

# THE Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 81 No. 1

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

May 2017

## FUTURE SUNDAYS

- 8:30 Community Breakfast Fellowship
- 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 programs
  - Needlework Ministry
  - Adult Forum
  - Sermon 'Talk-Back'
- 7:00 Study: "Subversive Women of the Bible"

### Worship Text:

- May 7 *Family Sunday*  
Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
- May 14 *Festival of Christian Home/Mother's Day*  
Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
- May 21 Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
- May 28 Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

### Second Hour Events/Programs:

- May 7 CROP Walk
- May 14 Ministry Team Meetings  
2nd Sunday of each month  
Concert at 3:00: Bell Choir
- May 21 Prayer Service @ Sikh Temple

## Reconciling Summit

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-3 PM

At this crucial time in the history of the United Methodist Church, when recommendations about the inclusion of LGBTQAI people (aka "human sexuality") in the life and ministry of the church are going to be made by the Commission on the Way Forward, it is imperative that we are involved.

—What role should the Upper New York Annual Conference take in this conversation?

—How can we help the conference to live into that role?

**You are invited to attend a...**

discussion session that will focus on how to have an impact on the process, and ensure that our voices are heard. In a spirit of *Ubuntu* (an African word meaning "I am what I am because we are together") we will seek to identify strategies and activities that promote the welcome of all persons at all levels of the church's ministry, remove harmful language from the Book of Discipline and enable a gracious transition for those factions that wish to separate from the United Methodist Church. Lunch will be provided. Please signup by contacting Kevin Nelson or the Church Office.



## Enjoy Fellowship before Worship

- Community Breakfast — Served 8:30-9:30 am weekly except on the first Sunday of each month.
- Children's Storytime — Held 9-9:30 am when breakfast is served. All children & parents welcome.
- Second Cup Café — Held in the Library 9:30-9:50 am. Enjoy coffee and/or read the newspaper!

Spring



## From our Pastor



These days I'm struck by the number of conversations I have with people who are struggling with anxiety and tension due to national politics. I've taken to naming it whenever I can, because people seem to feel better when they know that they're not alone in the struggle. As I move through the world, I casually mention that I hear from many people that they're shopping more, eating more junk, sleeping more (or less), and generally engaging in terrible self-care. Almost everyone I've mentioned this to has responded along the lines of "OH! That's why I'm shopping so much!"

Naming things is really important. None of us know all of our own motivations, and often we feel alone in our fears and anxieties, so I hope I've been helping the world by naming things as we go through this journey together.

One of the bigger challenges is that SO many people are hurting. Before the election, The American Physiological Association had put out an article on how to deal with the stress of the election because they found that nearly all of their patients (all across the spectrum of ideologies) had increased stress symptoms because of the election.<sup>1</sup> From what I can tell, for most people around me, the stress has not decreased.

Now, the stresses I hear about relate to passionate care for vulnerable people, and the concerns are well-founded. Yet, the constancy of the stress is harming the people experiencing it, and I'm worried. Furthermore, this is not just an individual problem. Because so many people in our church family are living with increased stress, the stress level of the church is also heightened. That means that the community isn't able to function at its best.

While I have not seen any single instance of worrisome behavior in our church, I have seen evidence that we aren't at our best. What I have seen is simple. Within any set of people there are little things that annoy us, or moments when we speak more harshly than we mean to. When any of us are healthy (and well-rested), we can experience the annoyance or the harsh word and deal with it easily. We may be able to defuse it with humor, we may be moved to offer a kind word to someone whose harsh language indicates that they are hurting, or we may be able to brush it off. When individuals can do that work, then we as a community can handle little things without letting them escalate.

In the time I've been with this church I've been amazed at how healthy it is. The church is STILL healthy, but the stress is also real. Little things aren't exploding on us (Thanks be to God!), but they are gaining traction. This makes sense. With so many of our individuals struggling, of course we are struggling more as a community too. Much as I do in the world at large, I'm hoping that by naming this struggle it will empower us to change its reality. This church does too much good in the world to allow ourselves to be thrown off kilter by those who would do harm!

That article by the American Psychological Association invited people to take breaks from the news cycle. I'm learning that I need to take a whole DAY off from the news cycle every week to regain my sense of balance. (That Sabbath idea just keeps coming back!) I'm also noticing that I need my spiritual practices more than ever, and that finding time for deep conversations with friends is now imperative. If you don't have a spiritual practice, I'd love to help you discover one that is life-giving. In the meantime, I would encourage you to take time to cuddle your pets (if you have pets that cuddle) and savor it, to watch the wind blow through tree branches, or to simply breathe in and out (perhaps breathing in the love of God and breathing out a blessing for the world). If you'll let me be a bit pushy, I'll also offer one of the unfortunate things I've learned over the years: self-indulgence isn't necessarily the same thing as self-care. A book I read once suggested that eating chocolate is NOT self care (it is OK to moan or hiss here), while taking a walk outside is.

The true self-care we are able to give ourselves in the midst of many external stressors matters – not just for ourselves but for the collective well-being of our church family. It also matters how we treat each other. May God help us find productive and healthy ways to live our lives and to respond to each other.

—Sara

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2016/10/presidential-election-stress.aspx>

## In Memoriam

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



† **Susan Oldow Patterson**, our friend and longtime member for over 40 years, who passed away on April 23 after a 2½ year courageous fight against lymphoma. The family is planning a memorial in Massachusetts. Please keep her mother Nancy Oldow and the family in your prayers. Cards of condolence can be sent to her at: 133 Saratoga Rd. Bldg. 112, Apt. 4, Glenville, NY 12302.

† **Maria Greta Abbey**, our friend and longtime member for over 50 years, who passed away on January 3. A Memorial Service celebrating her life will be held in the church sanctuary on Saturday, May 13th, at 2:00 pm. Please keep her children and the family in your prayers. Cards of condolence can be sent to her son, Mark Abbey & family: 1816 Earl Dr., Bel Air, MD 21015.



## Thanks for Supporting the Lenten Photo Show!

*Thanks to the photographers who submitted so many wonderful photos to the show, to the people who viewed the photos online and at church, and to those who voted. Thanks also to Rev. Sara Baron for her leadership and for choosing the show's themes; to the Welcoming Team and Music Program for participating; to Bob Slater and Tony Turner, the Coffee Fellowship leaders, for accommodating the show in the Gathering Room; to Eileen Deming, Elaine Troy and Jan Huston for helping with the food; to Alice Nash who managed the show's Facebook presence; to Carolyn Micklas who managed the show's website presence; to Martin Manley for space planning and set up; to the Schenectady Photo Society for the use of its display racks; and to Linda Smith for coordinating outreach, receiving and processing the photos, distributing the photos to the Facebook page and website, preparing summaries and preparing the show's program.*

—Larry McArthur, Coordinator

(A list of photos that received the most votes in the show is on the Pastor's Pondering Board, and posted online at our website and Facebook page.)

## "Church Night" Tuesday, May 9



All Ministry Teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on *Church Night*, held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. And everyone is always welcome to attend the council meetings. The evening schedule is:

6:30 PM Ministry Teams meet

7:30 PM Church Council meets

(notices will go out to teams scheduled to meet)

## Calling All Men!

Enjoy a breakfast at 8:30 am at the next Men's Breakfast Fellowship held Wednesday, May 24, at the Blue Ribbon Diner on State Street!



## Serve at the Mission

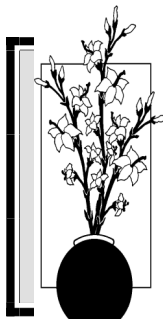
Volunteers needed to help serve a meal at the City Mission on Wednesday, May 24, at 5:00 pm. With enough people, we should be finished by 6:30. Contact Lois Atkinson (377-8249) to help.

## Enjoy Needlework?

The Needlework Ministry program (knitting, crocheting, sewing) gathers most Sundays after Worship. Handmade items are created and given to neighbors in need. If you wish to learn needlework or want to join in, plan to stop in on a Sunday or contact Eileen Deming or Alice Nash.

## Altar Flowers

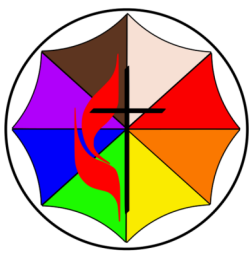

To give altar flowers for Sunday Worship, contact Ann Farrell at 867-7654.





# May 2017

## First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 2:00 PM Staff mtg.	3 5:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	4 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5	6 10:00 AM -3:00 Reconciling Summit
<b>7 Family Sunday</b> 9:30 AM 2nd Cup <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 1:30 PM Annual CROP Walk 7:00 PM Bible Study	8	9 2:00 PM Staff Mtg. <b>CHURCH NIGHT</b> 6:30 PM Ministry Teams meet 7:30 PM Council	10 12:00 PM -1:00 SUSTAIN Ministry 5:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	11 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13 11:30 AM -2 Youth Group 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Maria Great Abbey in Sanctuary
<b>14 Mother's Day</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Storytime 9:30 AM 2nd Cup <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 10:20 AM SS Class 11:00 AM Coffee 11:30 AM Second Hour: Team Mtgs. 3:00 PM Concert: Bell Choir 7:00 PM Bible Study	15	16 2:00 PM Staff mtg.	17 5:00 PM Confirmation Class 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	18 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20 11:30 AM -2 Youth Group
<b>21</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Children's Storytime 9:30 AM 2nd Cup <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 10:20 AM SS Class 11:00 AM Coffee 11:30 AM Second Hour Programs 12:00 PM -2 Prayer Service @ Sihk Temple 7:00 PM Bible Study	22	23 2:00 PM Staff mtg. 7:00 PM Trustees	24 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Fellowship 9:00 AM Stephen Ministers 12:00 PM -1:00 SUSTAIN Ministry 5:00 PM Confirmation Class 5:00 PM Serve Meal @ City Mission 6:45 PM Handbell Rehearsal	25 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	26	27 9:30 AM Youth Service: Serve free Community Brunch @ Emmanuel Friedens
<b>28</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Children's Storytime 9:30 AM 2nd Cup <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 10:20 AM Church School Classes 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM Second Hour Programs 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>29 Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed Public Schools Closed	30 2:00 PM Staff mtg.	31 5:00 PM Confirmation Class			

**We are in the season of EASTER (white or gold) -**  
 Easter and the Sundays following Easter are a time when we celebrate the new life we find through Jesus.



## **Schenectady CROP Walk** **Sunday, May 7**

What Does CROP Stand for?

**C**ommunities **R**esponding to **O**vercome **P**overty

Everyone is welcome to participate in the annual CROP Walk, which will kick off at Emmanuel Friedens Church, our neighbors on Nott Terrace, at 1:30 pm on May 7, after a brief opening ceremony.

In 2016, Schenectady's walk was one of the top 20 in the United States. One quarter of the money raised supports local efforts to combat hunger. The rest is used by Church World Service, an ecumenical agency, to alleviate hunger throughout the world. A slogan used by walkers is "Because they walk, we walk." This refers to the distances that some people need to walk to get basic needs like water and food.

Let's have a good turnout this year! All ages are encouraged to participate. Sometimes dogs walk, too! And for the 1st time in several years, there's no concert at FUMC at 3:00 after the walk, so come in comfortable clothes and enjoy a springtime walk with friends for a good cause!! To sign up to walk or sponsor a walker, contact Elaine Troy or the office.

### **A Stephen Ministry Moment**

**"Life is what we make it—  
always has been,  
always will be."**

Grandma Moses

## **Biking for Scholarships**

The Rev. Bob Long will bike from Niskayuna to Syracuse to attend the Upper NY Annual Conference and raise funds for UNYAC Africa University Scholarships. The trip is 155 miles and will take about 3 days. To sponsor him with a donation, contact Bob or sign the sheet on the bulletin board.



## **Westminster Concert Bell Choir**

**Sunday, May 14, 2017, 3:00 pm**

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir, one of the best handbell choirs in America, will perform in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. The Choir performs on eight octaves of handbells, the largest range of handbells in the world, and supplements the handbells with a six-octave range of chimes, the largest range in existence. Watching the musicians manage so many instruments with accuracy and elegance, and listening to lovely bell music will excite, amaze and please all who hear them. This is not a concert to be missed!

The Choir, comprised of students at Rider University's Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, is under the direction of Kathleen Ebling Shaw. Ms. Shaw is a faculty member at the college, where she teaches classes in handbell training and conducts a second handbell choir. She is well-known as a handbell clinician and has conducted handbell sessions for musicians and educators in this country and abroad. The Choir has appeared several times on Public Television and on holiday broadcasts of the *Today* show, has been heard annually on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* and has performed twice during the Christmas season at Carnegie Hall. It has made eleven solo recordings and is included on an NPR Christmas recording.

We are indeed fortunate to have this group perform as a part of our Concert Series. Do come to this free concert and bring family and friends. What a delightful way to celebrate Mother's Day!

—Nancy Walden for the Music Committee

## **Prayer Service at Temple**

Everyone is welcome to meet in the church parking lot to go to Sikh Temple to join our sisters and brothers for a prayer service, held 12-2 pm on Sunday, May 21. The temple is located at 1944 Union St., across from Dominican Retreat Center.



## From Intersectional Justice Committee Sanctuary City

FUMC, through the Intersectional Justice committee, is supporting a campaign seeking the Schenectady City Council to designate Schenectady a sanctuary city. So far, eight persons related to FUMC have attended a total of four city council hearings and four persons attended the April 10<sup>th</sup> Dignity and Respect for All rally supporting Schenectady becoming a sanctuary city.

As you are probably aware, there are substantial federal efforts under way targeting immigrants and refugees. We are supporting a movement led by Citizen Action of NY that would seek to protect all immigrants and refugees in our community, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, so long as they have not committed any violent crimes.

In the push for Schenectady to be designated a sanctuary city, we are pushing for the city council to adopt a set of policies, vetted by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), that govern our police department's interactions with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The end result would be that Schenectady officers would only cooperate with ICE requests backed by a judicial arrest warrant related to probable cause. What are called "ICE detainers," which seek information on immigration status or seek for the department to hold someone until an ICE officer can arrive to take that individual into custody for the probable purpose of deporting them, would not be cooperated with. There's more details on sanctuary cities and the relevant particulars at: <https://aclum.org/our-work/aclum-issues/immigrants-rights/resources-sanctuary-cities/>

There is an ongoing need for more people to attend the city council meetings, held on the second and fourth Mondays at 7 PM. A willingness to speak about why we should take steps to protect our immigrant neighbors and become a sanctuary city would be most helpful, but showing up in silent support (or with a sign) is also very important. You can just show up or talk to Kevin Nelson ([kmichael07@yahoo.com](mailto:kmichael07@yahoo.com)) for more information.

In other related work, the IJ committee continues to explore ways in which FUMC can more directly support efforts to assist refugees and immigrants targeted by the Trump Administration. The information gathering phase is continuing in terms of conversations with a variety of individuals and organizations who are knowledgeable in this area.



## Skye Farm Celebrating 75 years!

Skye Farm camp is located in the Adirondacks off Northway Exit 24 and is celebrating its 75th year in ministry! An Alumni Weekend is planned for Sept. 1-4 and includes the 75th Anniversary Celebration on Sept. 2. Mark your calendar! Another nearby United Methodist camp is Sky Lake campground, located in Windsor, NY. Both camps offer many summer camps to choose from and both will hold an Open House: Sky Lake on May 21; Skye Farm on July 8. For details and/or to register, go to: [www.skyefarmcamp.org](http://www.skyefarmcamp.org); [www.skylakecenter.org](http://www.skylakecenter.org).

### Family Camp Weekend at Skye Farm— Friday-Monday, May 26-29

You won't want to miss this great get-away with family and friends! Family Camp founders, Rev. Clark Callender and our own, Rev. Bob Long, will return as honorary weekend Chaplains! Meals are provided. Come for the weekend or just a day! Stay in a cabin or bring your own tent or camper.

## Church Retreat in August

Please consider joining us for a weekend retreat at Sky Lake Camp and Retreat Center. It will be a time of focus and dialogue with intergenerational activities for all. Guest presenter and theme still being negotiated. Sign-in will begin 5:30 pm Fri., August 25 and check-out will be at 2 pm Sun., August 27. Sky Lake is located in Windsor, NY. To check out room accommodations and the Underwood Lodge, go to: [www.skylakecenter.org](http://www.skylakecenter.org).

### 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/teens: \_\_\_\_\_ # of children (age 4-12) \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations:

\_\_\_\_\_ Underwood Lodge (meals included)

\_\_\_\_\_ Camp (tents not included)

Dietary Accommodations (Please list any special needs):  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Sunday Scoop

## May 2017



May 7	<b>Family Sunday!</b> Instead of Sunday School, children, youth, and families together take part in the Worship service.
May 14	10:20 am Sunday School; Theme is <i>Story and Art</i> : "Crayon Resist" 11:30 am Youth Class
May 21	10:20 am Sunday School; Theme is <i>Music</i> : "Symbols Rap" 11:30 am Youth Class
May 28	10:20 am Sunday School; Theme is <i>Science</i> : "Signs of Spring" 11:15 am <b>Spring Spectacular Luncheon!</b> No Youth Class

## Calling All Graduates!

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



## Student Loans

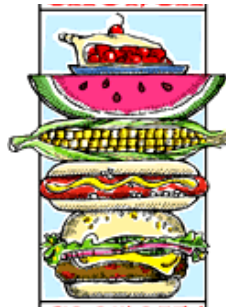
Limited funds are available through the Board of Trustees for loans to students attending college in 2017-2018. Such loans are interest free when repaid on schedule, within 5 years of graduation. The loans are made possible by memorial donations and repayment of previous loans.

The Trustees will review every application and award amounts based on the available monies that support the education fund. Applicants must be members of FUMC, or dependents of members.

Applications are available in the Church Office or by e-mail request for an electronic copy. Completed forms, signed by the Pastor, must be returned to the church by May 16, to the attention of Elaine Troy. Questions about this program may be directed to Elaine at 356-2687 or [lanie600@nycap.rr.com](mailto:lanie600@nycap.rr.com).

## Christian Education Sunday

### Sunday, June 4



We will celebrate Christian Education Sunday on June 4th, which marks the end of our church school year. Worship will include Confirmation. Everyone is invited to come enjoy this special celebration, sponsored by our Children and Youth Ministries Team. Following the Worship service, plan to stay to enjoy:

- Picnic/BBQ on lawn
- Fun Fellowship for All

Hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and beverages will be provided; please **bring a dish to share** (salads, watermelon, casseroles, etc.) and be sure to dress appropriately. Signups helpful...please sign-up on a Sunday or contact the office. We hope everyone can attend this annual fellowship event!

## Celebrate Pentecost

### *Wear Red!*

On Sunday, June 4th, we'll celebrate Pentecost during Worship. Pentecost is the season we celebrate the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through the life of the church. It's often referred to as the birthday of the church.

Plan to wear red — the color of the Spirit!

## From our Intersectional Justice Committee

### ► **Campaign for a New York Health Act –**

FUMC, through the Intersectional Justice committee, is engaging in a **campaign to try to convince State Senator Jim Tedisco to become the final vote needed to pass the NY Health Act.** (Senator Tedisco represents most of Schenectady as well as Niskayuna and Glenville and has not yet endorsed the bill; Senator Breslin, who represents Rotterdam, Albany and many other nearby towns is already a co-sponsor.) This Act would provide universal, comprehensive health coverage in the State of NY. We would be the first in the nation to provide such coverage, and by doing so, we would insulate ourselves if Congress takes any actions that would have the effect of reducing health care coverage or access. With the support of the Assembly and a huge number of co-sponsors in the Senate, just one more senator is needed in order to secure enough votes to pass this bill!

A group of six people from FUMC met with Senator Tedisco's chief of staff recently, during which he shared that Senator Tedisco views access to health care as a human right but is unsure about the best way to provide for it. Universal, single-payer, comprehensive health coverage is that way. Please see Jean Gustafson (jgustafson@nycap.rr.com) to learn how you can participate and tell your story, either by video or letter, about why universal access to comprehensive health coverage matters to you. Or you can talk to Kevin Nelson (kmichael07@yahoo.com). We are hoping to record video testimonies over a series of Sundays in May. You can also sign on to the resolution approved by the church council that will be presented to Sen. Tedisco. See Kevin Nelson about how to do so. Learn more at <http://www.nyhcampaign.org/> including reading the text of the bill, learning how it would work, how it would be paid for and how it is estimated to save money for an overwhelming majority of NYers while expanding benefits.

### **A Day of Advocacy—**Submitted by Jan Guzior

On a rainy, windy and raw day, six of us from FUMC journeyed to Albany to participate in the NYS Health Act Advocacy Day on April 4, 2017.

We were advocating for Single Payer healthcare which would cover all citizens, rich, poor, black, white, green or yellow, babies, children, adults or senior citizens. Included in this would be no deductibles or co-pays. It will be covered by progressive state taxes along with existing federal and state funds. This has been passed twice by the assembly and will no doubt pass again. What we needed to do was to convince the senate to pass the bill. Thirty senators are voting for it and we need two more for the bill to pass.

After registering and being assigned to a group, meeting group members, enjoying coffee and bagels at the Emmanuel Baptist Church, we continued on to the Empire State Plaza. This is where we had an appointment with our Senator, Jim Tedisco, who we hoped to convince to change his vote to a Yes.

Disappointingly, he was out of the office at the time of our appointment but we were lucky enough to meet with his chief of staff who was very cordial and listened intently to everyone's personal stories and reasons for their passion of passing the NYS Health Act.

Following this at 11:30, we met with about 600 other advocates for a rally on the lawn of the West Capital Park where even though it was windy, the rain ended and the sun was trying to come out. We shouted chants and listened to a few speeches including a local physician and a woman who lost her brother to suicide due to the lack of sufficient mental health care to help him.

After a lunch in the park where we had our choice of numerous food trucks, we returned to the Legislative office building at the Plaza where we had hoped to meet with Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, but he too was out of the office and we met with his intern. He listened to us and made notes of the personal stories and concerns to pass on to Mr. Santabarbara.

By now it was getting late in the day and we decided to head home after an exciting and invigorating day.

More than one million people in NYS remain uninsured, many are underinsured, some have a 50% co-pay after deductibles, more workers face a \$1,000 or more deductible. There are persistent racial health disparities that exist. With single health insurance, there would be reliable predictable financing, slower cost growth, and transparent decision making.

Thanks to Kevin and Sara for introducing me to observing how the system works and I hope we made a difference and for me personally, I am proud I at least tried.



# KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - MARCH 2017

PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

## OUR PRAYERS

### Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends of Susan Oldow Patterson, our friend and longtime member, who passed away on April 23rd (details on pg. 3)

The family & friends of Maria Greta Abby, our friend and longtime member, who passed away on January 3rd (Memorial Service to be held May 13th; details on pg. 3)

### Christian support is also extended to:

Rev. George Bailey	Carolyn Micklas
Ross Corbett	Lily Quickenton
Sandra Buschak-Jackson	Clare Racicot
Joe LaNigra	Shirley Readdean
Dorie McArthur	Shirley Rivest
Courtney & Jack McEwan	Bob Slater

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

## OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
March 5	67
March 12	71
March 19	119
March 26	96

## OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
March 5	\$ 9,204.00
March 12	2,150.00
March 19	1,413.00
March 26	1,762.00

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

### Those served this month:

Children (infant-17)	10
Adults (18-64)	144
Elderly (65+)	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>



## OUR SERVICE

- Date
- 3/3 —Youth Service: Glen Eddy Retirement Community
  - 3/5 —Sponsored a luncheon to benefit Damien Center's PAWS Program & collected pet food, etc.
  - 3/6 —Lenten Book Study series held for 6 weeks, free & open to all
  - 3/9 —Several members participated in a VIM Trip to Nicaragua from March 9-21
  - 3/19 —Held concert with renowned flutist Eugenia Zukerman & organist Anthony Newman; free & open to all
  - 3/21 —Hosted meal & course entitled "Ministry with the Marginalized"
  - 3/22 —Served a meal to our neighbors in need at the City Mission of Schenectady
  - 3/25 —Book Club Discussion on "How Propaganda Works" by Jason Stanley
  - Youth Service: Helped serve free Community Brunch
  - 3/26 —Special Sunday collection received for "UMCOR Sunday" (\$555); formerly "One Great Hour of Sharing"
  - 3/27 —Collected photos for the Lenten Photo Show on weekly themes: *Strong, Support, Whole, Connect, Bright*
  - Continue to prepare and serve the Community Breakfast on Sundays, free and open to all
  - Distributed items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry program
  - Presented *Mission Moments* during Worship on: Planned Parenthood; Nurturing Father's Program; FUMC's Caring Ministry; and Refugee and Immigrant Support Services (RISSE)
  - 2nd Hour programs offered: Luncheon for PAWS Program; Ministry Team meetings; Needlework Ministry.

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

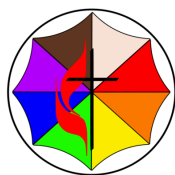


*Happy Birthday!*

*Warm wishes are extended to our birthday celebrants: (Call with your birthday!)*

**MAY**

May 1 Amanda Sovern	11 Neville Henry	16 Alivia DeAngelo	26 Frank Rodriguez
3 Liz Fogle	11 Karyn McCloskey	18 Mary Anderson	28 Walter Grattidge
7 Maurice Seymore	14 John Daniel Falotico	18 James McFarland	30 Betty Duel
8 Lisa Whelan	14 Elaine Troy	21 Natalie Neil	
10 Dick Smith	15 Sylvester Doyer	22 Monica Prass	



*The Spire*

**First United Methodist Church  
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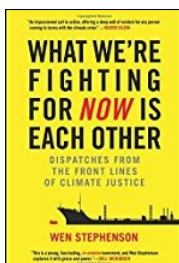
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**NEXT SPIRE MAILED:**

May 24; articles due May 15

**Book Discussion**



The next conversation will be Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. We'll discuss *What We Are Fighting For Now Is Each Other: Dispatches From the Front Lines of Climate Justice* by Wen Stephenson. Stephenson takes an urgent, on-the-ground look at some of the "new American radicals" who have laid everything on the line to build a stronger climate justice movement in opposition to political and economic policies that are leading us to catastrophic climate change. Kevin Nelson (kmichael07@yahoo.com) can provide you with a copy for \$13 or you can get your own through a library or other source.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Look what's coming in early June:

**Thursday—Saturday, June 1 to 3  
Upper NY Annual Conference**

**Sunday, June 4  
Family Sunday / Pentecost  
Christian Education Celebration  
with Church-Wide Picnic**

**Saturday, June 10  
Book Discussion**

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



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**Websites and E-Mail Addresses**

**First United Methodist Church—**

E-Mail: [fumcschenectady@yahoo.com](mailto:fumcschenectady@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.fumcschenectady.org](http://www.fumcschenectady.org)

**Upper New York Annual Conference—**

Website: [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org)

**Albany District Office—**

E-Mail: [albanydistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:albanydistrict@unyumc.org)

Website: [www.unyumc.org/districts/detail/2](http://www.unyumc.org/districts/detail/2)