

The Reporter, May 2022

First United Methodist Church
66 Chestnut Street
Oneonta, NY 13820



Photo from needpix.com

Worship Themes for May

Lent lasts 40 days as preparation to Easter. Then after all that prep, we get one day of Hallelujahs, trumpets, chocolate, flowers and eggs? No way! Easter is a whole season. "The Great Fifty Days" is what the tradition of our faith calls the period between Easter and Pentecost, when Jesus spent time with his beloved community as Risen Lord, before the Ascension and the giving of the Spirit. Let's celebrate! It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Early Service Worshippers: please note that the 8:15 Sunday service is back in the Embury Room (assuming COVID continues to behave itself). Spread the word!

Because we'll be out of range of the sanctuary camera, the 8:15 in the Embury Room might not be livestreamed, but will be available later on FUMC's YouTube channel. The 10:30 service will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook, Zoom and YouTube. (We are experimenting with other ways to livestream from the Embury Room....stay tuned!)

At 8:15 and/or 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, you are invited to worship "in person" in our beautiful sanctuary. Or, to livestream either service, please connect with Zoom by computer: <https://zoom.us/j/195736049>; or call on your phone: 1- 646-558- 8656 Meeting ID: 195 736 049. You will be admitted from the "waiting room." Both services are also on Facebook Live in the FUMC Oneonta group and also on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrgIF0zhMPRwn8rc4U3Vbaw>

Between services, our Digging Deeper adult class is delving into a new series on immigration: "Welcoming the Stranger", 9:30 downstairs in the Art Room; and Sunday School is offered for kids from preschool through 6th grade in the Sunday School wing downstairs. After the 10:30 service, please come greet your neighbors in the dining room upstairs for Fellowship Time with coffee and tea and light refreshments.

Sunday, May 1st – Third Sunday of Easter. Holy Communion will grace our table as we hear stories of transformation from the Book of Acts and the Gospel of John. In preparation, please read: Psalm 30; Acts 9:1-6; Revelation 5:11-14; and John 21:1-19.

Sunday, May 8th – Fourth Sunday of Easter: Good Shepherd Sunday. The entire Bible is a story of people on the move: just as most of us (unless we are fullblooded Native Americans) are immigrants to this land, so also were our Biblical forbears strangers and sojourners upon the earth. Today we will lift up all migrants, immigrants and asylum-seekers into the shepherding arms of God. Please read: Psalm 23; Acts 9:36-43; Revelation 7:9-17; and John 10:22-30.

Sunday, May 15th – Fifth Sunday of Easter. “Change is all around us, even in the church. And change is never easy. Our text from Acts this week is about a whole new direction for the beginnings of the church. It has to do with who was considered worthy to include and who should be avoided. Peter pushed the church to go further than they were comfortable going. Wait, no, it wasn’t Peter. The Holy Spirit pushed the church to go further than they were comfortable. And that has been the church’s story from then on.” – Dr. Derek Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, umcdiscipleship.org. Please read Psalm 148; Acts 11:1-18; Revelation 21:1-6; and John 13:31-35.

Sunday, May 22nd – Sixth Sunday of Easter. We celebrate the hospitality of a businesswoman named Lydia, whom Paul met in the Macedonian city of Philippi. You never know whom you’ll meet when you’re frequenting a place of prayer! Please read Psalm 67; Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; and John 14:23-29.

Sunday, May 29th – Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension of Our Lord. “Good trouble” is a phrase that has grown in the consciousness of the nation. Representative John Lewis, a towering figure for civil rights, coined the phrase; and more than that, he lived it. Our Acts text for this week says there are wrongs that need righted. But maybe it isn’t quite that clear. It says there are systems, there are presumptions and prejudices, there are oppressive patterns and economic cycles that are impossible to break out of without help. How will we disturb the city today? – Dr. Derek Weber, umcdiscipleship.org. Please read: Psalm 97; Acts 16:16-34; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; and Luke 24:44-53.

Pastor’s Page Who’s Up for a Party?

For years I’ve said: “I wouldn’t want to belong to a church where Mark Miller wasn’t welcome in all his fullness.” Mark is the preeminent hymn and anthem writer of our age. He’s a Black, gay United Methodist musician and composer, and I’ve been proud to be a Miller groupie for many years.

Mark is Director of Craig Chapel and Composer in Residence at Drew Theological School, one of our United Methodist seminaries, in Madison NJ. In 2021, he was named Theological Teacher of the Year at Drew, and was promoted to full professor. “Staying active in his craft, Miller serves as the Minister of Music at Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey, as well as a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale University—his alma mater where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in music. Miller also earned his Master of Music in organ performance from The Julliard School.”¹

Mark was our Annual Conference Musician several times when Dana and I served in North Central New York. He gave me a great compliment by asking me to join him onstage to play the congas with his band – what fun! His heart is as big as his vocal range – I’ve heard him sing from low bass to high tenor, helping all voices find their way through the music.

¹ “Theo School Focus on Faculty” <https://drew.edu/stories/2021/07/13/theo-school-focus-on-faculty-2/>

Next week, May 6th – 7th, all of us have a marvelous opportunity to experience Mark's leadership in music at a Resurgence Tent Revival at Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church. Mark will lead us in song Friday evening and all day Saturday! Can't wait! He will be joined by keynote speaker Ms. Garlinda Burton, a UM deaconess who brings 30 years of experience as a writer, editor, producer, and trainer around issues of intercultural competency, racial justice, and gender justice. Several years ago, Ms. Burton was the trainer for those of us who led the Human Sexuality and the Bible sessions at Mission U – Dana and I traveled to Charlotte NC to be trained as leaders by the national UMW. She was terrific!

It's coming up soon, but I hope you all will at least come to Saratoga for the day on Saturday May 7th, even if you can't come for Friday night. It's free! We'll reconnect with other UM Reconciling church folk and make new friends as well as learning and singing a lot.

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!
Rev. Marti

Kristina Marinova, Pianist Concert - Friday , May 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.

Kristina Marinova has been described as a virtuoso pianist with an extreme energy and youthful vibrance. Her crystal clear and beautiful sound enhances her stormy expressions and performances, full of grace and style, all the while giving the opportunity to find the richest worlds of timbre and colors and while becoming one with the music.

Kristina has appeared in major music festivals as a performer and educator and has collaborated with some of the most prominent musicians in the world. She has also been awarded numerous prizes and fellowships including the Virtuoso Etudes Piano Competition, German Compositions Piano Competition, Piano Solo Concerto Competition for the Bulgarian Symphony Orchestra, the Ohrid Summer Festival, UCA Piano Concerto Competition and UCA Piano Competition, and the Arts on Tour- Arts Council. As a soloist, she has performed in Europe and in the United States, sharing the stage with world renowned musicians such as Kristine Lewis, Monica Yunus, Weston Hurt, Cheryse McLeod Lewis, Andrea Dyachenko, and Tarn Travers. One of her most memorable experiences was performing the entire Goldberg Variations, BWV 988 by Johann Sebastian Bach.

This concert is open to the public. A free will offering would be appreciated.
First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820 (607) 432-4102

Calling all Ms. / Mr. Fixits!

We know you're out there! Are you handy with a hammer, a paintbrush or a screwdriver? How many United Methodists does it take to screw in a lightbulb? If you know "righty tighty, lefty loosey" by heart and would be willing to be called upon from time to time to do minor repairs at church, our Trustees would like to talk to you! Materials provided; we just need willing hands and handy people. Please contact the church office if you'd like to be one of our "handy helpers" – you may email info@firstumc-oneonta.org to volunteer or call (607) 432-4102. Thank you! – Kelly Hansen, Trustee.

Mary Breuninger Day

On Sunday, May 15th at the 10:30 service, we'll take time to bid a fond "so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu" to Mary Breuninger. After many years of living and raising a family in Oneonta with our dear Dick Breuninger, whom we lost in June of 2020, Mary is moving at the end of May to Waverly, NY to live with her sister Jean. Here's her new address: 502 Ellis Creek Road, Waverly, NY 14892.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for all that the Breuningers have meant to us over the years. Mary has been an active member of United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) as well as giving of her time and talents to church committees and events. We will miss you, Mary!

TURN IT UP - UMW/United Women in Faith NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Virtual from Orlando, Florida on MAY 20 & 21

The 2022 **National Assembly** will **reflect** on today's challenges and **together find comfort and strength** to move forward, **building new ways** for faith-filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world. For such a time as this we will **TURN IT UP!**

TURN IT UP! for Spiritual Healing and Renewal

TURN IT UP! for Rebirth in New Time

TURN IT UP! for Women Leaders

TURN IT UP! for Justice for Women, Children and Youth

COME TO FIRST UMC to Virtually: **CARE** for Your Spirit, **WORSHIP** with your Sisters from all over the US and around the world, and **CELEBRATE** the Positive Impact Women Create in the World!

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS: Fri, May 20, 8:45 – 10:15 AM and 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Sat, May 21, 8:45 - 10:15 AM and 4:30 – 6:00 PM

WORKSHOPS: Fri, May 20, 12:30 – 2:00, New Wine Skins (the new name & brand)

Fri, May 20, 2:30 – 4:00, Soul Care Retreats: How to Enjoy or Design Own

Sat, May 21, 11:00 – 1:00, Women In Leadership: Live Faith Talk

Sat, May 21, 2:30 – 4:00, Putting the Fun in Fundraising

Come for Parts or ALL of the offerings. Bring your own snacks & lunch as needed.

Feel the Fellowship and Power of UMW/United Women in Faith---in the US and around the world!!

Be Just, Be Green – Margaret Green

Many of us who care about creation justice might think we have more important things to worry about to create a whole and healthy world than our clothing but as you'll see from this information from Creation Justice Ministries that couldn't be further from the truth.

The clothing industry is a multi-trillion dollar industry and connects issues of labor rights, gender justice, agricultural practices, water pollution, and toxic waste, to name a few. Clothing is a foundational Christian metaphor, but we don't take seriously the issues of social, environmental, and economic justice that the industry grapples with and how they connect to our faith. The largest industrial disaster in the garment industries history happened when the Rana Plaza building collapsed, killing over 1,100 people and injuring almost 2,600. This entirely preventable tragedy launched a global movement for reform in the apparel industry that continues to this day.

For several weeks in our bulletin you'll find tips for bringing creation justice into your own wardrobe.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your relationship to your clothing, and the ways it connects you to God, earth, and neighbor. Practice the spiritual discipline of paying attention. Notice your relationship to your closet and take steps to incorporate creation justice into what you wear.

From the UWF Cream Team

It's time to get ready for Spring and Summer "pests" with our proven All-natural Tick Spray. It's safe for children over the age of 6 months, adults, and dogs. A 4 oz. spray bottle costs \$5: refills of bottles previously bought cost \$3.

We sell our other all-natural products all year: hand sanitizer, goats milk soap, body butter, sugar scrubs, lotion bars in tins, deodorant, face lotion for sensitive skin, and our very popular My Baby's Bottom in a Jar moisturizer. For more information, or to place an order, contact Sharon McCarthy at 607-433-2185, or skmccarthy@stny.rr.com.

OTSEGO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COALITION

In This Issue • Who we are • Awareness of the need • Our Vision and Mission • How the faith community can help Dear Pastor and Clergy, I am sending this letter on behalf of the Otsego Refugee Resettlement Coalition. The purpose of this letter is four fold:

1. To introduce who we are
2. To bring awareness to the need of the refugee situation
3. To share the vision and mission of the coalition
4. To share our need and how the faith community can help us see our vision and mission become a reality.

The coalition has been meeting since last Fall. We have 50 members from the community and various organizations. We have been working closely with the Refugee Center in Utica. The refugee situation is one of great need. 2.2 million Afghans have fled their country to other countries and 3.5 million Afghans have been forced to flee their homes within Afghanistan's borders. More than 4 million Ukrainians are living as refugees in neighboring countries. The Refugee Center in Utica is telling us that the need is great as they are beginning to see refugees coming to central New York.

Our vision and mission is to do our part in responding to the need. A goal of ours is to begin by resettling 10 refugees (2 to 3 families) in our area. If this is to happen, we need the help of the faith community in Otsego County. We are desperately in need of affordable housing for these families for 6 to 12 months. Does your house of worship have available housing and can you make the need known to your parishioners and let me know if you have anyone that is willing to rent to these families?

I am including with this letter a report prepared by the Refugee Center in Utica on Housing Needs for Refugee Resettlement. This report includes information for landlords, basic housing needs and housing characteristics. They are willing to answer any questions you may have.

Lastly, we want to schedule a meeting at the beginning of May to further share how you can help us. One of the topics for discussion is how to bring the plight of the refugees to your parishioners. National Refugee Sunday has been designated as June 19. Our hope is that you will use some suggestions that you pick up from our meeting to engender support in your parish or church for meeting the refugee challenges in this area.

Please get back to me if you are interested in getting together and what day of the week would be best for you. I can be reached at 607-282-2521 or my e-mail at aaswad@stny.rr.com.

Sincerely, Ameen Aswad

United Women in Faith (Formerly UMW) Rummage & Book Sale – Joyce Miller

Thursday, May 5, 9 am - 6 pm- Friday, May 6, 9 am – 1 pm (\$2 bag sale all day Friday)

The *United Women in Faith Rummage Sale* is a Win-Win-Win situation. The community benefits with clothes and goods at low prices! YOU benefit by cleaning out your closets and cupboards! The *United Women in Faith* benefits by the profits generated! True recycling!! You may bring your donations to the front of the stage in Fellowship Hall through Sunday, May 1. **Please only bring in clothing and household goods that are usable and in good condition.** If clothing is ripped or stained, or appliances don't work, please throw them away yourself. **NO TV's.** Thank you for your cooperation.

The **Book Sale** is always popular, but **NO MORE BOOKS ARE BEING ACCEPTED**. Books on CD and DVDs are still accepted..

Volunteers are needed on set-up days, May 1 (between 2 and 6), 2, 3 & 4 (from 9 until ?) We appreciate any time that fits into your schedules—one hour or all day. On Thursday, May 5, help is needed in 3 hour shifts: 9 – 12, 12 – 3 or 3 – 6. On Friday, clean-up help is needed from 1 – 3 or 3:30 depending on the size of the crew. Men are warmly welcome to help with set-up (particularly Sunday & Monday) and clean-up on Friday. Many hands make light work!!! Contact Joyce Miller (607-432-8751) or millerumw@verizon.net --- or say YES to Joyce if she emails or calls you!

RESURGENCE A Progressive Tent Revival Style Gathering -Saratoga Springs UMC

May 6th and 7th, Saratoga Springs UMC, 175 5th Avenue, Saratoga Springs NY

Join us as we REcommit to our shared identity, RESisting evil and injustice; to REpent and REclaim the beauty and the brokenness of our tradition, and to REimagine what Methodism can look like in the future. Together with the Word spoken and sung, we will REstore our connection and celebrate our future with hope.

Registration for this event FREE. Meals and souvenirs will be available for purchase. To Pre-purchase discounted tickets for Brooks' Barbecue lunch, follow the link provided at the end of the registration form.

You will find the brochure for the event included with your Reporter. The registration is also below in google forms. There is no cost to attend the event and there is food (vegan options available) to purchase, and Brooke's BBQ tickets can be purchased through the registration form. There will be childcare available during the concert and keynote, as well as children's activities (including a bounce house) throughout the day Saturday. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Heather or Alisyn.

This is what holiness looks like! **#Resist #REnew #REimagine #REcommit** pastorheather@saratogaumc.org or pastoralisyn@saratogaumc.org

https://docs.google.com/document/d/12cs2znGm2qWCTfuqvBwZXLwTRTBt5FMBn_231vqe5SI/edit?usp=sharing

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSddI-L0487IamMmubI5xfo9rXn6muXq1-4N10eJO-28KuaY1Q/viewform>

First United Methodist Church Oneonta

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