10 AM at church.

The Sunday School Scoop

February 2018



February 4	Family / Souper Bowl Sunday — Children and youth remain for the full service to Worship with their families. 11:30 am—Youth Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser
February 11	10:00 am—Children remain for the full service to Worship with their families. 11:30 am—Sunday School; Theme is <i>Story & Art</i> — “Stained Glass Windows”
February 18	10:00 am—Children remain for the full service to Worship with their families. 11:30 am—Sunday School; Theme is <i>Music</i> — “Find the Instruments”
February 25	10:00 am—Children remain for the full service to Worship with their families. 11:30 am—Sunday School; Theme is <i>Science</i> — “Thinking Like a Scientist”



Fifth Annual Lenten Photo Show!

POWER! LIGHT! GRACE! LIMITLESS! WE!
Can you picture these wonderful concepts? They are the five weekly themes of the 2018 Lenten Photo Show. This will be our 5th Annual Photo show and you can help make it our best.

During Lent, you are encouraged to submit photos that relate to the weekly themes, and on Easter we will all have the opportunity to see how our photographers picture the themes. Please see page 7 for details...happy picture taking!

Enjoy Fellowship before Worship

Come early to church for these free programs:

- Downtown Community Breakfast is served 8:30 - 9:30 in Fellowship Hall weekly except on the first Sunday of each month.
- Books available for children & adults during the breakfast 9:00 - 9:30 in Fellowship Hall.
- Second Cup Café is held in the Library 9:30 - 9:50. Enjoy coffee and/or read the newspaper!



Youth Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 3 @ 10:30 am: Youth meeting and prep for spaghetti luncheon fundraiser

Sunday, Feb. 4 @ 9:30 am: Youth meet in the kitchen for spaghetti luncheon fundraiser held after Worship in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, Feb. 10 @ 10:30 am: Youth Fellowship and movie

Friday, Feb. 16 (6 pm)—Sun., Feb. 18 (9:30 am): Youth sleepover and lock in; weekend of games and fun activities. Invitation will be extended to Emmanuel Friedens youth to join our youth.

Saturday, Feb. 24 @ 9:15 am: Youth service project: Serving Community Brunch at Emmanuel Friedens. Meet in church parking lot

Supplies Needed

The Sunday School program needs supplies and would like your help. If you have or would like to buy any of the supplies listed below, please place them in the narthex basket or bring to the office. Thank You!

Items needed: 8x11 plexiglass sheets
colored tissue paper
Hebrew alphabet stamps





FUMC Intergenerational Volunteers in Mission Trip!!

People of all ages are welcome to be part of this team. There will be a variety of tasks so that everyone can participate!

Don't wait...applications are due February 11th!

Partial information was in last month's Spire. More details have been worked out. See below for more information.

When? Monday, April 2—Friday, April 6, 2018

Where? Mission Central, Mechanicsburg, PA. Mission Central is a United Methodist depot where disaster recovery supplies are collected from the Northeast before they are sent to those in need. See missioncentral.org.



What will the team do? There are a variety of tasks which include sorting and checking kits like the flood buckets and hygiene kits we have sent. The volunteer coordinator knows that our youth are enthused about the construction skills they have learned and says that springtime will offer an opportunity to use some of those skills. There might be needs in the community of Mechanicsburg. The coordinator suggested that we might want to take ½ day to sight see in the area. We plan to go to Gettysburg National Battlefield one afternoon.

Where will the team stay? We will stay in the Silver Spring Retreat Center (silverspring.org), a beautiful facility 1.5 miles from Mission Central. It has 19 beds, another mattress, a full kitchen, a pleasant room with a TV, and meeting rooms. It can accommodate up to 30 people.

What will we eat? We will prepare most of our meals in the retreat center and make bag lunches to take for our work times.

How will we get there? Driving takes about 6 hours. Mechanicsburg is near Harrisburg. After we know who is going, we will decide whether we need to rent a van or whether we have enough cars and drivers.

How much will it cost? Cost will be \$200 for each team member. This will cover lodging, food, transportation, insurance, and admission to the Gettysburg Museum. The youth have been raising money which will be used for many of their expenses. If other people need financial help, talk with Sara Baron, or Sylvester Doyer or Jan Huston.

How can we learn more? Team leaders are Sylvester Doyer and Jan Huston. Applications can be obtained from either of them and are to be returned with a \$25 refundable deposit by Feb. 11, 2018. Full payment is due by March 11. A team meeting will be held in early March.

News from Intersectional Justice

It's a new year, and new social action opportunities are taking place.

On Saturday, January 20th, a group participated with thousands of others from the capital region in the 2nd Women's March. We rallied and marched for women's rights, immigrant rights, racial justice, economic justice, myriad of other justice issues, and smashing the patriarchy. And yes, we got brunch too. ☺



On January 23rd, another group followed up our Women's March participation by joining groups from around the state in advocating for an expansion of voting rights, including early voting and electronic registration in order to make it easier for people to register and to exercise their right to vote.

Twice last year, First UMC hosted one of our partners, the Labor-Religion Coalition. Once was for a hearing of the Truth Commission on Poverty, and the second was in order to receive a report on the testimony that the Truth Commission had received during its hearings around the state. This work connects to the work of Rev. Dr. William Barber (many of us read his book, *The Third Reconstruction* last year) and his call for a revival of the Poor People's Campaign that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had initiated near the end of his life. People all around the country are now working on this effort, called the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for a Moral Revival. The work of the Truth Commission and what they learned about the reality of poverty in New York State is feeding into this campaign in NYS. The Labor-Religion Coalition is a key partner in this work, and they led the Capital District launch of this campaign on January 29th. You can learn more about this campaign at the following link: www.poorpeoplescampaign.org. Keep an eye out for further information about how we might be able to participate in this campaign.

On Tuesday, March 13th, we will have the opportunity to participate in the Planned Parenthood Day of Action to advocate for women's reproductive health and healthcare services. If you would like to participate, you can register at: <https://goo.gl/57TQKC>.

Finally, as we move toward and through the spring, we will have more information about our renewed participation in the Campaign for a New York Health Act and the push for a single-payer health insurance system in NY, including the opportunity to join in their statewide advocacy day on May 29th. For now, the Campaign continues to work on collecting surveys on New Yorkers' health care experiences so that these experiences can shape the campaign and the stories they relate to lawmakers. You can share your story online at http://www.nyhcampaign.org/tell_your_story or you can talk to Barb Armstrong or Kevin Nelson about filling out a paper survey. The campaign staff are specifically looking to faith congregations to help them in expanding the number of people that are reached with this survey. You can also learn more about the campaign and the NY Health Act itself at <http://www.nyhcampaign.org/>



An ecumenical service will be held Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph's Church, just across State St., and is jointly supported by these churches: Emmanuel Friedens, St. Joseph's and First United Methodist. All are welcome to gather with our neighbors for this special service and receive ashes as the season of Lent begins.

Safe Sanctuaries

Safe sanctuaries is a United Methodist program with the goal of protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults as well as volunteers, employees and the entire church family. FUMC has a safe sanctuaries policy with procedures for assuring a safe and secure environment for all in the church. It is recommended that all people working with children and youth take the safe sanctuaries training. It is also advisable for as many people as possible to take the training so that we all will be aware of the procedures to prevent abuse of vulnerable individuals. The training also helps to protect adults from false accusations of abuse. A local opportunity available for taking the training will be held on Sunday, March 4, 1:30-4:30 pm at Burnt Hills UMC. Call 518-399-5144 or go to burnthillsumc@gmail.com to register.

After you have completed the training, please let Elaine Troy know.

Like to do Needlework?

The Needlework Ministry program (knitting, crocheting, sewing) creates hats and scarves for various causes as well as prayer shawls/blankets. If you wish to participate and want to learn more, please contact one of the coordinators, Eileen Deming or Alice Nash.



E-Newsletter Available

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



CANTUS Men's Vocal Ensemble

in Concert
Sunday, March 11
3:00 PM

How fortunate we are to have Cantus performing here in March for the second concert in FUMC's current concert series! Cantus, an eight-member men's vocal ensemble, is known worldwide for its trademark warmth and blend and its engaging performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. Cantus has been hailed as "the premier men's vocal ensemble in the United States" (*Fanfare* magazine) and is the winner of the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence from Chorus America. The ensemble performs more than 60 concerts each year both in the United States and abroad as well as in its home of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. It has an extensive educational outreach and has released 17 albums on its own self-titled label.

Cantus performs without a conductor. Instead, it is an artist-led ensemble, where each piece performed is assigned to one of the singers to produce. This singer is responsible for establishing the basics of interpretation, leading the rehearsal, and controlling the fundamentals of notes, rhythms, pronunciation, etc. Then the entire group discusses execution of the piece, and by the time it is performed, each singer has had his chance to help build the performance. The performance that you enjoy—whether in a recording or in a live concert—is one that would be entirely impossible without the artistic involvement of the entire ensemble.

Cantus is acknowledged around the world for its programmatic versatility, artistic excellence and charismatic personality. As always at FUMC, the concert is free and the public is invited. So do come to the concert on March 11th at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary and hear them for yourself. You won't be disappointed.

Nancy Walden for the Music Committee



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY 2018 LENTEN PHOTO SHOW

The First United Methodist Church of Schenectady invites you to participate in its 2018 Lenten Photo Show.

You can participate in any or all of three ways:

1. SUBMIT PHOTOS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN
2. VOTE FOR THE PHOTOS YOU THINK BEST REFLECT THE THEMES OF THE SHOW
3. VISIT THE SHOW ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1 (8:30 - 10 AM and 11:00 - 12 NOON)

1. SUBMIT PHOTOS THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN

For each of five weeks during Lent, First United Methodist Church of Schenectady has chosen a different Lenten theme. During each of these weeks we will be accepting one to three photos that you have taken that reflect the weekly theme. The themes are:



Photo by Barbara Armstrong

February 18-24: POWER February 25-March 3: LIGHT
March 4-10: GRACE March 11-17: LIMITLESS March 18-24: WE

You may submit your photos either electronically or in hard copy.

- To submit your photos electronically, save them as JPG files of between 300bpi and 3MB, attach them to an email, enter 'Photo Show' as the subject of the email, type your name, address, telephone number, a title for the photo, and the theme your photos represent in the body of the email, and send the email to fumcphotoshow@gmail.com.
- To submit your photos in hard copy, print them out on 8x10 photo paper, enclose them and a completed copy of this form in an envelope, and send the envelope to FUMC Lenten Photo Show, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305. Copies of this form may be downloaded from the church's website at www.fumcschenectady.org or may be obtained by calling the church office at 518-374-4403.

First United Methodist Church of Schenectady Lenten Photo Show: ENTRY FORM

Name: _____ ☐ Check here if under 18 yrs. old

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Theme that the photo represents (choose one per entry):

☐ POWER ☐ LIGHT ☐ GRACE ☐ LIMITLESS ☐ WE

TITLE OF THE PHOTO: _____

Email to: fumcphotoshow@gmail.com

Mail to: **FUMC LENTEN PHOTO SHOW, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305**

By submitting a photo the photographer gives FUMC copyright privileges to display the photo.

Photos will not be returned.

2. VOTE FOR THE PHOTOS YOU THINK BEST REFLECT THE THEMES OF THE SHOW

On a weekly basis, the photos submitted for each of the themes will be posted on First United Methodist Church's website (www.fumcschenectady.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fumcschenectady). You may go to either of these sites to vote for the photo or photos that you think best reflect the themes. You may also vote if you visit the show in person. Please vote only once for any given photo.

3. VISIT THE SHOW EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1 (8:30 – 10 AM and 11:00 - 12 NOON)

On Easter Sunday, April 1, as many of the photos as possible will be on display at First United Methodist Church of Schenectady. You are invited to view the photos from 8:30 to 10 am and from 11 am to 12 noon on Easter. Voting will be open during viewing hours. Light refreshments will be served.



Mission Moments

Delivered during Worship

► Human Relations Day

Delivered on January 7, 2018, by Jan Huston

The United Methodist Church has “special days” to highlight some of the programs of the global church. Our benevolence budget includes a small amount of money toward each of these days. Envelopes are in the bulletins on those days so that anyone who chooses can give to the specific program.

Virgia had a good idea which we will try to follow. She asked that we highlight each special day a week in advance so that people can come prepared with money to put in the envelopes.



The next special day is Human Relations Day. It will be next Sunday – January 14. It is always on Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend. We found a You Tube video which shows what kinds of projects are supported by donations that are given on Human Relations Day. So please watch the video and consider whether you would like to come prepared to use the envelope next Sunday.

The name of the You Tube video is “A Moment in Mission: Human Relations Day.”

► VIM and FUMC's Intergenerational Team to Mission Central

Delivered on January 14, 2018, by Jan Huston & Sylvester Doyer

I think that most of you know something about United Methodist Volunteers in Mission. You might have heard Sara say that VIM and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) are the best parts of the Methodist Church! The motto of VIM is “Christian Love in Action.” Teams of volunteers usually work together doing short-term mission work. A project might be a few days or maybe a few weeks. Types of projects include disaster recovery, health care and education, vacation Bible school, or helping with empowerment and needs in a poverty situation. Some projects include construction. Others include story telling or playing with children. Some teams have a group doing construction and another group doing health care. Whatever the focus is – another VIM saying is “The project is not the project. The project is the people.” The emphasis is on relationships.



People from FUMC have been involved in VIM for at least 30 years. They have worked in this country in the ice storm of 1998, in disaster recovery in NC, MS, TX, NJ, WV, in Rotterdam Junction and the Schoharie Valley after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, and others. They have helped to raise people from poverty in NC, NM,

Continued on next page.....

Mission Moments

Delivered during Worship

and OK. International teams have worked in Nicaragua, Brazil, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Italy, Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

Now we have another opportunity!! Sylvester and I are planning an intergenerational VIM team in which people from this church will go to Mission Central near Harrisburg, PA, April 2--6. Many VIM teams have had one or 2 youth on them. But this one will have our own amazing youth group and some of our amazing adults! We will all work together as a team.



Mission Central has a huge warehouse in Mechanicsburg, PA. Their primary task is to prepare kits like the flood buckets and hygiene kits that we have been packing so that supplies can be sent to areas that need them. The team will be doing whatever is needed to get more kits on their way. We will be staying in a beautiful retreat house near the facility and will prepare most of our meals. We expect that one afternoon will be used for visiting Gettysburg Battlefield and its new museum.



We will be staying at Silver Springs Retreat Center. It's located on 7 acres of partially wooded land adjacent to Silver Springs Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsburg, PA. The facility has a large deck and front porch, and a large indoor fireplace. There are also 2 large meeting rooms and six bedrooms. It has a full kitchen which the youth will use to prepare meals for our VIM team. There's also 3 full baths and 2 half baths.

We will arrive Monday, April 2, and leave early evening Friday, April 6. This will be a time for the youth and FUMC congregation to get to know and experience each other, and for our youth to experience another form of mission that does not involve heavy manual labor.

Other details are in the bulletin and the Spire. But don't wait – applications are due by Feb. 11. Some are on the table in the hall. Sylvester or I can email you an application. And we would be glad to talk with you if you have any questions or concerns. (*See enclosed flyer for more details*)

► United Methodist Women (UMW) Update

Delivered on January 21, 2018, by Shirley Readdean

FUMC unit of United Methodist Women (UMW) has provided mission monies for two projects in Puerto Rico. The unit also awarded two scholarships for first attendees at the UMW Assembly to be held in Columbus, OH, this May. The awardees are Beth Long-Velasquez, and Sue Learner.



KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - DECEMBER 2017

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Rev. Brolin Parker, our former District Superintendent, who passed away January 11 (details on pg. 3)

The family & friends of James F. Norton, our longtime friend and member, who passed away December 21 (details on pg. 3)

The family & friends of John Bistline, our longtime friend and former member, who passed away November 26 (details on pg. 3)

Our Christian support is also extended to:

Leon Adkins, Jr.	Jack & Courtney McEwan
Jan Butts	Mary Neville
Ross Corbett	Claire Racicot
June Dieffenbach	Shirley Rivest
Jen & Merrick Fuller	Bob Slater
Sandy Buschak-Jackson	Roy Stock
Robyn Lonergan	

And to: Belinda Forbes, our Nicaragua Missionary

We celebrate with:

Leona Jeanne Kempf, who received the Sacrament of Baptism during Worship at the Christmas Dawn Service. Welcome!

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
December 3	68
December 10	84
December 17	127
December 24	70
December 31	49

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
December 3	\$32,403.22
December 10	3,977.00
December 17	14,854.89
December 24	3,426.00
December 31	7,483.68

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Those served this month:

Children (infant-17)	23
Adults (18-64)	193
Seniors (65+)	<u>72</u>
Total	288

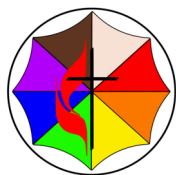


OUR SERVICE

Date

- 12/2 —Youth Service Project: Decorated Church for Advent
- 12/6-8—Opened sanctuary for all to see sunlight shine through the Rose Window and encircle altar cross
- 12/9 —Book Discussion held on Bryan Stevenson's book, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*
- 12/10 —Participated in a Racial Justice Workshop held at Girls, Inc.
- 12/17 —Musical offerings at Worship included guest musicians: The Emery String Quartet
- 12/25 —Served special Community Holiday Breakfast on Christmas Eve morning; free & open to all
- 12/30 —Participated in the Sch'dy Community Implicit Bias Training held at Proctor's Theatre
- Youth Service Project: Served free Community Brunch
- Dec. —Participated in *Christmas Gifts for Seniors* program by purchasing requested gifts for area seniors in need
- Holiday services offered & open to all: *Long Night*; *Service of 'Lessons & Carols'*; *Christmas Eve*; *Christmas Dawn*
- Mission Moments presented: Church World Service - *Blankets*, Heifer International, Home Furnishings Program
- Participated in *Alternative Christmas Gifts* for these programs: CWS--*Blankets* (\$400); Heifer International (\$275); FUMC's Community Breakfast (\$895); FUMC's SUSTAIN Ministry (\$750); Home Furnishings Program (\$150)
- Continue to serve the Community Breakfast on Sundays, free and open to all
- Distributed items through our SUSTAIN Ministry to those in need
- Sunday 2nd Hour offered: Church Conference; Christmas Caroling to our shutins; Needlework; annual *Carol Sing*

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



The Spire

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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NEXT SPIRE MAILED:

February 23; articles due Feb. 15

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

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

Lenten Study Series

Richard Rohr is a teacher of Centering Prayer, and a modern day wisdom teacher. His book "Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go" will guide our conversations for our Lenten Study on Monday nights from 7-8:30 in the Gathering Room. Pastor Sara and Bob Long will co-lead this study. There are many forms of "letting go" in the world, and most of them are hard for human beings. Rohr's premise is that our goal is to live out joy, build relationships, and find inner peace. If that isn't a good motivation for letting go, we don't know what is. You are welcome to attend and purchase a book for yourself from your favorite seller, or notify the church office by February 12th if you'd like one ordered for you at a cost of \$16.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Early March programs/events:

Sunday, March 4

**Family Sunday
UMW Program**

Youth Fundraiser

Saturday, March 10

**Intergenerational Volunteers
In Mission Team Meeting**

Sunday, March 11

CANTUS in Concert

WEBSITES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

First United Methodist Church

E-Mail: fumcschenectady@yahoo.com
Website: www.fumcschenectady.org

Upper New York Annual Conference

Website: www.unyumc.org

Albany District Office

E-Mail: albanydistrict@unyumc.org
Website: www.unyumc.org/districts/detail/2