

The Family Circle

A Publication of Fairview United Methodist Church

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FALL 2020

From the Pastor...

Psalm 150:1 "Praise God in the holy house of worship."

For several months now I have been working with a team of folks to help us consider how to re- open our church. **We will re open on September 13!!** We have carefully studied the laws set by our Governor and considered the suggestions offered by our Annual Conference. We will proceed slowly, observing physical distancing and other safety related guidelines. Several steps have been taken to prepare the building for your safe return. While some of these might seem difficult at first, please know these guidelines won't be the way of operating forever. Also, these are not our rules, they are safety measures we must legally follow if we are to open for worship.

Masks will be require for all members and guests who enter the building.

The side door on Bigelow Street will be the *only* door open. There the greeter will invite you to sanitize your hands and sign in.

Services will be at the regular time, 10:30AM on Sunday. I would suggest you come a bit early in order to get signed in etc. (We will continue to offer on-line services as well.)

Ushers will seat you in the sanctuary. The pews have been marked off to maintain 6' physical distancing and hand sanitizers have been placed throughout the building. Please continue to wear your mask **until all have been seated and the service begins**. You may remove your mask if you wish until the end of the service. People will be seated according to those who live in their households.

During worship we are not able to sing (darn it!) but you may hum and listen to the designated singer. Maybe this will allow us the chance to think about the words and message of the hymns in a new way.

All hymnals and bibles have been removed. Offering plates will not be passed; rather they will be located on a table as you enter the sanctuary. If you don't feel comfortable coming back to worship just yet, please mail in your offering to the church office. Your support is needed now more than ever!

When the service is over, please put your mask back on. Ushers will escort you out after the Postlude. Services will be shorter too. Pastor will greet you down by the Bigelow Street door. There will be no social hour.

There will be no nursery attendant for now but the nursery will be open for those who may have a fussy child. (And you can hear the service there too)

Choirs will begin slowly. Bell choir will start with quartets, Chancel Choir with solos, duets and small groups, Praise Band with a few singers and Children/Youth choir to begin perhaps later in the fall.

We will not be having Sunday School at first. The teachers are meeting soon to discuss a way to offer something to keep our children and youth grounded in the faith. I will be leading a Bible Study on Zoom starting Thursday, September 10 on the Gospel of Mark. Let me know if you wish to attend so I can send you the link! Remember to watch our story time on Wednesday Nights at 6:30 on Facebook. We will also be developing small groups for spiritual growth. (See article)

I would like to thank our Re-Opening Team for all their wisdom and help along the way. Members are: Steve Deinhardt, Kevin Emmons, George Ernst, Jennifer Evans, Dave Gardiner, Karen Gdovin, Karon Lewis, Elizabeth Noonan, Blenda Smith. I would also like to thank all the members and friends of Fairview for your continued generous donations since our closure in March. To date, your faithful support to the on-going ministries of Fairview has made it possible to meet our financial obligations.

I look forward to welcoming you all back to your church home! I miss you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jan



A New Intern!

We are pleased to welcome Amber Gregory (and her husband Bruce) to our church. She is contemplating a Call to Ministry and is working with Pastor Jan to "Shadow" her and find out what the job is all about. She has agreed to volunteer and help out in various areas.

Bruce and Amber Gregory have both grown up and gone to college in this area. Amber has a degree in Social Science and Bruce has degrees in Music and Education. Bruce taught fourth grade at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School and retired four years ago. He now runs Cinema Saver in Endicott with Amber. Amber started in the movie business when she was nineteen years old and has owned Cinema Saver for 22 years. Amber also has a certification teaching dance and taught for seven years before starting her family. Amber has two children by her first marriage a son Dane age 17, and a daughter Lana age 16. Bruce has three children by his first marriage two sons, Josh age 39 and Aaron age 33 and a daughter Sarah age 37. Together they have four, soon to be five, grandchildren! Bruce ran the praise band at Tabernacle UMC for 16 years and that is where he and Amber met when she joined the band 8 years ago. Bruce plays piano and keyboards and both he and Amber sing. Amber is thinking of going in to ministry and that is what has lead them to Fairview UMC. Amber is hoping to gain knowledge of the practical side of such a job by helping and observing at Fairview. Of course Bruce and Amber like to worship together so they will both be part of the congregation for the next year at least and see what happens from there.

Remember Our "Seniors"

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

Good-Shepherd Fairview Home

Bob Smith 80 Fairview Ave (Rm B14a)
Binghamton NY 13904

Dawn Spencer 80 Fairview Avenue (Rm 20)
Binghamton NY 13904

St Louise Manor

Jennie Brown St Louise Manor (Apt 148)
861 Upper Front Street
Binghamton NY 13905

At Home

Dan & Estella Armstrong 30 Harry L Drive
Kirkwood NY 13795

Larry & Sarah Baker 146 Old State Road
Binghamton NY 13901

Dawn Dressler 47 Moeller Street
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

Bob & Peg Muth 725 Lee Circle N-58
Johnson City NY 13790

Patricia Reynolds 8 Wilcox Street
Binghamton NY 13904-1335

Sheila Runyon Hamilton House Apts
16 St John Avenue Apt 107
Binghamton NY 13905

Betty Waffle 12 Burton Avenue
Binghamton NY 13904



Saturday, September 12
11:00 a.m. till Sold Out
\$9.00

½ BBQ Chicken
Salt Potatoes & Baked Beans
Roll with butter & Cookie

TAKE-OUT ONLY

BIBLE STUDY - THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Join Pastor Jan for a virtual Zoom Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark to begin Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 PM. Please notify her if you wish to attend so she can send you the invitation link.

SACRED CIRCLES

We will be starting some small groups this fall. Harkening back to our roots in Methodism, John Wesley encouraged his churches to be in small covenant groups called "class meetings" for spiritual growth.

Each Circle will include no more than 5 people and will have a trained leader. A short devotion will begin the time together. There will be prayer, a theme to guide your focus, times of silence and a chance for each person to speak. The group will develop a covenant based on ways they hope to grow in the faith. There will be groups for men and woman and offered during the day and evening. I hope to train the leaders in October and we will begin the groups in November.

If you would like to be in a Sacred Circle, please call the office [724-6886] or send me an email [fairviewpastor@aol.com]. To grow bigger we often must start smaller! Join us for this opportunity to grow in faith and friendship with others.

Leading Us in our Worship..... September 2020

September 6

Greeter: Linda Purdy
Liturgist: Ellen Gardiner
Singer: Judy Knewasser
Ushers: David Tyler, Kevin Emmons,
Dave Gardiner, Sue Barton
Scripture: Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:125-20
Sermon: "Connecting Well"

September 13

Greeter: Ellen Gardiner
Liturgist: Pastor Doug Clark
Singer: Marcia Focht
Acolyte: Ariana
Ushers: Korin Spencer, Riley Spencer
AJ & Linda VonWolferdsdorf
Scripture: Exodus 14:1-31, Matthew 18:21-35
Sermon: "Deliverance!"
Special Music: "Till the Storm Passes By"
Duet: Claudia Kachmarik & Pastor Jan

September 20

Greeter: Amy Kehoe
Liturgist: Leon Jicha
Singer: Kathy Ballard
Acolyte: Maddie Button
Ushers: Paul & Jeanette O'Malley
Mike Purdy
Scripture: Exodus 16:2-15, Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon: "Trusting the Gifts of God"
Special Music: "I want Jesus to Walk with Me"
Solo: Claudia Kachmarik

September 27

Greeter: Kris & Kathy Ballard
Liturgist: Amber Gregory
Singer: Bruce Gregory
Acolyte: Elena Rose
Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty
Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy
Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7, Philippians 2:1-13
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Sermon: "Learning to Play Second Fiddle"
Special Music: Handbells



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Bryant Clark and Kristina Fallon who were married on August 1st. The Rev Vicki Burtson presided over the ceremony. The wedding was in the lovely backyard setting at the home of Liz and Jon Gdovin, with immediate family members celebrating with them.

Thank you goes to:

- Dave Gardiner and Kris Ballard for pulling up the shrubs on the side of the church and replanting
- All who offered food for our Blessing Box
- Elizabeth Noonan for lining up our story readers each week and thank you to the readers!
- Austin and Emily Clair for taping the services this summer and getting them on Facebook
- Marcia Focht for sending out the hymns each week
- those who have prepared and served the free Take-Out Meals and the cookie bakers, Karon and Phyllis
- all who helped with the July Chicken BBQ

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The church organ will be undergoing some repairs and a tuning within the next couple of months. It should sound better than ever when it's all done.

The parsonage HAS been rented and is now occupied.

A section of the Bigelow Street side of the church has undergone a landscaping makeover. Dave Gardiner and Kris Ballard pulled out the overgrown shrubs that were in front of the church building and some replanting was done. A big thank you to both of them, and especially Kris for taking two truck AND trailer loads of shrubs to the landfill.

Looking forward to being together in worship.

~ Gail Merritt, Scribe

BLESSING BOX

Our free food box out front by the Bus Stop is getting used quite a bit! There is food for people to access when our Food Pantry is not open. If you would like to donate to it, feel free! Cereal, juice, tuna, canned soup, pasta, instant potatoes, ravioli, spaghetti sauce and personal care items are a big hit.



MUSIC NOTES

We were happy to welcome several substitute organists this summer. How wonderful it was to hear the musical talents of Carolyn Blake, Maddie Hoover, Lois Bales, Maureen Helms and Bruce Gregory. Special shout out to Kelvin and Julie Lee and Erin Bentley for offering special music.

On September 13 we will welcome our new Organist/Choir Director Claudia Kachmarik. Claudia and I sing in the Madrigal Choir of Binghamton and I look forward to working with her.

WE ARE A WELCOMING CHURCH

In March we took a vote and passed a Welcoming Statement that also means we are now a Reconciling Congregation. This means simply that we have put in writing and have committed ourselves to widening our welcome to include those who are often marginalized and discriminated against.

On the day of the vote we had many visitors who were there to support us in this decision. They did not cast a vote. We also welcomed back several college students and young adults who traveled many miles to make their vote count on this important decision!

Passing this statement and becoming a Reconciling Congregation does not mean any money in the budget goes to the Reconciling Network. It does not in any way go against the

Book of Discipline of the UMC. It does not grant me the ability to perform same sex marriages. The decision on that matter and on the ordination of gay clergy will be decided at the next General Conference of the UMC. For me, it is simply stating the welcoming way we have been for years. We will continue to work toward ways of widening our welcome.

If you voted against this, we still celebrate the gift of your presence among us! We are a diverse group and we won't agree on everything but we can still grow in our faith together. If you have any questions about this and would like to talk to me, feel free to make an appointment to see me. As people in covenant with each other let me remind you that the way to unity is through discussion and open conversation. The use of gossip and complaining to others is not a healthy way of working through difficult issues.

If anything, this virus has pointed out that there are many important matters that we face in our world today. As people of faith, let us come together to be the church Christ calls us to be.

Pastor Jan

The Fairview UMC Welcoming Statement:

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.



FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

Now that we are re-opened, you can purchase flowers for Sunday worship in honor or memory of someone. Just call the church office if you want to offer flowers for worship. (for now the flower sign-up sheet is not available in the narthex) You can bring the check (\$25) to church or mail it in. We have canceled our bulletin service for now.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

The church may have been closed but many of the Mission and Outreach ministries continued and new ones have started!

The Food Pantry is going strong every 1st and 3rd Monday. We reopened the Community Dinner as a take-out meal and upped it to twice a month (2nd and 4th Mondays). We have applied and been approved to purchase food from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier at a reduced cost. We'll try to keep up this ambitious schedule as long as we have the money to purchase food and the people to volunteer to cook, dish up meals, serve as runners at the Bigelow door, and clean up. PLEASE let Blenda know if you will volunteer for any of these jobs that take 30 minutes to 2 hours at the most (607-761-0327).

Cookie bakers were busy with Operation Cookie – baking and delivering to shut-ins. "Operation Helping Kids" collected diapers for the Children's Home Preventive Services; a car and trunk load were delivered to the delight of care givers.

Our Blessing Box on the corner by the bus stop and our Fairview bench is seeing lots of action. It has basic non-perishable food items, masks, and incidentals. We add to it several times a week. The sign says to "take what you

need; leave some for your neighbors". People have been very respectful and responsible. We are on hold with Calvin Coolidge school items. Meanwhile Prayer Messengers will be writing personal notes to each staff member to let them know we pray and care for them all throughout the school year. We have been told those notes are often posted in teachers' rooms as reminders of our promise from Fairview.

Although Ugly Quilts group cannot meet yet, the group is ready and excited to start again as soon as it's safe to do so. Consider joining this fun group on Monday 2:30-4:30 when we restart. We enjoy fellowship as much as tying knots. **NO** experience needed.

One of our church signs summed it up: "Our church has left the building. We are out spreading God's love."

~ Blenda Smith, Chair



We want to thank all of you who continued to donate money and/or your time to keep our Food Pantry open 2X per month. We were able to give out bags of groceries that were filled to the top, plus extra bags of fruit, yogurt, butter, meats, etcetera, all summer. We helped feed 289 children, adults, and seniors in June, July, and August. God is good and so are you!

Recently, our own, really cool gardener, Dave Gardiner, has supplied us with tomatoes and cucumbers. Thank you, Dave.

Our volunteers are super! We have maintained COVID requirements and we had a few very hot days, which we had bottles of cold water for them and the clients.

Autumn is fast approaching and we will continue giving food out to those in need. May God continue to bless us and keep us safe.

~ Karen Gdovin & Sue Barton



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

As we start the “new normal” of re-opening in these times where we have to re-assess everything that seems normal to us, we have had to assess all that we typically do. So with that in mind, blessing to all as we move forward. We have decided to develop a simple motto as we move forward – that of STAYING CONNECTED with one another. The Spiritual Development Committee has oversight for many things which include each of the following:

- Sunday School – The teachers will be meeting with Pastor Jan to see how we can virtually and through visits STAY CONNECTED with our students. We are not prepared to start of Sunday School classes but will be connecting in other ways. If you have a child interested in attending please feel free to contact any of us to STAY or GET CONNECTED.
- Many thanks to all the readers and the videographer (Elizabeth Noonan) for our weekly Facebook BED TIME Stories each week at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. This is going to continue so if you have a book idea (for younger and older children) please share, if you would like to read some night please let us know and if you have a youth you know that would enjoy these readings please join our church Facebook page. If you would like to know more about this please contact Elizabeth Noonan at elizabethnoonan7545@gmail.com.
- Sisters of Lydia – Elizabeth Noonan and Kathy Sheehan have facilitated this women’s group for several years. The group has enjoyed an evening, monthly focused on how we live our lives, what the Bible notes about a certain topic and have a chance to enjoy an evening of learning, conversation and snacks. We plan to re-vamp this group and start sessions in January so we can STAY CONNECTED.
- We were not able to send our youth to SKY LAKE this year for summer camps but funds are available and planning will continue for next year. If you would like to find a place to donate your bottles, you can do so at our Bigelow Street entrance. All of the bottle funds go to support camp scholarships.
- Our Prayer Messengers Group, coordinated by Karon Lewis, has continued and will continue to be virtual but this group has prayed for many, well probably thousands who needed our spiritual support. Please feel free to share a requests by 9:00 am on Wednesday any given week via Karon Lewis’s email at kayreno1@yahoo.com. If you do not have electronic means please call or text Karon Lewis at 427-1533. This is a powerful group, dedicated to every person who has a need, large or small. Please note

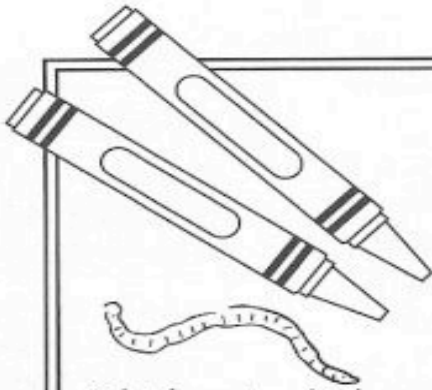
that any request is held in confidence unless the request notes to share among the church.

- Vacation Bible School did not happen, such sad news since its so much fun, but there is an on-line curriculum available to use. Any church member may gain access to this 3 day spiritual session title “BOLT” by contacting Kathy Sheehan at ksheehan1723@gmail.com.
- You will be hearing more about this but there are plans forming to have small groups known as “Sacred Circles” where a small group meet for a defined period of time about a certain topic to help us grow in our faith. More info to come with this new way to STAY CONNECTED.
- Pastor Jan is planning a ZOOM on-line Bible study for the fall on the Gospel of Mark. More to come.
- The Shepard Ministries group, which is organized by Ellen Gardiner and Myrt Buchanan, offers to those of our church who are shut-ins a person who connects with them on a regular basis to STAY CONNECTED with our church. It can be as simple as an arranged call, a note, a card, a visit or other ways to connect with our church family who are at home due to a variety of reasons. This is a wonderful experience for both the shut-in and the person who connects with them. There is a need right now so if you are interested please call Ellen at 624-4311 or Myrt at 722-0063.

Thank you to all who have taken on any portion of this work, which is so important and noted in Galatians 6:2 *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* Or in other words we are all in this together, connected to each other.

In prayer to all, Karon Lewis and Kathy Sheehan – Co-chairs Spiritual Development Committee





Just for **KIDS**

Bugs in the Bible



Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.



*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.*

Proverbs 6:6 _____

Exodus 16:20 _____

Psalms 78:45 _____

1 Sam. 24:14 _____

Matt. 23:24 _____

Isaiah 50:9 _____

Judges 14:8 _____

Isaiah 59:5 _____



Acts 12:23 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Deuteronomy 7:20 _____



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket