

The Messenger

The Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Greene NY
July, August, September 2018 Edition



From Pastor Michele:

The Fiery Furnace

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." (Isaiah 32:2)

One of the most beautiful pictures of trusting in the sovereignty of God is in the story of three young Jewish men: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. These three boys refused to bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's idol. The punishment for such rebellion against the king was death in a fiery furnace. When the young men were taken before the king just before facing death, they respectfully explained; *"The God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."* (Daniel 3:17-18) That is a faith that's real – truly tried by fire. God can deliver me, but if he chooses not to, I'll serve him anyway. God can heal me, but if he doesn't, I love him regardless.

The young men were thrown into the furnace. Their refusal to bow to the king's request infuriated Nebuchadnezzar. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie the young men up and toss them into the flames. The flames were so hot, the soldiers who took the bound boys to the furnace died in its heat. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked into the flames as the king stood by and watched. *"Didn't we throw three men in the furnace,"* the king asked in amazement. *"Look, I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."* (Daniel 3:25) That was enough for the king to have a change of heart. He ordered the door opened and the three young men walked out of that furnace without a singed hair on their heads or a hint of smoke on their clothes!

We can be sure of this – when walking through the fiery trials of life, we are never alone. Jesus is right there with us all the way. A little smoke and fire doesn't bother him one little bit. As believers, we know that God is able to deliver. However, we also know that God does not always do so. Romans 5 tells us that God may allow trials and difficulties in our lives to build character, strengthen our faith, or for other reasons unknown to us. We may not always understand the purpose of our trials, but God simply asks that we trust him – even when it's not easy. Job, who endured incredible pain, almost unsurmountable agony and suffering, was still able to say, *"Though he may slay me, yet will I hope in him."* (Job 13:15)

We also know that God does not always guarantee that we will never suffer or experience death, but he does promise to be with us always. We should learn that in times of trial and persecution our attitude should reflect that of these three young men; *"But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."* (Daniel 3:18)

Without question, these are some of the most courageous words ever spoken. Jesus himself said, *"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell."* (Matthew 10:28) Even if Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had to suffer a horrible, painful death in a burning oven, they refused to abandon God and worship an idol. Such faith has been seen innumerable times throughout the centuries by believers who have suffered martyrdom for the Lord.

Nebuchadnezzar was astonished that the fire did not consume Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. When we walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7), there may be those times of fiery persecution, but we can be assured that Jesus is with us. (Matthew 28:20) He will sustain us. (Psalm 55:22; Psalm 147:6) He will ultimately deliver us. He will save us...eternally. (Matthew 25:41,46)

The lesson from the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego is that, as Christians, we will never be able to bring the world to Christ by becoming like it. We should reveal to the world a higher power, a greater purpose, and a superior morality than that of the world in which we live. If we are put before the fiery furnace, we can reveal the One who can deliver us from it. Remember the powerful, yet comforting, words of the Apostle Paul; "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Our hope when experiencing illness, persecution or pain lies in knowing that this life is not the end – there is life after death. That is the promise of Christ to all those who love, obey, trust, and believe in him. Knowing that we will have eternal life with God enables us to live above the pain and suffering we endure in this life.

(John 14:23)

Grace and peace, my friends,
Pastor Michele

Pastor Michele can be reached by cell phone: 910-260-0660 or email: revmicheleclark@gmail.com

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Sunday, July 15th hosted once again by Alan and Maryanne Lord.

Come one and all – enjoy the beauty of God's creation as we worship and celebrate together

Worship begins at 11am followed by great food and fellowship. Bring your own table service, a dish to pass, and your lawn chairs.

Boating, swimming and games are available so come prepared for a fun day!

Food Pantry Updates:

from Judy Kelly

For the month of June we collected 60 food items.
Keep up the good work!



Food
Pantry
Ministry

Food items are needed all summer long and are much appreciated. Thank you.

MISSIONS



We are collecting money weekly for the Fuel Fund. The goal is \$5,000. to keep our church warm this coming winter. Thus far we have collected \$ 217.37. Won't you prayerfully consider how you can help to keep our church warm with your donations.

We continue to collect bottles and cans to help cover Sky Lake camperships. This year there are six (6) young folks going to Sky Lake Camp and one (1) to SNAP. **Praise the Lord!** We were able to cover all costs for campers this year, thanks to you and your generous donations. Keep those bottles and cans coming!

In August we will be reaching out to children to be ready for the coming school year. Be sure to watch your Sunday bulletins for more information.

All are welcome at our Missions meetings. Won't you please help us as we reach out to the community in the name of Jesus Christ.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

from Scott Clark

There was a long discussion about Counters' responsibilities. A list of updated objectives will be forthcoming.

We have redefined the funding process for individual projects: get prior approval and receipts for disbursements. This will remain true into the foreseeable future.

Tithing, or at least a 20% increase was underscored as an important objective.



Sponsored by Greene Area Churches

Tuesday, July 24th Hosted at Central Baptist Church,
37 S. Chenango Street

Registration at 5:30pm All activities begin at 6:00pm

COME, JOIN US: *A Lesson in Trusting God*

Group 1: Ages 3 – 5
Group 2: Ages 6 - 8
Group 3: Ages 9 – 12
Teen Volunteers: Ages 13 – 17

Bible Verse/ Story
Video/ Snack Time
Arts & Crafts
Closing and Prayer

Questions? Call Pastor Norm at Central Baptist 607-656-4512

RUMMAGE

SALE

from Merelyn Rogers

August 20, 21, 22 4 – 6pm
Bag Sale on the 22nd from 5 – 6pm
Set up Aug. 12 – 19

“Gently used and clean” items can be brought to church anytime after Sun. Aug 12th.
Please leave items in the Social Room.

We would like to paint the Social Room. There will be paint chips to help select colors. Please place a check (✓) by the color you would like to see. The color that has the most checks will be the one we pick.



If you would like to help with the painting, please sign up, leaving a contact phone number – we will contact you. Thanks!



from Kay Clark

Thursday, July 19th we will meet for lunch at Geneganslet Golf Club. All women welcome. Please join us at Noon.

Tuesday, August 14th we would like to ask everyone who is able, to make cakes in disposable pans for the Children's Home Ice Cream Social, which is open to the public that evening.

Please have cakes to the church kitchen by 10:30am – we will gather at 11am, load the cakes into vehicles and deliver them to the Home, and then go out to lunch at the Red Oak Diner on Upper Front Street.

Thursday, September 20th at 11:45am we will host our annual “indoor picnic” to kick off the new season. Please bring an item we can donate to our silent auction – money raised from this goes to support local missions. Also bring a dish to pass – dessert will be provided. Come prepared for fun! North Fenton and Whitney Point women are invited.

Our women: please gather at 11am to set up and to have a short meeting. Thanks.

COFFEE HOUR

from Kay Clark

Coffee Hour Teams yearly schedule will be posted in September. Team #1 will kick us off on Sunday, September 9th (Rally Day) as usual, followed by Team #2 the next Sunday.

If you would like to join a team, please contact Kay Clark – let her know that you are interested as soon as possible (607-656-7935 or kaysie.clark@gmail.com)



LECTOR SCHEDULE:

Kay also sets up the Lector Schedule in September for the 2018-19 year. If you would like to participate in helping to open the worship service a few times a year, please let Kay know.

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS:

Kay is planning on having the children sing each Sunday at the end of the Sunday School time upstairs. She will be singing with the "Little's" in the UPK, K, 1 & 2 Classrooms first. Then, if no one else wants to lead the middle age children in singing, she will join their class and sing a few songs each week.



Note the Plea here for someone to step forward and sing with the Intermediate aged group at the end of the class time! Thanks all!!

USHER SCHEDULE

JULY 1. Edie Miller – Esther Williams
8. Judy Kelly – Gloria Dayton
15. Janette Hicks – Edie Miller (church picnic)
22. Connie Smithka – Edie Miller
29. Community Worship at Lions' Park

AUGUST 5. Esther Williams – Janette Hicks
12. Connie Smithka – Judy Halstrom
19. Lorna Eroshevich – Edie Miller
26. Judy Kelly – Mary Webb

SEPTEMBER 2. Connie Smithka – Mary Webb
9. Lorna Eroshevich – Judy Halstrom
16. Judy Kelly – Janette Hicks
23. Mary Webb – Edie Miller
30. Esther Williams – Judy Halstrom

Thank you to all for donating your time to usher. Your service is greatly appreciated. If you are unable to Usher for a Sunday you are assigned, please choose someone from the list to fill in for you.

ATTENDANCE

MAY	6. 67	JUNE	3. 44
	13. 70		10. 71
	21. 91		17. 43
	27. 50		24. 49

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

5. Matthew Williams
6. Kylie Griffin
8. Jeanne Kennicutt
10. Deb Turner
15. Linda Safford
18. Alan Lord
19. Sarah Sexton
20. Lorna Eroshevich
25. Bob Sternbergh
28. Lori Flohr & Judy Kelly
30. Winnie Sortman
31. Jan Carr & Juliette Evans

BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

1. David Gorsline
6. John Carr
9. Susan Stracquadanio
13. Alice Granger
15. Eva Gibbs
17. Craig Hebbard
25. Rachel Anderson & Jeremy Flohr

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

1. Debbie Barnes
6. Jamie Scott
8. Kristin Burghardt
11. Shaun Detweiler & Meredith Scott
12. Cork Rockwell
13. James Carr Sr., & Sandra Acevedo
14. Michelle Evans & Alex Trifunovic
17. Kasey Ketcham
22. David Barnes
23. Rachelle Moran & Colleen Dietrich
24. Caden Gregware
27. Jamison Scott
28. Martha White
30. Jeff Dunckle



ANNIVERSARIES IN JULY

17. David & Debbie Barnes
Colin G & Dianne Evans
18. Merlin & Deb Eldred
20. Colin A. & Michelle Evans
25. Terry & Denise Hebbard
26. Cork & Bernie Rockwell
John & Kristie Gregware
28. Roger & Donna Baker

ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

8. Jamey & Robyn Carr
17. Kevin & Pam Branigan
24. Alan & Maryanne Lord
30. Jeff & Michelle Carr

ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

1. Val & Jeff Dunckle
4. Dana & Joy Ketcham
Michele & Bob Clark
20. Brad & Lisa Rowe

If you think you may not be listed on our birthday/ anniversary list, or are listed incorrectly, please let Joyce know by leaving a note in mailbox #11 or emailing jbesemer@gmail.com.

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1.	2.	3.	4. Independence Day	5.	6.	7.
8. Newsletter Deadline: July, Aug, Sept	9. Bake Welsh Cookies	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.
15. Worship 11am/ at Lord's	16. Bake Welsh Cookies	17.	18. Finance mtg. 6pm	19. UMW Lunch Geneganslet Noon	20.	21.
22.	23.	24. 5:30 – 8pm Calvary Baptist	25.	26.	27.	28. Village-wide Craft Fair
29. 11am Lion's Park	30.	31. Trustees mtg. 7pm				

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 Office hours for Pastor Michele in Greene: Tues & Thurs. 10 am – 1pm
 Office hours for Joyce: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30 am – 12:30pm or as needed.

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August 2018

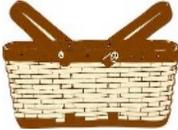
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8. PPRC mtg. 6pm	9.	10.	11.
12.	13.	14. Cakes to Children's Home	15. Finance 6pm/ Ad Council 7pm	16.	17.	18.
19.	20	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
26. Church Cleanup After worship	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	

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						1.
2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
16.	17.	18.	19. Finance mtg. 6pm	20. UMW Indoor Picnic 	21.	22.
23. Newsletter Deadline: Oct, Nov, Dec	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.
30.						

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