

The Messenger

**The Monthly Newsletter of
Saugerties UMC
“Your Community Church”**

November 2020

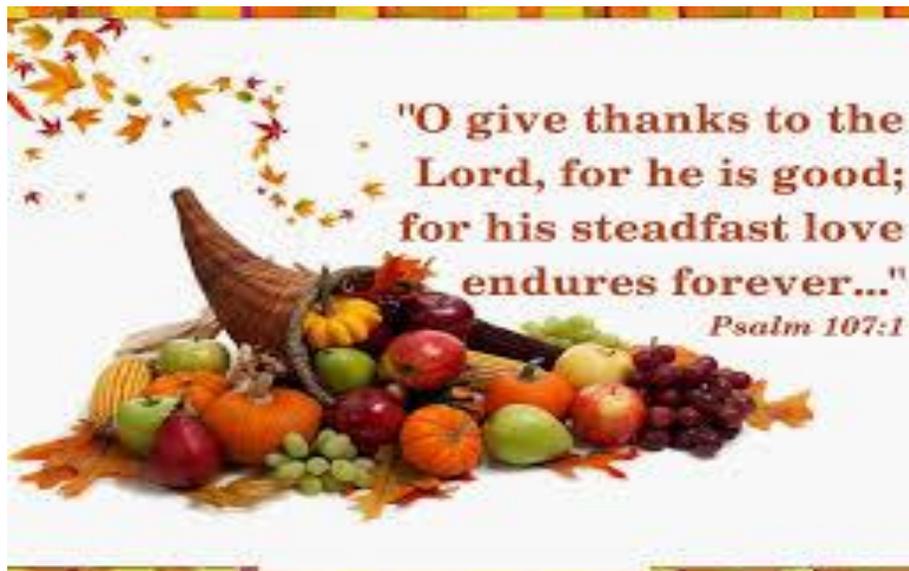
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**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
In-Person & Facebook Live**

A Thanksgiving Like No other?

(Or is it?)

Later this month, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. It is one of the major holidays of the year alongside Christmas, Easter, New Year's and the Fourth of July. It is a time when family and friends enjoy a feast of delicious food and share the love they have for each other. It is also a good time to be a football fan with games on TV day and night. But this year, the holiday may be very different.

Eight months ago, when we first became aware of COVID, no one understood the devastating effects it would have on our lives. Over nine million people have contracted the disease and more than 220,000 have lost their lives. It has led to massive unemployment and caused the paralysis of our economy. Food pantries and other sources of charitable giving are overwhelmed by the number of people they serve. And unfortunately, it is far from over.

As the Pastor of the church, I am not aware of any member who has the virus. Yes, one member did have the virus at the very outset of the pandemic. He had a very mild case and recovered quickly. Thankfully, because of a change in his work schedule, he had not been to church for quite some time before contracting the virus, sparing all of us from being exposed to it. Since that one case, members of our church had relatives that have fallen ill to it, but no one who attended church. While we have members who have been ill with other maladies, we have so far been spared from any one spreading the virus among us. This is something to celebrate and to be very grateful for; and we give our thanks to God.

Medical experts warn us to be extremely careful this Thanksgiving. With students coming home from colleges, and friends and relatives coming from other states, the risk of spreading the virus is great. We need to be careful and smart about the holiday. We need to weigh the risks thoroughly before planning a big banquet. So, does that mean Thanksgiving is ruined – hardly!

The very first Thanksgiving, a three day feast to celebrate the harvest of 1621, was indeed a time to be thankful. But, as thankful as the people were, they also mourned nearly half of the people who died while making the voyage and during their first winter in the new land. Yes, according to a letter written by Edward Winslow, a Pilgrim and attendee at the event, 53 of the people who made the voyage were there to celebrate. Unfortunately, 47 of the initial 100 had passed from illnesses. They also had to build their own shelters. They had to till the rocky land. They had to protect

themselves against the wild animals and the elements. But, for all the hardships they had endured and the loved ones who had died, they were truly thankful to be in this new land and for all the possibilities that lay ahead of them. They gave thanks to God for bringing them across the ocean and for the freedom they were enjoying.

We need to learn a lesson about endurance from the Pilgrims – their faith told them the hardships they experienced would pass, and they did. We too must rely on our faith to carry on until we develop the vaccines and therapeutics to combat the virus. And we will build a new life, just like the Pilgrims did. But we must remember we will be doing so with far more resources than the Pilgrims, who came to these shores with little more than the clothes on their backs. They persisted through illness and death and an inhospitable environment, yet they showed gratitude to God for what little they did have. We too should be grateful! As I wrote earlier, no church member has the virus and I pray that remains the case.

So as we approach Thanksgiving, instead of concentrating on what we can't do, think about what we can do. We can still cook a turkey and have three types of potatoes, green bean casserole and stuffing! We just will be sharing it with fewer people. We can still watch football on TV all day and night, but the neighborhood game of touch football is probably off limits. We can still tell our family and friends how thankful we are to have them in our lives and how much we love them. And, we can thank God for getting us this far into the pandemic without becoming ill from this demonic virus. Yes, that is truly something to be grateful for and rightly so.

May God bless you and keep you safe,
this Thanksgiving and for many years to come!

Pastor Tony

A Thanksgiving Message

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion to charity.

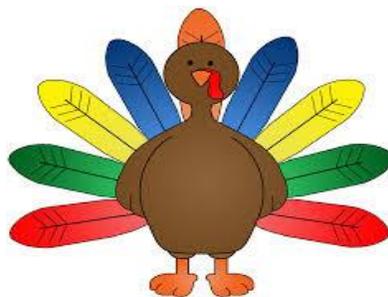
It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home,
a stranger into a friend.

Melody Beattie

UMW News

The next monthly meeting of UMW will be Tuesday, November 17, from 6:30 - 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Yes, we have been given permission to meet in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone must wear a mask and socially distance. No food will be allowed. We will try to Zoom the program for anyone who does not wish to be there in person. Please let Debbie Mecca know if you would like the Zoom link. The program will focus on the World Thank Offering: the Give and Take of Gratitude. We will look at the story of the woman at the well from John 4 and how she was so moved by gratitude to Jesus that she wanted others to come and meet Him. For more than 135 years Methodist women have given to the World Thank Offering as an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundant grace. When we share our gifts and they are combined with the gifts of others, our contributions make possible the support of National Mission Institutions and international projects and partners to meet the physical and social needs of women, children and youth. As part of the program we are each going to paint a prayer stone, so anyone attending the meeting virtually should have a smooth stone and at least one permanent magic marker to paint with.

OHANA CAFÉ



Ohana Café, located at 117 Partition Street, is once again offering a Thanksgiving Dinner to those in need. They are looking for donations of food and volunteers to cook, serve and deliver the meals. If you are interested in helping, please contact them at: (845) 217-5750



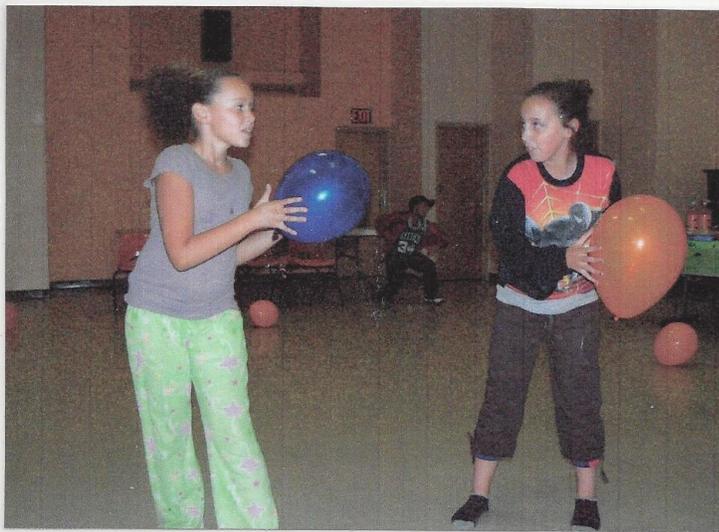
A trip down memory lane. If you can identify either a year, a person, or the reason for the photo – please let Nancy Forsythe know. (246-5509 or



nforsythe@hvc.rr.com).

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wv3



wv4

POSSIBLE HYBRID CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:

As we now have screens in the sanctuary, there is a possibility of having a new kind of Christmas Pageant in the time of Covid. The idea is to have 4-5 older students perform in person with the rest of the parts performed by the children on screen. Parents would record their children at home and send in the video to be used as part of the Sunday morning worship. Costumes, scripts and instructions would need to be picked up at the church. All children and youth—pre-school through grade 12—are invited to participate. (Grandchildren and friends welcome too!) Please contact Debbie Mecca by November 30, if your child or youth would be interested in being a part of this year's pageant. If we get a good response, we will then go forward with the program. The projected date for the pageant is Sunday, December 20.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IS MEETING VIA ZOOM!

We began our Zoom Sunday School on October 4. ALL children and youth from the church were sent packets of learning materials and crafts to go along with the lessons. We have a small, faithful group of both children and youth who log in each Sunday to learn about God and their faith. It is very, very disappointing that the majority of the children and youth didn't even log in once to at least give our online learning a try. Packets of materials for November were given to the children and youth who participated in October. Packets can be sent to additional families who request them and plan to log on in November. Children in pre-school through grade 6 meet on Sunday at 9:00AM and those in grades 7-12 meet on Sundays at 9:30AM.

BFF Kids, our youth group for kids in grades 4-6 is still on hiatus. Depending on how we are doing with the virus, we will seek permission to restart—with new guidelines—in early 2021.

ONLINE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Debbie Mecca is leading a Zoom Bible Study for Women on Thursday evenings at 7:00PM. The group has read through several books of the Bible and will soon be starting a new book. There has been much lively and insightful discussion and sharing and has turned out to be quite a bonding experience for those involved. If you would be interested in joining this study please contact Debbie and she will gladly include you.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY GROUP HAS BEGUN!

This new group for those ages 18-22 has begun meeting each Wednesday at 7:00PM and is open to the public. If you know anyone who might be interested, please contact Debbie Mecca for more info and Covid guidelines for meeting.

YOUTH GROUP IS MEETING!

Our Youth Group for those in grades 7-12 is meeting each Sunday from 6-8PM. Even with Covid restrictions, the group is bonding over socially distant activities, discussions and games. The group is hopeful that they can go on a Mission Trip this summer and are holding their first fundraiser in November.

YOUTH GROUP PIZZA FUNDRAISER!!



Hungry Bambinos Pizza is offering a coupon for a 1 topping large pizza for \$16. Our Youth Group will receive \$8 for each coupon redeemed!!!! What a great deal! You get a delicious pizza and the Youth Group gets \$8!!!! Hungry Bambinos is located at 3139 Route 9W, Saugerties Plaza (Barclay Heights). Coupons will be available at the church beginning on Sunday, November 8 or can be mailed to you if requested. (Contact the church office) The coupon is for pick up only and expires on November 30, 2020.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CHURCH'S YOUTH!!

The 2020 Holiday A-Fair is Going Virtual!



Because of COVID, we will not be able to hold our annual Holiday A-Fair in November. We will certainly miss the delicious offerings from our Church kitchen, the yummy bake goods table, and the fun of being together. There are many unique crafts that have been completed, so we have decided to try offering some on Facebook. The plan is to post a picture of the item on Facebook with a suggested donation. The first person to indicate in the comments that they would like the item gets it! A time will then be arranged for pickup at the Church. The proceeds will go directly to the Church.

This is a new venture for all of us, so we will see how it goes! Watch the Church Facebook page for postings soon. The plan is to share the photos on local on-line yard sale sites.