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NEW 'TRADITIONAL PLAN' DISCUSSED
TODAY AMONG OTSEGO METHODISTS

Oneonta Pastor Vowing To Continue Gay Nuptials



“The Rev. Marti Swords-Horrell, pastor Oneonta’s First United Methodist Church, this morning told her congregation she will continue to perform gay marriages, despite a church conference’s decision in February adopting a “Traditional Plan” that affirmed a ban against gay marriage and the ordination of gay clergy. Pastors, locally and throughout the Syracuse-based Upper New York Conference, were asked to brief their congregations this morning on the special conference decision. Swords-Horrell, who was assigned to Oneonta in July, called the decision “sad and disturbing,” since the local church has been a “reconciling congregation” for 30 years. “We feel it is restrictive, oppressive and makes our gay and LGBTQ members feel unwelcome,” she said. “We will continue with who we are, and accept all people. There’s still a chance it could be overturned,” Swords-Horrell said. (Ian Austin/AllOTSEGO.com)”

Message from our Pastor First let me say again, once more, with feeling: What an honor it is to be your pastor. This past few weeks I have fallen in love with you all over again, and with our shared mission: as we state on the front inside cover of our bulletin each week, ***“First United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation affirming all persons without regard to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, handicapping conditions, economics, or any of the other divisions separating God’s family.”*** In the aftermath of Special General Conference 2019, as we continue to grieve together the death of the United Methodist Church as we knew it, I find myself giving thanks anew for our mission. Even as the highest legislative body of our denomination doubles down on the oppression that was already so wrongly enshrined in our *Book of Discipline*, we are holding strong.

We are not giving up on our mission (see below* for the statement that was proposed by our Reconciling Ministries Team and approved at Council on March 14th.) First United Methodist Church of Oneonta will continue to offer open hearts, open minds, and open doors -- even as our denomination closes all three. We will celebrate the gifts and leadership of our queer members and their straight allies. We will continue to follow Jesus, who was always found not at the centers of power and privilege, but at the margins, among the despised and rejected. We will follow the path that leads to the cross. And we will celebrate the new life and vision and energy that comes with the Resurrection, on Easter morning and every Sunday.

The last night of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, April 3rd, 1968, he gave a sermon to his faithful congregation of activists at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tennessee. As you know, he had travelled to Memphis to support the striking sanitation workers, who were responding to the death of one of their own who had been ground up in a trash truck that was not working correctly but was still on the road. King began, "I'm delighted to see each of you here tonight in spite of a storm warning. You reveal that you are determined to go on anyhow. Something is happening in Memphis, something is happening in our world." Then he goes on to paint a wonderful mental picture as he was so good at doing, starting, "if I were standing at the beginning of time, with the possibility of a general and panoramic view of the whole of human history up till now, and the Almighty said to me, 'Martin Luther King, which age would you like to live in?' He takes his listeners from ancient Egypt and Greece through the Roman Empire and to this country, to Lincoln's day – but doesn't stop there. "Strangely enough, I would turn to the Almighty and say, 'If you allow me to live just a few years in the second half of the twentieth century, I will be happy.' Now that's a strange statement to make, because the world is all messed up. The nation is sick. Trouble in the land. Confusion all around. But I know, somehow, that only when it is dark enough, can you see the stars." – "I See the Promised Land," in *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, ed. By James M. Washington (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1986), p. 279-80).

We have been to the mountaintop, and we have seen the promised land of full inclusion of all God's people in both church and society. We will never go back to the days of fear and bigotry. We are standing strong, along with our sisters and brothers in all the 24 other Reconciling UM churches in the Upper New York Conference. We have a legacy to guard and a charge to keep. In May of 1989, when this congregation became Reconciling, we were the 5th Reconciling Church in the entire UM connection worldwide, after all!

Please plan to join in our 30th anniversary party later this spring – stay tuned.

Thanks be to God,
Rev. Marti

*Statement recommended by Reconciling Ministries Team and approved by Council on Thursday, March 14th, 2019: The first commandment: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul and mind, and the second is like it: **YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF**, Matt 22:35-40.

As we, the members of First United Methodist Church- Oneonta, celebrate our 30 years as a Reconciling church we denounce the immoral decision of the Global UMC.

We will not condone or comply with the decision reached at the special session of General Conference in February 2019.

We will continue to follow our mission of "affirming ALL persons without regard to race, age, gender, sexual orientation, handicapping conditions, economics, or any other (man-made) divisions separating God's family".

We will continue to stand with our LGBTQ community and with our clergy who love and care for them.

If you are on Facebook, please watch the page, "UNYAC For Full Inclusion" for updates on resistance efforts to the hurtful and oppressive actions of GC2019.

Worship Themes for April

We'll continue with our "Listen" series by Marcia McFee of Worship Design Studio through Easter. It's been so helpful to be invited to make more space in our lives and hearts for prayer and meditation during this tumultuous time in the life of our church. Please join us as we continue to listen for the leading of God together, at both 10:00am and 5:00pm Sundays.

April 7th – 5th Sunday in Lent: "Finding Your Mystic: Listening Behind the Voices." Marcia McFee writes: We often have a "cast of characters" living inside our heads that love to carry on endless conversations—each from their own perspective. The chatter of our minds can sometimes keep us from a deeper listening and it is often difficult to understand what is a mystical connection to God. Getting our True Self into the chairperson's seat in the committee meeting does not mean ignoring those voices of fear, pessimism, people-pleasing or accusation, but instead listening intently to them and not letting them bully us into negative action. Letting them in and letting them go is the prayer of the mystic within." To prepare, please read Psalm 107 and Romans 12. Lenten communion will be served.

April 14th: Palm/Passion Sunday: "Finding Your Purpose: Listening To Your Heart." From Marcia McFee: "Jesus' prayer life was described most often in the scriptures as something he did "away" from the crowds or disciples. And as we come to the last week of this Lent journey, we have experienced the blessings of turning away from the noise of the world in order to turn inward to hear that "still small voice" of God and finding our own voice of wisdom there as well. This Sunday begins the story of the end of Jesus' human life and the scripture contains one of the rare examples of how Jesus prayed. It was honest, it was gut-wrenching, and it finally was a letting-go of expectations about life and turned toward the acceptance that gives us courage to move onward." To prepare, please read Psalm 4 and Matthew 26:36-46. Our services will include distribution of palms, and a Palm Parade.

April 18th: 7:00pm Maundy Thursday: "Finding Jesus: Listening for the Inner Jerusalem." From our series: "When a community is under threat, when tragedy strikes, when fear seems close, we humans come together. It is what the disciples and followers of Jesus did that last week of his life. Tensions were high. While we may not be on the verge of crucifixion as Jesus was at that moment, we may feel a threat to goodness, to love, to humanity's ability to move into hope. Or we may feel an inward threat of fear or anxiety or the kind of unrest that comes from a traumatic event in one's life and history... one that even the silence and listening has not been able to calm. Whatever you deal with, we gather as community to hold the space and to hold the hope of healing. Let us spend this evening being with God, with ourselves and with each other. We start with communion, remembering the last time Jesus ate with his disciples. Then we will embark on the journey with Jesus along the Way of the Cross", using prayer stations to experience Jesus' passion.

April 19th, 12:10pm: Ecumenical Good Friday service. The service will be led by leaders from FUMC and our neighbor churches, alternating readings from story of Jesus' passion with poetry and song. All are welcome and invited to share this holy time of contemplation and prayer.

April 19th, 7:00pm: Good Friday Labyrinth Walk: quiet meditative practice in the Embury Room. All welcome.

April 21st, Easter Sunday: Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Come to one or all of the following and invite your family, friends and neighbors!

8:00am – "Sunrise" service – Our first Alleluias will ring out: to welcome the Risen Christ into our midst!

9:00am – Easter Breakfast. Please sign up at church to bring part of our meal, and to help with setup and cleanup.

10:--am – Easter Festival Service with choir and communion.

(There will be no Gathering on Easter Sunday.)

April 28th: UMW Sunday / Earth Day Sunday. The United Methodist Women will lead both our 10:00am and 5:00pm “Gathering” services. Allison Bookhout will bring the message at 10:00am, and Kelly Hansen at 5:00pm.

May 5th: One Service Sunday: Guest speaker at 10:00am will be J.J. Warren, who was a delegate from Upper New York Conference to the Special General Conference in St. Louis. J.J. is graduating this spring from Sarah Lawrence College, and will attend seminary at Boston University School of Theology next fall. You won’t want to miss J.J.’s message! Rev. Dick Breuninger will celebrate communion.

Pastor’s Vacation: Revs. Marti and Dana will be on vacation from April 22nd through May 7th. For pastoral care during that time, please call the church office, and one of our wonderful retired pastors will follow up.

Financial Update

Jeff Gardner, Business Manager

In the past, February is the month we have our annual Chicken and Biscuit Musical Theater fundraiser. However, this year Nancy Bondurant-Couch directed a one night Cabaret with the Chicken and Biscuit dinner. This was held March 2nd. It was a great success with a variety of acts and folks sharing their talents. Total net proceeds from the event were \$1,001.69 and went to the Jamaica travel fund.

As mentioned last month, we will be having many fun events and fundraisers happening throughout the year. The next one is scheduled for April 13th. An a capella group, Eight is Eneuf will performing a goodwill concert beginning at 7:00pm in our sanctuary and will be splitting the proceeds with FUMC. Please plan to attend and hear this very talented group of singers perform a variety of songs. Further information will be coming out over the next few weeks.

We really appreciate all of the financial and volunteer support that everyone gives the FUMC.

Facilities Updates

The trustees have had three contractors come to evaluate and prepare bids for the work to be done in the Embury Room and secretary office. Once received, they will negotiate a time that is as convenient as possible for both the contractor as well as the church knowing that it will be probably be a 3-4 week job and that there is little “down time” in our facility. Please be patient as we try to complete this necessary work.

In addition, scaffolding has been erected in the back of the sanctuary so that further evaluation of the stone arch closest to the tower on the courtyard side can take place. Our engineer and contractor were here on March 14th. We are waiting for final determination but the belief is there may have been slight movement or more likely grout deteriorated and fell out leaving large gaps between the terra cotta. Generally this is good news but we are installing crack monitors to help us track things. When the Imhoff Company erected the scaffolding, they also spent several hours cleaning and evaluating our roofs. In addition, they took nearly 170 pictures of the roofs, arch, windows to help the trustees to start to get a better understanding of why FUMC has leaks, cracks, movement, etc.

In addition, the new tile has been laid in the former Christian Ed office off the library. The walls have been repaired and primed and will be painted soon.

There are several other smaller repairs and projects that will be taking place over the next few months as well, some of which we will need to wait for the weather to break.

Ways to Donate Financially to FUMC

You can put cash, coins, and checks in the weekly offering plate or mail a check to the church indicating whether the donation is for your regular offering or a special offering.

Several people have filled out a simple form with the Business Mgr at FUMC, Jeff, giving the church the authority to take a specific amount out of a checking or saving account on the 10th of each month or the next business day following the 10th.

You can make arrangements with your bank or financial institution to write a check on your behalf and send it to the Business Manager indicating that it is for your regular offering. If you have them send any additional checks out of the ordinary please indicate what it is for.

These are the quickest and easiest ways to make recurring donations to FUMC which involve no fees and simplest for recording in our Accounting and Donations software.

You can also make a donation using Vanco Payment solutions. Vanco is recommended by the General Board of Finance for the United Methodist Church as a processing company for church donations by credit cards or ACH payments.

You may do this two ways.

1. You can go to our website and click on the Vanco donate button. It will guide you through the steps to make your donation.
 - Presently only your regular offering (pledge or non-pledge) or fundraising donations may be made here.
 - You may choose to donate using your MC/Visa/Discover card or through an ACH from your checking or savings account.
 - There are fees associated with both of these donation methods that are passed on to FUMC but you can choose to help offset them by clicking on the box next to:
 - Would you like to add 3% to help offset processing fees? (credit cards) or the
 - Would you like to add 2% to help offset processing fees? (ACH) box
 - You can have a receipt emailed to you.
 - These transactions are safe and secure.
2. You may search for the free mobile app “GivePlus Church” powered by Vanco Payment Solutions and is available through App Store or Google Play.
 - You will be prompted to enter the name of the church you want to give to the first time. It will become the default church for future donations.
 - It will walk you through the necessary steps. You may make a one-time donation or set up a recurring transaction.

You can use Paypal one of two ways.

1. You can sign on to your Paypal account
 - Click on send or receive money
 - Send to friends and family
 - Type in Church Email
 - DO NOT check the box “Paying for Goods and Services” this will create a fee meaning the church will not receive the full amount of your donation.

2. You can visit the church website, click on the “donate here” button and it will help navigate you through Paypal. This way there is a fee associated with this form of transaction. I believe it is around 2.9% of the amount of the transaction plus 30¢ per transaction.

Patrick Ministry Fund

Steve McCarthy, Chair

- The Purpose of the Patrick Ministries Fund is to enhance all ministries of the First United Methodist Church of Oneonta, New York, with particular emphasis on spiritual growth and outreach ministries. Application for Patrick Funds are judged on the following three criteria;
 - Any organized group or individual within the membership of FUMC functioning under the general supervision of the Administrative Board.
 - Any recognized group within the District, Conference or General Boards and Agencies of the United Methodist Church.
 - Any non-profit agency operating in the Greater Oneonta community whose aims and objectives are in consonance with the aims of the ministry of FUMC.

The current members of the Patrick Committee are; Mary Lynn Bensen, Amy Burnsworth, Kelly Hansen, Lucy Ingalls, Steve McCarthy, Gail Niles, Dick Powell, Verne Thomas, and Brenda Wilkinson. In February, 2019, the Committee recommended the following requests for funding;

- FUMC Operations;
- Caring Connections;
- Jamaica Project;
- Film Project on the Faces of Poverty in Otsego County;
- Eric D. Dettenrieder Memorial Fund

Later in February, the Church Council authorized funds for these Projects. On March 5, 2019, the Patrick Committee met and recommended the approval of a Family Service Association request for funding of Parenting Workshops. The Church Council authorized funds for this Project.

Name Tags: If anyone would like a name tag, please sign the sheet in the transept or call the office. The cost is \$7 and payment upon ordering would be appreciated. This is a good way for everyone to learn each other’s name and for new people to connect.

The United Methodist Women’s Book Group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 10:00am. On March 28th we will be at the home of Lucy Ingalls’ and on April 11th we will meet at Sharry Strait-Carey’s. Our next book is *The Same Sky* by Amanda Eyre Ward, a compelling novel that follows an immigrant’s journey. Please join us for fellowship and lively discussion. If you have any questions, call or email Sharry Strait-Carey at 434-5234 or sharrysc9@hotmail.com.

Rummage Sale: May 2-3

Spring cleaning time! You may bring your donations to the stage after April 1. Please do not bring torn or dirty clothing or appliances that don’t work. For the book sale, please do not bring encyclopedias, Reader’s Digest condensed books, or text books. We also need plastic grocery bags for the Friday bag sale. Bring them to the stage anytime. The Bake Sale is on Thursday only. Volunteers are needed on set-up days and we appreciate any time that fits into your schedule—one hour or all day. On Thursday, help is needed in 3 hours shifts: 9-12, 12-3 or 3-6. On Friday, clean-up help is needed from 1-2 or 2:30, depending on the size of the crew. Men are warmly welcome to help with set-up and clean-up. Many hands make light work. It’s also a great way to meet new people. Call Joyce Miller to volunteer: 432-8751—or say YES when she contacts you.

Green Tip from the Green Team

Should I shut down my computer or put it to sleep? It is a myth that turning your computer off and then on again uses more power than leaving it on or that it damages your computer. That may have been true of older computers. A good way to minimize power is to use the power management setting and put your computer in “sleep mode” when not in use. In addition, do not use a screen saver because it also takes energy. It is best to shut your computer down at night and use power strips or smart strips to prevent devices from becoming “power vampires”!

Safe Sanctuaries Food Allergy Addendum

It is estimated that 8% of American children have food allergies, and 40% of these children are allergic to more than one food. Foods that most commonly cause life-threatening allergic reactions in children, teens, and often adults are peanuts (a legume) and tree nuts. Other allergens that can cause serious reactions are milk, wheat (not celiac disease), and eggs. Many of these allergies are severe, and may cause anaphylaxis, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction involving multiple body systems. Teenagers and young adults are at the highest risk of death from anaphylaxis.

Although it is impossible to eliminate all potential food allergens from our building, it is possible for us to greatly reduce the risk of exposure for our vulnerable population by following practical guidelines. Because FUMC cares about the safety and wellbeing of all of our children and we want to do our best to protect children, teens and vulnerable adults from the risks associated with food allergies, Church Council has passed a Food Allergy Addendum to FUMC’s Safe Sanctuaries policy. This addendum, along with copies of the entire FUMC Safe Sanctuaries policy, is in a white 3-ring binder on the small table inside the door of the church office.

The policy states that no loose nuts will be served at congregational events where food is served. Commercially prepared foods must be brought to the kitchen in their packages so that labels can be checked, and homemade foods containing peanuts or tree nuts must be labeled. Nut-free foods must be prepared and plated separately from foods containing nuts, just as we do for gluten-free food. Communion bread will not contain nut flours. If children are given food at other times, the food must be safe and kept away from toys. Parents are responsible for informing those who need to know of their child(ren)’s allergies, and for having safe snacks available for their child(ren).

In order to help us all to follow this policy, a guideline will be posted in the FUMC kitchen. In addition, simple “cheat sheets” will be available for everyone who signs up to be a coffee hour host or for any other event involving food. Both of these resources include a list of all tree nuts. You may address any questions you have about following the policy to Marty Van Lenten Becker at marty.vlb@gmail.com or 432-4917, or Sharry Strait-Carey at sharrysc9@hotmail.com or 434-5234.

“As members of FUMC, we are so moved and feel so blessed at the care and initiative our church family has taken to make this addendum to include consideration of our son’s life-threatening allergy. We couldn’t be more proud and appreciative to be members of such a wonderful church family!”
With Love and Gratitude,
The Walsh Family

Yoga Classes in April with Patti Haddad

Gentle Yoga Flow in the Embury Room on Mondays 5:00pm, \$10 per class.

Adaptive Yoga goes from April 8th through May 20th (excluding April 15th) at 6:30pm.



Earth Festival is an environmentally focused, interactive event with a fun, earth-friendly twist. It has been held annually since 2006 as a showcase event to help keep Otsego County citizens informed about environmental activities that are taking place in our region and as an avenue for increased involvement.

Earth Festival starts with a SPECIAL MOVIE NIGHT on Friday, April 12th, at 7:00pm in the Cooperstown Village Hall Ballroom, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown, 2nd floor. The NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Documentary Film, *Paris to Pittsburgh* celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change, without waiting for Washington to act.

On Saturday, April 13th, the traditional pre-Festival bird walk, led by Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, is at 9:00am sharp. The Festival runs from 11:00am-3:00pm in the high school. Activities include a master gardening class; Bicycling Skills 123; yoga for kids and adults; the EcoArt Challenge; and the Community Clothes Swap.

There are recycling opportunities for the following items:

Inkjet Cartridges (NO toner cartridges)

real cork

tennis balls

small electronics

cell phones, iPods/pads, mp3 players, tablets, e-readers, GPS devices

smartwatches

small cameras/camcorders

handheld calculators

expanded PolyStyrene Foam-#6 (Styrofoam)-CLEAN WHITE ONLY

free paper shredding truck

glass- jars and bottles (must be empty, clean and dry, but labels and caps/lids can be included)

window and door glass (remove frames before bringing to Earth Festival)

drinking glasses

ovenware and ceramic dishes, cups and plates

porcelain toilets and sinks (please remove seats and faucets/fittings).

FUMC's UMW will participate in the exhibitor and vendor fair for the third year. We educate the public about UMW's mission work, especially our group's local focus. We sell our all natural personal care products, wooden plastic bag drying racks, and reusable takeout containers. Stop by and see us while you're there!

For activity registration and other information, go to <https://occainfo.org/earth-festival/>

UMW/Earth Day Sunday



On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, that would become United Methodist Women. Those women raised money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation. The Clara Swain Hospital and the Isabella Thoburn College are still serving the needs of women, children, and youth today.

Since then, for nearly 150 years, United Methodist Women has evolved to become the largest women's faith-based service and advocacy organization, underwriting programs that provide life-changing opportunities for women, children and youth.

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

United Methodist Women has been challenging social injustice for 150 years. Members improve the lives of women, children, and youth nationally and internationally. United Methodist Women continues its advocacy work on education, the rights of children, human rights, and farm workers' rights, and peace and justice, including climate justice. In that spirit, UMW of FUMC will be honored to lead the celebration of Earth Day Sunday at both services for the fifth year in a row, this year on April 28th. We will celebrate UMW's sesquicentennial afterward with delicious food-please join us!

Let's go to Camp!

We have received brochures for each of our six Conference Camps. Online information is available for the many camping and retreat opportunities our Conference has to offer around the state. The website for Conference camps is www.campsandretreats.org if you want to take a peek at what's available. There are lots of opportunities to choose from. Each camp has different programs scheduled throughout the summer. Camperships are available thanks to our annual fruit sale. If you wish to be considered for a share of the campership funds, registrations need to be into the church office by May 1st. Please speak to Jeff in the church office for details.

Fruit Sale

I want to thank everyone who supported our 25th Annual Citrus Sale. Our church raised nearly \$1000 to help our children and youth planning to attend church camps this coming summer. Our church staff plus numerous volunteers (including three students from SUCO) gave generously of their time and effort to help this project succeed. I am also grateful to our loyal customers, including not only members of our congregation but also other people from our Oneonta community, many of whom gifted their neighbors and friends and made additional donations. A small amount of fruit remained unsold and was donated to The Lord's Table program at St. James.

Dick Powell

Memorial Day Weekend Away: Believe it or not, spring is almost here, and First Church would like to kick it off with a Memorial Day weekend away for the church family! We're in the planning stages still; please respond to this message if you have any interest in the event. Call/text Sarah Miller at (765) 918-0955 with any questions. Here are all the details:

Family Retreat @ Sky Lake Memorial Day Weekend (5/24-5/27)

Who: You and your kids, parents, grands, uncles, aunts, friends, however you define Family!

What: Three-day, two-night retreat at Sky Lake camp in Windsor, NY. It's a chance to get away and experience genuine opportunities to connect with God and your family. First Church is joining the camp's Spring Fling event, which attracts families from across the region. Camp staff will lead activities and worship. We'll stay in Riley Lodge which includes linens and towels, and each family will have a bathroom in their room or across the hall. All meals are provided by the camp.

When: Saturday, May 24th through Monday, May 27th

--Saturday | 8:30am load up the church bus and head out to Sky Lake

--Saturday | 10:00am check-in at Sky Lake Camp

--Monday | We'll wrap-up after lunch and return to Oneonta by dinner time

Cost: includes all meals, lodging, programming, transportation

\$170/adult

\$120/youth (13-18)

\$90/child(4-12)

FREE/toddler(0-3)

max \$500 per family

scholarships to cover costs are available, don't let price hinder you!

Description from Sky Lake camp: This event at Sky Lake offers families of all ages, shapes, and sizes an excellent opportunity to get outside and enjoy time together relaxing, playing, learning, and growing in faith. A variety of activities are combined with ample free time, so when you aren't making a craft, enjoying a sing-a-long, making ice cream, or going for a boat ride, you can sit back and toast a marshmallow, read a good book, or go for a hike. Your time is just that—yours!]

2019 Lenten Men's Communion and Breakfast, Saturday, April 13th

Location: Central UMC on Nanticoke Ave. in Endicott.

The schedule of activity is as follows;

7:15 am—Coffee Hour

8:00 am—Worship and Communion

After worship—Breakfast and Business/Program

This event has been in existence for over 60 years in Oneonta District and only a few years since our church was switched over to Binghamton District. The host church always wants to know how many to expect so the contact person is Knud Hansen. His phone number is 607-754-0882 and the email is khansen3@yahoo.com.

You can use either method to let them know of your attendance at the event!

Boomerangs: Just in time for Easter, these yummy treats can be ordered through APRIL 7th. Regular and Gluten-Free Boomerangs are \$7.00 a dozen, and may be paid by check made out to UMW, or cash. IMPORTANT! PICK-UP TIMES ARE AFTER CHURCH SERVICES ON APRIL 7th OR 14th. You may order Boomerangs by calling IRENE AT 432-7932; DOTTIE AT 432-0904, OR SIGNING UP ON THE CLIPBOARD PASSED AT SUNDAY SERVICES.

Spring Art Classes (Wednesday mornings, 10-12, the Art Room)

May 1, 8, 15, 22 “**Innovative Book Structures**” with Nancy Callahan

Class size limit: 12

Using playful exploration of simple book forms, Nancy will guide you through the construction of a variety of unique folding patterns & binding techniques to produce numerous innovative book structures. An ideal class for artists, scrap bookers & teachers. No previous book making experiences required. Book designs will differ from those taught in previous courses.

~ Caring and Sharing ~ from February and March

Our prayers for comfort and healing to those that have been hospitalized or ill at home or are recovering or continuing in treatment. Please remember that if you or a member of your family is hospitalized, it is necessary for you to contact the church if you wish a visit or listing on our prayer lists as that information is not readily (or legally) shared by health care institutions.

Recovering, continuing in treatment, or in a rehabilitation facility: Andrea Schleicher, Bev LeBeau, Ralph More, Travis Walsh, Ginny Pence, Betty Lynch, and Bill Pharr.

IN SYMPATHY:

- Our sympathies are with Sharon McCarthy on the death of her best friend, Sue Orzech.
- Our prayers for Lynda Calkins and her Uncle Skip on the death of her Aunt Betty.
- Our prayers for Laura Hurley and Margaret (Peg) Sorensen upon the death of father and husband, Scott Sorensen.
- Our sympathies are with Brenda Wilkinson on the death of her Aunt Virginia Potter Gracey on March 2.

- Our deepest sympathies to Pastor Donna Martin of Elm Park UMC whose father, Hiram Taylor, died on March 16.

THANK YOU NOTES:

“I would like to thank you for your recent donation to the Otsego County Hunger Coalition of \$293.12. These funds are very important to us and we appreciate your thoughtfulness.” *Gloria Hall, Treasurer*

...from Thanksgiving-time

“Dear Neighbors, This is a note to say how grateful I am for the help this holiday season. The thought of a fresh ½ gallon of milk at Stewart’s, and I pass Stewart’s every time I help my friend who lives off River Street, is just delicious! And to be able to go into Hannaford and \$15.00 I hadn’t expected...I usually use up my SNAP benefits before mid-month, so that \$15.00 makes such a difference. Moreover, I was planning to go without a turkey this holiday season because of finances. As I was leaving Family Services with the gifts of milk and \$15 groceries, a worker GAVE ME A TURKEY. I am in HEAVEN ON EARTH. Thank you all so very much. ♥”

NEXT REPORTER DEADLINE: APRIL 15!

UMCOR Sunday (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) is March 31, 2019. For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special UMCOR Sunday offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR’s ministry of relief and hope. Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover the costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects the donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs. UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Because of your donation, UMCOR is ready to respond in times of crisis. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation. Bring it to church or drop it in the mail. Thank you so much!

Alternate Giving and Flowers for Easter

Funds: UMCOR Amount: _____
 Jamaica School Project Amount: _____
 Caring Connections Amount: _____
 Mission Project of your choice Amount: _____

Project: _____

If you wish to have your memorial go to one of the funds, please check the appropriate box above and indicate the amount you are enclosing. If flowers are desired, please check the box for your choice. In both cases, be sure to fill out the honor/memorial information.

Tulips \$12.00
 Hyacinths \$12.00
 Daffodils \$12.00
 Hydrangeas \$27.00
 Donation to flower fund: \$ _____

Enclose your payment to First United Methodist (66 Chestnut St., Oneonta, NY 13820) and note on the memo space whether for flowers or one of the funds.

Please have your order and the alternate giving information form in by **Friday, April 12**. The giving list will be in the Palm Sunday and Easter bulletins. If you are going to donate your own flowers, they should be at the church by 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 19.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

Enclosed is my payment of \$ _____ for flowers / funds

- I will bring my own plant to church
- I will pick up my plant after the 10:00 a.m. Easter Service
- I will leave my plant to be replanted on church grounds or taken to a homebound person.