



THE

*Spire*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

603 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305 (518) 374-4403 / (Fax) 374-6060  
Website: [www.fumcschenectady.org](http://www.fumcschenectady.org) E-mail: [fumcschenectady@yahoo.com](mailto:fumcschenectady@yahoo.com)



Vol. 81 No. 5

The Reverend Sara E. Baron

September 2017



## Homecoming Sunday

### *Worship with John Dominic Crossan*

### *September 24 — Come One, Come All!*

## Homecoming Sunday

On September 24th, we'll celebrate HOMECOMING SUNDAY! Let us all re-gather after the joys and rest of the summer for Worship at 10:00 am followed by a catered luncheon to share our joys and hopes in this day of celebration in the life of the church! The service will feature a special recognition honoring church members, who joined in 1967 and now have fifty years of membership at FUMC! We'll also welcome guest John Dominic Crossan, who will preach (see flyer insert for details); guest instrumentalists, who will play; and our Chancel Choir back, who will sing!



### Schedule for Sept. 24:

- 8:30 AM - Community Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - Books Distributed
- 9:15 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 AM - Second Cup Café
- 10:00 AM - Worship Service  
w/ John Dominic Crossan
- 11:00 AM - Coffee Fellowship
- 11:15 AM - Homecoming Luncheon
- 7:00 PM - Young Adults Game Night

## Luncheon Fellowship

Please consider staying after Worship to enjoy the Homecoming Luncheon with our special guest Dr. Crossan, served in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to gather for this free catered luncheon. Please rsvp to the church office,



So, mark your calendar now to get-together September 24th after being spread out during our summer-time excursions and celebrate Homecoming Sunday! We hope everyone can attend this special worship and fellowship time as we begin a new exciting church year in ministry together....and remember, friends and family are always welcome too!

## “CHURCH NIGHT” Resumes

### Tuesday, September 12

Ministry Teams are invited to hold their monthly meetings on *Church Night*, and everyone is always welcome at the council meetings. The schedule is:

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

(notices will go out to teams meeting.)

## FUTURE SUNDAYS

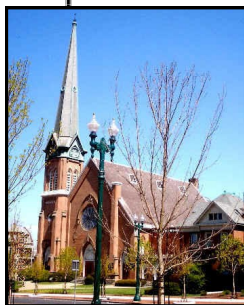
- 8:30** Community Breakfast Fellowship  
**9:00** Books for Children & Adults  
**9:30** Second Cup Café  
**10:00** Sunday Morning Worship  
*Infant & Toddler Care available*  
*Sunday School begins (10:20)*  
**11:00** Coffee Fellowship  
**11:30** Second Hour Programs:  
*Adult Forum*  
*Sermon 'Talk-Back'*  
*Needlework Ministry*  
**7:00** Bible Study: "The Jesus Seminar"

### Worship Text:

- Sept. 3 Acts 8:26-40  
 Sept. 10 Judges 4:4—5:31  
 Sept. 17 Judges 19  
 Sept. 24 **Homecoming Sunday**  
*with Dr. John Dominic Crossan*  
 Jeremiah 7:1-7; Luke 10:30-37

### Second Hour Programs:

- Sept. 10 **Sunday School Orientation**  
 Children & Youth Ministry, *sponsor*  
 Sept. 17 **Intersectional Justice Committee**  
 Sept. 24 **Homecoming Luncheon**  
 Welcoming Ministry, *sponsor*



## Programs Resume

Everyone is welcome to participate:

### ► NEEDLEWORK MINISTRY—9/3

This program is held weekly after Sunday Worship and offers needlework skills (knitting, crocheting, etc.) and fellowship with the mission of providing handmade hats, mittens, etc. to the needy. Join in a project or come learn!

### ► CHANCEL CHOIR—9/7

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. We welcome singers! See page 6 for details.

### ► SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION—9/10

All children, youth and their parents/guardians are invited to come and register for Sunday School Classes! The curriculum used teaches through storytelling with creative response time. Classes resume on September 17th, with the theme: *Story and Art*.

### ► COFFEE FELLOWSHIP—resumes 9/10

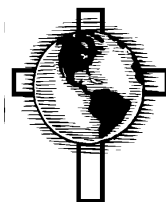
Following worship, enjoy some coffee & fellowship time.

### ► CHURCH NIGHT—9/12

"Church Night" is usually held the 2nd Tuesday of each month and offers time for our ministry teams to hold their monthly meetings prior to the Church Council meeting.

### ► HANDBELL CHOIR—9/13

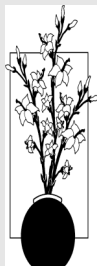
Weekly rehearsals are held Wednesdays from 6:45-8:00 pm. For details, see page 6.



## Contribute to UMCOR: Hurricane Relief Efforts

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is currently working with disaster coordinators and early response teams to provide relief to the many people whose lives have been impacted by the devastation of hurricane/tropical storm Harvey. UMCOR has an excellent reputation among disaster relief organizations, including FEMA. Through UMCOR, 100% of money donated toward a particular disaster goes to relief in that area. To make a donation towards the hurricane relief efforts in Texas, checks can be made payable to First UMC with Advance #901670 written in the memo portion and placed in the offering plate on a Sunday, or sent to the church. You can also donate online by going to UMCOR's website at [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org).

Please keep those whose lives have been impacted by this disaster in your prayers, and also the Early Response Teams, disaster coordinators and volunteers, who are working tirelessly to provide relief after Harvey.



## Altar Flowers

We are grateful for the Altar flowers given during the summer:

- |         |                                                                |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 4  | in loving memory of the Rev. George R. Bailey                  |
| July 2  | in loving memory of Jim Farrell                                |
| July 16 | in celebration of the July 12th birth of Addalynn Ruth Brennan |

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



## From Our Pastor

I am surprised at the number of times I've been asked if the Bible is true. It is rather a lot. Luckily, my seminary professors prepared me for that one. As I've been trained, I tend to respond, "Some things are true, as in they actually happened, if you had a video camera and you were there, you would be able to capture it happening. Let's call that 'little t truth' because it is truth like we usually think of it. Other things didn't happen exactly as they're written down, but they are written down that way to reflect a Truth that people experienced. This is how fables, myths, and even parables work. We'll call the things that likely didn't happen, but still point to something that is big and important 'big T truth.' A lot of the Bible is big T truth, even though not a lot of it is little t truth."

Most of the time that works as an answer, and the questions go off in another direction. Really, though, it is an incomplete answer because I'd still like to know which things in the Bible are little t true! Perhaps I should be more at ease with metaphor and meaning than I am, but I still just want to know!

This is why I'm so thankful for the work of the Jesus Seminar. According to their website, "The Jesus Seminar was organized in 1985 to renew the quest of the historical Jesus and to report the results of its research to the general public, rather than just to a handful of gospel specialists. Initially, the goal of the Seminar was to review each of the sayings and deeds attributed to Jesus in the gospels and determine which of them could be considered authentic. Thirty scholars took up the challenge at the initial meeting in Berkeley, California. Eventually more than 200 professionally trained specialists, called Fellows, joined the group at various phases. ... Among the findings is that, in the judgment of the Jesus Seminar Fellows, about 18 percent of the sayings and 16 percent of the deeds attributed to Jesus in the gospels are authentic."<sup>1</sup>

At least as far as the Gospels go, they've done their best work to elucidate which parts are historically true, and why they believe it. One of the scholars of the Jesus Seminar is also a world renowned theologian, John Dominic Crossan. We're thrilled that he will be here giving Carl Lectures on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and preaching for Homecoming on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Reading his work has always helped me find words to understand what I think about Jesus and God. One of the books I have appreciated the most is "The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem" which he wrote with Marcus Borg.<sup>2</sup> That book helped me understand Palm Sunday, and that has mattered!

It is also a great deal of fun that other groups have decided to be prepared for this exciting visit. The Intersectional Justice Book Discussion will be reading "The Acts of Jesus: What Did Jesus Really Do?"<sup>3</sup> for their September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10AM book discussion. The "Young Adult" Bible Study will spend four weeks (starting August 27<sup>th</sup>) studying texts from the perspective of the Jesus Seminar.

Of course, the parts of the Bible that don't point to historical facts still have great value. The ways that the stories are told is always to make points that help people connect to the Divine. There is always a tension to be held between little t truth, and big T truth. Nevertheless, I'm really excited to meet one of my theological heroes and I hope you'll be able to be a part of some of the things we have planned. If not, at least you have some great book suggestions ;)

- Sara

1 <https://www.westarinstitute.org/projects/the-jesus-seminar/> accessed 8/21/2017

2 John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, HarperOne, January 2007.

3 Robert Walter Funk and The Jesus Seminar, Polebridge Press, 1998.

## Enjoy Fellowship before Sunday Worship

- **Community Breakfast**—8:30-9:30 am in Fellowship Hall on all but first Sunday of a month
- **Books for Children & Adults**—Books available during the Sunday breakfast; 9-9:30 am.
- **Second Cup Café**—Stop in the library 9:30-9:50 for coffee and/or to read the newspaper!



## NEW STUDY: The Jesus Seminar

**When:** Sunday Nights  
through Sept. 17

**Where:** Wesley Lounge

**Time:** 7:00-8:30 PM

**Led by:** Pastor Sara

Everyone is invited to gather with our Young Adults for this new exciting study; held in preparation for our time with John Dominic Crossan on Sept. 23 and 24.



## Library Books

We are grateful for a donation of 3 books we received for our church library from Morris United Methodist Church. The author of the books is Elizabeth Schüssler Friorenza and are entitled, "But She Said"; "Congress of Wo/men"; "Wisdom Ways."

Enclosed with the books was this note:

*Dear FUMCS:*

*Things are rough out there. There is much reason for fear and despair. But as the children of faith, it is ours to see beyond what may be right in front of us. In other words, we must all learn to see and hear beyond what we may already know. In so doing, we might be better prepared to manifest the Kingdom of God. These slim volumes offer new ways of seeing the familiar and new words for naming the world. Share these books and debate the ideas contained therein. Consider Isaiah 1:17, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed." God is Love (and we are too.)*

## Calling all Young Adults: It's Game Night!

**Sunday, September 24  
7:00—8:30 PM**

## Ten Ways to Fight Hate

*from the Southern Poverty Law Center*

**THE GOOD NEWS IS...** All over the country people are fighting hate, standing up to promote tolerance and inclusion. More often than not, when hate flares up, good people rise up against it — often in greater numbers and with stronger voices. This guide sets out 10 principles for fighting hate in your community.

**1 ACT** — Do something. In the face of hatred, apathy will be interpreted as acceptance by the perpetrators, the public, and — worse — the victims. Community members must take action; if we don't, hate persists.

**2 JOIN FORCES** — Reach out to allies from churches, schools, clubs, and other civic groups. Create a diverse coalition. Include children, police, and the media. Gather ideas from everyone, and get everyone involved.

**3 SUPPORT THE VICTIMS** — Hate crime victims are especially vulnerable. If you're a victim, report every incident — in detail — and ask for help. If you learn about a hate crime victim in your community, show support. Let victims know you care. Surround them with comfort and protection.

**4 SPEAK UP** — Hate must be exposed and denounced. Help news organizations achieve balance and depth. Do not debate hate group members in conflict-driven forums. Instead, speak up in ways that draw attention away from hate, toward unity.

**5 EDUCATE YOURSELF** — An informed campaign improves its effectiveness. Determine if a hate group is involved, and research its symbols and agenda. Understand the difference between a hate crime and a bias incident.

**6 CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE** — Do not attend a hate rally. Find another outlet for anger and frustration and for people's desire to do something. Hold a unity rally or parade to draw media attention away from hate.

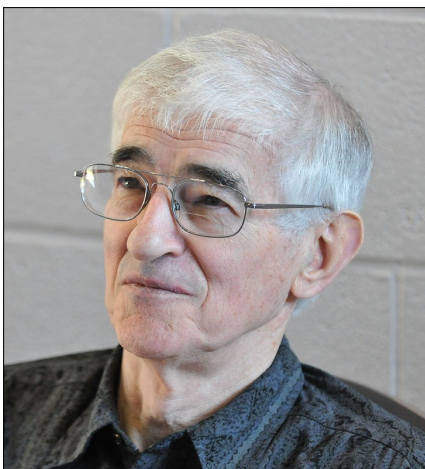
**7 PRESSURE LEADERS** — Elected officials and other community leaders can be important allies. But some must overcome reluctance — and others, their own biases — before they're able to take a stand.

**8 STAY ENGAGED** — Promote acceptance and address bias before another hate crime can occur. Expand your comfort zone by reaching out to people outside your own groups.

**9 TEACH ACCEPTANCE** — Bias is learned early, often at home. Schools can offer lessons of tolerance & acceptance. Host a diversity and inclusion day on campus. Reach out to young people who may be susceptible to hate group propaganda and prejudice.

**10 DIG DEEPER** — Look inside yourself for biases and stereotypes. Commit to disrupting hate and intolerance at home, at school, in the workplace and in faith communities.





# Homecoming Weekend

at First United Methodist Church,  
Schenectady, with guest

## John Dominic Crossan

*Biblical scholar, author, lecturer, and authority on  
the historical Jesus and First Century Christianity*

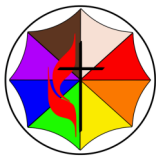
**Saturday, Sept. 23 — Carl Lectures**  
**Sunday, Sept. 24 — Preaching & Luncheon**

Dr. Crossan will make two presentations on Saturday, September 23. At 10:00 am he will address the topic, *God and Violence*. At 1:00 pm he will address the topic, *Jesus and Violence*. Lunch will be provided at noon [reservation required for lunch]. On Sunday, September 24, Dr. Crossan will preach at morning worship at 10:00 am and be available for brief dialogue following. All programs are free and open to the public. For a lunch reservation, contact the church office at [www.fumcschenectady@yahoo.com](mailto:www.fumcschenectady@yahoo.com) or 518-374-4403.

Dr. Crossan is currently Professor Emeritus in the Department of Religious Studies at DePaul University, Chicago. Dr. Crossan 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 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.

Crossan has written 28 books on the historical Jesus, the apostle Paul, and earliest Christianity, and his work has been translated into thirteen foreign languages. 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). Between 2002 and 2015, twenty research trips around Eastern Christianity took Dr. Crossan from Byzantine Tiber to Syriac Tigris and Russian Neva to Coptic Nile.

Parking and entrance is on Chapel Street [one way from Nott Terrace]. On Saturday, park at either First UMC or the MVP parking garage next door.



# September 2017

## First United Methodist Church, Schenectady

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Skye Farm Alumni Weekend ...	
<b>3</b> 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 am Worship</b> 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am Needlework Ministry 7:00 pm Bible Study	<b>4 Labor Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>5</b> 2:00 pm Staff Mtg.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Public Schools start  7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
Skye Farm Alumni Weekend—75th Anniversary!					Mission u Studies @ Silver Bay, NY	
<b>10</b> 8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 am Worship</b> 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am Parent & Child Sunday School Orientation 11:30 am 2nd Hour Programs 7:00 pm Bible Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 2:00 pm Staff Mtg.  <b>Church Night</b> 6:30 pm Ministry Team Meetings 7:30 pm Church Council meets	<b>13</b> 12:00-1:00 pm SUSTAIN Ministry  6:45 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Book Discussion
Mission u Studies...					UMW Confer. @ Saratoga Springs UMC	
<b>17</b> 8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship 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>18</b> 7:00 pm Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee	<b>19</b> 10:00 am—1 pm Church Library work day  2:00 pm Staff Mtg.  7:00 pm New Members Class	<b>20</b> 6:45 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Carl Lecture: John Dominic Crossan  1:00 pm Carl Lecture: John Dominic Crossan
<b>24 Homecoming Sunday</b> 8:30 am Breakfast Fellowship 9:30 am Second Cup Cafe <b>10:00 am Worship</b> 11:00 am Coffee Fellowship 11:30 am Homecoming Luncheon 1:00-4 pm SICM Empty Bowls Project @ DoubleTree Hotel 7:00 pm Young Adults: Game Night	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 2:00 pm Staff Mtg.  7:00 pm Trustees	<b>27</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 12:00-1:00 pm SUSTAIN Ministry 5:00 pm Serve Meal at City Mission 6:45 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am-2:30 pm Albany Dist. UMW @ Amsterdam UMC  9:30 am Youth Service: Serve Free Community Brunch

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

## Wedding Celebration

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



## Become an FUMCer!

A New Members Class will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7 PM. Come talk with Pastor Sara and others about this church, its history, the United Methodist Church and what membership means. Please contact the office if you intend to come.



## Albany District UMW with Shirley Readdean

The Albany District United Methodist Women (UMW) will gather Saturday, September 30th, at Amsterdam UMC, 347 Golf Course Road, for a program by our own Shirley Readdean, an FUMC member and popular study leader. Shirley, who has served within the United Methodist Church at the local, district, conference, jurisdiction and national levels, will present a program entitled "The Bible and Human Sexuality." We'll explore biblical texts and the many understandings of these texts in the light of human sexuality. Shirley has a unique approach with difficult subjects; you won't want to miss this opportunity. All women welcome. Donations of empty pill bottles will be collected and items for Comfort Zone Ministry along with offerings for UMW mission and Danielle's House in Amsterdam. Details and registration forms (due 9/20) are in the narthex/lobby or contact Sue Learner. Registration is \$1; w/ lunch \$8.

## Bishop Webb visiting

**Sunday, October 8  
2:00—3:30 PM**

**Details in next month's newsletter.**

## Rev. Dr. Traci West on Saturday, October 14

Mark your calendar! This special event, held Saturday, October 14th, 10 am – 1 pm, will feature guest the Rev. Dr. Traci West, who will present a program entitled, "Grace and Race: Intersectionality." All are welcome.

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.

Rev. West, the James W. Pearsall Professor of Christian Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University Theological School, 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.

## In Our Community...



► **SICM's Empty Bowls Project** — This SICM fundraising event will be held on Sunday, Sept. 24; drop in hours 1-4 pm at the DoubleTree Hotel, 100 Nott Terrace. Event will feature a variety of soups and breads, bowl to take home, pick-a-prize activities, and a short informational program. To signup, due Sept. 8, call 374-2683 or email [carmgero@gmail.com](mailto:carmgero@gmail.com). For more information, go to: [www.sicm.us](http://www.sicm.us).

► **Home Furnishings Program** — This program operates from our church and assists neighbors in need. They will hold a fundraiser sale on Saturday, Sept. 9, 10:00-3, in the Rossi/Ditro parking lot on North Jay St., as part of the "Little Italy Festa." The sale will include household furnishings, kitchen goods, and beautiful accessories.

Items the HFP needs, include: small dressers, loveseats, coffee / end tables, kitchen towels, sauce and frying pans. To donate an items, call 346-2444.

# The Sunday School Scoop

## September 2017



September 10	10:00 am - Worship Service 11:30 am - Sunday School Orientation. All parents/guardians and children are invited to come learn about the program and register their children and youth for classes.
September 17	10:20 am - Sunday School following Children's Time in Worship - Theme is <i>Story &amp; Art</i> — "Torn Paper Designs"
September 24	<b>Homecoming Sunday!</b> 10:00 am - Sunday Worship—children & youth remain for full service 11:15 am - Homecoming Luncheon!

### Calling all men— Breakfast Fellowship!

The next Men's Breakfast Fellowship will be held Wednesday, Sept. 27th, at 8:30 am at the Blue Ribbon Diner, State St.! All men welcome. See Bob Coppola with questions.



### Help Serve Meal at City Mission

It's our church's turn to help serve a meal at the City Mission of Schenectady Wednesday, September 27, at 5:00pm. With enough people, we'll be finished by about 6:30. Volunteer today to help at this vital outreach ministry! Contact Lois Atkinson at 377-8249.



### Choir News

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,  
all the earth...*

♪ **Chancel Choir:** On Thursday, Sept. 7th, at 7 pm, the Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church will begin another choir year. We welcome singers in all voice parts.

♪ **Handbell Choir:** On Wednesday, Sept. 13th, at 6:45 pm, the First United Methodist Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals. There may be opportunities for people who would like to serve as substitutes.



If you're interested in becoming a member of a choir, please contact Dominick Giaquinto, the Director of Music Ministries, at 374-4403 ext. 104.

### Speak Other Languages?

Do you speak languages other than English? Pastor Sara would like to know which one(s). Please contact her or the office.

### Signup for our E-Newsletter!

Our monthly newsletter, *The Spire*, is available electronically as well as hardcopy. If you would prefer to receive it by email, which does save valuable resources including trees, please contact the office to confirm we have your email address. Thank you.





## Harmonic Brass, Munich

**Sunday, October 1  
3:00 PM**

Back again, for the tenth time, by popular demand!

Harmonic Brass, Munich – what could be a better way of starting off our 40<sup>th</sup> Concert Series than with this favorite of our Concert Series audiences! They are on their biennial tour of the northeastern United States and we are delighted to have them with us once again. As soon as they announced their tour dates we signed them up in a hurry before their schedule could be filled.

These five superb brass players (two trumpets, French horn, trombone and tuba), based in Munich, Germany, will bring us a program called “Delicacies,” filled with music related to food and drink. You can expect to hear a big elegant sound of lively music meticulously played, presented with a great sense of humor.

Formed in 1991, the quintet offers numerous international workshops and performs about 120 concerts a year around the globe. With their Brass Project South Africa, the musicians of Harmonic Brass provide brass instruments for socially disadvantaged children in South Africa. They have performed on radio and television, and have recorded several CDs, which you will have a chance to purchase after the concert. To learn more about Harmonic Brass in general or the musicians themselves, hear them on YouTube and visit their website, [www.harmonicbrass.de](http://www.harmonicbrass.de).

As you may know, all our Concert Series concerts are offered at no cost to the public as a service to the community. This concert is sure to appeal to old and young alike, so come with family, friends, children – and look forward to a very enjoyable afternoon. Because Harmonic Brass is so popular, come as early as you can because a large audience is expected and you’ll want to have a good seat.

—Nancy Walden  
For The Music Committee

## Book Discussions

### ♦ Discussion on September 16<sup>th</sup>

Regarding the stories about Jesus feeding the five thousand and Jesus walking on water across the Sea of Galilee...have you ever read such stories and wondered, “Did these stories really happen?” If so, our September book discussion is for you! For our next book study, and in honor of John Dominic Crossan’s visit in September, the Inter-sectional Justice Committee is inviting the congregation to read, *The Acts of Jesus: What Did Jesus Really Do?* which we’ll discuss on Sat., Sept. 16, at 10 am. Dr. Crossan, who will visit the following weekend, is a New Testament scholar, historian of early Christianity, former Catholic priest, and a member of the Jesus Seminar. The Jesus Seminar was a group of 150 critical biblical scholars and laymen who have been foremost in the field of historical Jesus research.



### ♦ Discussion on October 28<sup>th</sup>

The September/October book study will be on *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future* by Bill McKibben. Bill McKibben 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!

Kevin Nelson ([kmichael07@yahoo.com](mailto:kmichael07@yahoo.com)) can get you a gently used copy of each book (\$16 for *The Acts of Jesus...*; \$8 for *Deep Economy...*), or you can get your own through other source.

## A Stephen Ministry Moment

**“Do what you can where you  
are with what you have.”**

Theodore Roosevelt

# KEEPING OUR COVENANT PROMISES—July 2017

## PRAYERS - PRESENCE - GIFTS - SERVICE

### OUR PRAYERS

#### Christian support is 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; our home-bound; those who are grieving; victims of Hurricane Harvey; and Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Teams.

#### We celebrate with:

Andrew Baron & Joan Carey, Pastor Sara's parents, who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary August 13th. Happy Anniversary!

Tim & Amanda Taylor on the purchase of their new home at 809 Wagner Street, Rotterdam, NY 12303. Congratulations & happy housewarming!

### OUR PRESENCE

Date	Worship
July 2	27
July 9	58
July 16	58
July 23	56
July 30	65

### OUR GIFTS

Date	Amount
July 2	\$2,620.00
July 9	4,903.00
July 16	1,102.00
July 23	1,388.00
July 30	1,951.35

### COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

#### Those served this month.

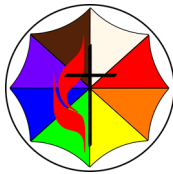
Children( infant-17)	28
Adults (18-64)	193
Elderly (65+)	<u>82</u>
Total	



### OUR SERVICE

Date	
7/9	—Mission Moment presented during Worship on ‘Labor-Religion Coalition’ with guest Rev. Emily McNeill
	—Youth Car Wash fundraiser held to raise funds for their VIM Trip to West Virginia (\$161.80)
	—Young Adults Bible Study, entitled “Subversive Women of the Bible,” continued through July
7/13	—Hosted public forum by Truth Commission on “Poverty in New York State”
7/17	—21 Distributed lunch to children & youth through SICM’s Free Summer Lunch Program
7/23	—29 Pastor Sara served as Camp Counselor at Special Needs camp at Sky Lake
7/26	—Served meal at the City Mission of Schenectady
7/29	—Book Discussion held on “Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal” by Aviva Chomsky
	—Youth Service: Youth served free Community Brunch
July	—Distributed personal care items to those in need through our SUSTAIN Ministry program
	—Sponsored children to experience summer camp at the UMC camp at Skye Farm
	—Continue to prepare and serve the Community Breakfast on Sundays; free and open to all

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



***The Spire***

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Albany, NY  
PERMIT 773

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

**NEXT SPIRE MAILED:**

September 27; articles due Sept. 15

**World Communion  
Sunday**

We'll celebrate World Communion Sunday October 1st, when we will join people all over the world "at the table" together symbolically during Worship. Watch for Details!



**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'd like a personal visit from the pastor or a lay caregiver, call 374-4403.

**Mark Your Calendar!**

*Coming in early October:*

Sunday, October 1

**World Communion**

**Family Sunday**

**Concert: Harmonic Brass**

Sunday, October 8

**Bishop Webb visit**

Tuesday, October 10

**Church Night**



**'Like' us on Facebook !**

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

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

**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)