

The Family Circle

A Publication of Fairview United Methodist Church
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APRIL 2020

FROM THE PASTOR.....

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Last month, you may remember, I invited you to use this Lenten Journey to consider the chance to seek silence in your life. I encouraged you to come away from it all and find ways to enter the quiet and center on God. IF I HAD ONLY KNOWN WHAT WAS AHEAD!

I marvel at the ways God leads us. I see my offering from last month as an example of "Prevenient Grace." The word "prevenient" comes from the English usage meaning "anticipating," "coming before," or "preceding." Our Book of Discipline defines it as "the divine love that surrounds all humanity and precedes all of our conscious impulses." I recognize it as the grace of God that goes before us leading the way. I would like to think that God's Spirit led me to write those thoughts knowing what was ahead for us. I am so thankful for our "Holy Friend's" gracious love that leads us and sets the stage for what is yet to unfold.

We are reminded in Psalm 18:2 **"The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."**

This month the silence is thrust upon us in ways we did not anticipate. I invite you to use the time to draw closer to the God who wants to draw nearer to you. Continue to pray. Care for your neighbors and friends. Don't panic! Don't lose hope! And above all, trust God to be with you. Have faith that God is at work in ways you cannot see and is preparing the stage for what lies ahead. It's a divine love that is already at work to help us have what we need for tomorrow. We can't see it but let us rest in the refuge of God's deliverance and saving grace.

Blessings on you and yours,

Pastor Jan

Fairview United Methodist Church CAPITAL PROJECT – AIR CONDITIONING FUND

On behalf of the Trustees, Finance Team and Church Council, it is my privilege to announce a Capital Project Campaign to fund air conditioning installation in our church sanctuary.

Our last Capital Project was over twenty (20) years ago and was for the stained glass windows. Throughout our history we have been very successful in responding to various requests of considerable cost.

Our Trustees continue to do a masterful job in both the church and the parsonage to keep us in excellent operating condition. The challenge of defining priorities is never easy, in both the short and long term, but we have discussed the need for air conditioning in the sanctuary for many years.

Beginning March 15th you will find designated envelopes in the bulletin so that you might consider a contribution for this project. Donations will be confidentially recorded by our Financial Secretary and duly recorded in your statements. We will provide a visual chart in the narthex to track our progress from week to week.

Please Note: We are kindly asking our congregation to continue their obligation to the general church operating budget and not substituting one for the other.

Our target costs for the Air Conditioning is \$35,000 and we have already obligated \$16,430 from appropriate dedicated funds to seed the Campaign.

Accepting this challenge is exciting and our timeline is dependent on the donation response. Keep Cool!

Many thanks for your consideration,

Steve Deinhardt, Church Council Chair
Trustees
Finance Committee

Contribution checks can be made out to Fairview UMC and earmarked "Capital Project"
Checks can be mailed to the church (254 Robinson Street, Binghamton NY 13904)
or placed in offering plates when we are able to resume church services

At this time we are unsure when we can gather for worship. Stay tuned!

**Leading Us in Worship.....
April 2020**

April 5 Palm Sunday

Greeter: Jean Balmer
Liturgist: Sarah Gaeata
Ushers: Dave Tyler, Kevin Emmons,
Dave Gardiner, Sue Barton
Acolyte: Ariana Reid
Scriptures: Psalm 118, Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11
Sermon: "Who is This?"

April 9 Maundy Thursday

7:00 Worship at Centenary-Chenango St UMC
Chancel Choir singing
Pastor Jan preaching "Being Cross Bearers"

April 12 Easter Sunday

Greeter: Debbie Tweedie
Liturgist: Kevin Emmons
Ushers: Jeremy Kimball, Jim Burlingame,
Sandy Burlingame, Linda Merritt
Acolyte: Maddie Button
Scriptures: Acts 30:34-43, John 20:1-18
Sermon: "An Empty Tomb but a Full Heart"

April 19 2nd Sunday of Easter

Preaching: Rev Mark Marino
Greeter: Penny Daugherty
Liturgist: Ellen Gardiner
Ushers: Alan Slocum, Mark Slocum,
Mike Purdy, Mikey Purdy
Acolyte: Lexie Rose
Scriptures: Kere,oaj 29:1,4-7, II Timothy 2:8-15
Sermon: "Live Long and Prosper"

April 26 3rd Sunday of Easter

Preaching: Elizabeth Noonan
Greeter: Marge Eastman
Liturgist: Amy Kehoe
Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty,
Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy
Acolyte: Anne Coleman
Scriptures: I Peter 1:17-23, Psalm 116
Luke 24:13-35
Sermon: "Seen or Unseen: the Flame of Faith"



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!

At Home

Dan & Estella Armstrong 30 Harry L Drive
Kirkwood NY 13795

Larry & Sarah Baker 146 Old State Road
Binghamton NY 13901

Jennie Brown 861 Front Street Apt 140
Binghamton NY 13905

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 condolences to the family and friends of Ernie Huyck. Ernie passed away on February 23, 2020.



Our Worship Attendance

March 1	102	Thursday Lenten Services
8	137	March 5
15	47	12
22	☹️	
29	☹️	

A special THANK YOU goes to:

- all those who have contributed to the Capital Campaign
- all those who have been helping fix up the parsonage
- the anonymous donor of a laptop for our Food Pantry
- our Prayer Messengers who helped Pastor Jan cancel church (March 22) and who continue to pray for our needs
- Steve and Marianne Deinhardt for doing some yard work
- Pastor Jan for her Lenten Devotionals and live streaming of worship
- all who keep our FB page and website active with pictures, posts and up-dates
- Robin Eastman for cleaning the sanctuary carpet and upholstered chairs throughout the building

PLEASE NOTE:

At this time we are no longer collecting BoxTops for Education or Campbells soup labels.

Our weekly Ugly Quilt work group has been suspended until we are again able to meet in groups.

New Members Class was postponed. Details to follow.

Rejuvenate: Spring Retreat at Sky Lake has been canceled for this year.

Ladies of the Lake Fall Retreat is scheduled to be held October 9-11, 2020

RENEWAL LEAVE

Pastor Jan will be on Renewal Leave beginning April 13 and will return on May 11. Blenda Smith will be coordinating hospital visits. Elizabeth Noonan will be coordinating worship and Pastor Ron Wenzinger (Centenary-Chenango Street UMC) will be on call as well.

PALM SUNDAY ROAD RALLY

In addition to online worship on Sunday, April 5th+, I invite you to a Road Rally. Drive to the church parking lot anytime between 10-12 and receive a blessing and a palm from Pastor Jan. Wave to your Fairview Friends from the car and get the route. Leave the parking lot shouting “Hosanna in the Highest.” Then you follow the route, stopping at various places and reading the scriptures provided as we remember the last week of Christ's life. There will be points where you will be asked to get out and find various sites so dress accordingly. (none of it requires much walking). SO bring the kids, come by yourself but come!

FAIRVIEW FINANCES

The Finance Committee continues to keep a close eye on the budget. With that said, since the events of our day have us canceling worship, it is critical that we continue our commitment to Fairview UMC by keeping up with our pledge. Heat, power, and salaries, among other things, still need to be paid. Please continue your commitment by mailing your check directly to the church. We will persevere!

Jeanette O'Malley, Chair





MISSION AND OUTREACH

Mission & Outreach has worked with Prayer Messengers to call everyone in our current church directory. We have offered a contact for (1) prayer requests (Karon Lewis at 607-427-1533), (2) personal needs for medicine or grocery needs (Blenda Smith at 607-761-0327) or (3) pastoral needs (Pastor Jan at 607-724-6886 or 570-362-3013). The building may be closed but the church is always “open”. We will do all we can within the limits of the state of emergency.

Remember to enjoy using our lending library outside the church. Look for the cute “little house on a pole” on Bigelow Street by the entrance. It is available to everyone. Also, we will get our “Blessing Box” with non-perishable groceries out for the community as soon as possible.

When we reconvene, we will remember those in desperate need through our “Blanket the World in Love” ministry through Church World Service. Donating a blanket(s) in honor or memory of a loved one is a great way to show your love – both to your loved ones and a world in need.

Because our Community Meal, Ugly Quilts, and Rescue Mission dinner are suspended for now, I can hear the whimpering from those who love to serve. We will be back ASAP!

~ Blenda Smith, Chair (761-0327)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Stacey Rose and I will be leading the Sunday School program for the remainder of this year. As with the rest of the church activities, Sunday School has been canceled until further notice. We will be resuming classes as soon as possible. We encourage all teachers to use this time to prayerfully consider and make plans for how their class can contribute to a

SPECTACULAR Children’s Day on June 14th. We will be having a meeting on April 26th following worship to discuss Children’s Day and any other concerns. If anyone has any questions prior to that, please feel free to contact either of us and we will do our best to answer! Bear with us...we’re rookies!

Stay safe and we will see everyone soon!

Reminder: As of now, we are still keeping the previous schedule of no Sunday School on April 19th. This has the potential to change based on the current health crisis.

~ Debbie McMichael 🐾



Hello Church Family!! We sure miss seeing each other on Sunday mornings and are praying for the day that we can meet in the Sanctuary to worship together again. Until that beautiful day arrives, please check the website, FUMC facebook page, and your email for information and opportunities to worship. Pastor Jan is sending devotionals via email. Did you see the Facebook Live service? Pastor Jan and Pastor Doug went live on Facebook from the Sanctuary on March 22nd. We sang songs, heard scripture, and prayed. During these unusual and unprecedented days, FUMC continues to find ways to be in fellowship and worship.

May Peace Be With You.
Jennifer Evans, Chair

Do not abandon yourselves to despair: We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song.

~ Pope John Paul II



Reconciling Ministries Core Team

On Sunday, March 8, 2020, Fairview Church voted to affirm the following Welcoming Statement for our Congregation:

Our God is a welcoming God. Fairview United Methodist Church affirms that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God all are worthy of God's love and grace.

We accept diversity as a rich gift in our community. We celebrate that diversity and fully welcome all people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, family structure, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic background, political affiliation, intellectual, physical, or other disability, faith history, incarceration history, or life experience.

We believe that "Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors." is not just a slogan; it is who we are. It's who Jesus calls us to be.

Our RC Core Team has worked over the past year to find ideas and ways for FUMC to grow as a welcoming church, and has been given many wonderful ideas from our membership. Our Welcoming Statement is a product of the year's ideas and activities. It makes it possible for us to become a Reconciling Congregation, which means we publicly state what we believe, as in the above Statement, and that we make it known to the community and world around us. It widens our opportunity for ministry to anyone outside our church, specifically people who may not have previously felt welcomed (sometimes the very poor, sometimes the previously incarcerated, sometimes those of different sexual orientations, sometimes those of other or no faith background, etc.) to know that they can find friends here, find God's love here, and find a home here.

Thank you, Church, for showing that you truly love God and your neighbor!

Team Members: Pastor Jan, Elizabeth Noonan, Sue Barton, Sue Boucher, Jenn Evans, Liz Gdovin, Kelvin Lee, Gary Loichle, Blenda Smith.

All scheduled activities are on hold at this time but see the enclosed calendar for what would be happening in April.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

I hope this finds our church family safe and healthy. The Trustees Meeting that was scheduled for April 13 will depend on how things progress. If you are one of the trustees, be sure to check your text messages for updates. Work continues on the parsonage and it is coming along nicely. A big "Thank You" to the person/people who cleaned up all the leaves and rubbish around the church and parsonage. The "spring work day" is tentatively still scheduled for May 30 (Saturday after Memorial Day) Happy Spring!

~ Gail Merritt

SISTERS OF LYDIA

Calling all women! Sisters of Lydia invites women of all ages and life situations to join us *most* every month for fellowship, food, fun, and learning more about our faith.

Our current study is on "Fierce: Women of the Bible Who Changed the World." Our next featured women of the Bible will be Lois and Eunice, and you can get a preview on them if you wish to read Acts 16 and 2 Timothy 1. There's no heavy study preparation necessary, just come and enjoy and bring a friend.

Our next meeting time is uncertain as of now. Please watch for emails and Facebook messages for scheduling when able.

Ladies, live fiercely against the challenges of today!

~ Kathy Sheehan and Elizabeth Noonan



This is being written on the eve of the Spring Solstice. Some people have crocus plants sprouting up. I have daffodils and tulips coming up. This is a great time to watch God bring out His/Her pastels and paint for us.

Karen mentioned a grant that we were going to receive in the month of March. We were all set to learn about this "T-fab" when the coronavirus decided to arrive. Therefore, this has been delayed.

On Monday, March 16th, we decided that the pantry should be open as per usual but give grocery bags packed with food for anyone who came to us that day. We had 18 families. They all were so appreciative to our church. What a great mission this has become for so many. Thank you!

We realize that many of us may get "down" about what has happened and what may happen in our world. So, we want to share Proverbs 3: 5-6 with you: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths." May God continue to bless.

~ Sue Barton and Karen Gdovin, Co- chairs



Music Notes

Our choirs have needed to take a break from rehearsals due to the outbreak of the virus. We will do our best to provide some great music when we are back together. A new piece of the

Chancel Choir features Erin Bently on trumpet for Easter!

I will be starting to work on special music for the summer. If you can help, let me know! We will say goodbye to Chanmi at the end of May and will have several substitute organists this summer. We will welcome our new organist/choir director in September.

We have a new plan for the children's music. Chanmi and I will be meeting the Sunday School children at 9:15 each week in the sanctuary before they go to their classes. We hope to have all the children sing together once a month in worship!

~ Pastor Jan



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

We have met and are focused on activities such as Sunday School, Sisters of Lydia, Shepard Ministry, Prayer Messengers and Sky Lake Scholarships. Additionally, we are arranging plans and leadership regarding Vacation Bible School and other ways to bring our congregation together. The team brainstormed various ideas for the future to meet the spiritual needs by connecting with our congregation. Upcoming dates are too tentative to note, so please look for events on calendars, bulletins, email, and Facebook. If you have an interest in being involved in this committee, please contact Karon Lewis at kayreno1@yahoo.com or 427-1533 or Kathy Sheehan at ksheehan1723@gmail.com or 648-9774.

As we close, please know that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." Psalm 116:1-2.

Blessing from Karon Lewis and Kathy Sheehan
Co-facilitators