

The Messenger

The Monthly Newsletter of Saugerties UMC
"Your Community Church"

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**In-Person Worship Every Sunday at
10:30 AM**

**Worship will still be broadcast on
Facebook live**

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow charity;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; and Where there is sadness, joy.
O, Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying to ourselves that
we are born to eternal life.
Amen.*

The Prayer of St. Francis (printed above) is a well known and admired call for peace. It is a prayer that has been used for centuries and will be for many more. Why? Because it provides us with hopeful reassurance, and it is also a revelation by reminding us that WE are the true instruments of peace.

Peace is often misunderstood. Many people think that peace is defined as the absence of war. That definition, however, is clearly lacking of the true substance of peace which is a feeling of security in our lives. To feel secure is to look at the world as a place we want to be part of, to be involved with, and to interact with others. Hannah Arendt, humanist and philosopher, wrote in her book, *The Human Condition*, that we all share three characteristics: Labor, Work, and Action. Labor is defined as providing for our biological needs: food, shelter, child rearing. Work is something we physically make such as a building. Action is the most important because it means that we are involved in the world through our relations with people. Therefore, if we desire to be in relationship with others, we must first make peace with each other.

Peace is a verb - it is an action. Peace cannot be wished for; it must be made! Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will see God." Notice he called them 'peacemakers' rather than those who just desire peace. To live peacefully, is to actively pursue peace in our lives with our families, our neighbors and yes, according to Jesus, our enemies as well.

In the parable of the rich young man, he sought out Jesus and asked how he could attain eternal life. Jesus' answer left the young man quite forlorn because he

was not willing to do as Jesus asked. When the disciples questioned Jesus as to 'who could enter Heaven,' He responded that 'for humans nothing is possible, but for God, all things are possible.' That answer still holds true today as long as we understand that we are to 'work with' God; and not expect God to do it all.

So how do we 'work with' God? Simple, we have, at the very least, heard the Gospels and Jesus' admonition to love one another as He loves us. Simple, yes, but not easy.

To love one another does not mean that we need to hug and kiss one another on the street, in the stores, or even in church. It means that first – we must respect each other. We must recognize each other as a creation of God Almighty. And remember, God does not make mistakes. Everyone is created perfect in God's eyes. So can we learn to see other's through God's eyes? Of course we can! God created us in His image and likeness and the word likeness means to have the attributes of God. Those attributes are: respect, compassion, mercy and love. We all possess these attributes; therefore, we can be LIKE God. And we must be – we have no other choice.

Secondly, we must 'unlearn' the past. Revisionist history is not acceptable now, or ever. Many countries have tried to change the past by fabricating stories that run counter to facts. However, changing words on a piece of paper, feeding our young with misperceptions, or even outright lies, does not mean that God has turned a deaf ear. God is God of the ages – Past – Present – and Future. We cannot hide from God, nor can we pretend ignorance.

Thirdly, we must admit our mistakes, our transgressions, and our sins. God forgives those who repent, and repent earnestly. Contrition is good for the soul and makes us look at ourselves as God sees us. We must remember that God has spoken through the Prophets and his Son, Jesus Christ; and the message has always been the same - God demands equality, fairness, justice and obedience to the commandments.

I do hope you will take this to heart. In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 9, vs. 13 Jesus said: *"Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to be merciful; I don't want your sacrifices.' For I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough."* Please do not think we are ever 'good enough' rather, we must always question our thoughts, our words and our actions as they come from the heart. The heart is where our true feelings lie, and once again, they cannot be hidden from God. Or each other!

Go! Be disciples and doers of the Word!

*May God bless you all richly,
Pastor Tony*



By the time you read this, you will have learned our President, Donald Trump, and the First Lady, have tested positive for the corona virus. We lift them up in prayer, and wish them the very best care and recovery.

We are very much aware that there are people who have medical conditions that preclude them from coming to church at this time. There are also some who are not yet comfortable venturing out into the world. Please know that God appreciates your desire to stay well and safe, and so do we. When you feel truly comfortable, your space will be waiting for you. And yes, we will remember your name and welcome you back with hearts full of love and affection.



Bible Study! Monday's from 7:00-8:00 PM, Pastor Tony leads a Bible Study on Zoom. (Yes, we are still not able to meet in-person and may not be for a while). The study will focus on the lectionary readings for the coming week. We will explore the Gospel, a Psalm, and passages from the Old and New Testament writers. If you are interested, please email me at rev.tonymecca@hvc.rr.com and I will send you a link to the meeting. Please have a Bible with you, and if you do not have one, just ask and we will provide one for you.

Our annual **Charge Conference** will be held on November 22 at 3:00 PM. The Conference will be held on Zoom, and we will be joined with three other churches.

UMW News (United Methodist Women)

The United Methodist Women met in September at Ryder Park on the river and enjoyed a beautiful evening together. The program for the night was:

“Caring for Each Other in Community”

As a part of the program, we discussed ways to help our community. After a discussion, we decided to focus on helping the Mother Goose Nursery School in our church. The Nursery School has given us a list of supplies that they could use. Diane McDowell will be sending out a separate email to members with this list. Members can let Diane know what they would like to donate, so we don't duplicate items, or if they would like to give a monetary donation to the Nursery School and let the teachers obtain the items.

Our next meeting will be on **October 20 at 7:00**. This will be a ZOOM meeting and Debbie Mecca will send out the link for members to join the meeting. If anyone does not have access to ZOOM, please contact Diane or Joan and we will try to work something out. The topic for the program is:

“Righteousness Flows Like a Stream.”

We will be talking about climate change, and in particular, about water. This meeting is open to any woman in the church, so feel free to contact Debbie Mecca Debmecca1@aol.com so she can send you the link for the meeting.

Pictures from last month's meeting are below:

9/15/20 UMW





SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 4 VIA ZOOM!

Age appropriate materials for our weekly lessons in October have been sent to each family. These materials include worksheets, coloring pages, pieces for art projects and more. The Zoom calls will be held on Sunday mornings and last 20-30 minutes each. There will be two separate Zoom calls—one for students in grade 6 and younger beginning at 9:00 AM and one for those in grades 7-12 beginning at 9:30AM.

If you have not received the packet of materials for your children, or you know of a family member, friend or neighbor who would like to have their children or youth participate in our Zoom Sunday School, please contact Debbie Mecca.

BFF Kids, our youth group for kids in grades 4-6, as of now, does not have permission to meet. We are hoping to hold a modified version once we are given the go ahead. Notice will be sent out when and if we are allowed to meet.

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 be starting the book of Galatians on October 8. 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!

The first meeting of this new ministry was held on Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00PM and will continue to meet on the same day and time weekly in Fellowship Hall. Do you know anyone in this age group who might like to join? Please have them contact Debbie Mecca or just come next Wednesday. Participants must wear masks and social distancing measures are enforced.

YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES!

Youth in grades 7-12 meet each Sunday from 6-8PM in Fellowship Hall. All attendees must have their parent or guardian sign a form and provide contact information before they can attend. Face coverings and social distancing are mandatory and temperatures will be taken at the door. If you know someone who would like to attend our Youth Group (they do not have to belong to the church) or have lost the materials sent to your youth, please contact Debbie Mecca and she will provide you with the forms and information. There will be no Haunted House this year because of the pandemic but we are being optimistic and are planning to hold a Mission Trip in the summer of 2021. We are brainstorming alternative fundraisers as well. We are hoping to hold our first one in the near future.

Please note: The Messenger is certainly not as packed full of information as it was before corona. We have to seek permission from the District Superintendent for any and all activities, ministries, and programs. We have requested permission for a number of events and when we do receive a response, we will make you all aware of what will be happening at SUMC!