



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; Charge Conference; Choir
- 4.....September Lectionary; Sunday School; MYF
- 5.....September Calendar
- 6.....Apple Festival Flyer
- 7.....End of an Era at PAC
- 8.....Mission Team; 3M Group Thanks; UMW
- 9.....Spiritual Practices for Going Back to School
- 10....No, the World Isn't Getting Worse

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

“Getting Started, Again: Putting Your Spiritual House In Order”

“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this.” Esther 4:14.

I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was, “Lord, give me the energy to change the world.”

As I approached middle age and realized that half my life was gone without my changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to, “Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come into contact with me. Just my family and friends, and I will be satisfied.”

Now that I am old and my days are numbered, my one prayer is, “Lord, give me the grace to change myself.” If I had prayed for this right from the start I should not have wasted my life.

The Song of The Bird, Anthony De Mello



I share these wise words with you knowing that this seems to mirror a spiritual reality that many of us struggle with. Truth is, there are many things that I know I should be doing to better myself. A better workout routine, better eating habits, a more regular and meaningful prayer life, more time spent with family, more time spent with

God and myself, and the list goes on and on. Often our response to these daily habits that would be so helpful is: “Lord, I am going to get started, first thing tomorrow.” And so, we make excuses for one more day, and on it goes.

My friends, as we begin this new church/school year together, my prayer and my hope is that we will *not* continue to put these healthy and vital aspects of our life off until tomorrow. Our spiritual journey is one that should not be put on the back burner - ever. However, with the extremely busy lives that we all lead, this is all too often the case. Children need to be picked-up and dropped off, meals need to

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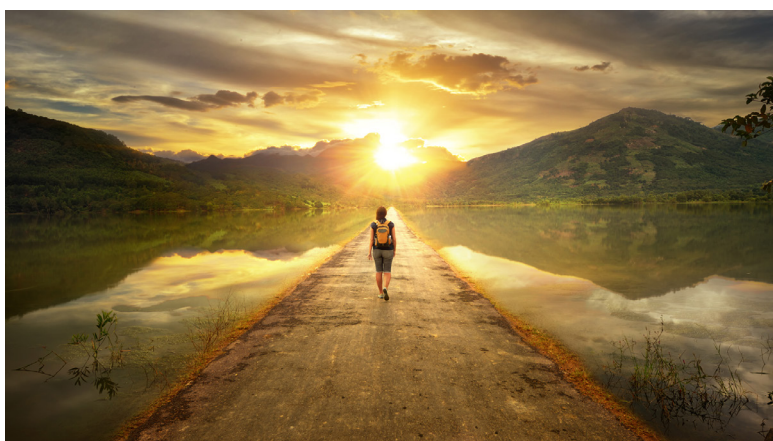
NYAC VISION STATEMENT

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.



happen, work responsibilities press in, our phones ping, vibrate and beep at us every ten seconds, and so we allow our prayer and worship life to slide *for just one more week*.

Yet, with our lives as busy and chaotic as they are, there is no more important improvement, privilege, joy, or routine (call it what you like) in our life, than to get our spiritual house in order. To carve out the time and create the space to pray “Lord give me the grace [just] to change myself,” Like the writer of *The Song of The Bird*, above, there is so much that we hope to change for the better in our lives. Yet all too often we are too busy to make the time for such important inner improvements in our lives. But if we would be willing to start with our selves, one step at a time, to get to know the wonder of the God who resides within you and in the process to really get to know yourself as God knows you, your life and the world around you can and will be dramatically changed for the better, from the inside out.



This year our focus here at SBCC will be seeing our spiritual journey as a great adventure. We will explore this very real and personal journey and adventure (for both adults and children) by providing sermon series, bible studies and small group ministries that will offer windows into our souls and reflection time to get to know ourselves as only God knows us. ***I want to invite you to be a part of that great adventure beginning Sunday, September 16th which is National Back to Church Sunday for 2018.***

We will also be on a very real and practical journey together as we continue to develop our local mission work and as we explore options on how we will

provide a new Children and Youth Center here at SBCC. Our Long-Range Planning Team, which was put together this past spring, has begun meeting and will come to the church in the next few months with specific recommendations for this endeavor and other ministerial plans. *All of this work and discernment will require a church steeped in prayer and a deliberate process of spiritual growth among its people as a whole.* This is why it will be imperative that we all begin to learn, grow, study, and pray together in this all-important and pivotal year in our church’s history. We are standing on the precipice of the future that God has been preparing for us and has been preparing us for. Let us not shrink away from this awesome adventure; let us receive it as God’s calling upon our lives together for such a time as this. Let us stop saying “Tomorrow, Lord.” It’s time for us each to get started in earnest – today.

Nevertheless, I know getting started can be difficult sometimes. I know that old habits die hard, and I know that coming back from summer vacations and the mind set of a slower pace - that we all long to hold onto - can be hard to shake. Consequently, many of us put off bringing church back into our routine until October or maybe even November. But please, for your family, for your relationship with God, but, mostly for yourself, make the decision to begin this new church year, this great new adventure now, as a spiritual workout, starting with your inner self. Then as you expand that spiritual growth out into – and shared with – the larger church, you will find the meaning and renewal in your life that the God within you has been longing to share with you and with us all. You can make this commitment to God and yourself by getting involved now. Come to church on Sunday and/or sign-up for our first short term, four-week study of the new year. That study is entitled, “*All In: You are One Decision Away from a Totally Different Life*” by best-selling author and pastor Mark Batterson, author of “Draw the Circle.” This new study begins the week of September 23rd so sign up now! It’s a wonderful, easy, and inspiring way to start the church year with friends and family while growing in faith.

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If you have been away for the summer, if you have not attended church for quite sometime, please know that your invitation is here and waiting to be claimed by you. This year let your life be changed by the God who longs to reconnect with you, offering hope amidst all the craziness. Make time for God in your daily routine, and make being part of God's children, God's *community of faith* here at SBCC a vital aspect of your faith journey this year. And may we all find comfort, purpose, hope and meaning together, in the year ahead.

The Adventure begins for us all on Sunday, September 16th. Don't miss it!

See you this Sunday!

In God's love, joy, and hope

Pastor Chuck



Charge Conference November 7th

Please mark your calendars for our annual Charge Conference, which will take place at 7:00, Thursday, November 7th. Please also note the instructions from the district office:

The following reports must be prepared for Charge Conference: Nominations & Charge Conference Leadership Form; Pastor's Compensation Report (DS will sign at CC); Annual Report of the Committee on Finance; 2019 Budget.

Also, please submit to LIE District Office by email or fax (631-366-4842) Documents 1 & 2 one week prior to CC, signed by SPRC Chair and Pastor.



Make a Joyful (not to mention fun!) Noise unto the Lord!

Think you can't sing? Think you do not have time for choir rehearsals? Can't commit to regular rehearsals? RE-THINK!!!

Attendance is encouraged for Thursdays at 7:30pm. Attendance is required on the Sundays you would like to sing. Of course we all have other commitments some Sundays, so no sweat! Choir members come at 9:15am Sunday mornings and practice for 40 minutes. If you have never sung parts in a choir, that's ok. We need people to sing the melody!

It is fun to worship as part of the choir!



September Lectionary

September 2, 2018

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalms 45:1-2, 6-9 or Psalm 72 (UMH 795)

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9, 2018

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

REFERENCES:

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Psalms 125 or Psalm 124 (UMH 846)

James 2:1-10(11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

September 16, 2018

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Proverbs 1:20-33

Psalms 19 (UMH 750)

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

September 23, 2018

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Proverbs 31:10-31

Psalms 1 (UMH 738)

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

September 30, 2018

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalms 124

James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

Sunday School News

Welcome back to Sunday School! I am looking forward to another fun year with all of our children in our church. Sunday School is open to students in grades kindergarten to sixth grade. We will be continuing to use our one room Sunday school curriculum, Deep Blue Kids. This fall our curriculum will focus on families growing in faith together. Children can take what they learn in Sunday school and dive deeper into those stories at home with their families. We will study families of the bible and learn how today's faith families care for children as they grow in the church.



MYF News


Welcome to new year of MYF. We have lots of fun activities and meetings planned. To begin, we have changed our meeting time to Friday nights 6pm – 8pm. Our focus this year is on reaching out and coming together. We will be reaching out to the community and other MYF groups to join us in our Fusion Fridays. These will be filled with games, activities and music worship.

We begin our year with pie making on Sunday the 16th, right after back to church worship. On the 22nd, we will provide games and activities for all kids at the church's annual Apple Festival.

Friday, the 28th is our official kick off meeting.

Stay tuned for more exciting happenings with MYF. If you have any questions or if you are interested in joining our awesome teens please contact Nancy Larsen 631-626-6353 or Shantel Sellers 231-871-1466. Peace to all.....MYF

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	27 7:00 (pm) AA	28 7:00 (pm) Trustees	29	30 7:00 AA	31 11:15 AIA non	1
2 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour	3 7:00 (pm) AA <i>Labor Day: office closed</i>	4 7:30 (pm) Finance	5	6 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	7 11:15 AIA non	8
9 10:00 Outdoor worship service and lunch	10 7:00 (pm) AA	11 6:30 UMW Pasta Dinner at Luigi's	12	13 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	14 11:15 AIA non	15
16 Back to Church Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour Pie Sunday	17 7:00 (pm) AA	18 7:30 (pm) Church Council	19 Apple Festival Bake-in	20 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	21 11:15 AIA non 5:30 or when you can arrive: Apple Festival set-up	22 Apple Festival! 
23 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 MYF 30 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Hour 5:00 MYF	24 7:00 (pm) AA	25 7:30 (pm) Trustees	26 "All In: You are One Decision Away from a Totally Different Life" Class starts	27 7:00 AA 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	28 11:15 AIA non	29



See below for ways you can make a difference...

Apple Festival

Stony Brook Community Church

www.sbccapplefestival.weebly.com/
www.stonybrookcommunitychurch.org

216 Christian Avenue
Stony Brook 🍏 631-751-0574

Apple Themed Food
BBQ
Apple Pies
Handmade Pieces
Bounce Houses
Apple Apparel
Food Court
Kids Zone
Apple Themed Items
Country Kitchen
Artisan Demonstrations
Vendors
And Much More...

FREE
ADMISSION

Come, enjoy flavorful apple-icious food, festivities, fellowship, and fabulous shopping in the fresh fall air. Saturday fun for the whole family.

Find us on Facebook
@SBCCapplefestival

September 22nd
11:00am - 5:00pm

Raindate
September 23

Here are some things you can do to help out—

- Bake items for the Bake Table
- Come to Pie Making on Sept. 16 after church
- Gather gently-used items for Attic Treasures
- Come to the MYF's Bake-In on Wed., Sept. 19
- Sign up for your spot in the Community Room
- Plan to help set up on Fri. and clean up on Sat.
- ...and be sure to tell your friends, neighbors, and coworkers all about the fair—invite them to come!



End of an Era at PAC

A wonderful and exciting era at Performing Arts Camp has come to an end with the retirement of Sherrill Jones, its long-time director. Sherrill has provided an extraordinary ministry for budding young actors: the children who were fortunate enough to enroll in PAC have blossomed under her care and direction in a safe haven where they were able to try their wings and bond together to form strong friendships. It has been amazing to experience the children's transformation from Day One into a company of actors, presenting an accomplished theatrical production. Magical!

Sherrill comes from a theatrical family that has been involved in community and children's theatre here on Long Island for the past thirty years. In 2004 she organized a church branch of the children's theater program Kids for Kids, and then when they pulled out after the 2007 season she founded PAC under the sponsorship of the church. She continued to organize and direct PAC for ten years.

On August 4 the church received the following letter from Sherrill:

Since 2004 when I began the Kids for Kids Summer Program and for the past ten years under the sponsorship of SBCC, you've all been a great support and I thank you for allowing me to have had this rewarding and magical experience. Every summer was a delightful surprise to me and a gift of joy.

Regretfully, the time has come for me to retire from active duty and so, I am officially stepping down as director of Performing Arts Camp. I hope that someone else will want to have the opportunity to head this mission and if so, I will support them whole heartedly.

We had agreed that if we didn't hold camp, any funds in the PAC accounts would revert back to the church. In the past, paying the church for utilities and housekeeping was part of PAC expenses. For the last three summers, I don't believe we were able to do that because with all the scholarships we were just breaking even. I believe that buying furniture for the Sunday School was our only monetary contribution.

Recently, it has come to my attention, that our church is in dire financial straits due to the expense of the renovation and repairs in the Smith house. Therefore, I hope that any monies left in the PAC accounts will be made available to the finance committee to be used at your discretion.

Thank you for a wonderful run!

Love, Sherrill Jones

The Stony Brook Community Church family owes a debt of gratitude to Sherrill for her enthusiasm, compassion, and expertise in the production of this ministry. Thank you and Bravo Sherrill!





MISSION TEAM NEWS

The Mission Team will soon be gearing up for the coming school year. Please watch for the date of the first Food Drive to be held sometime in mid-October. We are in the process of arranging for additional venues to hold food drives supporting local school pantries. Thanks to Cheryl Davey, we have an official church letter to give to store managers outlining our request to hold food drives. If anyone would like to contact a supermarket or pharmacy, please see Cheryl to get a copy of the letter. We are most appreciative of all those who have volunteered in the past and are hopeful to have more church-wide participation in the coming year. The past four drives were most successful in stocking the school pantries. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry.



Our Thanks to the 3M Group for All Their Work Caring for our Buildings and Grounds!

Many thanks to the “3M Group” for all their work keeping our grounds and buildings looking so nice. Whitney Roberts, Bill Hamilton, Jerry Meyer, Bill Trawick, Jim Davey, and Peter Lunde are responsible for our beautifully groomed yards, our repainted and refurbished Sunday school room, the power-washed entrance to the Sullivan House, and other improvements too numerous to mention.

Fairly or not, people do judge organizations by their appearances. When guests (or members!) see how well we maintain our property, it is clear that this is a church that is dedicated and proud of itself.

Not pictured: Jim Davey and Peter Lunde

UMW NIGHT OUT

All the women of the church are invited to Pasta Night at Luigi's on Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30 pm. For \$22 you get salad, pasta, dessert, and a soft drink; wine is available for an additional charge. Please let us know if you will be joining us on the sign-up sheet in the Community Room. Please bring your checkbook as we kick off UMW's Pledge to Mission Drive. Please see Karin Lynch, Pat Martin, or Gail Chase for further information.





Spiritual Practices for Going Back to School

AUGUST 5, 2018 BY SANDY MILLER (DEVOZINE)

School is back in session! Although you may be ready for the academic routine, young people will be diving back into schoolwork, homework, sports, rehearsals, exams, papers, and more. Finding time to be with God and to love their neighbors will be harder than ever.



You can shape the way your students will experience this school year. Whether you invite students to partner with you or to do it on their own, encourage the youth in your life to cultivate these back-to-school practices as they return to the hallowed halls of elementary, middle, or high school.

Listening. Pay attention to teachers and coaches. Be there for friends. Be open to God's nudges. Start each day by praying, "Speak, Lord. I'm listening."

Perseverance. When life is tough, don't give up. Press on in faith to achieve your goals. Find accountability partners to walk with you and to help you stay focused.

Questioning. Wrestle with God's Word. Don't be afraid to ask God questions. Join a small group that can help you grapple with faith questions for which you have no answers.

Sabbath. Make rest a priority. Seek balance. Find ways to refresh—body, mind, and spirit. Schedule "gimme a break" times in your planner—and keep them!

Noticing. Observe the ways God shows up in unexpected people or places. Marvel at the fingerprints of God clearly evident in nature, in other people, and in the shaping of your life.

Hospitality. Befriend the new kid. Welcome the stranger. Include those who are left out. Ask God to help you accept and appreciate what is strange or unique about you.

Loving Yourself. Be OK with not being perfect. Show yourself a little compassion and grace. Discover things you like—or love—about yourself, and create an "I Like Me" list.

Showing Respect. Love and respect go hand in hand. Learn to respect others by getting to know them. Share your story, and listen lovingly to the stories of others.

Prayer. Pray throughout the day. Talk with God as you do with friends. Don't just go through the motions; be honest with God. Pray that you might become an answer to your prayers.



NO, THE WORLD ISN'T GETTING WORSE

By Dave Barnhart

The sincere ladies who stopped by my house had Bibles and binders full of literature from their church. They had practiced their pitch and knew their talking points well. After shaking hands, smiling, and talking about the fall-like temperatures, one of them made their opening statement:

“When you look around at all the things going on the world today, doesn’t it seem like the world is getting worse?”

“No, actually. I don’t think the world is getting worse.”

She looked appalled.

I was as surprised as she was. I had prepared to tell them that I was a United Methodist pastor, and that I didn’t want them to waste their time with a theological discussion that wouldn’t benefit any of us. But something in her sureness that the world was going to hell in a handbasket provoked something inside of me.

I would agree that there are a lot of problems in the world. We may be living in the midst of a great extinction brought about by our profligate use of the world’s resources. Gun violence in our country and extremism in the world present us with visions of humankind’s brutality. Mass incarceration and systemic racism perpetuate inequality. And — oh yeah, I almost forgot — the church seems to be hemorrhaging.

Christians who talk about the end times often seem to be the most pessimistic about the future. Louis Evelyn wrote that, “The paradox of our time is that those who believe in God do not believe in the salvation of the world, and those who believe in the future of the world do not believe in God.”

But it’s not only religious folks who believe bad news about the end times. One of my atheist friends believes we are on the eve of humankind’s extinction. Human nature is so perverse, he believes, that there is no way we will get off the planet and become a space-faring race before we either blow ourselves up or ruin our planet. In his eschatology, the salvation of the human race, whether from God or from human ingenuity, is a naive hope.

He, the ladies in my driveway and presidential candidates of diverse political views would probably all agree that the world is going downhill. They might agree on nearly everything except God and their preferred policy solutions.

But I believe Christian eschatology is about Good News. We can catch glimpses, and there are signs of hope for the world, if we dare look for them. A recent video that helps us visualize the death toll of World War II also makes the point that violence worldwide has been decreasing over the last several decades. People have a hard time believing that fewer people are being killed because the news is so full of violence all of the time. But if peace broke out all over the world, how long would it be until we knew it?

And although economic inequality, systemic racism and oppression of all kinds are still very much a part of our public life, there is a growing awareness that we cannot wait on a centralized leadership to address these issues. Grassroots movements like #blacklivesmatter have illustrated the ability of everyday people to shift the cultural conversation.

Don’t get me wrong: I’m not saying that we’re marching inevitably toward utopia. I don’t place my faith in human progress. But I do take Jesus seriously when he says, “the Kingdom is among you.”



in



In his “Theology of Hope,” Jurgen Moltmann writes that both despair and presumption are symptoms of hopelessness, a kind of “sin against hope.” The assertion that the world is steadily declining and that the best future for us is a quick death, the rapture or the destructive wrath of God are all hopeless responses. Hope, Moltmann argues, is the distinctive quality of Christian eschatology that connects the problems of the present with an openness to Christ’s future in the resurrection. We live in “the world of possibilities,” which is on rails neither to heaven nor hell in a handbasket. Instead, Christ creates a “new horizon” which calls Christians forward into active engagement. Followers of Christ have a future-oriented yet in-the-moment attitude toward life.

The future does not depend on our “building” the kingdom of God. Our activity of doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly of God is a response to the coming justice of God. Seeing the reign of God approaching on the horizon, we move to do what we can to “humanize” our present world.

So, when missionaries at my door, or preachers in the pulpit or presidential candidates speak fondly of the past and talk about the world getting worse, I think about what Moltmann calls the “Exodus Church.” Our God is active in history with an unfinished world. God invites us to be part of God’s salvation project.

So, no, I don’t think the world is getting worse. I think the Kingdom is breaking in.

DAVE BARNHART



Dave Barnhart is pastor of a new church named Saint Junia, whose mission is to become a diverse community of sinners, saints, and skeptics who join God in the renewal of all things. He is the author of *What’s in the Bible About Church?* and *God Shows No Partiality*. He and his wife, Angela, live with their son in Birmingham, Alabama. He earned his Ph.D. in homiletics and social ethics from Vanderbilt University, and is an ordained elder in the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church.