



## THE SCROLL- SEPTEMBER 2019

### Smithtown United Methodist Church

230 Middle Country Road, Smithtown NY 11787

631-265-6945/[www.smithtownumc.org](http://www.smithtownumc.org)

#### Worship Times:

*Communion every 1st Sunday in the month*

*Congregational Worship service: 10am every Sunday*

#### **Church Staff:**

Rev. Lynda Bates-Steppe  
Pastor

Bowei Chen  
Music Director

AnnMarie Dee  
Administrator

#### **Lay Leadership:**

Sam Newman  
Certified Lay Minister

#### **Council Committee:**

Chris Lauro  
Chair

#### **SPR Committee:**

Phyllis Heinen  
Chair

#### **Finance Team:**

Ken Moncayo  
Interim Chair

#### **Trustee Board:**

Peter Reinke  
Chair

#### **Sunday School:**

Maryanne Byrus  
Superintendent

#### **Wesleyan Pre-School**

Tracy Truncale  
Director

#### **Parkinson's Therapy Center**

Francine Timm, RN  
Director

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

It's the middle of August on a hot summer day and my calendar is already open to October. It seems so far away but it will be here before we know it! There's a lot of good things planned for this fall and for those of us in the midst of planning we are looking ahead with eager anticipation. There's much to be excited about: Worship back in the sanctuary, the Country Fair, Sunday school, parsonage open houses, meetings with Bishop Bickerton, confirmation class, Bible study groups – just a few of the things coming up. And this is before the holidays!

But with all the excitement with what is yet to be, let's not forget that each day has its own potential and promise. I'm writing this just before I take a vacation break and you'll be receiving it right after the Labor Day weekend; still the lengthy, warm, hopefully sunny days of summer. I hope your summer has been a good one and that it wraps up with contentment and joy. Let us remember that each season and each day is a gift from God filled with blessing.

May the blessing of today touch your heart and soul. May the Presence make special the moment. And may your spirit be lifted up by the Spirit that moves among us summer, autumn, winter and spring. Blessings to you today and every day!

Peace

- Rev. Lynda

## Stewardship Moment

By: Diane Wallace, Stewardship Chair

Sunday Scaries ,

I have never heard the term before but last month on Good Morning America it was reported that 81% of Americans experience it!

They explained the *scaries* are things left till Sunday to do and **must** be done before the work/school week begins scary!

I don't know about you but the rest of the week felt like that to me. But Sunday was my day to go to church. No matter what was happening, or had to happen we went to church. This was the beginning or end of my week depending on what shift or day I was given off that week.

I always looked forward to Sunday; it kept me stable and balanced. I got to meet and greet others of like feelings and many with the same stress level as me. But for one hour, plus fellowship time, life is full of hope and promise. Prayers for each other and people we don't even know.

If you experience this phenomenon, The Sunday Scaries, you must come to church to experience hope, love and fellowship in action. As the stewardship person, I cannot put a price tag on it. But I know how I would feel if I came to church and the doors were locked and the church was closed. Many only experience church during baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Our God is a living God. When you experience it the scaries go away.

Look for your invitation and come join us in October for our first Parsonage Open House. Experience Building community on faith in Christ, celebrate our church, forming bonds and make new friends. See all that we have accomplished.

Oh by the way our church fair is Sept 21<sup>st</sup> this is a great time to have fun and fellowship together and show the community who we are.

All Hands on Deck!

# HERE ARE THE VALUES AND COVENANT THE CHURCH WILL BE REVIEWING FOR ADOPTION AT OUR ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE.

## OUR MISSION

*Building Community on Faith in Christ*

## OUR VALUES

**Faith:** belief in our hopes even without evidence; trust in the Triune God

**Mutual respect through communication:** treating others as God would and being open by saying the truth with love while taking responsibility for our words and actions

**Prayer:** communication with God with our hearts focused on God, giving thanks to the Holy One.

**Agape Love:** sharing peace and joyfulness with all others even when we don't like or agree with each other. Treating each other with love, acceptance, forgiveness and warmth.

## OUR COVENANT

As members of the body of Christ at Smithtown United Methodist church we acknowledge that conflicts and disagreements are natural and can be a way of new growth and possibility. However, when unaddressed they can become detrimental and harmful to the church. To help alleviate this harm "there must be an understanding based on Christian [values,] love and forgiveness." (Joe Bass, *Adding Power to the Cross*, self-published p. 108)

To help facilitate positive communication and growth we commit to the following actions and ways of relating to each other.

We will listen to each other without interruption and respect each other.

We will be thoughtful and respectful of our words and actions in formal and informal settings.

We will support and encourage each other in our faith journey as we grow in our knowledge of and relationship with God.

We will be inclusive and welcoming to all people, including all church participants as equal members of this family of God.

We will work together acknowledging our disagreements and working to reach an understanding honoring and supporting the final group decision.

Our purpose for being is to worship God and build community based on faith in Christ. As our church grows, this covenant outlines a common understanding of how all persons can relate to one another for the benefit of our mission.

## **Important Announcement from SPRC Submitted by Phyllis Heinen**

**New York State has implemented new laws to combat **Sexual Harassment** in the workplace. By October 2019 all churches must be in compliance with the new laws.**

**Sexual Harassment can more easily be prevented when everyone is aware of what constitutes unlawful sexual harassment, how any complaints are handled, and the responsibility of the Pastor, Congregants, and employees.**

**The biggest change in the New York Statute requires an interactive sexual misconduct training course for all PAID EMPLOYEES of the church. This can be done online.**

**Practical Resources for Churches (PRC) Local Division is in Com-mack (631-821-2255) This resource center has set up online training aimed at a church audience---it is called a Webinar. These webinars are free to all our church members and employees. Any one can participate in the online training.**

**The free Webinar, Sexual Harassment Prevention Training, can be obtained at the following site: [webinar@prcli.com](mailto:webinar@prcli.com) Anyone can register. All are welcome to take the course; those who are paid employees are mandated to take the course. It is suggested that church leaders also take advantage of this online course. The certificate earned at the end of the course must be submitted to the church office and be placed on file.**

**For additional resources, visit**

**[www.ny.gov/programs/combating-sexual-harassment-workplace](http://www.ny.gov/programs/combating-sexual-harassment-workplace)**

**The SPRC chair and committee will continue to update the congregation, Parkinson's Center, Wesleyan School, and employees as we develop a policy and standards for Sexual Harassment Prevention, and the complaint forms necessary.**

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**UPPER ROOM Devotional Booklets**, September-October Edition, are available in the Narthex.

## **A NEW STUDY GROUP**

**“Jesus didn’t come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution.”**

**What made Jesus so radical for his time? What about for our time? What does Jesus have to do with the world we live in as his disciples? Join us for a Study/Discussion group on the Renegade Gospel and the Rebel Jesus.**

**WHEN:** Wednesday October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6.

**WHERE:** Choir Room at Smithtown United Methodist Church

**TIME:** Dinner 6:30pm, Study 7:00pm. Bring food to share. Drinks will be provided.

**COST:** \$11.00 for the book

**RESOURCE:** Mike Slaughter “Renegade Gospel, The Rebel Jesus”

**Put your name on the Sign-up sheet outside the Sanctuary.**

**SMITHTOWN LANDING AVE. CHURCH** The Annual September Service will take place on Sunday, **September 15 at 3:00pm.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** begins on Sunday, September 22 at 10:00am.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** 29th Annual Country Fair will be held on **Saturday, September 21st, 10am to 4pm** (rain or shine).



**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

**THE ACT 11 THRIFT SHOP:** The Shop hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am–1pm. **Donations are accepted during store hours.**

**THE SMITHTOWN PARKINSON THERAPY CENTER:** The Smithtown Parkinson Therapy Center is a mission of the Smithtown United Methodist Church helping those suffering from this condition to live their best life. Volunteers are welcome. If you know of anyone who would like to come to the center, please have them contact (631) 265-6621 for more information.

**WESLEYAN SCHOOL:** For registration forms or more information, call the School Office at (631) 265-2625. Visit our website at <http://wesleyan-preschool.org/>. For current happenings and pictures and check out our Facebook page.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** You may give your tithe and offerings regularly through Electronic Fund Transfers through your bank. Authorization forms are located outside the church office, or call the office and one will be sent to you. Another way to donate is through our website; click on "Donate Online" under "Contact Us" and it will take you directly to a payment screen. God bless your giving.

**BUY-A-BRICK CAMPAIGN:** What a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one. Application forms are available in the Narthex.

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

***HOMEBOUND:*** Bonnie Baier, Bill Baier, Lillian Bowman,  
Marion Bontempi, Mary Machecek

***HEALING FOR:*** Elaine Calinoff, Brianne Mathews, Donna Paul, Edith Horowitz,  
John Giunta, Bob Bauer

***FAITH & COMFORT FOR:*** Family of Paul Oehler, Family of Gene Harmon,  
Family of Rachel Rabinowitz, Family of Charles Oehler, Family of Michael  
McDermott

