

The Messenger

September 2019

The Monthly Newsletter of Saugerties UMC

“The Community Church”

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We're Back! Summer is Over!

Sunday School 9:15 AM

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM





From the Pastor's Desk...

Food for Thought – Building a ...



Summer is over and we are back to reality – work, school and CHURCH! Yes it was nice to play hooky over the summer (I did too) but it is time to get back to life as we know it, and more importantly as it could be.

Jesus Christ came to earth with a mission: to change the world by first changing us. This seems like an impossible mission and it is for us, but not for God. Many a human have tried to change civilization, some by force, others by intellectual reasoning. The Romans used unimaginable violence in their attempt to bend the will of all people to their power. While it worked for a while, they failed to dominate the world completely and in the end, their dynasty collapsed. In more modern times, Adolf Hitler tried to engulf the world in his particular brand of evil, only to find there is more good in the world than he could have imagined. He too was thwarted and his country devastated.

During the period of history we call the 'Enlightenment' men such as Henry David Thoreau, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and many others tried to bring the civilized world to a new understanding of humanity. Unfortunately, they failed to understand our susceptibility to the temptations of money and power. And so we return to Jesus, as we should.

Jesus sought to bring our awareness of God to a new and elevated level. Prior to Jesus, God, or in the case of polytheistic lands - gods - were seen as terrible titans, looking at the world and its people with contempt. Many a story has been written of the gods wanting to destroy humankind simply because they are 'too noisy.' In the Bible itself, we often see God as the master of power deciding who shall live and who shall not.

But with the birth of Jesus, we come to new understanding of a kinder and gentler God, one who wishes to save all creation, rather than tear it apart. Jesus teaches us that God loves us and desires the best for us. God provides us with all we need. Why? Because as Jesus says, “the birds of the air neither reap nor sow, yet the LORD God provides for them. How much more so will God provide for us.”

In times of trouble, confusion and despair, we need to remember the true nature of God as revealed by Jesus. Yes, God allowed His Son to be crucified, but more importantly, He made Jesus to rise from the dead, proving there is a new life awaiting us. While none of us wish to die just to be rid of this sometimes cold and depressing world, how comforting is it to know that God does not chain us to the world for eternity. Instead, God’s plan is for us to live as well as we can under the circumstances, and then enjoy the fruits of our labors in His Holy Kingdom. So why come to church?

As a community of believers, we can pool our talents, our resources and our time to change our own circumstances as well as work within the larger community to set an example of how God wishes us to live. We can first bond together and then use that connection to enlarge our circle to include as many people as possible. With the church as our foundation, we can change ourselves and eventually the world!

When I was sixteen, I worked in a store over the summer in Scarsdale. I was introduced to a man who was the architect of the Gulf & Western building in Manhattan. This building was unique in that it was the first sky scraper built on the West side of Manhattan, an area whose bedrock was not believed to be capable of holding such a massive structure. When I asked him how he managed to erect a building in that area he replied, “It all begins and ends with the foundation. Build a strong enough foundation and you can reach the sky.” Church is our foundation; and if we build together a strong and unbreakable foundation, we can reach the sky!

God Bless you all, and

See you Sunday (at 10:30)

Pastor Tony



Please pray for Brittney Ruskie, Brett Chauncey, Taylor Block and Nick Murray



District Choir for the Sept. 15th Installation Service for Rev. Karen Monk, our new District Superintendent

Calling all singers and choir members to join us for a District-wide choir at the September 15th installation service. The choir will be led by Kent Brown, and we will sing two anthems as part of the service presided over by Bishop Bickerton. The rehearsal schedule:

Sunday, September 15, 2:30 pm, at Overlook United Methodist Church, 233 Tinker Street, Woodstock

Copies of the anthems will be available at the rehearsal, but those wishing to work on them ahead can contact Kent Brown by email to receive the music in PDF form. We would also appreciate knowing ahead of time approximately how many singers we will have. Mr. Brown's email is: kntbrown@catskill.net

Everyone is invited to attend the service and a dinner reception afterwards. Please visit the New York Annual Conference website

UMW News

The United Methodist Women just completed a very successful rummage sale in August, and voted to give a share of its profits to Mother Goose School Nursery School to help with supplies for the coming school year. The unit will hold its first meeting of the fall on Tuesday, September 17, in the lounge. A covered-dish supper begins at 5:30, followed by a program at 6:30. At this meeting we will be planning our schedule and events for the coming year. All women of the church are welcome.



Exciting Volunteer opportunities await you in our children's and youth ministries!

Our thriving ministries with children and youth can always use a few more helping hands. We especially can use a few assistants and substitutes for Sunday School, BFF Kids (youth group for kids in grades 4-6) and our 7-12 grade Youth Group. Please prayerfully consider where you can help out and see Debbie Mecca to say "Yes!" or for more information. All volunteers with children and youth will have a simple background check done before they begin volunteering. **Our children and youth (and the adult volunteers) need YOU!**

INTRODUCING "FAITHFUL FRIENDS" SUNDAY SCHOOL!



Beginning on September 8, children and youth, ages 3 through grade 12 are invited to attend our **new exciting and engaging program!** Lessons begin at 9:15 in the classrooms.

*For safety reasons, **all children and youth must be signed in** as they enter the building. Please enter through the main lobby doors on Washington Ave. Children in grade 6 and younger must be signed in by a parent or guardian.

Youth in grades 7-12 may either be signed in by a parent/guardian or sign themselves in. One of our teaching staff will be present in the lobby to assist you until 9:20. If you arrive late, please escort your child to their classroom and sign them in there. Youth can sign themselves in once they get to their classroom.

*We will have a **Closing Worship** for both classes beginning at 10:10 in the classroom at the end of the main hall. The children can be picked up at 10:20.

*Our main Sunday School offering will be put towards **The Heifer Project**, an international charity that provides animals to impoverished people for food and income. We will be collecting money to buy flocks of chickens.

*We hope to see all of our children and youth returning on September 8!

Please take a moment to fill out a new **Sunday School Registration Form** for your family and bring it with you when you come on the 8th. The form is attached to this edition of The Messenger.

BFF Kids, our youth group for kids in grade 4-6 will hold their first meeting of the school year on Friday, September 13, from 6-7:30 PM and again on September 27. As always dinner is included with the fun and friendship! This program is open to the community so spread the news and invite kids to attend.

We have begun a **PRAYER BEAD MINISTRY!**



Prayer beads can give comfort to those who are struggling with health or personal issues. By holding on to them as you pray or using each bead to count your blessings, or however you choose, these beads can bring comfort and peace. If you know of someone who would benefit from a set of Prayer Beads or if you yourself could use a set, please see Pastor Tony or Debbie Mecca.

The Crafting Group will begin again on Thursday, September 12!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS:

SEPTEMBER 8: FIRST YOUTH GROUP OF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!!! Come to see old friends and make some new ones! We'll play some games and begin planning our Haunted House and learn some Mission Trip news. AND we'll make ice cream sundaes for snack! From 6-8PM in the Youth Room.

SEPTEMBER 15 & 29: HAUNTED HOUSE PLANNING!! It does take a long time for us to get it all together—we have to come up with a theme, decide parts, write a script and then rehearse! So we will probably need these meetings and more to make it happen. But don't worry we'll have time for some games each week! From 6-8 PM in the Youth Room.

SEPTEMBER 22: APPLE PICKING TRIP!! We will leave from the church at 12:30 to travel to Jenkins-Lueken Orchards in New Paltz to pick apples for our Apple Crisp fundraiser. If you come to worship that morning, please bring a bag lunch to eat before we go. You will need to have a signed permission slip in order to go. (available at Youth group or via email) Please bring it to Youth Group on September 15 so that we have enough drivers/cars. We should return between 3 and 3:30. Everyone will call once we are close to home to be picked up. **NO REGULAR YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT!**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28: BAKING APPLE CRISPS!! Come to the church kitchen from 9-noon to help peel and cut apples, make crumb topping and assemble our apple crisps. This will be the first of our 2020 Mission Trip fundraisers, so if you think you might want to go, you need to help!



APPLE CRISP FUNDRAISER!!

Our youth will be baking and then selling homemade Apple Crisp on Sunday September 29 after worship for \$10 each. Proceeds go towards the 2020 Mission Trip. Come out and help sell our yummy crisps! \$10 each.



It's in the Bag!

We at the Saugerties United Methodist Church have high quality, reusable bags for sale for \$5 each. These are heavy duty tear resistant and water repellent polypropylene bags with dual reinforced handles and a plastic bottom insert.

You can purchase these bags at Church or by contacting Diane McDowell at 246-4888. All money collected from the sale of these bags goes directly to the Church. Be sure you are ready for this new way of shopping, and support the Church at the same time!



The Asbury Cemetery

We are fortunate to have in our town an historical Methodist cemetery. It is located on School House Road in Saugerties and has an historical marker at its entrance. John Crawford, one of the early circuit riders, and his wife are buried here. John Crawford has an interesting history. He was the son of a captain in the Continental Army who fought and died in the American Revolution. John, at 16, was a member of his father's company. He was wounded and captured by the British. After his release, he changed his life and converted to Methodism. He became licensed to preach and from 1787 until about 1820, he served as a circuit rider, spreading Methodism throughout the Hudson Valley. In 1791 he was ordained by Bishop Francis Asbury. John married and made his home in West Camp. Under his leadership, several families of the community built a small church, which stood near the present cemetery. The first burial in the cemetery was in 1810. The church is no longer there, but the cemetery is maintained by a group known as Friends of Asbury. The main cost to maintaining the cemetery is mowing and maintaining the grounds. The group of Friends has grown smaller and we are looking for people to join the Friends or provide support for the cemetery. The next meeting of the Friends of the Asbury Cemetery is Saturday, September 21, at 10:00 at Saugerties UMC. Anyone interested is invited to attend. If you would like to join the Friends of Asbury or provide monetary support, you can contact Audrey Klinkenberg or Joan Robinson. We invite the congregation to visit the cemetery; it is in a beautiful location.



COFFEE HOUR

Coffee Hour – If you enjoy coffee hour following the service, please sign up to be in charge for at least one week. The coffee hour host needs to come in early and set up the table in the Fellowship Hall, make coffee and cold drinks, and put coffee cake, cookies, fruit or other snacks out. Usually there are snacks, fruit, and other goodies in the kitchen (refrigerator or freezer), but not always. It is good to check ahead of time. The host also has to clean up when coffee hour is over. If you have never done coffee hour, just ask for help. The sign up sheet is on the table in the lobby.

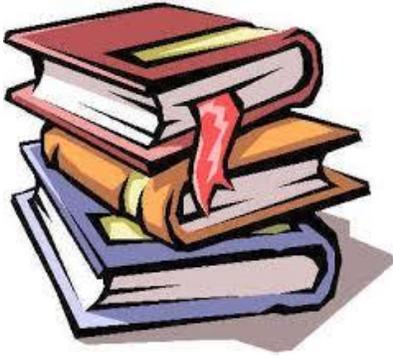


The Antique Center

We continue to have a spot at the Antique Center on Main Street for the sale of nicer items at higher prices. Items are on display for longer periods of time, therefore more people get to see them.

In June we had sales of \$57.00 and in July of \$27.00. No, it isn't a great deal of money, I agree, but it is an opportunity for us as members of the church and for the many people outside the church who give me items for this particular sale, to do so...

Thank you so much for your wonderful donations to date, please keep this small project in mind when you have items of special interest or value that you wish to donate. Audrey Klinkenberg



The next Book Club meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church lounge. We will be discussing the book “The Bean Trees” by Barbara Kingsolver.

Thursday Morning Bible Study



Starts September 12, 10:30 – 12, in the lounge

The fall study is called “Fierce, Women of the Bible Who Changed the World” by Jennifer Cowart. It is trendy to use the word “fierce” when describing women at the top of their game, but women have been fiercely changing the world for thousands of years. In fact, the Bible tells of many fierce female characters who made hard decisions, offered hope, boldly repented, shared their faith and blessed those around them. Although some are less well known than others, these women can teach us how we, too, can live into our callings, honor the Lord, and even change the world through our courage, faithfulness, and obedience. This is a six-week study, and each participant will receive a workbook with devotional lessons.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

1- Greg Squires

2 - Kevin Byrne

3 - Aleda Stamboulian

5 - Erin Vines

7 - Melissa Jacob

12- Mackenzie Carter

16 – Sylvia Robinson

16 - Bill Bucher

16 - Teresa Gilmore

19- John Forsythe

21 -Asher Puertas

23 - Ian Byrne

24 – Alley Valguarnera

24 - Mary Pardonner

24- Deb Bazzani

Anniversaries

26 - Harry & Betty Newton

Saugerties United Methodist Church

Faithful Friends Sunday School Registration

Date: 2019-2020

Family Name: _____ Parent(s): _____

Address: _____
Number/Street Town Zip

Home Phone: _____

Cell: Mom _____ Dad _____

Student _____ Email: _____

In case of emergency, contact: Mom ___ Dad ___ Other ___ (List Relationship to Child) _____

Emergency number (if not listed above): _____

In the space below, please list the names, birth dates and grades of all children in your family, infant through grade 12.

NAME (First/Middle)	BIRTHDATE	GRADE	SCHOOL
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Is there anything about your child(ren) (allergies, learning disabilities, etc.) that we should know? (Breakfast foods will be available in classrooms.)

I give permission for photos to be taken of my child(ren) and shared. YES NO (circle one) (Photos may be posted on the internet but children will not be named.)

YES! I would like to teach Sunday School. ___ YES! I would like to be a substitute. ___

I am willing to be a classroom aide. ___ I am available to help with special events. ___

I have a special skill or talent I am willing to share with our children. (explain)
