

The Messenger 2.0

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A publication of The Saugerties United Methodist Church

Issue #2



Saugerties United Methodist Church

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From the Pastors Heart:

Greetings in Christ,

Pastor Marva Usher-Kerr here. I wanted to take a moment to give all of you this note of encouragement.

I'm often reminded of the beautiful story in the Book of Daniel of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. It's important to know that the same God that was there for them at that time is here for you and me now!

You may want to read the full story in Daniel Chapter 3, but I wanted to share a couple of verses with you that I trust will minister to you.

“Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?” They answered and said to the King, “True, O king.” “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.” Daniel 3:24-25 (NKJV)

In this scripture, you should note that the three men weren't sitting in a corner huddled in fear, nor were they complaining about how hot it was. They're having fellowship with one who appears to be the Son of God! Even the pagan King was able to recognize the King of Kings amid their trial!

We may not enjoy hearing this, but I believe that one of the ways the Lord uses to bring us closer to Him and to know Him more is through trials.

Saugerties has been through trials but with God's help, we can adjust our attitude going forward. We need, my brothers and sisters, to focus on His power and not our limitations!

Blessings in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Marva D. Usher-Kerr

This is Our Newsletter...

Good morning! One of my hopes is that you will wake up, thank God for that very gift alone, and as you shuffle from the kitchen where the coffee is creating that beautiful early morning fragrance to let the dog back in, and bring the computer, iPad, tablet or phone back to life. Then, after listening to the music of your coffee filling your mug, you open your e-mail (right after you've checked the weather) and find on top, The Messenger 2.0. Your heart picks up the beat just a little (because a lot could lead to tachycardia, which you don't want), and as

your first sip of coffee gets those dopamine's kicking in, that gentle explosion of anticipation quickens your pulse a little more – what are my family and friends doing this month? Did Al spell everything right in my article? What are the youth group and Sunday School kids up to this month? Will there be room for me in that new mission project we're starting?

What a great way to start your day, reading and learning about the many ways we will serve our Beloved Savior, our community, and each other. So, sisters and brothers, your gift to me would be to submit to me, no later than the first Friday of the month, your committees news, your groups events, your hopes and dreams for the community of God, important dates and information for the upcoming calendars; the things you want everyone to know. In the subject line of of your email, please put "For the Messenger"; I don't want to miss anything, either.

My contact information is:

Allen McDowell, 49 Appletree Dr., Saugerties, NY 12477

Email – ajbirdboy@aol.com

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For now, please forgive any omissions and mistakes by yours truly; I want to bring you the best and most complete information there is. Please send me anything you would like to have included in the next issue of Messenger 2.0. When would you like to see Messenger 2.0 in your inbox? Let me know.

Submissions to Messenger 2.0:

For the time being, articles, reports, etc. that you want published in the Messenger should be submitted by the last Friday of the month to be published the First Friday of the month. Submit items to:

Al McDowell, at ajbirdboy@aol.com Please put "For Messenger" in the subject line. Thank!

New Consecration Sunday:

On November 21, we will celebrate New Consecration Sunday at the church. If you agree with the premise that everything we have comes from God, then as good stewards, it is right that we should be asked to return a small portion of what we have to the church so the congregation can continue God's work. On November 21, we will have a guest speaker, Joe Andreana, expand on this theme. So please come and celebrate with us what God has done for each of us in our lives. At the end of the service, each member will be asked to grow spiritually by giving a percentage of their income to the Lord's work through their congregation. We will follow the service with a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Please let us know if you will join us for lunch by emailing the church or filling out the form in bulletin on November 14.

Smile when you use Amazon:

Everyone uses Amazon, right? But, do you use Smile.amazon? Smile is an extension of amazon that lets you set up a charitable organization that will get .5% of anything you buy as a donation. It's easy. Instead of saying amazon.com, say smile.amazon.com – then near the top on the left side there should be a place that you can specify your choice of organization that you would like to receive your money. Of course, we would like you to use Saugerties United Methodist Church, but if you have a different organization, at least specify that (Hey, amazon is donating money – let someone get it!). Once set up, all you need to do is remember to specify smile.amazon.com each time after that – which should be nearly automatic – as soon as you type in smile, it will show you the rest of the site name. And each time it will show you who is getting the money, and if you roll the mouse over that organization name it will show how much money you have generated for the cause. Amazon has donated millions of dollars – why not help an organization you care about?

Thanks!

Youth Mission and News:

SUMC Youth Group Flood Buckets

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We, the Saugerties United Methodist church youth group are asking you to help us out. We will be putting together and donating flood buckets for people who have been affected by recent floods. Flood buckets consist of supplies that will help those affected, clean up -items such as, dish soap, laundry detergent, masks, gloves, trash bags and much more. Our goal is to make ten complete flood buckets. These buckets will be much appreciated after a recent time of crisis. The youth group will begin constructing these flood buckets on Sunday, November 7th. The deadline to donate supplies and or monetary donations is Saturday, November 6th. Donations can be left in the labeled donation bin in the church lobby. Thanks to everybody in our community we will be able to make this happen.



Supply list per bucket

- 5 gallon buckets with resealable lids (Can not be previously used with chemicals)
- Liquid laundry detergent (two 25 oz bottles, or one 50 oz bottle)
- Dish soap (16-28 oz bottles)
- 1 bottle air freshener (aerosol or pump)
- 1 insect repellent spray (6-14 oz)
- 1 scrub brush
- 18 cleaning wipes
- 7 sponges
- 5 scouring pads
- 50 clothespins
- Clothesline (two 50ft or one 100ft)
- 24 roll heavy duty trash bags
- 5 dust masks
- 2 pairs disposable kitchen gloves
- One pair of work gloves

Book Club:

Book Club News

We are starting our Book Club back up at the Church. The meeting will be on Monday, December 6 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church lounge. We will be discussing the book "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman. Copies of the book are available through the library system, on Amazon, or at Barnes and Noble.

All are welcome!

Holiday A-Fair:

The Church Holiday Fair is coming up soon! We will be setting up after the Church service on November 14. Help is needed for this! The plan is to have a simple pizza lunch, and then go to work.

Here are the plans for the Fair so far:

In the Fellowship Hall, we will have a dining area with the tables spread out, to keep everyone socially distanced and safe from Covid. We also plan to sell quarts of beef vegetable soup. Additional details are still being finalized for the dining area.

There will be a table for baked goods, and homemade food – donations are requested! As a precaution, all donated items must be packaged when delivered, and we will not be slicing up desserts, or handling unwrapped items. The specialty pecans and other nuts for sale will be located here as well.

In the Lounge, we will have craft items for sale. If anyone is creative and has items to donate for this sale, they would be welcome! Contact Diane McDowell for more information.

Recycled jewelry will be offered in the room between the Lounge and the kitchen. Jewelry donations can be given to Robin Burns, or left on a chair in the Choir Room for Robin. Also, a limited number of District Cookbooks will be for sale in this room for \$11.00 each. There may be additional cookbooks available later, but the price will be higher for the cookbooks from the 2nd printing.

Recycled items: Toys will again be located in the corner room. Other items for Recycled Treasures will be located in the Chapel. We are asking that donations of recycled items only be brought in the week before the Fair (starting Sunday, Nov. 14) and placed in the appropriate location to minimize handling. Again we are also asking that no large items (furniture, TV's, etc.) be donated because historically these just don't sell at this event.

Additional information:

Masks will be required during the Fair.

Recycled items (jewelry, toys, household items, etc.) will not be individually priced, but will be paid for by donation.

Here are the dates and times for the Fair:

Friday, November 19 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00p.m.

If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Joan Robinson or Diane McDowell.

Get Cookin':

We have cookbooks!

The Parish Laity Coordinators for the Catskill Hudson District have coordinated a fund raising cook book sale. Over 400 recipes from around our district were collected, organized and compiled into a cookbook with cover art by a youth in our district. These books are being sold for only \$11 each, and \$10 of the money raised goes directly to the Church.

Only a limited number of cookbooks are available for sale!

Questions? Contact Diane McDowell

Charge Conference:

The Saugerties UMC Charge Conference is scheduled for December 5 at 2 pm. This important meeting, led by our District Superintendent, directs the work of the Church. In addition to a time of fellowship and celebration, the mission and ministry of the Church is reviewed. Reports are received, members of the Church leadership are elected, and the salary for the pastor and staff is set.

This year, charge conferences will be held as Cooperative Parish events. All churches in the parish will have a joint Cooperative Parish gathering to start, and then everyone will break out into charges for their individual business meetings. Saugerties UMC is part of the Esopus Parish, and the gathering will be held at the Reservoir UMC, 3056 State Route 28, Shokan, NY 12481. This meeting is open to all.

Facebook:

SUMC has a presence on Facebook, and if you haven't seen it, a search on Facebook for "Saugerties United Methodist Church" will yield great rewards. The mission of our church on social media is, as stated by Bishop Bickerton on the NYAC page, "We strive to share God's love by creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God, and transforming the world through Christ." Facebook and

social media offers us an opportunity to share who we are, what we believe and what we do, with the broader community around us. We are able to share our Sunday worship services with anyone, anywhere in the world. We may see 25 or 30 of our sisters and brothers in our sanctuary on any given Sunday, but the potential to reach many, many more during and after the service is tremendous (we've done it). Here is where you can help:

Many of you are seeing the page, and following it, clicking like on many of the different posts you're finding there; the serious, the humorous, the thought provoking. In general, each post is being seen 40-60 times. However, I've noticed also that if a post is shared, it gets about double the amount of views, and if it's shared 2 or more times, the number of views is doubled and more again. Imagine if all of us shared what I hope all of us believe, the numbers reached would become astronomical! Aren't we all inviting our neighbors to church every week? Imagine, with one click on the share button, how many neighbors you could invite to our church. Sisters and Brothers, if you like what you see, share it. More people will see and know us, and will come to see and know our Risen Savior.

Stay well.

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