

THE

Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Accessible

Vol. 80 No. 11

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

March 2017

Future Sundays

- 8:30** Downtown Community Breakfast
9:00 Children's Storytime
9:30 Second Cup Café
10:00 Sunday Morning Worship
 —*Infant & Toddler Care available*
 —*Sunday School begins (10:20)*
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:30 Second Hour program:
 —Needlework Ministry
 —Intergenerational Activity
 —Forums, Sermon 'Talk-Backs', etc.
7:00 Study: "Subversive Women of the Bible"

Worship Text:

- March 5 **1st Sunday in Lent**
Family Sunday
 Luke 10:38-42
 March 12 **2nd Sunday in Lent**
Daylight Savings Time begins
 John 4:1-30
 March 19 **3rd Sunday in Lent**
 Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
 March 26 **4th Sunday in Lent**
One Great Hour of Sharing
 Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:24b-34
 Luke 8:42b-48

Second Hour Events/Programs:

- March 5 PAWS Potluck Luncheon
 March 12 Ministry Team Meetings
 March 19 Extended Coffee Fellowship
 March 26 Wedding Reception Potluck Luncheon



We'll join our neighbors from Emmanuel Friedens and St. Joseph's for this ecumenical prayer service and to receive blessed ashes as the season of Lent begins. The service will be held on Ash Wednesday, March 1, at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph's Church, just across State St. All are welcome. The ashes are acquired from burning the palms left over from Palm Sunday of the precious year. The ritual traces from the 4th century and by the 11th century is common in churches as a reminder to the faithful of one's mortality and of need to repent and do penance during Lent.

An alternative for imposition of ashes emphasizes a more positive aspect of Lent: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."



Lenten Photo Show: *Submit your Pictures!*

What does STRONG look like to you? STRONG is one of the themes of this year's Lenten Photo Show that we will hold in the Gathering Room on Easter, April 16th. Everyone is invited to participate in this exciting event. For each of the five weeks during Lent, we have chosen a different Lenten theme. During each of these weeks we will be accepting 1 to 3 photos that you have taken that reflect the weekly theme, which are:

- Mar. 5-11: **STRONG**
 Mar. 12-18: **SUPPORT**
 Mar. 19-25: **WHOLE**
 Mar. 26-Apr. 1: **CONNECT**
 Apr. 2-8: **BRIGHT**

For details including how to submit a photo, please see the enclosed flyer.



LENT

From Our Pastor



In the midst of an unsettling time, I have been trying to put some of my focus on things that bring me hope. A few years ago I was prodded by a mentor to “stop being so cynical and focus on the people because there are good people.” She was talking about the United Methodist Church and her words ring true for me.

My family became United Methodist without a lot of intentionality about it. My mother was raised in the Congregational Church and my father was raised Roman Catholic. They regularly worshipped together in whatever church felt right. Early in their marriage a landlord invited them to come along to church, and that one happened to be United Methodist. A few years later when they settled in a similar area they sought out a United Methodist Church again. United Methodism worked for me and despite my serious concerns about discrimination and oppression of LGBTQ people, I've stayed.

When asked I always tell people that the best thing about being United Methodist is UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief) and I have enough data and personal stories to back that up. The truth is that my standard answer breezes over the deeper truths. At this point in my life I am still United Methodist because I have met the most amazing people in the Church. (I'm sure there are amazing people in other denominations, faith traditions, and atheism but I haven't MET them!)

I was sent to United Methodist camp as a child, and I worked at that camp as a young adult. I met amazing people – directors, staff, fellow campers, my own campers. I was raised in a supportive and thoughtful church, and took two Disciple Bible Studies in my high school years, leading to deep and important relationships in my life. I've also been very, very lucky to have been active in Annual Conferences, in the General Church, with the Love Your Neighbor Coalition, to have gone to seminary, and most of all to have served churches full of astoundingly beautiful people who have shared their faith journeys with me.

More people I know and love are United Methodist than aren't. More of the wisdom I've learned has come from United Methodists than from anyone else. More of the laughter in my life has come from jokes made by United Methodists than anyone else. It is perhaps not surprising that I have also fallen in love with a United Methodist as well. (We'd love to have you celebrate with us, more information later in this newsletter.)

As much as I value many view points and many ways of being in the world, if there is a tribe I belong to, it is the United Methodist Church. This isn't really because of polity, theology nor UMCOR. It is because of the bonds of love and life that have formed me into who I am. The greatest hope I have in the world comes from the people I know who are seeking to live GOOD lives of GRACE and ABUNDANCE.

You, FUMC Schenectady, are a constant reminder of reasons to have hope in the world. Your love for each other is inspiring. Your love for the communities that surround you is radical. Your thoughtfulness and desire to learn keep you grounded. Your openness keeps you fresh. The beauty of your space and of the music that fills it keeps us all alive!!!

It is important to be aware of what is happening around us, particularly in order to know where we need to use our power and voices to support those who are being oppressed. However, we also need to be fed by the wonders of love, hope, and joy. You feed me every day. I hope that you will continue to open your hearts to each other so that you too may be fed. There are good people and they are all around you. They're worth knowing even better!

Peace, Sara

March Book Discussion

The Intersectional Justice Committee (IJC) continues to invite members of the congregation to participate in book discussions in order to discuss and broaden our knowledge base on a range of justice matters. The March book is *How Propaganda Works* by Jason Stanley, and our next discussion will be Saturday, March 25th, at 10:00 AM. Please join us as we examine how to recognize propaganda, how propaganda operates subtly, how it undermines democracy--particularly the ideals of democratic deliberation and equality--how it has damaged democracies of the past, and what all of this means for us now. All are invited to join in this conversation. You can look for the book at your favorite library or bookstore, or talk to Kevin Nelson who can provide you with a copy for \$16. You can reach Kevin at kmichael07@yahoo.com. Also, for those interested in reading ahead, the April book will be *The Third Reconstruction: How a Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear* by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. The Intersectional Justice Committee (IJC) is also sponsoring the following events:

- **March 5th PAWS Luncheon**
- **NYCLU lobby day March 13th** (see Kevin Nelson for details)
- **April 2nd Conversation with Bishop Webb, Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Felding, and D.S. Rich Weiing**
- **June 11th Pride Parade**

Dear Friends in Mission,
 Thank you for your gift...we are pleased to share that 100% of your contribution will go to Acción Medica Cristiana (AMC), Advance #14846A. Your gift...is empowering poor communities through leadership and capacity-building, for health and development in Nicaragua.It is because of...people like you that Global Ministries has been able to establish new congregations in communities outside of the United States, urge our nation's decision makers to end hunger, support projects that address issues of child poverty and violence, provide youth with an opportunity to spend their summer in mission service, and improve literacy levels in communities...Thank you for giving...May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.



Grace and Peace,
 Roland Fernandez, General Treasurer
 General Board of Global Ministries

Fall marked our 35th anniversary as a ministry at Union College. So much has changed in how we do church and how we serve college students. It is an exiting time where the race of progressive Christians matter more than ever. Thank you for continuing your support of our work. We are grateful for your help! The students value our Bible studies and our impromptu conversations.

Blessings, Rev. Viki Brooks
 Union College Campus Protestant Ministry

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation in support of our Active Samaritan Fund. Your thoughtful generosity will allow us to continue serving those who might not otherwise afford counseling....Your covenant partnership with us is extremely important. As we celebrate over 25 years of service, our need for support continues... Thank you for your partnership in ministry! It is much appreciated!

Sincerely, David C. Olsen, PhD, Exe. Director
 Samaritan Counseling Center of the Capital Region

Dear Friends,

It is so heartening to receive your generous donation to Church World Service Blankets program. Your commitment helps people in communities around the world recover from disaster and know that someone cares enough to provide support. Your contribution provides...refugee families in Serbia that need warmth and shelter as they are displaced...people in Kentucky impacted by flooding and others that are homeless and economically disadvantaged where a blanket can make all of the difference...Migrant families in Colorado that find a ray of hope in blankets ...that shield them from the cold and wet conditions....We thank you!

May God bless you for your support,
 Rev. John L. McCullough
 President/CEO, Church World Service

Celebrate the Wedding of Pastor Sara & Kevin

Wedding: Saturday, March 18
Potluck Reception: Sunday, March 26

Our Pastor Sara Baron and Kevin Nelson invite everyone to save the date of Saturday, March 18, at 11:00 AM for their wedding ceremony to be held in the church sanctuary.



Then, please join the congregation in celebrating their marriage with an open potluck reception after the worship service Sunday, March 26! Everyone is invited. Please write your recipe down on a 3x5 card for the happy couple to enjoy at home. There will be a sign-up for what potluck item you would like to bring with Jan Lucente and Jan Huston. You can speak with either one of them to let them know what you'd like to bring, or contact the office to RSVP. Come help us celebrate this marriage!

If you wish to give a gift, Sara and Kevin would most like donations to MFSA (Methodist Federation of Social Action), which can be done through the church (addressed envelopes are in the narthex) or at http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=9152.

"CHURCH NIGHT" March 14th



All Ministry Teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on *Church Night*, held the second Tuesday of each month. And everyone is invited to attend the Church Council meetings. The schedule is:

6:30 pm Ministry Teams meet
 7:30 pm Devotions & Church Council

Invitation

Would you enjoy a visit or would like to talk and have someone listen to your concerns? If for any reason you would like a personal visit from the pastor or a lay caregiver, call 374-4403.




Altar Flowers

To give altar flowers, contact Ann Farrell (518-867-7654) or by email at: fumcflowers@gmail.com.

March 2017

First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ash Wednesday 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 PM Joint Ash Wednesday Service @ St. Joseph's Church	2 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 1st Sunday in Lent Family Sunday 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:45 AM PAWS Luncheon 7:00 PM Bible Study	6 7:00 PM -8:30 Lenten Book Study	7 10:30 AM Staff mtg.	8 12:00 PM -1:00 SUSTAIN Ministry 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	9 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11 12:00 PM -2 Youth Group
Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Trip to Nicaragua						
12 <i>Daylight Savings begins 2am -- set ahead 1 hour</i> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Storytime 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM SS Class 11:00 AM Coffee 11:30 AM Team Mtgs. 7:00 PM Bible Study	13 7:00 PM -8:30 Lenten Book Study	14 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. CHURCH NIGHT 6:30 PM Ministry Teams meet 7:30 PM Council	15 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	16 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal	18 11:00 AM Pastor Sara & Kevin's Wedding 12:00 PM -2 Youth Group
Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Trip to Nicaragua						
19 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Storytime 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM SS Class 11:00 AM Coffee 3:00 PM Concert: Flutist & Organist 7:00 PM Bible Study	20 7:00 PM -8:30 Lenten Book Study	21 10:30 AM Staff mtg. 5:30 PM -8 Meal & Workshop: Ministry with the Marginal	22 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Stephen Ministers 12:00 PM SUSTAIN Ministry 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 5:00 PM Serve Meal @ City Mission 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	23 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 Public Schools Closed	25 9:30 AM Youth Service: Serve free Community Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens 10:00 AM Intersectional Justice: Book Discussion
Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Trip to Nicaragua						
26 One Great Hour of Sharing 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Storytime 9:30 AM 2nd Cup 10:00 AM Worship 10:20 AM Church School Classes 11:00 AM Coffee 11:30 AM Wedding Reception Lunch 7:00 PM Bible Study	27 7:00 PM -8:30 Lenten Book Study 7:00 PM Staff Pastor / Parish Relations Committee	28 10:30 AM Staff mtg. 7:00 PM Trustees	29 4:30 PM Confirmation Class 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	30 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	31 <div>Youth Event: Up!...</div>	

We are in the season of LENT (purple) -
Lent is a time when we practice repentance—turning away from wrong and toward God.

PAWS Potluck Luncheon

Sunday, March 5

Our Intersectional Justice Committee is hosting a luncheon on Sunday, March 5th, that will not only offer fun fellowship but will also help benefit Damien Center's PAWS program!



PAWS stands for "Pets are Wonderful Support" and is a program the Damien Center provides to individuals and families living and affected by HIV/AIDS. Through the PAWS program, those affected with HIV/AIDS who have pets as companions, helps to ensure they will not be separated from their pets when their needed most as companions. PAWS needs pet supplies, especially for cats, like food, litter and treats but will accept supplies for dogs. Our church is happy to respond to their request for pet supplies.....in the form of a luncheon held Sunday, March 5th, after Worship at 11:45!

The luncheon is potluck and a donation of any pet supplies are welcome. If you're unable to attend, donations are still welcome. For more details, see the Mission Moment yellow insert. Signups helpful; contact the office.

A Stephen Ministry Moment

**You must be the change
you want to see in the world.**

Mahatma Gandhi



Calling all men— Breakfast Fellowship!

The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held Wednesday, March 22nd, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Diner, State St.! All men welcome.

Help Serve Meal

It's our church's turn to serve a meal at the City Mission of Schenectady on Wednesday, March 22nd, at 5:00 pm. With enough volunteers we'll be finished by 6:30. Please contact Lois Atkinson (377-8249) to help out.

Lenten Book Study

Everyone welcome

Coordinated by:
The Rev. Bob Long

Held here at:
**First United Methodist Church
in the Library**

When:
Monday evenings during Lent
Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Apr. 3, 10
Time: 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Books:
**"Three Simple Rules:
A Wesleyan Way of Living"**
by Bishop Rueben Job
"Out of Solitude"
Henri Nouwen's book of Meditations

These books compliment each other, are books that any member of the congregation can engage and relate to a Lenten journey with daily living.

Register:
For more information and to register,
contact Bob or the Church Office.



Like to do Needlework?

The Needlework Ministry program (knitting, crocheting, sewing) gathers most Sundays after Worship. All are welcome to join in anytime. A project is usually named, worked on then donated to those in need. If you wish to join in or to learn needlework, please stop in on a Sunday, or contact Eileen Deming or Alice Nash. Or, if you would like to donate handmade needlework (hat, scarf, prayer shawl, baby blanket, etc.), you can drop it off in Wesley Lounge on a Sunday or bring it to the office during the week.

The Sunday Scoop

March 2017



March 5	Family Sunday — Children and youth remain for the full service to Worship with their families. 11:45 am—Intergenerational Activity: PAWS Potluck Luncheon
March 12	10:20 am—Sunday School following Children's time Theme is <i>Story and Art</i> — “Prayer in Art”
March 19	10:20 am—Sunday School following Children's time Theme is <i>Music</i> — “Color Canon”
March 26	10:20 am—Sunday School following Children's time Theme is <i>Science</i> — “Say It With Your Body”

Signup for Summer Camp!

The 2017 United Methodist Church Summer Camp colored brochures, which lists all the wonderful camps available for children, youth, and families, have arrived! You can pick a copy in the narthex/lobby or view it and/or register on-line at www.campsandretreats.org.



Conference-Wide Youth Event

UP!WORD '17 Mar. 31-Apr. 2

Theme: “God Is”

The UP!WORD '17 experience on Friday-Sunday, March 31—April 2, at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool, NY, will be an opportunity for our youth from all over the conference to experience community and grow in their spiritual journey through worship experiences, workshops, and fun activities and interactions.

This year's theme is “God Is.” For more details and to register, go to www.unyumc.org/ccym, or contact Ted Anderson or Judy Hipes; 607-624-2145; tandj3905@hotmail.com.

Scholarships Available

Our Upper NY Annual Conference (UNYAC) has the following two scholarships available for college-bound students:

1. Conference Merit Award is funded by the United Methodist Student Day Special Offering (typically held in November or December). Awards are given to United Methodist students who are enrolled in an institution of higher education recognized as United Methodist by the University Senate (list at <http://tiny.cc/umcollegesuniversities>). Merit is evaluated in terms of academic scholarship, church involvement, financial need, vocational preparation for ministry, or other service. Applications due March 5th.

2. Lottie Brown Grant: Preference is given to those entering some form of Christian service. A statement of your faith journey and philosophy of life is given high consideration. Application materials must be postmarked by April 15th.

For an application and further information on the above, you can go to the conference's website at: www.unyumc.org.

Daylight Savings Time

Plan to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 11th. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 am on March 12th.

Ministry with the Marginalized

This workshop provides training for church-based volunteers and teams involved in serving economically challenged communities through food, clothing, cash assistance, short-term service, or other projects. Based on research conducted for the Louisville Institute this year, Rev. Dana Horrell, Ph.D., offers practical advice on:

- How to pay attention to class bias when volunteering
- How to build relationships with those you serve
- How to tap into community assets, not problems
- How to expand on food & clothing ministry

How to start an empowerment ministry (such as mentoring or financial education)

Through videos, case studies and discussion, you will learn how to avoid "toxic charity" and build relationships with the people you serve.

Date: Tues., March 21

Time: 5:30 pm Light supper (pizza and salad)
6-8:30 pm Course

Where: First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Cost: \$10.

Advance registration is required; deadline is March 19th. You can register here: <http://bit.ly/2logtAk>.

Course Instructor: Dana Horrell, Ph.D. is a pastor, and consultant specializing in community ministry. Last year, with a grant from the Louisville Institute, he produced six videos about congregations that provide excellent outreach ministry. He is the Executive Editor of Faithful Citizen, a multi-media adult study on global issues. Read his blog at faithfulcitizen.net. For more information, email Dana Horrell at dkhorrell@gmail.com or call 315-439-9154. He lives in Troy.



Letter from CONAM

Dear Friends,

In 2012, the United Methodist Church took the significant action to engage in an Act of Repentance for the sins and tragic injustices of the church against Native Peoples.

For those who wish to put action behind those words of repentance, there is an opportunity to stand with Native Peoples in Washington, DC on March 10. Standing Rock and Native Nations will lead a march in prayer and action in Washington D.C. on that Friday. You can read more about the event at: [http:// standwithstandingrock.net/ march/](http://standwithstandingrock.net/march/)

A bus will be leaving Saratoga UMC off Henning Road in Saratoga Springs at 2:00 a.m. on Friday, March 10th, driving to Washington for the March, and returning to Saratoga at about 9 p.m.

This trip is endorsed and sponsored by our Upper New York Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries. For further information or to register, contact Don Washburn at: dwashburn3@nycap.rr.com.

*Yours in Christ,
Rev. Donald Washburn, CONAM
Advocacy for Peace with Justice Sub-Committee*

E-Newsletter

This newsletter is available electronically and in hardcopy. If you would prefer to receive it by email, which does save valuable resources, please contact the office with your email address.

Conversation with the Bishop and other Leaders

The Intersectional Justice Committee has organized a number of events as part of its efforts to provide opportunities for the congregation to live out our faith and engage in justice work. On Sunday, April 2nd, 3-4:30 pm we are scheduled to have an opportunity to engage in conversation at the church with Bishop Mark Webb, the resident bishop of the Upper New York Annual Conference, of which FUMC Schenectady is a part. Additional guests will include Rev. Bill Gottschalk-Fielding, the assistant to the bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries, and Rev. Rich Weihing, the district superintendent for the Albany District.

We are facing a critical moment in the life of the United Methodist Church (UMC). The UMC continues to perpetrate discrimination of LGBTQ persons. This discrimination includes provisions of church law that forbid UMC clergy from officiating at same-sex weddings, forbid UMC clergy from engaging in sexual relationships with partners of the same gender (even when they are married), and forbid the ordination of LGBTQ individuals if they are in sexual relationships with partners of the same gender (again even when they are married). In response, a large movement of United Methodists continue to resist this oppression and refuse to enforce the related oppressive church laws. FUMC Schenectady, as a reconciling congregation, is one such example of the resistance.

This will be a very important opportunity for us to engage in conversation with our conference leaders relating to the above matters, and we need a strong turnout. Please put April 2nd on your calendars.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SCHENECTADY
2017 LENTEN PHOTO SHOW

The First United Methodist Church of Schenectady invites you to participate in its 2017 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 16 (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:



March 5-11: STRONG

March 12-18: SUPPORT

March 19-25: WHOLE

March 26-April 1: CONNECT

April 2-8: BRIGHT

- 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, phone number, provide a photo title, 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):

☐ **Strong**

☐ **Support**

☐ **Whole**

☐ **Connect**

☐ **Bright**

TITLE OF THE PHOTO: _____

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 16 (8:30 - 10 AM and 11:00 - 12 NOON)

On Easter Sunday, April 16, 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 11:00 to 12 noon on Easter. Voting will be open during viewing hours. Light refreshments will be served.



Flute-Organ Concert

Eugenia Zukerman & Anthony Newman

Sunday, March 19, 3:00 PM

The distinguished musicians Eugenia Zukerman and Anthony Newman will present a delightful concert of flute and organ at FUMC on Sunday, March 19th, at 3:00 pm and we hope you can be there to hear these two outstanding performers.

Eugenia Zukerman is an internationally renowned recitalist and soloist, as well as a writer, artistic director, television journalist, (for which she was nominated for an Emmy), educator and internet entrepreneur (she has created video blogs – called “vlogs,” – for many music conservatories and organizations). Early in her career, she won the Young Concert Artists Competition and made her New York debut, which was received with the same kind of rave reviews she continues to get more than 25 years later.

During his 50-year career Anthony Newman has come to be known as America's leading organist, harpsichordist and Bach specialist. His prodigious recording output includes more than 200 CDs, including the two recently released CD sets of complete collected organ works and collected harpsichord works of J. S. Bach, 19 CDs in all. He is probably the only world-class musician to have recorded both of these monumental collections. As a keyboardist and conductor he has worked with many internationally-known musicians and symphonic groups. He is a composer, as well, and as such has received 30 composer's awards from ASCAP.

Their program will consist of music for flute and organ duos and organ solos. You can look forward to hearing compositions for the Musical Clock by Bach, Mozart and Haydn as arranged by the performers and the *Fantasy in f minor for Flute and Organ* by Mozart. For organ solos, Mr. Newman will play one of his own compositions, a *Fantasia on the Te Deum*, and Bach's *Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C Major*.

Did you know that the concerts which FUMC offers in its annual concert series are free and open to the public. You are invited and it won't cost you a cent! Come, bring your family, bring your friends, and enjoy an afternoon with two of America's finest classical musicians. We'll see you there!

—Nancy Walden for the Music Committee.

(The) Connection

Pastor Sara and a small number of congregants shared their visions that FUMC could provide an alternate worship experience for individuals that do not participate in the Sunday morning service. (The) Connection is the product of those shared visions.

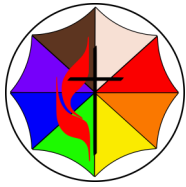
There have been three gatherings to date – each approximately 90 minutes in length. The gatherings consist of three components –

1. **Connection to Spirit** – a sharing of spiritual practices. Spiritual practices have included meditation, a centering practice and a gratitude exercise.
2. **Love in Action** – a service component. Service projects have included making knot blankets, writing seasonal cards for people involved with the Damien Center, and sorting diapers in the Pine Room to support the Sustain Ministry.
3. **Spiritual Reflection and Growth** – a discussion and sharing of ideas. Discussions have included “Accessing the Divine,” “Interconnections,” and “Growing into Peace.”

Leadership for each session is shared by the members attending the session.

Initially, individuals were invited to attend a session by personal invitation. For our third session, a Facebook event and invitation were created to invite a larger number of participants. Attendance has been limited. However, individuals that have participated state that the gathering “feeds their soul” and that they are glad that they came.

(The) Connection has evolved since our first gathering. We no longer wish to limit participants to individuals that do not come to the Sunday service. The sharing of spiritual practices, performing a service activity and spiritual reflection and growth may be of interest to those that attend the Sunday service, as well. We would like to invite all of you to join us at future Connection gatherings. The starting time of each gathering is 7 pm. Meeting dates are variable. Please watch for future dates in the Bulletin and in the Spire. We look forward to seeing you!



MISSION MOMENTS

Delivered during Worship

► Needlework Ministry

Delivered on January 17, 2017, by Alice Nash

Good Morning. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Alice Nash. I along with Eileen Deming, are the co-facilitators of the Needlework Ministry. The Needlework Ministry consists of about 15 people, along with wonderful people from other churches locally who have donated to us and a few generous women that I met in an online forum who mailed hats and scarves to us as a mission project from all over the country.

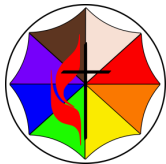
In April of 2013, there was an explosion at the West Fertilizer Company in West, TX. I am a part of a few online knitting forums. One of which, makes prayer shawls and sends them to areas that need them. There was a call put out that shawls were needed for a nursing home in West, TX and to send them to First United Methodist Church in Waco, TX. I felt that this was something I could help with. I made 7 prayer shawls and mailed them off. A few weeks later, I received a letter, thanking me. I then discovered that their associate pastor wrote a blog post about my donation. After some encouragement from some of you here, I wrote an article for the Spire and offered to start the Needlework Ministry.



Since the beginning, we have donated hats and scarves to the City Mission, baby items to St. Peters Hospital, Albany Medical Center, and Bellevue Women's Hospital, red scarves for Mechanicville United Methodist Church to bring to the Cardiac Center at St. Mary's Hospital in Troy, potholders for Home Furnishings, and winter items went to the Akwesasne Reservation with our V.I.M. Team. We have made prayer shawls for those who are grieving, suffering a loss, going through a hard time, or being confirmed as a Methodist. We have made baptism shawls for those of us who are being baptized here.

Recently, we delivered 30 hats and scarves to the YMCA Men's Residence. We also provided 78 hats and 29 scarves to the guests of our Breakfast Program.

If you knit, crochet, or sew, we currently have a need for scarves and prayer shawls. Anyone is welcome to create with us. Easy patterns are available, see Eileen after worship. If you need yarn or fleece before starting a project for the Needlework Ministry, check with us, we have received donations from generous members of this congregation.



MISSION MOMENTS

Delivered during Worship

► PAWS Luncheon Fellowship

Delivered on February 5, 2017, by Sylvester Doyer

On March 5th; FUMC of Schenectady Intersectional Justice Committee is hosting a luncheon for Damien Center PAWS program. PAWS stands for “Pets are Wonderful Support.” Damien House was founded in 1990 as a resource center for individuals and families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The center aim and purpose is to provide a supportive atmosphere for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. Damien Center is a welcoming and culturally diverse environment.



The PAWS program provides support to individuals and families with HIV/AIDS who have pets as companions. Through the PAWS program, Damien Center provides task, financial and information assistance to owners of pets living with HIV/AIDS.

They ensure that individuals and families are not separated from their pets when needed the most as companions. PAWS is in need of pet supplies, especially cat food, cat litter and cat treats but willing to accept any pet supplies for dogs as well.

FUMC of Schenectady is happy to respond to their request for donations of pet supplies. Our response is in the form of a luncheon on Sunday, March 5th, after services at 11:45. The luncheon is potluck and a donation of cat food, cat litter and cat treats; other pet supplies are welcome as well. If you are unable to attend, donations are still welcome. More information about what is needed specifically will be coming in the following month in the church bulletin. Watch your bulletin for more information and mark your calendar for Sunday, March 5th, at 11:45.

► Methodist in New Directions (MIND)

Delivered on February 12, 2017, by guest speaker, Dorothee Benz

- Methodists in New Directions (MIND) as in closed doors, broken hearts, WE MIND!
- largest RMN affiliate, membership org, robust steering committee, website, listserv, weekly newsletter, Twitter, Facebook
- none of that is why MIND matters
- MIND pioneered and animated the strategy in the UMC of refusing further compliance and complicity in the requirement to discriminate, and doing it openly and collectively
- We do! NY 15
- inspired followers in both cases, also changed the conversation in the church
- GC16 fielded 17 ppl who led the protests w/ LP and RMN
- we are not afraid to speak truth to power and remind everyone, MLK: moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.



KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - JANUARY 2017

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

OUR PRAYERS

Our Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Donald Birch, who passed away on January 17th (Connie Layman's close friend)

The family & friends of Ivan Clark, who passed away on January 6th (Dick & Darlene Smith's close friend)

Our Christian support is also extended to:

Chris Rambo, Jr.	Sue Oldow Patterson
Rev. George Bailey	Lily Quickenton
Ross Corbett	Clare Racicot
Sandy Buschak-Jackson	Shirley Readdean
Joe LaNigra	Shirley Rivest
Courtney & Jack McEwan	Bob Slater
Carolyn Micklas	Bishop Spong

And to: Belinda Forbes, our Nicaragua missionary, our homebound; VIM Teams; and those effected by natural disasters, poverty and/or violence everywhere.

OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
January 1	40
January 8	85
January 15	75
January 22	90
January 29	73

OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
January 1	\$4,953.00
January 8	3,434.20
January 15	1,391.00
January 22	1,239.00
January 29	1,233.00

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Those served this month:

Children (infant-17) 43

Adults (18-64) 225

Seniors (65+) 60

Total 268



OUR SERVICE

Date

1/1 —Worship Service's musical offerings included guest organist and guest oboist

1/2 —New book study series started: *Caring for Absent Members*

1/8 —Formed new ministry team: *Intersectional Justice Committee*

1/15 —Celebrated *Human Relations Sunday* which included special collection (\$95)

1/25 —Served supper at the City Mission of Schenectady

1/28 —Youth Service: Served free Community Brunch

—Book Club Discussion on *Jesus: The Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary* by Marcus Borg

Jan. —Our SUSTAIN Ministry served 145 household comprising of 500 adults & children; 24 volunteers served 166 hours

—Continue to serve the Downtown Community Breakfast on Sundays, free and open to all

—Mission Moments presented during Worship on: *VIM Trip to Nicaragua; Youth Mission Activities; Intersectional Justice; and Needlework Ministry*

—Continue to offer free periodicals: *Upper Room* and *Alive Now* for adults; *Pockets* and *Devo'zine* for children / youth.

—Sunday 2nd Hour offered: Epiphany Celebration; Sermon 'Talk-Back'; and Needlework Ministry

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



Happy Birthday!

Warm wishes are extended to our

MARCH

Birthday celebrants: (Contact the office with your birthday!)

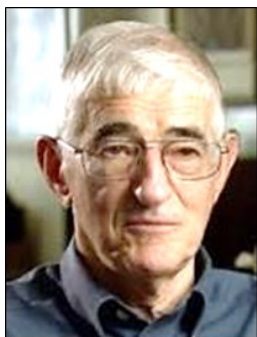
March	1	Sue Frisoni
	1	David Haverly
	4	Jalan Ganje
	5	Stewart Hettig
	6	Brenda Evans
	7	Andrew Clunn
	8	Ryan Leach
	8	Shirley Rivest
	9	Lois Atkinson

11	Ryan Hinkle
12	Marsha Furbeck
13	Ron Hancock
14	Kaitlin Driesse
17	Robert Slater
18	Kevin Lonergan
18	Linora Mosier
20	Susan Whitten
21	Noah Guidos

21	Molly Kalasinski
23	Derek Jackson
24	Kathy Poppino
26	Daniel Ganje
29	Denis Virgilio
31	June Dieffenbach
31	Dena Sanders

Mark Your Calendar:

John Dominic Crossan coming in September!



John Dominic Crossan is coming to First UMC, Schenectady! 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.

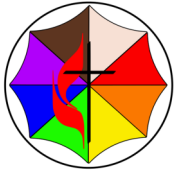
He has received awards for scholarly excellence from the American Academy of Religion in 1989, DePaul University in 1991 and 1995, and an honorary doctorate from Stetson University, DeLand, FL, in 2003.

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).



The Spire

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

Serving Schenectady for over 200 Years

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March 29; articles due Mar. 15



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



**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. Free of charge.
- ☉ Children's Storytime is held 9:00 - 9:30 in the Babyfold weekly except the 1st Sunday of the month. Children and their parents are welcome.
- ☉ Second Cup Café is held in the Library 9:30 - 9:50. Enjoy coffee and/or read the newspaper!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Coming in early April:

Sunday, April 2

**Family Sunday
Intergenerational Activity
Conversation with Bishop**

Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday

Tuesday, April 11

Church Night

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