

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of
Saugerties U M C

“Your Community Church”

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November 2018

Come to the

Holiday-A-Fair!



Friday November 16 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Hot Dogs & Chili Served

Saturday November 17 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Soup & Sandwiches Served



It's time to **FALL BEHIND!** Set your clocks back 1 Hour
Saturday Night – or be late for church!



From the Pastor's Desk

“Be Kind;

Be Caring;

Be Thankful!”

For thousands of years, people walked this Earth knowing that they were not alone. There was always someone who would welcome them and show them hospitality. Hospitality – that is not a word we hear very often these days. The word is defined as the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. While we all graciously receive our friends and relatives, it is the part about strangers that no longer resonates in our understanding of hospitality.

In the time of Jesus, and for hundreds of years before and after him, people could rely on the kindness of strangers to take them into their homes for the night. Why? Night-time was especially dangerous for several reasons: staying outside in the elements in the desert meant freezing cold with no natural shelters; wild animals roamed the night seeking food; and there were roving bandits who attacked anyone in the dark. So hospitality could mean the difference between life and death.

In more modern times, such as the late 1800's, strangers would come into towns and look for the church. Next to the church would be the parsonage and the pastor would open their doors anytime of the night to welcome the stranger and give them food. That was then, a time when people opened their doors in expectation of having doors opened for them when needed. In other words, we trusted one another.

So how do we reconcile times past with times present? How do we follow the command of Jesus to: “Love God with all our heart and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves?”

While I would not recommend opening our doors to strangers in this day and age, we can show people kindness and generosity in many ways, all of which will keep us on the path Jesus wishes us to follow.

As people, we will be judged both for our individual actions, words and thoughts, and corporately as a people, as a nation. What we do counts as much to God, as when we just stand by saying nothing as others act in immoral and unjust ways. God gave us hearts to

feel, hands to help, and mouths to speak. So why do we continue to allow others to commit acts for which we will be held accountable?

The idealist seeks to change the world, the pragmatist seeks to change themselves and the people they come in contact with; a much more doable proposition. So for this month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, why not show thanks to our God by changing our outlook and start seeing each other as Jesus sees us: fragile people in need of love. As we go about our days, why not look inside ourselves, feel the love that comes from God and smile – smile because we know we are loved! Once we understand that God indeed loves us then we can truly love others. Then we can begin to understand that we are all in this world together – there are no real differences, only entrenched prejudices built on fear of the unknown. How could our ancestors travel by foot from place to place, country to country without fear and we can't walk around the block without looking over our shoulders?

Let's start something new, something bold, something radical – lets be nice to the people we meet – all of them, not just the ones we know. Why not be kind to others regardless of what they look like or come from. Why not take a chance and be the people Jesus wants us to be? After all He is watching us, showering us with His love and grace. Isn't time we accept Jesus into our hearts so that our thoughts, words and deeds reflect His love for us and His admonition to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. And who is our neighbor? Everyone we meet.

Thanksgiving Blessings to all,
Pastor Tony



Please keep in your prayers Kristy Bishop who is battling cancer; Billy Mergendahl, Arlene Cotich's son, and Kendra Kramer.

Stewardship To date, we have received pledges totaling \$93,000. This is very good but well below the amount needed to maintain the church. If you have not done so, please return your pledge card to the church as soon as possible. If you do not have pledge card, ask and it will be given!



Holiday A-Fair is Coming!

Friday, November 16, from 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, November 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will start setting up after church on Sunday, November 11. There will be a light lunch following the service and then we will begin to set up. The areas that are currently planned include the following:

- The Craft Area – There are items made by our craft group as well as by individuals and then donated to us.
- The Boutique – We will have new or gently used items, in good condition.
- Trash and Treasures – This area includes donated household goods, seasonal decorations, tools, picture frames, etc. Large pieces of furniture, such as couches, are not being accepted.
- Books, DVD, and CDs – Please do not donate encyclopedias or magazines.
- Toys, games, puzzles
- Donated Jewelry
- Baked goodies and other homemade foods
- Pecans and other assorted nuts

In addition, the kitchen will serve hot dogs and chili on Friday evening and soup and sandwiches on Saturday.

How can you help? We need donations of chili, hot dogs, and Christmas cookies for the kitchen. We need donations of items for the various areas listed above. We need a lot of help to set up and then work during the Fair, either on Friday or Saturday. A tremendous way you can help is with clean up on Saturday. Those who have worked on Saturday are tired by 2:00 and extra help for cleanup is appreciated. Most important of all, you can shop at the Fair and help support our church!

**Diane McDowell and Joan Robinson
Co-Chairs of the Fair**

- The church has acquired “The Square” which can be used to accommodate persons wishing to pay for items by credit card, especially at church dinners, The Holiday-A-Fair, rummage sales and etc.
- The Square will be available for the Holiday-A-Fair for your convenience.

HOLIDAY A-FAIR FOOD BOOTH

Time to bake

Time to cook

Time to create

Apple crisp, brownies, bread,
cookies, jams and jellies,
sauces, etc, etc,

The food booth is a popular feature of our annual fair. Your many contributions are very much appreciated. Also, we need volunteers to help be at the booth on Friday eve and Saturday until closing.

See Karen Reynolds, or call 246-0309 or
e-mail: karenreynolds2016@outlook.com



The next meeting of the Book Club will be Saturday, November 24 at 10:30 AM. We will be discussing the book "World's End" by T. C. Boyle. Everyone is invited.

Because of Bethlehem

A Four-Week Advent Study

Thursday Morning Bible Study will begin a four-week advent study called "Because of Bethlehem" on November 1. This study is by Max Lucado and includes a video component. The dates of the study are November 1 and 8, December 6 and 13. We meet from 10:30 – 12 in the lounge. The study is open to anyone in the church who is interested. During this study, we will explore how Jesus' birth gives us the promise that Jesus is always near us, always for us, and always within us. Joan Robinson will lead the study.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

November 18 is Bible Sunday! Our third graders will receive Bibles during the 10:30 worship service.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!!** This year our pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16, during the 10:30 worship service. All children and youth are invited to participate as well as any visiting grandchildren or other friends or relatives. We especially will need to “borrow” a baby for Baby Jesus. If you know of anyone who has a baby who will be 4 months old or younger in December, ask their parents if they’d like to be the star of our pageant! There will be rehearsals on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1-3 and Sunday morning Dec. 16 at 9 AM. A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby by mid-November. Please see Debbie Mecca for more information.

BFF KIDS for those in grades 4-6 will meet on November 9 & 30! BFF stands for Best Foot Forward and is a time for making new friends, learning about yourself and participating in activities about being your best self ever. And there are always lots of games to play! We meet in Fellowship Hall from 6-7:30 PM and supper is included! This program is open to the public so invite anyone in grades 4-6 to attend! For more information contact Debbie Mecca.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA will be held again this year on Saturday, December 8! Look for more details in the coming weeks and be sure to save the date and tell your family and friends!

Our second annual **LIVING NATIVITY** will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 9. Alyssa Rose is organizing this event and is looking for volunteer actors of all ages to be part of the presentation. Alyssa will be asking for volunteers during Coffee Hours, so be ready to say YES!



YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

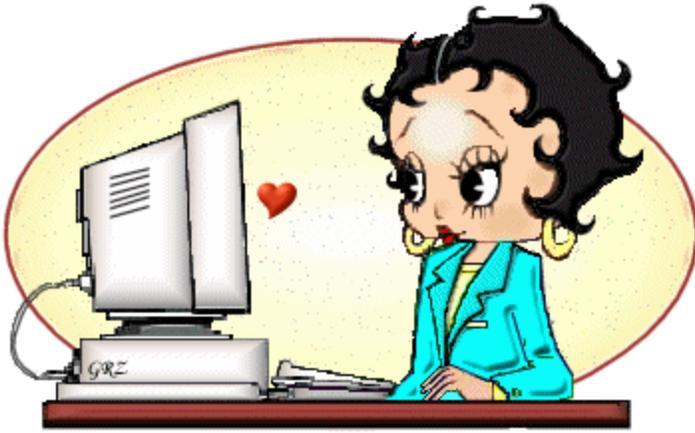
NOV. 4: NEW GAMES: We will play some “new games”. But first we need to create them. This should be fun! From 6-8 in the Youth Room!

NOV. 10: SATURDAY NIGHT MEETING!! We will be setting up for our Church Fair on Sunday this week and there won't be much room for us, so we'll meet on Saturday instead! Come from 6-9 PM to bake brownies to give away—to someone who is lonely, someone who helps others, a favorite teacher or coach, or whoever you think could use a boost. We'll play games while the brownies are baking and cooling.

HELP AT THE CHURCH FAIR!! Please come and help on Friday night, Nov. 16, from 5-8 PM, Saturday, Nov. 17, from 10 AM-2 PM, and to help clean up from 2-3 PM! Our group has been asked to help in the used toy room and children's crafts area, so come if you can for all or part of the time. We especially could use help with the cleanup once the fair is over—there is lots of lifting and carrying and many of our adult volunteers can't do as much as they used to, so please come and help! This counts as community service hours!

NOV. 18: ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FEAST!! We will once again feast together and give thanks for one another. Everyone is asked to bring something to share for our feast—a main course, side dish or dessert—whatever you'd like. We will share our bounty and be thankful for whatever comes. We will not have our hang out time, but begin promptly at 6 PM so that we have enough time and can end by 8 PM.

NOV. 25: TIME MANAGEMENT Having enough time to do all that is on your schedule can sometimes be tough. It's like a puzzle, trying to get all the pieces of your life to fit in to 24 hours a day. We will try to put the puzzle together so that life can be a bit less stressful. From 6-8 in the Youth Room.



The Finance Ministry has decided to implement another way of making donations to the church. You will hear it referred to as **e-giving** and it is paying on-line. Electronic giving is a convenient and easy. The company we are using, VANCO, has over 30,000 accounts among churches and is recommended by our Conference. With e-giving you will be able to:

Schedule and manage your weekly and onetime donations without writing checks.

People aren't always in church every Sunday to present their tithes and offerings to God during the worship service; especially in the summer. But, as you know, the bills continue and have to be paid. This is a way for any of us to **stop using checks** and have the **donation sent automatically**. There are options for onetime, special donations such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter. Of course, this is an entirely optional alternative. If you wish, regular envelopes will continue to be accepted each Sunday.

Reports will be generated by VANCO and sent to our treasurer, who will be able to continue to credit each donation as usual.

For those who feel that passing up the offering plate is uncomfortable, we decided that index cards will be provided in the pew for you to recount a blessing you have received during the week and place the card in the plate.

If you would like to begin, instructions are available or a link can be emailed to you.

Thank you for your consideration of this new donation method.

Audrey Klinkenberg, Chair Finance Ministry

UMW News

On October 27, several of us attended the conference-wide meeting of UMW at St James UMC in Kingston. The theme was "The Power of Bold" and over 200 women attended from around the conference, in spite of the weather. In addition to spirited worship, workshops were held that covered a variety of topics. Everyone at St James pitched in, including the men, to provide a great meal and wonderful fellowship.

Our unit will not meet in November. Instead, we will move our December meeting earlier to December 4 when we will have our Christmas program. So please put December 4 on your calendar. We will start with potluck at 5:30 and the Christmas program at 6:30

An Important Message about Pop-Ups

A big thank you to those who took home wonderful packages of chocolate chip cookies in October. Our church treasury grew by \$102.00 as a result.

Now what is a pop-up? Church people want to know. I could have called it "Once-in-a-while after church opportunity to take home specialty items, made with love and care by members of the congregation." But that seemed a long title. The pop-up people are happy to showcase their gifts and talents for the church, as we promised in our membership vow: prayers, presence, gifts and service.

And we have many talents in the church as evidenced by the variety of items that have been available: moon-pies, chocolate roses, washing detergent, biscotti, quiche, dog bones, strawberry jam, bread, brownies, and cookies; and forgive me for not mentioning others.

So without committee meetings, or much of any organization, you will be able to find items you might want and leave a donation which is given directly to the treasurer. This is absolutely optional on your part.

Pop-ups will continue on at least a monthly basis. The important part of this message is that the location of the pop-up table will be moved into Fellowship Hall, and be available after church. Watch for brownies, coming soon. And again ~~ THANK YOU!!

Audrey Klinkenberg



He's Making a List and Checking It Twice!

It's almost Christmas Time and we need to start thinking of those less fortunate. Once again, the Saugerties Area Council of Churches will sponsor the

Christmas Toy Store

We are seeking donations of NEW, UNWRAPPED toys and gifts for children ages infant to 18 years. Please bring them to the church BEFORE Wednesday, December 5th.

November Birthdays



1 – Madison Gavner

7 – Abby Hanson

18 – Mark Vines

3 – Chris Quirk

12 – Caroline Unegbu

4 – Matt Bazzani

16 – Ella Robinson

5 - Bob Britten

17 – Brooke Stade

ADAMS FAIRACRE FARMS Lisa Kopycinski is selling Adams gift cards at face value. The church pays for them at a discount and receives the difference. It helps our church and everyone knows how good the food and service is at Adams.

