

Message from our Pastor**June is Bustin' Out All Over**

June has always been my favorite month. If I'm standing in line at the grocery store or at the bank, and I have to write a check, doesn't matter what time of year: if I'm not thinking, I sometimes catch myself starting to write "June" in the date line. Wishful thinking! It's warm enough to sit on my porch in the mornings and drink my tea and pray; but not so hot that I want to go right back inside. It's a time of joyful, sometimes tearful transitions: graduations and weddings, kids finishing up at one school and getting ready to move up to the next. The Farmer's Market is full of wonderful fresh and local vegetables and fruits. Strawberries present themselves all lush and red and bursting with flavor and vitamin C. Pride Week surrounds us with rainbows (look for our table at Pridefest this year on June 1st at Neawha Park). It's a time to give thanks.

We have much to celebrate this year, much for which to give thanks. First United Methodist Church has a strong core of very committed laity who sing, read scripture, teach children, play bells, lead studies, prepare meals, create art, chair committees, and otherwise live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their daily lives to the betterment of the rest of us and the community. Thanks be to God!

Come and celebrate with us on June 9th as we sing happy birthday to the church worldwide and lift up our confirmands, Dakoda Buzzy and Owen Burnsworth, and their mentor, Rev. David Rockwell. We will give thanksgiving for the year we've enjoyed.

Yours in the name of the One who calls us all Beloved,
Rev. Marti

Rev. Marti will be in Syracuse at the Upper New York Annual Conference June 4 – 8. Please pray for open ears and hearts for this critical meeting.

Worship Schedule for June

(Please note: the 8:30 a.m. Sunday service will be held in the sanctuary starting on June 16th through at least the middle of July while the Embury Room is closed for renovations.)

June 2nd: Ascension Sunday; 8:30 and 10 a.m., both with Communion. Last day of Sunday School. To prepare, please read: Acts 1:1-11 and I Corinthians 13.

June 9th: Pentecost, Celebration Sunday; Confirmation, celebrations of graduations and Sunday School staff. Wear red!! UM Student Day offering; one service only at 10 a.m., followed by Dish to Pass Lunch. Games for children on the lawn, weather permitting.

June 16th: Men of Faith Sunday / Father's Day /Trinity Sunday; 8:30 and 10 a.m., Rev. Ned Eastman preaching while Rev. Marti is out of town for a wedding. Scriptures include Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5; and John 16:12-15.

June 23rd: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost, 8:30 and 10 a.m.; 2:00 p.m. Bell Concert. Scriptures for today are: 1 Kings 19:1-15a; Psalm 42; Galatians 3:23-29; and Luke 8:26-39.

June 30th: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost, 8:30 and 10 a.m. Scriptures for today are: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; and Luke 9:51-62.

Results of our special Church Conference: On Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m., First UMC held a Church Conference at the request of Council to consider the following resolution which came from the group Upper New York for Full Inclusion. Forty-seven persons attended. After discussion, paper ballots were distributed and members only were asked to vote, either yes or no. With Joyce Miller and Marcia Kozubek as tabulators, the tally was announced as:

Yes	42
No	0
Pass	1
Blank	1

Afterward, Rev. Marti thanked everyone for their participation and notified UNYFI that the resolution was overwhelmingly approved. After collecting similar responses from other UNY churches, UNYFI will forward them on to the Bishop and Conference leadership.

Let us lift up our gratitude to God for this powerful reaffirmation of our mission in the midst of our 30th Anniversary of Reconciling.

Here is the “We Refuse” document that we signed as a church:

We Refuse

We, the undersigned clergy, laity, and churches of the Upper New York United Methodist Conference, reject in its totality the Traditional Plan passed at the 2019 Special Session of the United Methodist General Conference held in St. Louis, MO, February 23—26. In particular, we cannot abide with the injurious harm and emotional pain that this plan has caused our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We find the United Methodist Discipline’s phrase, “Homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching,” to be incompatible with God’s all-inclusive love of and for everyone in God’s creation and incompatible with the Jesus teachings which call each of us, as his disciples, to love everyone, unconditionally. We cannot find the faintest echo of the Jesus teachings in the exclusive, punitive, and unwelcoming words and actions of the Traditional Plan. The plan is inhumane to all God’s Children and in particular to the LGBTQIA+ community. It is, in a word, unchristian. The undersigned clergy, laity, and churches stand with the German Executive Committee, the Michigan Board of Ordained Ministry, the Western Jurisdiction of the U.S., and countless other churches, districts, and jurisdictions around the world that see nothing but emotional abuse in the adoption of the Traditional Plan.

As followers of the Jesus teachings, in which we are called to make Christian Disciples of EVERYONE for the transformation of the world, we the undersigned Clergy, Laity, and Churches of the Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church, refuse to deny our LGBTQIA+ siblings access to the welcoming safety of space, sacraments, and rituals of the United Methodist Church. As laity and clergy we welcome, with open arms, all members of the LGBTQIA+ community into our church families. Furthermore, as clergy, we will officiate at LGBTQIA+ weddings, and as clergy and laity, we will stand at the sides of our LGBTQIA+ ordinands. As churches, we will host LGBTQIA+ weddings and support LGBTQIA+ people who seek ordination, and those who seek leadership in lay roles. We call upon our district superintendents and bishop to officiate at LGBTQIA+ weddings. And we call upon our bishop to consecrate, commission, and ordain all qualified candidates regardless of sexuality.

We the undersigned clergy and laity of the Upper New York Annual Conference see clearly the image of God brightly reflected from the faces of ALL of God’s Children.

We received a thank you letter: “On the 30-year anniversary of becoming a Reconciling Congregation, I want to express my gratitude for your foresight, bravery, and dedication to the LGBTQ cause – then and now. Thank you, First UMC for your tireless leadership, persistence and fortitude, protest and affirmation, hope and vision, Christian integrity and conviction. Your work has impacted many and, in my opinion, bent ‘the arc of history...toward justice.’ Enjoy this well-deserved Anniversary celebration!”~~Julia Morrissey

Financial Update

Jeff Gardner, Business Manager

Each month a different group or organization benefits from our loose change, “Jingle”. In April, the money collected from the jingle benefited the Oneonta High School after prom party. This year a check for \$ 71.28 was sent to OHS for the party. In May, the jingle will be for the Jamaica trip fund to assist with travel for the 2020 mission trip. To date, \$ 63.54 has been collected.

Six times a year, the United Methodist Church does church wide Special Sunday offerings.

Following a Finance Committee discussion and recognizing that during the month of May, FUMC is celebrating our Anniversary as a Reconciling congregation, the Peace with Justice Sunday collection was held on May 19th. When you gave on this Sunday, you help encourage people to live – not just preach – the gospel of peace in the U.S. and around the world. A total of \$ 143 was collected.

The next Special Sunday is June 9th, United Methodist Student Day which furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. Normally this is held in November, but it seems more appropriate to do it while we are celebrating our youth’s and church’s accomplishments for this school year.

Native American Sunday is normally May 5th. Your generous gifts will support the Native American Ministries within the annual conference, provide scholarships for Native Americans attending seminary and strengthen, develop and equip Native American ministries (related to the General Board of Global Ministries.) FUMC will be recognizing this Special Sunday in September, probably Sept. 8th or 15th. Stay tuned to your Reporter for which weekend is chosen.

The final Special Sunday for the year is World Communion which will be collected on October 6th. This offering will provide scholarships for U.S. racial and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels.

We really appreciate all of the financial and volunteer support, large or small, that everyone gives the FUMC. We are so blessed to have many angels on earth as well as those in heaven.

Facilities Updates

The work has been completed in the former Christian Ed. /Associate Pastor’s office and I have started to relocate my office to the youth/Sunday school. I will continue to have the same phone ext. (103) and the same email. Only being in there a couple of weeks, I already start to feel a sense of organization and it to be easier to conduct business with church members and contractors easier. It will continue to be a work in progress over the next several weeks.

The asbestos around the heating pipes in the secretary’s office has been removed and the repair work to the wall and ceiling has begun as well. We hope that it will be completed by the end of June. In the meantime, Leslie will be working out of my old office. You can leave her a voicemail at ext. 102 which she will check regularly or you may speak to her directly at ext. 107.

Beginning on June 10th, the Embury Room will be closed off for worship and meetings for much needed and overdue repairs and restoration work. It will start with relocating the furniture for use in the sanctuary and removing the old plaster and wood lathe. At that point we will be able to verify the condition of the cast iron pipe that drains the water from the roof to determine if it needs attention. It is our goal to get the entire project completed as soon as possible but budgeted time frame of 3-4 weeks at this point but may be a bit longer depending on what is discovered with the drain pipe. We are working with our insurance company and contractors to put in claim to help with the cost of this work.

After a long winter and a wet spring, work has begun on the patio and courtyard. For many years the beautiful birch tree gave shade to the patio. Given 37 years ago in memory of Lucy Farrington, it was beginning to fail. During the excavation of the patio area in the fall, roots from the tree and the shrubbery that had grown through the drainage pipes had to be removed, possibly compromising the tree. Jeff Broek, the arborist from Town and Country Tree felt that there was only a 50/50 chance of its survival. Additionally, it was very old for a birch. With thanks for its years of shade, it was decided to cut the tree down. This occurred on Thursday, May 23rd. Another appropriate tree will be put in its place to provide future shade. The tree will be encircled by mulch and hostas. A small 12' x 12' stone patio will be retained for the picnic table. Following the removal of the remaining stone, concrete and other debris, topsoil will be brought in and grass will be planted. We are anticipating this entire project to cost around \$7,500 to \$8,000.

WE GIVE THANKS – The Trustees

Our thanks to caretaker Chris Brashear for the work he has done beautifying the gardens around the church. He laid many bags of mulch in between rain storms!

A generous donation has been received toward the work in the secretary's office. It was given in honor and memory of Ginny Wilson. Donations large or small are deeply appreciated. In the past few years such donations have supported new tables for Fellowship Hall, floor refinishing, Jamaica team needs, and the pastor's discretionary fund. Among the projects that could benefit are the tree and plants for the new patio area, the organ repair fund, replacement curtains for the Embury Room, and repair or replacement of the picnic table. Every little bit helps!

We also are very grateful to Dick Powell and Todd Loucks for all the time and energy they spent getting Jeff's new office ready. We also thank Dick Powell for his supervision of SUNY students from the "Into the Street's" project. Among other tasks they washed a lot of windows!

Summer Fun! Gathering People (and interested others) are invited to 3 summer get-togethers so we can stay connected while the Gathering Service is on summer recess. The first will be on Sunday, June 16th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Aaron and Sarah Miller, 6 Roosevelt Avenue, Oneonta. Please bring something to grill as well as a dish to pass. Beverages will be provided. Save the dates of July 28th and August 25th starting at 3 p.m. for summer fun at the home of Heather Barreto, 63 Watson Street, Unadilla (hint: besides food, please bring your bathing suits!) Gathering Worship will start again for the fall season at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 8th.

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.

Keep up-to-date! One way to keep current on what is happening at FUMC consider signing up for the weekly email notice our secretary, Leslie, distributes weekly via email. Just call the office and let them know and, if we don't have your email address, please provide it.

The United Methodist Women's Book Group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 10:00 a.m. We are now discussing the book *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover, an unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves and goes to college. Please join us for fellowship and lively discussion. Our next meeting is May 23 at Lucy Ingalls' home. The book group will meet in June but not again until September 12. 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

Seminar- What My Family Needs To Know- In memory of Virginia Wilson, who helped so many church folks organize the services for their loved ones, UMW is sponsoring a short workshop on planning ahead: organizing important papers, writing an obituary, and planning a memorial service. Along with a booklet created by our UMW, Catskill Area Hospice has generously provided us the 5 Wishes document, a health care proxy / living will instrument, which will be given to each seminar participant to discuss with their loved ones in the privacy of their home. This seminar will be offered at 11:30 a.m. Sunday June 2nd at the church in the Art Room. The facilitator will be Allison Bookhout. Bring your coffee and snack from Fellowship Hall – we will keep this under an hour. If you plan to attend please RSVP to bookhoutajay@gmail.com

Annual Conference 2019: Upper New York Conference Annual Session—June 6-9, 2019 in Syracuse, NY. The theme is “Pathways & Possibilities: Journeying Together. Pastor Marti, Margaret Parish, Joyce Miller, and Sarah Miller will be representing our church at the annual session of our Upper NY Conference. Along with voting on the conference budget and hearing reports from conference committees, agencies, and ministries, our representatives will be voting on a number of resolutions. Please keep all the delegates to the annual conference session in your prayers as the conference tries to come together on difficult issues.

Mission U: Formerly known as the “School of Christian Mission,” Mission U is an opportunity for growth - spiritually, intellectually, and socially. Schools will be held at three locations in our conference: Cazenovia College (July 12-14); Asbury Camp & Retreat Center (July 25-27), and the Silver Bay YMCA Conference Center on Lake George (September 6-8). This year's Spiritual Growth Study is “Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark & Radical Discipleship” and the Issues Study is “What About Our Money? A Faith Response.” These studies will be held at all three venues. At Silver Bay only there is study on “Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission. For more information, go to www.unymissionu.org. It is a great weekend of fellowship, singing, worshiping, learning and fun. Scholarships are available through First UMC United Methodist Women and/or UNY Mission U (contact Joyce Miller).

Attention Veterans: The Oneonta American Legion Post 259 is looking for new members to get involved in its mission. You are eligible to join if you served in the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard during any of these times of armed conflict :August 2, 1990—present, December 20, 1989—January 31, 1990, August 24 1982—July 31, 1984, February 28, 1961—May 7, 1975, June 25 1950—January 31, 1955, December 7, 1941—December 31, 1956, and received an honorable discharge from your service. You are also eligible is you are still honorably serving. Incoming Legion Adjunct Bruce Von Holtz would like to see more of his church family get involved in this worthy organization. For more information, contact Bruce at bfvonholtz@gmail.com

Pridefest! On June 1st come support the 3rd annual Oneonta Pridefest! Celebrate diversity, raise awareness in the community, and have fun together. The line-up for the parade is at Market Street at 1:30 p.m. with the parade kicking off at 2:00 going to Main Street and ending at Neahwa Park for a family-friendly festival from 2:30-8:00 p.m. when the fireworks start This event is sponsored by the Otsego Pride Alliance. FUMC will have a presence there. Come and join us!

~ Caring and Sharing ~ from May

*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, Ginny Pence, Betty Lynch, and Bill Pharr.

IN SYMPATHY:

- *Lynda Calkins and her family on the death of her Uncle Joe.*
- *Gail Niles and her family on the death of her aunt, Sally Engelhard Herring.*
- *Family and friends of Geraldine E. Sousa, a former member of FUMC.*

- *Margaret Parish on the death of her best friend, Joan Hall.*
- *Family of John Major's father, who passed away.*

THANK YOU NOTES:

Dear Members and Friends of Oneonta's First United Methodist Church, thank you for your numerous prayers, cards, dinners, cheerful visits, and offers to help us, following my fall and the injuries that resulted. Each of you was a blessing from church and contributed greatly to my recovery.

Our family members were familiar with the kindness of the church members, but they were overwhelmed by the attention we received. We send our combined thanks to all of you.

Harry and Ginny Pence

NEXT REPORTER (for July-August) DEADLINE: JUNE 15!

Roller Derby: The Hill City Rollers have their first bout of the season against Ladies Death & Derby Society at Interskate 88 on Sunday, June 2. It all starts at 2:00 and the doors open at 1:00. Come support our child care provider, Keshia Genzardi.

Schedule:

<i>June 2</i>	<i>HCR 1st HOME bout vs Ladies Death & Derby Society</i>	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>July 7</i>	<i>HCR vs Assault City Roller Derby</i>	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>July 28</i>	<i>HCR vs BC Rollers</i>	<i>2:00 p.m.</i>
<i>AUGUST 25</i>	<i>Hill City Heat B-Team Tournament</i>	<i>9:00 a.m.</i>