

# The Family Circle

A Publication of Fairview United Methodist Church

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## FEBRUARY 2020

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### FROM THE PASTOR.....

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28*

Some time ago I recall seeing a picture on FaceBook of a person with many tattoos and piercings all over their face. The person who posted it asked, "What is your reaction to this person?" I wasn't surprised by the responses of people who chimed in. They said things like "he needs counseling, he seems really troubled, he needs God." I guess it's a natural human reaction to judge someone by their appearance. How do we know he's not more together than most of us? My first reaction was, I'd like to meet him. I bet he has an interesting story to tell.

Our God is a welcoming God. Jesus did not turn people away because they were poor, sick or had a different belief system. It did not matter their age, where they came from or where they were headed. He did not love based on gender, their culture or looks. He did not turn people away. He said that the greatest way to live was to love God and love our neighbor. If Jesus is our example, then hopefully we seek to be more like him. I hope we can widen our love for others and work at doing it better.

Whether we welcome friends to our home, visitors to our church or just say hello to a person on the street, maybe we can display the welcoming attitude of God's love for all the world.

As a church, one of the main focuses this year has been an effort to seek ways to widen our welcome. Our Community Meal now welcomes students from CV who help support this ministry. We now include a time for singing and prayer with our community friends. Our Food Pantry has widened its base of clients and has stepped up and is offering more food and a greater variety. In the last year we supported Frank Crouch, a man in recovery. He was part of our church life, we offered rides, visited him in the hospital, grew with him at Bible Studies. Our Reconciling Team has worked for months, studying, praying and interviewing church folks to seek to gather ideas how we can be a friendlier church. Some ideas we have implemented, others are in process.

In February we are offering some chances to gather around this subject to help us move forward in faith. I am asking you to be part of this effort. Let's come together and put the time into this chance to study, talk and pray together. Come to the study, come to the dinner. I am putting time aside to help us in this work and I invite you to join me. (The themes of worship in February will all center around ways we can welcome others.) Pick at least one of the opportunities to help grow the church and widen our welcome.

Pastor Jan

Let's meet, talk, study and pray about how we can be more welcoming. What does the Bible say? How does our faith lead us? Two opportunities to delve deeper. *Please sign up in the Narthex.*

**Bible Study with Pastor Jan** Wednesdays in February @ 1 PM or Thursdays @ 6:30 PM "Faithful and Inclusive, the Bible Sexuality and the UMC"

**Dinner and a Movie.** Join us following worship in Fellowship Hall on Sunday February 16 for Lasagna and the Movie "Fish out of Water" sponsored by the Reconciling Team

**Leading Us in Worship.....  
February 2020**

**February 2** - Chili Cook-Off

Greeter: Amy Kehoe  
Liturgist: Debbie McMichael  
Ushers: Dave Tyler, Kevin Emmons,  
Dave Gardiner, Sue Barton  
Acolyte: Maddie Button  
Sermon: "Welcome to the Family of God"

**February 9** - Scout Sunday

Greeter: Debbie Tweedie  
Liturgist: Kevin Emmons  
Ushers: Jeremy Kimball, Jim Burlingame,  
Sandy Burlingame, Linda Merritt  
Acolyte: Elena Rose  
Sermon: "Welcoming Black Lives that Matter"

**February 16**

Greeter: Jean Barker  
Liturgist: Marcia Focht  
Ushers: Alan Slocum, Mark Slocum,  
Mike Purdy, Mikey Purdy  
Acolyte: Jaylee Kehoe  
Sermon: "Welcoming and Inclusive to LBGQ"

**February 23**

Greeter: Gail Merritt  
Liturgist: Sarah Gaeta  
Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty,  
Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy  
Acolyte: Anne Coleman  
Sermon: "Welcoming God in our Midst"



**February 26 at 7 PM**

Join us as we gather in the Fellowship Hall around the old rugged cross. The Praise Band and Bell Choir will provide special music. Imposition of Ashes. Let us begin this important journey together.

**Remember Our "Seniors"**

Can you set aside some time to remember our seniors and those who are shut-in...with a call, a note or better yet a visit? It means a lot!

**Good Shepherd Fairview**

Ernie Huyck Room 54  
80 Fairview Street  
Binghamton NY 13904

**At Home**

Dan & Estella Armstrong 30 Harry L Drive  
Kirkwood NY 13795

Larry & Sarah Baker 146 Old State Road  
Binghamton NY 13901

Jennie Brown Skyview Heights Unit B  
421 Overton St  
Endicott NY 13760-4790

Dawn Dressler 47 Moeller St  
Binghamton NY 13904

Evelyn Evans 130 Robinson Street  
Binghamton NY 13904

Leona Fiske 10 Gregory Avenue  
Binghamton NY 13901

John Hillard 54 Bigelow Street  
Binghamton NY 13904

Ethel Jones 64 Ahern Road  
Binghamton NY 13903

Patricia Reynolds 8 Wilcox Street  
Binghamton NY 13904-1335

Sheila Runyon 58 Broome Street  
Binghamton NY 13903

**Our Sincere Sympathies** are extended to the family and friends of Judy Becker. Judy died on January 13, 2020. Judy was a life long member at Fairview UMC, a mentor to many and a friend to all. She will be missed.



### Our Worship Attendance

December	8	101	
	12	32	(Blue Christmas)
	15	157	
	22	102	
	24	41	(4:00) 166 (7:00)
	29	60	
January	5	101	
	12	108	
	19	86	

### A special THANK YOU goes to:

- Tom Blake who covered for Pastor Jan in worship last month
- All who made a financial pledge
- Erin Bentley for her beautiful trumpet solo
- Jean Balmer for the donation of buffet chafing dishes for church dinners and for picking up bagels for the Food Pantry.

You are invited  
**LUNCH AND LEARN!**  
 Sunday, February 16  
 Lasagna dinner and movie  
 "Fish Out Of Water"  
 (The Bible and Homosexuality)  
 Sign-up sheet in Narthex



### Binghamton District Training Day

Workshop @ Central UMC. Saturday, February 29th. Registration @ 8:30 am. Workshop from 9am-1pm. Breakfast will be offered.

Feature speaker: Dr. John Tyson will be speaking on Wesley class meetings and the impact on discipleship. Call the Binghamton District office at 748-0662 to be included in this workshop.

Your Annual Conference Lay Member,  
 Susan Barton

### RENEWAL LEAVE

Pastors are encouraged to take a renewal leave every five years. Pastor Jan has been in the ministry for 33 years and hasn't taken one yet. UNTIL NOW! The PPR Committee has granted her a month off after Easter for rest and renewal. To be clear, she is not sick or planning on leaving us, it is simply a chance for her to refresh! Several church folks will be leading worship, covering the hospitals and meetings. More details to follow.



### Music Notes

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be welcoming Moe and Denise Helms, piano and french horn duo. We welcome them back as they share their talents with us.

We will be interviewing for a new organist soon. Chanmi will be leaving us in May. We have appreciated her presence with us! We knew when we hired her that she would be temporary but her goodbye is fast approaching.

Special thanks to the Praise Band for helping lead the Blue Christmas Service. We are looking for a Bell Choir Sub if anyone is interested as we have one member who will be away for six weeks in Feb/March. Let Pastor Jan know if interested.

~ Pastor Jan



## **REJUVENATE: Spring Retreat at Sky Lake**

Mark your calendars and join Pastor Jan at Sky Lake April 24-26. The theme will be "Caring for Creation." Let's find ways to recycle, reuse, care for the earth and each other. Let's discover how we can connect with God in nature.

Reminder the Spiritual Development Committee offers a \$50 gift once a year for anyone going on a retreat to further their spiritual growth. (See Karon Lewis or Kathy Sheehan Co-Chairs of the committee.) Also there are \$100 grants available at Sky Lake for those wishing to attend. Call the Sky Lake office for info. (607-467-2750)

## **FROM THE TRUSTEES**

The Trustees are seeking volunteers to help get the parsonage ready for occupancy. Volunteers are needed for several tasks including painting and cleaning. Please contact Dave Gardiner @ 607 624 2831.

## **SISTERS OF LYDIA**

Sisters of Lydia, a study group for women of all ages, meets the first Monday of each month, usually October until June. This group of dedicated women discuss various topics.

This year our focus is on the video series "Fierce: Women of the Bible who Changed the World" and while the series is connected you could join us for one or all sessions. We are in the Bouton Room at 6:30 pm with typically an 8:15 pm ending.

The upcoming session on Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a discussion surrounding an unnamed slave girl, Naaman's slave girl, found in (2 Kings 5).

Please join us, and bring a friend if you like, for an interesting evening of discussion and, as always an array of snacks.

~ Elizabeth Noonan and Kathy Sheehan,  
co-facilitators

## **MISSION AND OUTREACH**

Consider entering the 4th Annual Chili & Soup Cook-off on 2/2/20 after church. Registration is open; get a form on the narthex table. The entry fee is \$5; please share your recipes and Karon Lewis will create cookbooks to sell. We will all enjoy a "tasting lunch"! Proceeds will go to the Rescue Mission's Freeze Out. If you are up for it, join the "Freeze Out 5K to End Homelessness" at Highland Park on 2/28.

Throughout 2019, our church donated 16 cell phones to survivors of domestic abuse. If you have an old cell phone, please drop it in the basket across from the mailboxes. It is stripped of your information but usable for people who feel threatened to dial 911. We also donated 49 pairs of glasses to the Lions Club that distributes them worldwide. Way to go church: it's another way to make a difference in the community and world.

Our "Mittens & More Tree" was a great blessing to Calvin Coolidge Elementary School. The staff members were overwhelmed with our generosity. The tree netted 6 scarves, 12 pairs of mittens, 25 pairs of gloves, and 23 pairs of socks, 3 pairs of leggings, 5 hat/mitten sets, and 25 hats. Mission & Outreach team and individuals also donated enough to add 20 pairs of leggings or sweat-type pants, more socks & underwear & 16 pairs of sneakers.

The Ballard's Christmas Pajama Project for the children of the Wyoming Conference Children's Home (WCCH) was a huge success! There were plenty of pajamas to go around on Christmas Eve.

Church members joined us to Christmas Carol on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. We visited church people who are shut in and others in the neighborhood. We gave out little bags of hot chocolate & candy canes with invitations to Christmas Eve services.

The Food Pantry has transitioned to a comprehensive plan with items from the Food

Bank of the Southern Tier including fresh foods. Folks pick food items of their choice. We still need more volunteers for one hour on Mondays (4-5 or 5-6 PM). Can you give one hour a month or so?

Our Community meals (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 5-6 PM) and Ugly Quilts (every Monday 2:30-4:30) continue to serve the community and give our volunteers new connections and friendships! We laugh and have great fellowship. Please join us whenever you can drop in.

~ Blenda Smith, Chair (761-0327)

### **Fairview Finances**

Let's Celebrate! Not only was Fairview able to pay 100% of the Ministry Shares due in 2019 but also ended the year pretty close to budget. The Finance Committee would like to thank you for everything you did to make 2019 a great year. It couldn't have been done without YOU!

The 2020 budget is available in the Narthex or you can contact the church office. As you'll see, 2020 will be a challenge as we are starting off with another deficit and much larger than last year. To offset increased expenses and meet budget, the committee has some fun and exciting fundraisers in mind but we can't do it without your help. Consider stretching your donation, help with a dinner or BBQ, pay the electric or telephone bill, bring a friend to church or pledge, if you haven't yet, because it's never too late to make a difference! We did it in 2019 and we can do it in 2020!

~ Jeanette O'Malley, Chair

### **ATTENTION YOUTH.....**

The Youth Group will be making Valentines for the Food Pantry customers and our Shut-ins on Sunday, February 9 from 12:15-2:15 in the Youth Room. Pizza will be provided.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 2020. Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7pm in Fellowship hall. There will be evening prayer services on Thursdays at 6:30pm during lent. Maundy Thursday Service will also be at 7pm.

If you have an upcoming event that you would like displayed on the monitor in the Narthex, please see Robin Eastman and fill out a request form at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

As a gesture to welcome others, continue to wear your nametags, not only during worship but to any event you are attending at church.

~ Jennifer Evans, Chair

### **WALK TO EMMAUS**

The upcoming Spring Emmaus Walks:

Men – April 23-26

Women – April 30-May 3

The Walk to Emmaus is a journey in faith, a spiritual journey [not a physical walk] with others that is open to Christians of any denomination. It is a 3 day event that occurs in the spring and fall. For further information, please contact Ellen Gardiner.



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

~ Anne Frank



LOOKING AHEAD to activities you won't want to miss!

February

- 1 – Rescue Mission Meal
- 2 – Soup & Chili Cook-Off
- 3 – Sisters of Lydia
- 4 – Emmaus Reunion
- 16 – Dinner & a Movie following worship
- 20 – Community Meal
- 26 – ASH WEDNESDAY  
Service @ 7:00 Fellowship Hall

- 5,12,19,26 – Bible Study with Pastor Jan, 1:00
- 6,13,20,27 – Bible Study with Pastor Jan, 6:30

March 5,12,19,26 – Lenten Services

See the enclosed calendar for more church meetings and additional activities.

**Reconciling Congregation Core Team**

We have been busy continuing with one on one conversations with church members and friends, as well as planning some exciting events coming up for everyone to participate in! We continue with our goal of finding ways to ensure that we as a Church community welcome all persons and provide a safe and comfortable faith environment for everyone to meet God and others.

COMING UP:

**LUNCH AND LEARN**

On Sunday, February 16, 2020 we are sponsoring a lasagna dinner and a movie in the Fellowship Hall, and everyone is invited! "Fish Out of Water" is an entertaining and informative film which looks at the Church and the gay community, and the different Bible passages often used to condemn homosexuality. We'll have a chance for fellowship, great food, seeing the movie, and discussion. Babysitting will be available. There's a sign-up sheet in the

Narthex for this event. Please come and learn more about this topic.

Also, February is **Black History Month** so keep your eyes and ears open as our Team provides information and opportunities to participate in this critical theme for our Nation, our Community, and our Church. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and the monitor in the Narthex for additional information. If you have not been approached about a one on one conversation with someone from our team and would like to talk with one of us, to learn more about our goals, to express your ideas, or just to ask some questions, please contact a team member and we would be happy to speak with you. You do not have to be a church member to make this request.

~ Elizabeth Noonan, Lead

- Sue Barton, Sue Boucher, Pastor Jan,
- Liz Gdovin, Jennifer Evans, Kelvin Lee,
- Gary Liochle, Jamie Andres, Blenda Smith



Happy February to all. Winter is half over and Spring will be here soon!

As you know, we began 2020 with a partnership with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier (FBST). We have had such a great response to this change in structure in January that we are going to change our distributions to twice a month. Beginning in February, we will be 'open for business' on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. We will also be serving each family once a month. With our use of FBST, families get more food from us than in the past. And also, they get to pick and choose the food. Please pray that these changes will be a positive for the families and also for our church.

We are going to do our usual towel, washcloth, and personal items give away this month. Please think about donating towels and washcloths of good quality and/or shampoo, deodorant, etc. We have done this for several years and our pantry clients are most appreciative.

Please continue your donations of food and/or monetary contributions. For the month of February we would like to have canned fruit and vegetables donated. Also, continue your prayers for this wonderful mission we have been doing for years. And, if you want to volunteer to work, give one of us a nudge.

Love in Christ, Karen Gdovin and Sue Barton



## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

December brought much JOY! Many children, youth, and adults all participated in "No Vacancy," our Christmas Play; it delighted with humor as the stable animals explained Mary and Joseph's journey to the inn, and the birth of our Savior.

After the play during Worship, just over 100 people were welcomed for our soup and sandwich luncheon. Santa even took leave from the North Pole to join us! Special thank you's to everyone who baked cookies for our annual Cookie Tray Fundraiser! Thank you to all who purchased a tray(s) and/or a coffee mug(s); we were able to raise \$1,180 for our Sky Lake Scholarship Fund for our children and youth! What a Blessing! We still have mugs available for \$10 each. Please see Jamie Andres if you'd like to purchase one.

May the love of God always shine upon you and within you, always.

~ Jamie Andres, Chair

## **NEWS FROM SCOUT TROOP 5**

December 18, 2019 will be remembered in the annuals of the history of Boy Scout Troop 5. This is the day that six members of the troop became Eagle Scouts.

Congratulations to **Quinn Diehl, Angelo Garufi, Adam Diehl, Gabriel Rogers, Ethan Topinik and Nathaniel Allen.**

These fine young men have been members of Cub Scout Pack 5 and Boy Scout Troop 5 since they were seven years old. As part of the requirements of the Eagle Scout Award they must perform projects that are beneficial to the community. One boy built a bench that is in the front of Fairview UMC that allows people waiting for the bus to sit. Another, Nate Allen, developed a website called "faithbase.org" which allows churches to list their various activities. A GPS location for Aqua Terra Park in the Town of Binghamton was developed to aid hikers who may have gotten lost or are in need of help. Another project, movable walls were built in the Town of Binghamton Fire Station training area. Having six awards is quite an accomplishment for the troop. The leaders of the troop should be complimented for this great feat.

The Troop has monthly campouts around the area that teach them how to survive in the out of doors in all kinds of weather! One recent outing was to Salt Springs State Park just across the border in PA. They cleaned up the public area so that visitors to the park could enjoy the beauty of the park. One other outing this past year was to Assateague State Park in Virginia where they repaired some fencing that had deteriorated. On occasion, some scouts have helped to serve and clean up at our monthly Community Meal.

Be sure to see the recent Press and Sun Bulletin article that is on display on the bulletin board in the narthex of our church.

If you happen to see any of the scouts around the church, be sure to thank them for their service to our church and the community.

~ Joe Coons, Institutional Representative