



The Church Herald

Stony Brook Community Church (United Methodist), Stony Brook, New York



STONY BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

216 Christian Avenue
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Chuck Van Houten, Pastor

Church Office Tel: (631) 751-0574

Church E-mail:
stonybrookcommunitychurch@gmail.com

Pastor's Study Tel: (631) 751-0659

Church Website:
www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org

Newsletter Table of Contents

- 1.....Pastor's Letter
- 3.....Lectionary Readings
- 4.....April Calendar
- 5.....Church Council / MYF / Sunday School
- 6.....Spring Musicales
- 7.....Apple Festival / Dream Catching
- 8.....PAC 2017
- 9.....UMW Plant Sale Order Forms

Please send updates and information to
Newsletter Editor, Bob Retnauer, at
bobretnauer@optimum.net

“Easter Changes Everything”

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you... 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NRSV)

I love that phrase; “Easter changes everything.” A few Sundays from now we will all have the opportunity to experience the new life and new hope that only the resurrection can offer. But first we must move with Jesus through the final two weeks of Lent, Palm Sunday, and into the dark reality of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It is only once we have moved through those preparatory experiences that we can then come out of the tomb on Easter Morn and be born anew into the light and life that is Christ Jesus. The truth is, Easter has the power to bring new life to the world and into each of our lives, even—and especially—if we have been going through dark and uncertain times.

I know that a number of you have been through or are going through your own personal Good Friday experiences to varying degrees. Some of us are walking through the valley of the shadow as we or loved ones go through health issues. Some of you are going through job and financial issues, while others may be experiencing relationship or other issues.



Regardless of the difficulties you may be dealing with, God offers a promise to you this Easter. This life and all the insecurities, troubles, frailties, and scars will be transformed by the hope and healing that only God can give amidst the struggles. Yes, God will give the possibility of turning your scars into stars as you live by faith in God through Christ Jesus.

Continued...

NYAC VISION STATEMENT

The New York Annual Conference, through the grace of God, embodies a beloved community of hope, building up a healthy Body of Christ, with heartwarmed United Methodists in mission for the transformation of the world.



In fact, the strength and the hope that I draw from the Holy Week stories is that even Jesus, God's only begotten Son, went through terrible trials, scars, and human struggles. Even he was not exempt from the uncertainty and frailty of this life. He knew the pain of loss and the depth of love. He knew the reality of betrayal and the strength found in remaining faithful. And he knew pain and even death. Yet it never overshadowed the reality of new life given by God in Him for the salvation of the world. And He knew the power of forgiveness, the complete and full forgiveness that can only come from the God of the universe as God offers unconditional love to you through Him. That forgiveness, that complete love, offered in His death and resurrection is for us the power of hope and life amidst death.

It is because of the profound significance that Maundy Thursday and Good Friday bring to the experience and understanding of resurrection that we have decided to add a new service this year on Good Friday. Although there is an afternoon combined service among the churches of our area, many folks from our church cannot attend a daytime service. Consequently, this year we will be offering a special Good Friday Evening Tenebrae service with hymns and reflections read to commemorate the Stations of the Cross, the fourteen profound moments and events of the last day in Christ's earthly life as told by us as onlookers. This is a very deep and meaningful service and one that I would encourage all in our congregation to make every attempt to be present for and experience. It will have an impact on your Easter Morning Celebration so that Easter can change everything.

Over the last few years our family has been through a number of health issues and challenges that have taken up much of our time and energy in order to deal with them, the kind of issues that can make your life feel as if it is all spinning out of control. Yet I know there are many of you who are dealing with much greater difficulties. And while it has not been easy, when I stop and think of Holy Week and all that Christ went through for us I am humbled as life is put into perspective for me. Yet even more so, when I think of Easter morning, when I think of the great old hymns that bring such joy and memories, when I think of the brisk and beautiful experience of worshipping the Lord of Life as the sun comes up over Stony Brook Green at our sunrise service, when I think of the message of hope offered by our youth in the 30 Hour Famine, I am propelled into that promise of new life once again. When I think of the joy that Easter worship brings, the choirs, the music, and the promise of resurrection, all of the struggle, doubt, and fear seem to disappear as the warmth of God's love becomes so real in that promise of resurrection, becomes so real in the fellowship of this church family, and as my perspective is changed, everything changes and there is promise and hope – real hope!



I pray that God's promise of new life brings hope to you and to the world once again this Easter. Easter Changes Everything, my friends. May you come to know the reality and the power of that statement on Easter this year. May you experience the reality of Good Friday as we recount the final events of the life of Christ, and may the resurrection of faith and hope become much more real and powerful for you this Easter. I look forward to sharing in that reality and that joy with you in the weeks ahead. For now, let us let every Sunday in this season of Lent be a little Easter in itself. And may your joy be full, and your heart be filled.

See you in church. See you at the cross. See you at the resurrection. Thanks be to God!

In God's love, joy and hope
Pastor Chuck



Lectionary Readings

April 2, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Living Our Baptismal Calling: Believe!

The faith we confess, and the faith that transforms us, is more than intellectual assent to a theological construct. It is to stake our lives on the Triune God, and so join Martha's confession, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into this world."

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130 (UMH 848)

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

April 9, Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm/Passion Sunday recapitulates the beginning and the end of Christ's final week in Jerusalem. We move from a triumphal procession and its stirring of hope as our entrance rite to hearing of a very different kind of procession, a forced march with a crucifix, to conclude it.

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion

April 13, Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday

Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday, marks the last conversation Jesus has with his disciples, a conversation grounded in what he calls a new commandment (mandatum in Latin, hence our English word "Maundy"). He illustrates and underscores the new commandment by washing the disciples' feet: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 14, Holy Friday/Good Friday

On Good Friday, or Holy Friday as it is known in nearly every non-English-speaking culture, we witness the execution of Jesus, recognize our ongoing complicity with the powers of death, and are called to enter the Great Silence of all creation in response to the death of its God and Maker.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

April 16, Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is the principal Easter Sunday morning service of word and sacrament celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and kicking off the Easter Season of fifty days (through the Day of Pentecost).

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22 (UMH 752)

Hebrews 10:16-25

John 18:1-19:42

April 23, 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

April 30, Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35



April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 MYF	27 7:00 (pm) AA	28 7:00 (pm)	29 6:30 Soup Supper 7:30: Creed Class	30 6:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	31 11:15 AIAnon	1 MYF 30-hour Famine starts
2 MYF 30-hour Famine concludes 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 3:00 Spring Musical	3 7:00 (pm) AA	4 7:30 (pm) Finance	5 6:30 Soup Supper 7:30: Creed Class	6 6:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	7 11:15 AIAnon	8
9 Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 MYF 	10 7:00 (pm) AA	11	12 6:30 Soup Supper 7:30: Creed Class	13 Maundy Thursday 6:00 AA SBCC Evening Service	14 Good Friday 11:15 AIAnon 12:00 Interchurch Service 8:00 SBCC Evening Service	15
16 Easter Sunrise Service 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship, Egg Hunt 	17 7:00 (pm) AA	18 7:30 (pm) Church Council	19	20 6:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	21 11:15 AIAnon	22
23 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 MYF 30 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 5:00 MYF	24 7:00 (pm) AA	25 7:30 (pm) Trustees	26	27 6:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	28 11:15 AIAnon	29 9:00 a.m. Dream Catching Meeting



Church Council

Council met on March 21, 2017. Plans were made for the church during this season of Lent and Holy Week. Please make note of the ways you can be part of this blessed season with Lenten supper and study as well as the services from Palm Sunday to Easter.

At council we discussed the success of the town meetings we have held for the past few months. The vision and mission statements are now completed and we are in the process of determining where our church would like to be in terms of mission and outreach. At our last session on Sunday, March 19th, we discussed what direction we would like to go if time and money were not an issue. What a long list of ideas we generated! But we are not finished. Be sure to attend the next session April 29th at 9am to be a part of this inspiring process.

Trustees reported about recent and upcoming plans for church properties. New road signs have been ordered and we expect them to arrive in a few weeks. Be on the lookout for them as you drive through the town! Also, new flooring is being considered for the community room and hopefully a decision will be made in the near future.

Finance has completed the budget. Plans are set for offering electronic giving for the congregation. More information will be forthcoming. Social concerns funds from congregational giving will be discussed at our next town meeting in terms of how to best use the money as part of our outreach.

Looking ahead:

MYF is having the 30 hour famine April 1-2. There is a sponsor sheet in the community room for you to sign up. The youth are hoping to raise over \$4,000!

The spring musical is April 2nd this year. Come and enjoy this wonderful afternoon of music. You can also make a difference by becoming a sponsor.

UMW will be holding their plant sale May 6, 2017. Be sure to get your order form and have it in by April 20th.

PAC is starting its registration and plans for a new camp season this summer. The form is available online.

Our next council meeting is April 18, 2017. Would love to see you there!

MYF

The youth group has been busy planning and fund raising for the 30HR Famine. We will be fasting for 30 hours beginning Sat. April 1 through Sun. April 2.

We will not be hosting the annual Easter breakfast. Instead, we are planning a Mother's Day Spaghetti Dinner.

If you have questions or want more info. Please speak to any of our youth, Nancy Larsen or Pastor Chuck



Spring is finally here! The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will be on Easter Sunday, April 16th, after Sunday's service. If you are planning to attend, please sign-up in the community room. Donations of candy and plastic Easter eggs are also appreciated. There will be a box in the community room for donations. If you have any questions, please speak with Megan Murphy.



SPRING MUSICALE

Sunday April 2nd at 3:00 pm.

Dr. Carol Weitner, organist
Valerie Grehan, soprano
Symmetry Woodwind Quintet

Music classical and popular traditions. Also included will be information about the history of our church and the 1930 Moeller organ purchased in 1972 and re-built in 1993. Dr. Weitner will reprise some of the music played at the dedication recitals for the organ. Valerie will be featuring Broadway music.



Our church has a rich history starting in the 1850's with the current building and the organ has an interesting journey involving the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church in New Jersey, the Terry family, Helen Soffer, Carol Landis, Reverend John Paul Hankins and the Foley-Baker organ company.



Historical handouts will be available as well as a reception to meet the artists.

Suggested Donation: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors, \$5 students

Sponsorships welcomed and must be sent to the church by March 28th to be included in the program. Please consider a sponsorship whether or not you can attend the concert!

Spring Musicale 2017

Sponsor Form for April 2nd Concert

Yes, I will help make this concert a success. I will be a:

- _____ Sponsor (\$200+)
_____ Benefactor (\$100-199)
_____ Patron (\$50-99)
_____ Donor (\$25-49)

Enclosed is my donation. Please list my/our name(s) as indicated:

Please print legibly

All supporters should return this form to the church no later than March 28th to be included in the concert program. You may mail it, bring it to the church office, or give it to an usher at Sunday morning service.



Dream Catching

As most of you know we have been in the process of having visioning and mission meetings for the last five months. This process has been very rewarding and helpful to our church's direction and mission.

We are now in the "Dream Catching" phase of this process, the time where we all share the various hopes and dreams we have for our church and its ministries. As we are trying to incorporate as many voices in this process as possible, we ask that you give some thought to the following questions and either email your response/responses back to the church office (stonybrookcommunitychurch@gmail.com), place your answers in the offering, or mail them back to the church office (216 Christian Avenue). This question will also be shared via weekly emails and in the weekly church bulletin.

The deadline for responses is Thursday, April 20th.

We would like to include our children and teens in this process, so please share these questions with your children and ask them what new ideas they would like to see here at SBCC. Remember, no idea is too small or too big. Dream big!!

As requested above, please respond to the following:

If money and time were not an issue, what ministries would you like to see at SBCC?

What new mission projects/ideas would you like to see at SBCC?

What other hopes, dreams, or thoughts might you have for SBCC?

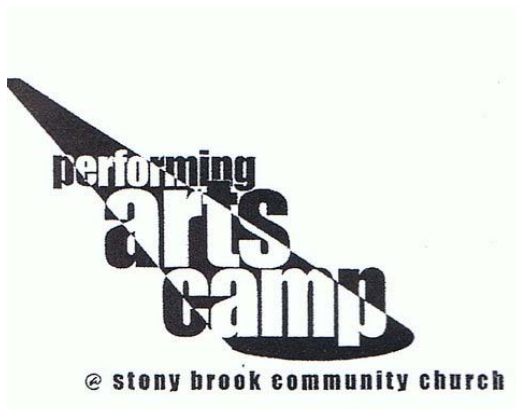
Thank you for your help in this endeavor and may God continue to bless our church and its ministries.



Save the Date!

Apple Festival 2017: September 30





Hello Everyone! I returned from my winter in sunny Galveston Island just in time to be snowed in, but it looks like spring is coming at last and now it's time to think about summer and camp.

PERFORMING ARTS CAMP 2017 will begin on June 26th and run for four weeks through July 21st, Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 3 PM, with performances on Saturday, July 22nd and the

pool party on Sunday, July 23rd. We are pleased to announce that ALYSSA COIA will be returning as Performing Arts Director/Choreographer and VALERIE GREHAN will be returning as Musical Director. THE AGE LIMIT is now ages 7 to 18. Some of our kids have been attending camp for eight or nine years, and as they've gotten older our shows have become more complex. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and last year's "Once Upon a Mattress" demonstrated what our students are capable of.

It would be hard to place a value on all that they've learned, about both theatre and themselves. I've been so proud of them all! One of the musicales under consideration for this summer is *Anything Goes* but we can't choose the right production until we know who is coming. And remember, we can only accept 20 students, so if you know any potential new campers encourage them to get in touch with us soon. For the past six years, we've filled our enrollment by referrals and return campers only, a nice reflection of the quality of our program!

EARLY BIRD ENROLLMENT -\$600 with Registration with \$ 100 deposit received by April 30th. Thereafter - \$650. ALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 30, 2017.

Warmest regards,

Sherrill Jones



UMW PLANT SALE

The Annual UMW Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, May 6th at the Sullivan House. Beautify your garden by supporting this fundraiser for our mission outreach. Proceeds of the sale will be used to contribute to the PAC Scholarship Drive and to fund Gift Cards for Thanksgiving Baskets and other outreach projects. Order sheets are available in the Community Room, below, or by contacting the church office. Orders may be placed in the offering plate at worship or mailed to the Sullivan House 216 Christian Ave., Stony Brook, NY 11790. Deadline for orders is Thursday, April 20th. Checks must accompany orders and made payable to SBCC-UMW. Plants can be picked up at the Sullivan House on Saturday, May 6th from 11 am to 3 pm. By patronizing the Plant Sale you will not only beautify your corner of the world, but also help to beautify and change the world for someone else through mission outreach!



Specialty Items (Note flats, baskets, and pots on the back of this sheet):			Number of items
24" Window Box Planters		\$16.00	
Terra cotta base			
	Geraniums		
	New Guinea Impatiens		
Cappucinno base			
	Geraniums		
	New Guinea Impatiens		
12" Urn	\$20	Mixed flowers	
		Black base	
		White base	
		Cappucinno base	
16" Round Patio Planter	\$20	Mixed flowers	
		Sandstone	
12" Square Patio Planter	\$16	Mixed flowers	
		Terra Cotta	

Notes and special requests:
 If you are ordering more than one of a specialty item and would like all of them to match (as to main flower color, etc) please indicate that here.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS _____ TOTAL PAYMENT \$ _____

Order forms with payment attached may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or sent to 216 Christian Ave., Stony Brook, NY 11790 prior to April 20. **Please make your checks payable to UMW-SBCC.**

❖ **Firm order deadline: April 20th**

PICK UP: Saturday, May 6th, 11:00-3:00 at the Sullivan House

Please Note: Pick-up will not be possible before 11:00 a.m.



\$12.00 Flats (48 plants except impatients)		Number of plants	\$15.00 Hanging Baskets (10" baskets)		Number of items
Ageratum	Blue		Fuchsia	Red/White	
Impatients	Orange			Purple/Pink	
New Guinea	White		Ivy Geranium	Pink	
FLATS OF 12	Violet			Red	
	Red			Peppermint	
	Pink		Petunia	Mix	
	Lavender				
	Mix		\$2.50 (4 ½" pots)		
Dusty Miller			New Guinea Impatients	Red	
Coleus	Mix			White	
Begonia	Red			Pink	
Green Leaf	Pink		Geraniums	Salmon	
	White			Red	
	Mix			Pink	
Snapdragon	Mix		Dracena	Hot Pink	
Zinnia	Mix		Dracena (spike)	White	
			\$4.25 (6" pots)		
Marigold	Mix		New Guinea Impatients	Red	
Petunia	Mix			White	
Portulaca	Mix			Pink	
Salvia	Red		Geraniums	Salmon	
	Purple			Red	
	Mix			Hot Pink	
			Herb Garden	\$9.00	
			Pack of six herbs may include basil, parsley, thyme, rosemary, mint, tarragon, chives, sage, or oregano.		

