

# THE Spire

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Accessible

Vol. 81 No. 6

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

October 2017

## SUNDAYS

- 8:30** Downtown Community Breakfast  
**9:00** Books for Children & Adults  
**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** Bible Study

### Worship Text:

- Oct. 1 **World Communion / Family Sunday**  
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32  
Oct. 8 Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46  
Oct. 15 Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14  
Oct. 22 Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22  
Oct. 29 Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

### Second Hour Programs:

- Oct. 8 Needlework Ministry (weekly)  
Oct. 15 Intersectional Justice Committee  
Oct. 29 Forum: Nicaragua VIM Report



## Harmonic Brass, Munich Sunday, October 1 3:00 pm

On October 1<sup>st</sup> **Harmonic Brass-Munich** will perform in the sanctuary for its tenth time since 1991, and if you haven't included this concert in your weekend plans, do so now and come be a part of the audience. The concert is free and all are welcome, so bring your friends and family; you'll be glad you did.

Their program is called "Delicacies" and is mostly about food. The music is from the classical as well as popular repertoires, ranging from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The "food music" includes a selection of pieces called *Stew*, with music relating to the ingredients needed to prepare a stew. Also included is *5 Course Menu*, consisting of five pieces, each written by one of the five musicians, starting with a Scottish broth and ending with chocolate cake. We may or may not be hungry by the end of the program, but we will surely be delighted with the music.

After the concert there will be a reception for the musicians in Fellowship Hall, where you can greet the musicians, purchase their CDs and enjoy some refreshments. Remember – 3:00 pm on October 1. A large crowd is expected, so come early for a good seat. See you there!

## World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 1st during Worship when we will join people all over the world "at the table" together symbolically.



## Bishop Webb Visits FUMC Sunday, October 8 at 2:00 PM

***Please see page 5 for details.***

## From Our Pastor



During our retreat in August, Bishop Susan Hassinger led us in reflection on the verses, *"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."* (Matthew 11:28-30)

The passage continued to resonate with me after the retreat, and stick in my thoughts.

It is still there. This past weekend John Dominic Crossan reflected on the first chapter of Genesis, suggesting that it was placed there to indicate that Sabbath - the distribution of rest to everyone - is the beginning of justice which is the foundation of the earth. (I just consolidated two days into one sentence, it isn't exactly verbatim.) Walter Brueggemann's book "Sabbath as Resistance" is an extended reflection on the difference between the culture of productivity and consumerism v. God's call for humanity to engage in regular rest.<sup>1</sup>

I've been aware of Brueggemann's theories for a while and able to keep in my mind a contrast between the "ways of the world" (consumerism and productivity) and the ways of God (requiring time for humans to "simply be" and be in relationship with each other). For many years this has helped me to keep balance in my life, in hopes of being a model that life does not revolve around only productivity. What finally clicked into place recently is that the anxiety of the church-at-large, the one that has been fighting back against its own decline in membership and influence, has led to the church-at-large acting more like the world than like God's vision.

The church-at-large often tries to become like a business. The church-at-large deems communities that are growing "successful," implying that Christianity is meant to be in never ending growth (perhaps like the economy?). The church-at-large exists in an ever anxious state, trying to fight for its share of the market, and allowing its anxiety about decline to penetrate every aspect of its life. (It would be easy to keep going, but it isn't my final point.)

Once this became clear, it also became clear that I want no part of it. I believe that God is enough, and has provided enough resources for all of creation to thrive. I believe that God sees each individual as enough, and is able to work with and through all of us toward the kin-dom. Finally, I believe that our community of faith is enough, that God is already at work with and through us to be a gift to our communities.

I know it is easy to get pulled into the anxiety of the church-at-large, and I suspect it is even easier if you remember seeing the sanctuary full on Sundays. It could feel like failure to be smaller than we used to be. It is a loss. However, instead of allowing ourselves to be pulled into the anxiety that suggests we aren't enough as we are, I would prefer that we look around and see the incredible community that is currently present. When we focus on loss we miss the abundance!

There is no doubt in my mind that FUMC Schenectady is enough, today, in its current form. This is a church of abundance: abundant gifts to our communities, abundant opportunities, abundant gifts, and abundant lives! I invite you to join me in considering claiming this statement of faith: God is enough; individually we are enough; together we are enough; we can live out of abundance and leave fear behind. What do you think?

- Peace, Sara

<sup>1</sup> Walter Brueggemann, *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the CULTURE OF NOW*, (Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky, 2014).



### Altar Flowers

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

### E-Newsletter Available!

If you'd prefer to receive "The Spire" via email, which saves resources, please contact the office to confirm we have your email address. Thank you.



## Wedding Celebration

The congregation has been invited to gather at the Lippmann Memorial Park on Friday, October 13th, at 1:00 pm for Christopher Rambo, Jr. and Shannon Reifemburgh's wedding! Reception to follow the ceremony. The park is on Route 209 in Wawarsing, NY 12489.

Let's celebrate with them!

## October's Church Night

All Ministry Teams are invited to meet on this month's *Church Night*, held Tuesday evening, October 10th. At 6:30 pm, Ministry Teams will meet followed by the Church Council at 7:30, of which, everyone is always welcome.



## Albany District Day

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb will be visiting each of the Districts in the UNYAC during his 2017-18 District Days tour. The theme of the tour will be "A Way Forward." This year's District Days is set up in such a way that will facilitate active discussion.

Bishop Webb will gather with the Albany Clergy and Laity on Thursday, October 5th, at Shenendehowa UMC, 971 Route 146, Clifton Park. Clergy gathers 12-3 pm, and Laity will gather from 6:30-8:30 pm.

In each district, conversations will be held based on questions originating with the United Methodists Commission on a Way Forward, which is a group of laity and clergy from across our global church that was gathered together by the Council of Bishops to work on the issues related to human sexuality which arose from the 2016 General Conference.

The goal of these conversations is not to reach a consensus on the answers to the questions, but rather to record an array of thoughts and ideas to send to the Commission.

## Note of Thanks



Thank you for supporting the work of *Acción Médica Cristiana* through *The Advance*. Your gift of \$5,247.14... was applied to the diverse health and development strategies of AMC... training, disaster prevention and mitigation, water and sanitation, health education... Your generous donation helps AMC empower thousands of people in remote communities with tools and knowledge for sustainable living. May you continue to support this life-giving ministry of mission in Nicaragua! Keep up-to-date with AMC's work at [www.amc.org.ni](http://www.amc.org.ni). God bless you! Thanks to ALL on the UNYC VIM Team and the community ...for this important pledge of support... —Grace & Peace, Belinda Forbes

## Hurricane Relief Efforts

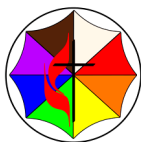
The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with disaster and response teams to provide relief to the people impacted by the devastation of the recent hurricanes that hit the south. Here's some ways we can help our hurting neighbors:

- 1) **Donate money.** 100% of donations go to hurricane recovery efforts. To donate, make check payable to First UMC with Advance #901670 written in memo part and place in offering plate or send to the church office.
- 2) **Make a Flood/Cleaning Bucket or Hygiene Kit**
- 3) **Donate supplies** for a bucket and/or hygiene Kit.

Supply lists and instructions for the buckets and kits are available in the Sunday bulletin and the narthex/lobby, or go to UMCOR's website at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org) and select "Relief Supplies." Items donated can be placed in buckets or basket in the Sanctuary through October.

## Bread for the World Sunday

The Intersectional Justice Committee (IJC) will not sponsor an "Offering of Letters" and International Luncheon this year. The emphasis will focus on current concerns related to immigrant and refugee activities around the world. Bread for the World Sunday will be observed on October 15. We are invited to join with other communities of faith to recognize the importance of advocacy for the end of global food insecurity and the migration crisis dominating our headlines on a daily basis. FUMC, Schenectady, is a Bread for the World Covenant Congregation



# October 2017

## First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>World Communion/ Family Sunday</b> 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 3:00 PM Concert: Harmonic Brass Munich	<b>2</b> 4:30 PM Nominations Committee	<b>3</b> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	<b>4</b> 8:45 AM Stephen Ministers  6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> Albany District Day @ Shenendehowa UM Church: 12:00-3 PM Clergy 6:30-8:30 PM Laity  7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:30 AM - 2:30 Youth Group & Parent meeting
<b>8</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 10:20 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 2:00 - 3:30 Conversation with Bishop Mark Webb 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>9</b> <b>Native People's / Columbus Day</b> Public Schools Closed	<b>10</b> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 3:30 PM Altar Guild  <b>Church Night</b> 6:30 PM Ministry Teams Meet 7:30 PM Council	<b>11</b> 12:00 - 1:00 PM SUSTAIN Ministry  4:30 PM Nominations Committee  6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 1:00 PM Wedding of Chris & Shannon @ Park	<b>14</b> Youth Group: Esperance Presbyterian Church  10:00 AM - 1 PM Traci West : "Grace and Race: Intersectionality"
<b>15 Bread for the World Sunday</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 10:20 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 11:45 AM Intersectional Justice Committee 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Staff Pastor / Parish Relations Committee	<b>17</b> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:45 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Youth Service Project @ FUMC  10:00 AM—1 PM Fall UMW Mtg.
<b>22</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 10:20 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting  7:00 PM Trustees	<b>25</b> 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	<b>26</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Youth Group: Bike Ride  10:00 AM Book Discussion
<b>29</b> 8:30 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 AM Worship</b> 10:20 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 11:30 AM 2nd Hour Programs —VIM Trip to Nicaragua 7:00 PM Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 2:00 PM Staff Meeting				

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



# The Sunday School Scoop

## October 2017



Oct. 1	<b>World Communion Sunday</b> <i>Family Sunday:</i> Instead of Sunday School, children and youth remain for the full service to Worship with their families
Oct. 8	10:20 am Sunday School; Theme is <b>Story &amp; Art:</b> "Silhouettes"
Oct. 15	10:20 am Sunday School; Theme is <b>Music:</b> "Jesus Loves Me"
Oct. 22	10:20 am Sunday School; Theme is <b>Science:</b> "The Body of Christ"
Oct. 29	10:20 am Sunday School; Theme is <b>Cooking:</b> "Celebrate Boys & Girls Day"



### 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 get them into the office labeled: Sunday School before Nov. 1. Thank You!

Items needed: Sturdy paper plates  
Toothpicks

### Enjoy Fellowship before Worship



All are invited to come early to church for:

- Community Breakfast served 8:30-9:30 am in Fellowship Hall weekly except on the 1st Sunday.
- Books for Children & Adults are available 9-9:30 am during the breakfast in Fellowship Hall.
- Second Cup Café held 9:30 am in the library. Stop in for coffee or to read the newspaper!



### United Methodist Women

Do you want to join United Methodist Women (UMW)? Do you want to know more about it?

All women are invited to gather on Saturday, October 21st, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the Gathering Room at church for the UMW Fall Meeting. For details, contact Sue Learner.

### Needlework Ministry

Participate in Needle Ministry (knitting, crocheting, etc.)! Items are created and donated to those in need. Come join in anytime by stopping in Wesley Lounge on a Sunday after Worship!

### 2017-2018 Directories Available

New Membership Directories for 2017-18 are now available for pickup on a Sunday! The directories include a list of our various Ministry Teams and programs, and events for this new church year. Look for yours on the narthex ministry table!

## Conversation with Bishop Webb on Discrimination of LGBTQ+ Persons

On **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM - 3:30 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. Originally scheduled to take place in April, this conversation was pushed back due to a scheduling conflict.

As many of you already know, a special session of General Conference has been scheduled for February 2019 in St. Louis. This session will address the escalating tension over The United Methodist Church's (UMC) official policies discriminating against LGBTQ+ persons. This discrimination includes provisions of church law that forbid UMC clergy from officiating at same-sex weddings, forbid UMC churches from being used to hold 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 provisions of church law. FUMC Schenectady, as a reconciling congregation, is one such example of the affirmation of the full worth and value of LGBTQ+ persons, and the Upper New York Annual Conference has repeatedly called for the elimination of discriminatory policies.

As a result of this tension, the 2016 General Conference authorized the Council of Bishops to form what has been called the Commission on a Way Forward. This commission has been meeting over the past year and is working toward developing a proposal for how The UMC can move past this crisis. Their proposal will go to the Council of Bishops next spring, which will finalize and submit it next summer for consideration at the 2019 General Conference.

Organizations on the progressive end of the spectrum, affiliated with the Love Your Neighbor Coalition which advocates for "a just, inclusive and grace-filled denomination," are calling for a proposal for a more just UMC that would end the discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) has been organized by a number of "Spirit-filled, orthodox churches, clergy and laity who hold to Wesleyan theology" and "believe change is coming to The UMC" and want to "live into what comes next..." The WCA, in its press releases and organizational statements has demanded that General Conference "definitively resolve our debate over The United Methodist Church's sexual ethics and its understanding of marriage." They have further stated that when that demand cannot be met, the Commission should "prepare a plan of separation" in order to split apart The UMC.

Note that Home Missioner Kevin Nelson co-leads the General Conference strategy team of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition, on which Rev. Sara Baron also serves. Bishop Mark Webb has affiliated with the Wesleyan Covenant Association.

With this context in mind, members of First UMC have the opportunity to engage Bishop Webb in conversation. This conversation affords us the opportunity to hear directly from Bishop Webb regarding his thoughts on the current situation in The UMC and his various leadership roles in relation to that. In addition, we will be able to engage him, Rev. Gottschalk-Fielding, and Rev. Weihing in conversation in which we will be able to share our own thoughts and concerns related to discrimination of LGBTQ+ persons and the future of the UMC.

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 you to come and participate. **Please join us on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2 PM.** Come prepared to ask questions and share stories about why/how church-sanctioned discrimination of LGBTQ+ persons matters to you, as well as how it impacts you, people you love, and our church community and the manner with which we welcome LGBTQ+ persons into the congregation.



**Welcome the Rev. Dr. West**  
**“Grace and Race: Intersectionality”**  
**Saturday, October 14**

Guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Traci West, will present a program here at First UMC, Schenectady, on Saturday, October 14th, 10 am-1 pm entitled “Grace and Race: Intersectionality.” Everyone is welcome to attend this special program.

As Christians, can we formulate a Christian moral understanding of how racism impacts our community that also allows us to consider intersecting issues of sexuality, gender identity, economics, and religion? What kinds of everyday attitudes and practices undermine anti-racist solidarity in our struggle for intersectional justice in church and society? What kinds of Christian faith resources enable an intersectional approach to solidarity and justice? The format will be interactive with a focus on enabling participants to ask questions, practice skills, and develop resources relevant to their own contexts.

Dr. West is the James W. Pearsall Professor of Christian Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University Theological School. She has been an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church for over thirty years. She is the author of *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter*, *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*, editor of *Our Family Values: Same-sex Marriage and Religion*, and author of many essays on violence against women, racism, clergy ethics, sexuality, and other justice issues in church and society. Her current project focuses on the role of religion and racism in activist strategies to address gender-based violence in Ghana, Brazil, and South Africa and how we, U.S. Christians, might learn from them. She has also been involved in supporting full equality of LGBTQ persons in the UMC, teaching in NJ state prisons, and co-editing the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

## Calling All Men!

All men are invited to gather each month on the fourth Wednesday for the Men's Breakfast Fellowship held at 8:30 AM at the Blue Ribbon Diner on upper State Street. The next gathering will be October 25th. Contact Bob Coppola with any questions.



**A**  
**Stephen**  
**Ministry Moment**

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

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~



## In our Community...

### ►Home Furnishings Program

This program works with agencies to help people in need with home furnishings. Needs of the HFP include: small dressers, kitchen table sets, loveseats, spatulas & cooking utensils, can openers, cereal bowls. To make a donation, contact HFP at 518-346-2444.

HFP will hold a fundraising sale on October 7th from 10–3 during the Upper Union St. Harvest Festival, in front of Gayne Optical.

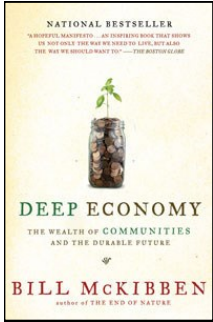
### ►Union College Program & Celebration

On Monday, Oct. 9, 5 pm & 7:00 pm, everyone is invited to gather for this special event, sponsored by the Campus Protestant Ministry of Union College. Guest speaker is author, Ian Cron, who will present a program 5-6:30 pm in Nott Memorial on campus. This free presentation is entitled “Engage New Ways of Understanding Yourself.” Then starting at 7:00 pm, the Annual Celebration and Banquet will be held in the Old Chapel on campus. Tickets are \$100 and includes a copy of Ian Cron's book “The Road Back to You”! For a ticket or more information, call 518-388-6618.

## Book Discussion

Saturday, October 28, at 10:00

The September/October book study will be on *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* by Bill McKibben, who is a nationally-renowned climate justice activist and a United Methodist clergy member in New England who was a co-founder of 350.org.



In this book, McKibben lays out a vision for how to be a society and a community together that stands as a stark contrast to the bankrupt vision of us as consumers that is provided by Capitalism.

To learn more about this alternative vision and the solutions it points us toward in terms of community, local production and alleviation of some of the harmful effects of climate change, please join us in reading McKibben's book! You can see Kevin Nelson (kmichael07@yahoo.com) in order to get a gently used copy of the book for \$8, or you can get your own through a library or other source. The discussion will take place on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at the church.



## Alternative Giving Suggestions

The Intersectional Justice Committee is encouraging all to consider "alternative giving" for Christmas and other celebrations. Most of us have too much "stuff" while many in the world are suffering without the basic necessities. Alternative (or additional) giving allows us to honor others by giving a gift in their name to a cause or organization which seeks to improve the lives of others. This year we are focusing on 5 alternatives. Displays will be available at church. You can also learn more about each option by talking with a member of the Intersectional Justice Committee.

**Church World Service: Blanket Program**— A \$10 blanket supplies warmth to someone experiencing a crisis.

**FUMC SUSTAIN (Soap) Ministry** — Soap and other basic hygiene products are not covered by food stamps. Any size donation will help with the hygiene of needy Schenectadians.

**Heifer International** — "The gift that multiplies." Animals and training in their care are given worldwide. Recipients give the first offspring to someone else, thereby spreading the gift. Any donation is helpful, but you have the option of "buying" specific animals.

**Home Furnishings Program** of Schenectady County — This organization recycles furniture by giving donated furniture and other household items to people in need who have been referred by agencies in the county.

**Community Breakfast Program** which is held at our church offers every Sunday except the first Sunday of each month to provide a good breakfast and hospitality to people of Schenectady.

Checks can be made out to FUMC with a notation of the agency to which you are donating. Or you can donate directly to the agency. Cards, which you can give to the person you are honoring, will be available in Wesley Lounge on Sundays.

***We hope you will consider this meaningful way to share love at Christmas.***

## Taste of Nicaragua and Report from our VIM Team!



Sunday, October 29, at 11:30

During coffee fellowship on Oct. 29 you will have an opportunity to sample some of the foods that our teams to Nicaragua have learned to love (and to make). This will not be a meal — just some snacks to help you enjoy the presentation that will follow.

In March of this year a Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team sponsored by FUMC worked with our missionary, Dr. Belinda Forbes. The team flew in small planes to one of the poorest parts of this beautiful country to work with Accion Medica Cristiana (Christian Medical Action). They helped to build a kitchen for a casa materna which is a place where high-risk pregnant women can safely deliver their babies.

People of FUMC contributed money, materials, and time to enable the team to do their work. Come see pictures and hear stories of the activities and memories of our VIM team!



# KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES - AUGUST 2017

## PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

### OUR PRAYERS

#### Christian support is extended to:

The family & friends Beatrice Butler, who passed away on Sept. 14th (Cliff DaVis' cousin)

The family & friends of James Nuhlicek, who passed away on Sept. 14th (Cliff DaVis' friend)

The family & friends of Rosemary Weinberg, who passed away recently (Alice Nash's friend)

#### Our Christian support is also extended to:

Jan Butts	Courtney & Jack McEwan
Ross Corbett	Mary Neville
June Dieffenbach	Clare Racicot
Jen & Merrick Fuller	Shirley Rivest
Sandy Buschak-Jackson	Bob Slater

And to: Belinda Forbes, our Nicaragua missionary; for those abroad & in harms way; and victims of natural disasters.

#### We celebrate with:

Junice Wusterbarth, who celebrated her 96th birthday on September 15th. Happy Birthday!

Alan & Mary Ann Marshall, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 23rd. Happy Anniversary!

Doris Clark, who celebrated her 95th birthday on September 26th. Happy Birthday!

### OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
August 6	65
August 13	71
August 20	76
August 27	44

### OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
August 6	\$1,925.00
August 13	5,087.00
August 20	2,717.00
August 27	3,254.00

### Community Breakfast

#### Those served this month:

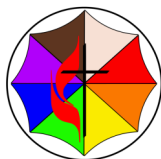
Children (Infant-17)	45
Adults (18-64)	145
Elderly (65+)	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>



### OUR SERVICE

- 8/6 — Youth Car Wash held to raise funds for their VIM Trip to West Virginia (\$179)
- 8/13 — Musical offerings at Worship included guest flutist, Amanda Dame, through FUMC's Ida Dalton Fund
  - Youth Volunteers In Mission Trip to West Virginia (8/13-8/19) where they helped with flood relief efforts
- 8/25 — Church Retreat offered program entitled "Do Justice, Love Kindness & Walk Humbly with God;" open to all
- 8/26 — Youth Service: Youth served free Community Brunch
- 8/27 — New 4-week study offered on "The Jesus Seminar"; all welcomed
- 8/31 — FUMCers worked with Union College Students, who volunteered for an afternoon and did landscape work
- Aug. — Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry
  - Continue to prepare and serve the Downtown Community Breakfast on Sundays, free and open to all
  - FUMCers helped in many more areas at church over the summer, including: electrical, music at Worship, cleaning and sorting, Food Bank pickups, office help, gardening, the dossal/drape and altar work, removal of bushes, etc.
  - 2nd hour programs offered: Needlework Ministry; Car Wash; Teacher Orientation; and Intersectional Justice Comm.

**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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Albany, NY  
PERMIT 773

***Serving Schenectady for over 200 Years***

### **NEXT SPIRE MAILED:**

October 25; articles due Oct. 15

## **Celebrate our Saints**



On Sunday, November 5th, we'll celebrate *All Saints Day*, which will not only recognize the people who had inspired our faith and living, but also, is a chance to remember that we are all called to be saints to one another. Let us celebrate together the true meaning of sainthood and the gift God has given us in the lives of others.

## **Invitation**

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



## **Mark Your Calendar!!**

**Coming in early November:**

Saturday, November 4—

**Skye Farm:  
75th Anniversary Banquet**

Sunday, November 5—

**All Saints / Family Sunday**

Tuesday, November 14—

**Church Night**

Saturday, November 18—

**Pizza Party & Parade**

### **Websites and E-Mail Addresses**

**First United Methodist Church—**

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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)



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be a gift of God to our communities.***