



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE BELL

1 Gilligan Road, East Greenbush, New York 12061-1715

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 8 October 2009

Worship at First United Methodist in October

Our Sunday worship schedule for this month starts with World Communion Sunday. From the website of the National Council of Churches USA come these lines, "World Communion Sunday – celebrated the first Sunday in October – is one of the most venerable of "special Sundays." The day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice – and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God's earth. On this day we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve – a world ever more in need of peacemaking."

Pastor Bob will be preaching each of the four Sundays in October. Most Sundays through the year he will be using the Revised Common Lectionary as the center of his thought for worship. To make it easier to see the whole worship picture for the month, the Lectionary listings have been moved from the calendar to this part of the Church BELL.

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From the Pastor's Desk . . .

I am looking at the books I have on my desk shelf- books that I use often- a Bible, worship related books; some books that I am currently reading, and two daily devotional guides. The one of these I use most is called: "A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God". This guide has a theme for each week, prayers and scriptures to be read each day, and daily readings from people of faith. The theme in the guide for this week (for the Sunday between September 25 and October 1- I always read the week for the Sunday coming up) is "When nothing goes our way"; it begins with these words from Isaiah:

"For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you." Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you insect Israel! I will help you, says the Lord; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel."

I'll have to tell you, that's not really how I wanted to start my week! Why would God speak to Israel that way? Why would God call to us like that? Talk about an assault on your self esteem!

Then I thought: "Is this God speaking, or is this the prophet (is this each of us, sometimes) saying: "Sometimes 'I' feel like a worm, like an insect, like I am not worth much, because I can't seem to get it right, I can't seem to do even what I want to do, let alone what I believe God wants me to do...!" Which can be a good thing, because it's then that we realize that we can't do it all alone, that we have friends, that we have God's people, that we have God to uphold and guide us. It's then that we reach out and find the resources that God has put before us, and within us.

See you in Church!

Bob

Worship at First United Methodist in October *(continued)*

The Lectionary for October

October 4 – Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Ps 26; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 11 – Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps 22:1-15; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

October 18 – Job 38:1-7 (34-41); Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35c; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

October 25 – Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Ps 34:1-8 (19-22); Hebrews 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation Class

If you are in 8th grade or higher, and you are interested in confirmation class, please contact Pastor Bob or Heidi. Classes will take place all year this year, beginning in this month of October. Please call the church office for more information. 477-9693.



T-Shirts

We are going to have our very own church T-shirts! They will be for the entire church to order, so you can proudly wear your FUMC T-shirt! The shirts will be a suggested donation of \$10 each. Look for the sale to begin soon!

Sunday School Missions

For our Fall missions fund raiser will be will selling cookbooks. I know... this has been done before, but theses are awesome little books! There are several to choose from and they will cost \$6.50 a piece. They will make wonderful gifts! Look for the sale to begin early November, they will arrive in time for Christmas.

Bible Sunday

Mark your calendars; Bible Sunday will be November 22nd. This is the day the 2nd graders will receive their very own Bibles during the church service. This is a very exciting day for our 2nd graders.

OF INTEREST TO THE YOUTH

United Methodist Youth Fellowship News

What's happening in October?

Skye Farm retreat scheduled for Oct. 2-4th. This event includes camping, canoeing, roasting marshmallows, singing by the fire and a trip to Adirondack Extreme! It's a chance to learn more about the youth members, enjoy the fall colors and be surrounded by God's natural beauty. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend.

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MORE YOUTH INFO

October *(continued)*

There will not be a meeting or event on **October 11**, enjoy the Columbus Day weekend. There will be events or meetings on **October 18 and October 25**. Watch the bulletin to find out more information about what is to come during this exciting month

Upcoming Events

Get ready for **YAC (Youth Autumn Celebration)** on **November 6th and 7th**. This is a fun overnight event for all Troy Conference youth in grades 8-12. The time together is spent in small and large groups. Singing, games, discussion, and sharing are all a part of this event. This will be the last one to include our finds from Vermont, since we will be combining conference for all of upper New York State. If you haven't attended one yet, don't miss out. Registration is November 1st and costs \$25.00 so please let Laura or Rachel know if you are planning to attend.



Due to a number of conflicts, we have changed the **Mystery Dinner** to **Friday, November 13th**. Hopefully we will be able to have more youth and their parents participate in this exciting fund raising event. Plans are already in the making but we still need more help.

For more information or questions, contact your leaders, Laura Clark laura104@yahoo.com 674-5283, and Rachel Giso rgiso@fairpoint.net 766-0421.

CHURCH NEWS

Car Wash a Huge Success!

The UMYF would like to thank everyone that brought their dirty cars to church on Rally Day. \$243.00 was raised to use toward upcoming youth events. The youth had a fantastic time and it was a great opportunity for some of our new members to get to know one another. Thank you!

SOS Plans for October



Join us for SOS on October 25, 2009 at 5pm. A VIM (Volunteer in Missions) Belfast Peace Project Presentation will be presented by Mike and Pat Thomas. They are VIM Team Leaders and will present a 1 hour slide show about their trips to Northern Ireland, as well as the efforts of the Forthspring Inter Community Group and the Springfield Road Methodist Church to open relationships between the Protestant and Catholic Communities. The 2010 VIM team is now forming and volunteers are needed. There is also a Northern Ireland tour opportunity that includes a visit to the VIM site. This tour is a fundraiser for the VIM Belfast Peace Project. Our SOS pot-luck dinner will follow the presentation at 6pm. All are invited to attend.

Church Library

The Library has gotten some space this past summer. We donated the book cart to the Nassau Public Library. And we purchase a new tape shelf for the Sunday Worship Service Tapes. This has helped immensely in the making the library welcoming. Please come in and enjoy the many titles we have.

Stewardship and Finance Report

It's Fall. Fall means a new beginning, an invigoration, a harvest of what we have labored for throughout the spring and summer.

Fall also means a time to consider the financial needs of our church, for its programs of service – to members and constituents, to the community, to our benevolence and missions commitments. It means we assign costs to maintaining our buildings, to providing for personnel and their related costs, and to enable our youth, community organizations, and many others to whom we open our doors so they may avail themselves of our services and facilities.

It also means we ask our members and all associated with the church to open their hearts and their means to enable us to continue together to help not only our own constituents but also the wider community to whom we offer succor and assistance.

In recent years, the numbers of those who have pledged has declined, and we know that making a financial commitment in these times is a challenge. We also know that many give in other ways, and we are grateful for all the ways people support the ministry and mission of our Church.

We know also that we have a new pastor and new leadership in many programs, and we are at a new beginning. This year we will try to do more to explain the costs of our programs, the people we serve, and how each of us enjoys many benefits from affiliation with the East Greenbush United Methodist Church. In mid-October we will send each family a letter detailing our pledge campaign together with a brochure that seeks to outline our ministry and mission. We will seek from each family or individual a commitment of resources so we not only can maintain the programs we have known, but hopefully lay the groundwork for expanding into many areas where services are unfulfilled.

Our schedule peaks on November 15 – Pledge Sunday. Pledge cards will be distributed at the morning worship service, and commitments for 2010 sought at the service. For those unable to attend that service, there will be a follow-up letter, with a pledge card if you wish to make a pledge.

In the next few weeks we will try to explain what we do, what it costs, and why it is necessary. If you have questions or concerns, please visit our website, speak to the pastor or the lay leaders, call members of the finance committee. There will also be church folk talking about their views on giving and the Church in the four Sunday services leading up to the 15th.

We are a Christian fellowship. We believe in serving not only ourselves and those like us but those in need, whether locally or in the international community. To fulfill our mission, however, we need the full participation, not only of time but also of resources, of those who seek to fulfill God's mission and his guidance in our lives.

We are followers of Jesus, and we are partners in ministry. As followers of Jesus, we give because God in Christ first gave to us. As partners in ministry, we put our many gifts together to share in our common ministry. We ask each member and constituent of this church, therefore, to consider carefully, in the next few weeks, how God is calling them to give to the Church.



MORE CHURCH NEWS

Pastor – Congregation Exchange Covenants

The service of worship at our church on September 20th was something special. In it we established a covenant between our new pastor, Bob Lowenthal and the congregation. Both the pastor and the congregation were challenged with responsibilities, one for the other. The chairman of our Staff/Parish Relations Committee, Len Finke charged Bob with his covenant, our Lay Leader Dave Smith charged the congregation with its covenant.

As part of the service, our pastor received a series of presentations symbolizing the various responsibilities he will have in our fellowship.

Fred Naef, one of our most enthusiastic members, presented Bob with a Bible, the book at the center of our Christian faith.

The Holy Bible

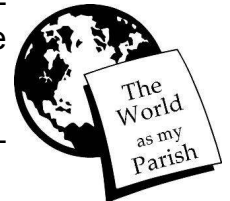


Using a pitcher and bowl, **Jack Moulton** presented water, water to be used in one of the sacraments of our church, baptism.

Lois Heyer, the head of our communion team, then presented the symbols of our other sacrament, Holy Communion. The gifts were the bread and the cup.

Jenny Sardi, chair of our worship committee, made the next presentation. The United Methodist Hymnal and The Book of Worship. *The United Methodist Book of Worship* is one of the “cornerstones” of United Methodist worship. In it are the great variety of services of worship we use in our church and many acts of worship leaders use to prepare for their services.

Matie Flowers, chair of the Administrative Council, brought a copy of *The Book Of Discipline Of The United Methodist Church*. The *Discipline* is the instrument for setting forth the laws, plan, polity, and process by which United Methodists govern themselves. It is the most current statement of how United Methodists agree to live their lives together. [Adapted from the Episcopal greetings in The Discipline]



Carrie Larson stepped up next to present a globe. This is the reminder of our pastor’s charge to lead us in our mission to this community and all the world.

Matt Barry, a Presbyterian, represented the ecumenical community. Matt is a senior at the University at Albany. Matt’s gift was a scallop shell with a painted symbol of the church. The scallop shell is the symbol of Baptism, and the scallop is also symbol for the Apostle James the Greater. The painted symbol of the church is portrayed as a boat afloat on the sea of the world with the mast in the form of a cross. The symbol of the boat has its origins in the gospel story of the calling of the disciples by Jesus and the stilling of the storm on Lake Galilee. These early Christian symbols of the church embody faith and unity and carry the message of the ecumenical movement.



The last presentation was made by the oldest member of our congregation, **Loucene Trueworthy**. The gift was a rainbow colored stole that signified Bob’s ordination and it carried with it his responsibility to shepherd our congregation as its pastor.

If you would like a copy of the pastor’s covenant and the congregational covenant, email a request to the church at mail.egumc@verizon.net and put “Covenant” on the subject line. If you don’t have email, please contact the church office for a hard copy.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The October 5th UMW program is our World Thank Offering service. Noreen Haupt will be leading us in this service. The program is at 7 pm and a potluck is at 6:30 p.m. All are graciously welcome.

Albany District UMW

Remember the Albany District UMW **Fall meeting** will be held **Saturday, October 3, 2009** at the Cobleskill UMC. Theme for the day: "Food Faith and Fellowship. Look back to the September BELL for more details

Coffee House Request

The Coffee House would not be a coffee house without the coffee. Steve Berger has always done a wonderful job and he relies mainly on Grace Wheeler and Patty Chartrand to get the coffee and goodies together. But Patty and Grace would love others to assist or head the coffee. It is easy. The coffee and supplies are there in the kitchen and there is a list of some goodie makers. All you would need are five makers and more will come. If you would like to do the coffee for the Coffee House sign up on the UMW bulletin board and take a copy of the Coffee House Cookie list. Thanks.

Thrift Sale Report

A Big THANKS to all who helped on the Fall Thrift Sale. The UMW really appreciates the help. The sale netted a profit of \$2,333.55. We thank you very much.

MORE CHURCH NEWS

Coffee Hour News



Many, many thanks to those of you who volunteered to host the juice hour this summer. It is important that we continue to provide you, with the opportunity to visit with your Church family after services. If you attend, we ask that you host just one Sunday a year. No experience is needed, just willing hands and hearts. We are looking for suggestions on how we can make improvements in our coffee hour. Please put your suggestions in our box in the kitchen, or feel free to call Yvonne DeBellis at 732-2777.

Tying Up Loose Ends

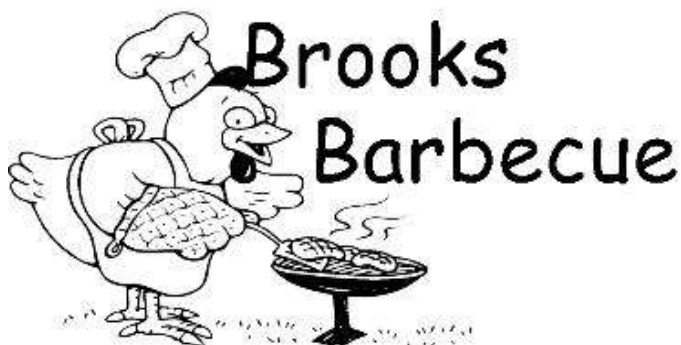
- On Sunday, September 27, Pastor Joe Ingraham joined us for morning worship. It was great to have him back in our midst. He was the same smiling Joe as he continues to battle with blindness in one eye.
- Many thanks to all who supported AIDS Walk 2009. There was a strong turnout at Washington Park to help raise funds to battle this devastating disease.
- A reminder that the Troy Annual Conference Walk to Emmaus program will be holding two weekend programs at our church, October 1-4 and October 15-18. Except for Sunday morning worship and choir rehearsals, there will be little else scheduled in the church while they are here. This helps provide a welcoming environment for the people participating in the weekend experiences.
- Have you seen the new outdoor worship center just off the east side of the parking lot? Our thanks to Jack Moulton for this, his Eagle Scout project.
- The work on securing a new parsonage is moving but at a very slow pace. Hopefully by the time the next BELL deadline arrives we will have received word that our congregation can take the next steps necessary to purchase a new home for the pastor and his family.

Invitation to Meet the Bishop



This paragraph ran in the September BELL and it is important enough to be repeated this month. If you can add this event to your schedule of *things to do*, it will be time well spent. --- Bishop Marcus Matthews of the New York West Episcopal area will meet with clergy and laity in Troy and Wyoming Conferences in October. The bishop, who will become the resident bishop of the new Upper New York Episcopal Area on July 1, 2010, will visit with the laity of Albany and Embury Districts on Monday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 35 State Street, Troy, N.Y. All the laity of our church are invited to attend to meet with and talk with our “soon to be” Bishop. Check with the church office if you are interested in carpooling to the meeting.

The Pre-School Announces:



Time : 4-7pm

Date: Saturday, October 24

Chicken or Ribs

Eat In — Take Out

Come and invite your friends!



American Boychoir In Concert

Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 3:00pm

First United Methodist Church

603 State Street, Schenectady

Info: 374-4403

Currently celebrating its seventieth anniversary season, The American Boychoir is regarded as the United States' premier concert boys' choir and one of the finest boychoirs in the world.