

The Family Circle

A Publication of Fairview United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation

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NOVEMBER 2020

From the Pastor...

“May the Lord watch between you and me while we are absent one from another” Genesis 31:49

Our theme for this year is “Staying Connected.” During this pandemic many of our church activities have been put on hold. We closed our building for worship for many months. We were reminded once again, that the church was never about the building. We learned to find new ways to continue our ministry. It hasn’t been easy but we have managed to continue to be a beacon of light on the East Side of Binghamton and beyond. We found some creative ways to witness to our faith with a Palm Sunday Pilgrimage, a Pentecost car parade and participating in the Black Lives Matter peaceful protest. This summer we had “Operation Cookie.” Several folks made cookies and dropped them off to church members as a way to help them know they were not forgotten. Some of these activities were highlighted in an article that featured our church in the Conference Magazine “the Advocate.” Did you see it?

Some of the ways we stay connected involve committee meetings and Bible Studies by Zoom. We offer our worship services on Facebook and our website. We will soon purchase a video camera and laptop that will be used in the balcony to film our services with even greater definition and volume. Story Time for kids (and kids at heart) continues weekly. This has broadened our base as we welcome those tuning in. We have folks watching from many parts of the country! This also allows our church folks who are unable to return right now an avenue to stay connected.

We continue to connect with our community with Take Out Community Meals and Food Pantry items. Our Blessing Box out front and our Lending Library are filled on a regular basis. School supplies have been purchased for Calvin Coolidge School.

Several church leaders have agreed to call folks who have not yet returned. They are calling on a monthly basis in an effort to stay connected. Our Finance Committee is working on developing a way to offer online giving so you can stay connected with your gifts.

Sacred Circles are a new avenue we are exploring. We are putting together small groups to help us grow in our faith and friendship with one another. Each group will decide how often they will meet. Each gathering will be around a different theme with trained leaders. The groups will be small in number so they can meet in person at the church. Please consider signing up! (sign up in narthex or call church office) Groups will start before the end of the year.

I am proud of this church for all the ways we continue to reach out to others and reach in to those in our fellowship. Many have worked hard to help us move forward in faith. May God continue to guide us as we journey on!

Pastor Jan

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

Mercy House

Pat Reynolds Mercy House Rm #3
212 N McKinley Ave, Endicott NY 13760

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

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

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

Betty Waffle 12 Burton Avenue
Binghamton NY 13904

Leading Us in our Worship..... November 2020

November 1

Greeter: Blenda Smith
Liturgist: Pastor Doug Clark
Acolyte: Lexi Rose
Ushers: David Tyler, Kevin Emmons,
Dave Gardiner, Sue Barton
Scripture: I John 3:1-3, Revelation 7:9-17
Sermon: “Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal”

November 8

Greeter: Judy Knewasser
Liturgist: Kevin Emmons
Acolyte: Maddie Button
Ushers: Korin Spencer, Riley Spencer
Scripture: Joshua 24:1-3a,14-15, Matthew 25:1-13
Sermon: “Having our Ducks in a Row”

November 15 Stewardship Pledge Sunday

Greeter: Kris & Kathy Ballard
Liturgist: Amy Kehoe
Acolyte: Ariana Reid
Ushers: Paul & Jeanette O’Malley
Mike Purdy, Aaron Noonan
Scripture: I Chronicles 4:10, Judges 4:1-7
Matthew 25:14-30
Sermon: “Using Your Talents”

November 22

Greeter: Paul & Jeanette O’Malley
Liturgist: Ellen Gardiner
Acolyte: Delilah Kachmarik
Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty
Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy
Scripture: Psalm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23
Sermon: “Gushing with Thanks!”
Special Music: Handbells, Organ-Piano Duet

November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

Greeter: Linda Purdy
Liturgist: Joe Coons
Acolyte: Elena Rose
Ushers: Ellen Gardiner, Mike Purdy
Blenda Smith
Scripture: Psalm 80:1-7,17-19, Mark 13:28-37
Sermon: “Keeping an Eye Out”
Elizabeth Noonan preaching

THANK YOU goes to:

- Sue Papastrat for her hard work in helping us acquire funds and forgiveness for PPP loan
- Dave Gardiner and his helpers for the final Chicken BBQ of the season and the successful Chicken and Biscuit Dinner
- Amber and Bruce Gregory, Carol Carpenetti, Susan Button and Lori Barbeisch and others who have continued to support our Blessing Box
- Fenton Free Library for their collection of food for our Blessing Box and books for the Lending Library
- Cindy Minus and Carol Carpenetti and Karen Wood for cooking our recent Community Meals
- Phyllis Smith and Karon Lewis who are the official cookie bakers for all our Community Meals

Special Thank Yous:

Thank you to my church family for your outpouring of love after my knee surgery. I appreciate all the cards, food and prayers!

Sue Barton

I want to thank my church for all your cards and prayers. It helps a great deal.

Bob Smith

THANK YOU to all that sent cards, called and/or said prayers for my mom Nancy Price. She came home from the hospital Friday evening and is in good spirits.

Jennifer Evans

I want to express my gratitude for your tribute to me during Pastor Appreciation Month. I was humbled and touched by your outpouring of love this month. Thank you for the kind words in church, the flowers, gifts, cards and prayers. I am so proud to be your pastor and am encouraged during this difficult time with your affirmation and care.

Pastor Jan



Please pray for our Church Leaders for the coming year

Church Council Members

Annual Conference Lay Member: Sue Barton

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee:

Steve Deinhardt

Committee on Finance Chair: Dave Gardiner

Sunday School Superintendent:

Debbie McMichael

Spiritual Development:

Karon Lewis & Kathy Sheehan

Worship Chair: Jennifer Evans

Church Treasurer: Sue Papastrat

Mission & Outreach: Sue Barton & Sue Boucher

Financial Secretary: Phyllis Smith

Food Pantry: Sue Barton & Karen Gdovin

Trustee Chair: TBD

CHRISTMAS EVE - No In Person Worship

Due to the pandemic, we will not be holding services Christmas Eve. To accommodate the number of people we would expect with social distancing, would need would necessitate about 4 services which is simply not a practical solution. Once again, it is time to think creatively.

I wrote a Christmas Pageant that would allow us to keep safety precautions by bringing in families one at a time to rehearse. So we are looking for children, youth and parents to participate. Let me know if you want to join in the fun! We will meet Saturdays in December to rehearse. On December 19 we have hired a professional to come in and record our play and our music groups. (The cost has been covered by some church members) We will then offer this Christmas Eve Service on Facebook and our website. It will feature our play and various

musical groups and readers along with some familiar carols.

We are looking into offering a DVD for those who may not own a computer. We will also be handing out "Christmas Eve Kits" which will include the carols we will be singing and small candles. The idea: you can gather with your family or friends on Christmas Eve and then when you are ready, enjoy the service together. You will be able to turn the lights out, light your candle and join us in singing "Silent Night."

During this difficult time, we invite you to draw close to those who surround you, as you draw closer to God.

Pastor Jan

UPCOMING BOOK STUDIES

Advent Study led by Elizabeth Noonan

A Zoom Advent Study will be offered beginning the first week of December. Based on the theme of a book by Ed Robb, "Making Room: Sharing the Love of Christmas", we will explore making room in our lives for others and for Christ. It's exciting because it's so meaningful in our world today. Here's a preview of the discussions:

"One of the things we love most about Christmas is gathering with dear family members and close friends to celebrate Christ's birth. That's an important part of the season, but Dr. Ed Robb, author of Making Room, says if we look at the Advent story we'll quickly learn that the focus of the coming of the newborn king is outward. This four-week study explores the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the magi. The story of Christ's birth encourages us to widen our borders and increase our sense of community—and make room for others."

You may purchase the book through Cokesbury if you wish, but it is not necessary. The study will be led by Elizabeth Noonan and offered with a choice of Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm or Wednesday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm for four weeks, beginning on Tues/Wed, December 1, 2. Please sign up by emailing Elizabeth with your choice of times and any questions. elizabethnoonan7545@gmail.com

Given the racial divide in our country and sin of systemic racism in our world we will be focusing on this issue in the coming year. All council members and church leaders are asked to join in one or both of these upcoming classes. As leaders we need to come together on how we can be the church, to understand our role in helping to combat racism and become a beacon of hope. (This is also a focus of our Annual Conference and each year we are asked to report how we plan to address racism in our church.)

Beginning in January led by Pastor Jan

Book Study "Me and White Supremacy" Combat Racism, Change the world and Become a good ancestor by Layla F. Saad Order the book today! (If you do not have the funds to purchase the book let Pastor Jan know. The church will gladly help with funding) Classes will be by Zoom with a morning and evening class.

Beginning in Lent

"Imagine No Racism" Class A Conference Wide initiative including videos and well developed concepts to consider. Led by Blenda Smith and Pastor Jan-hopefully in person at the church No book necessary all materials will be provided

FAIRVIEW FINANCES

The application for forgiveness on the Paycheck Protection loan has been submitted to the bank for approval. We hope the process will be complete by year end as it has certainly been a blessing for our bottom line. It helped pay utilities, insurance and salaries.

We're working with a vendor to enable our faithful followers to give through electronic means. You will be able to offer your gifts with just a few clicks – you can catch up on your pledge for 2020 or start fresh in the new year. We are still falling behind in pledges for 2020 so please do try to catch up if you are able.....you don't have

to wait for this digital vehicle to be in place.

Stewardship Sunday is November 15 and will be a time to pledge your financial commitment to Fairview United Methodist Church for 2021. Please contact the church office if you need a pledge card.

#FairviewStrong
Jeanette O'Malley, Chair



MUSIC NOTES

Remembrance and Gratitude

These two words have been rummaging around in my head for several days now. November is the perfect time for both words. We begin the month with All Saints Day where we remember those who have gone before. The music for the first Sunday in November is; "When the Saints Go Marching In", Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal with a women's quintet, and a rousing arrangement of "Sine Nomine".

We continue our remembrance into the second Sunday with the Prelude "Nimrod" from the Enigma Variations by Sir Edward Elgar. Nimrod is described in Genesis as "the first on earth to be a mighty man" and "a mighty hunter before the Lord." (Genesis 10:9) The ninth movement of the Enigma Variations, Nimrod is performed every Remembrance Sunday throughout the Commonwealth of England. With Veteran's Day on Wednesday, Nov. 11th, we will close out this Sunday of remembrance with the "Salute to the Armed Forces medley". We take time to remember and be grateful to all who serve, past and present, our country.

By the third Sunday we begin to focus on gratitude. The prelude is "Awake, Awake to Love and Work!" The third verse states: "To give and give, and give again, what God hath given thee; To spend thyself nor count the cost; to serve right gloriously the God who gave all worlds that are, and all that are to be". A very good thought as we contemplate our

stewardship pledges. The Chancel Choir sings "We Are So Blessed" by Wm. Gaither. The postlude is, "Let All Things Now Living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise."

Pastor Jan and Claudia will play the piano / organ duet "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" on Thanksgiving Sunday. The bells will also perform and the postlude is an arrangement of

"Now Thank We All Our God" in the setting of J.S. Bach's *Prelude No. 7 in E-flat Major*. November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent but we will talk about that in the December newsletter.

It is good to have the Chancel Choir back even if we are limited to the number of singers. They are getting comfortable with Claudia and having to sing with a microphone. The handbell quartets are working hard on new arrangements. The organ is undergoing several repairs and should be in spectacular shape for the holiday season. We are learning to do music in a different way but the result is always the same, singing and playing to the glory of God.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Claudia Kachmarik



Hello from the Food Pantry!

First we want to thank the faithful pantry members for sticking with us through these trying times. Each of you stepped up to help whenever needed.

On Saturday, November 14th we will be handing out turkeys that we received from a grant through the Food Bank. They will be supplied from Wegmans and we are thankful for this grant. We also will be collecting personal care items for our clients to give out near Christmas!

Thanks to all for your continued support.

Blessings, Sue Barton and Karen Gdovin

Thanksgiving Psalm (Psalm 100 – The Message)

On your feet now—applaud GOD!
Bring a gift of laughter,
sing yourselves into his presence.

Know this: GOD is God, and God, GOD.
He made us; we didn't make him.
We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"
Make yourselves at home, talking praise.
Thank him. Worship him.

For GOD is sheer beauty,
all-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Our outreach ministries are going strong. We have been able to move ahead with our Calvin Coolidge ministry of school items. We just delivered lots of items that were requested by the staff for the children: 24 spiral notebooks, 26 crayon boxes, 50 pocket folders, 29 packs of colored pencils, 38 playdoh containers, 10 packs of markers, 5 multiple packs of glue sticks, 8 pencil containers, 8 packs of erasers, 6 packs of sticky notes, 6 boxes of tissues, 8 snacks (boxes of crackers and 1 dry pack of dry erase markers [and a partridge in a pear tree]. Thanks to Ellen Gardiner for her shopping and delivering expertise!

Our ongoing ministries continue as well. Cindy Minus and her crew did an excellent job for our last Community Take-Out Dinner; 68 people were served! Carol Carpenetti and her sister Karen Wood will head the kitchen crew on November 9th. Pat Kavalesky is pulling together a crew for a turkey dinner with all the trimmings for November 23rd (Monday before Thanksgiving). What an amazing church of caring workers! Dinners are the 2nd and 4th Mondays. PLEASE let Blenda know (607-761-0327) if there is a date that you would volunteer to cook, help serve meals, or wash a few serving pans. The Food Pantry is every 1st and 3rd Monday. Our Blessing Box is filled almost daily for people who need some extra food. Our sign says "Take what you need and leave some for your neighbors". People have been respectful and responsible.

You have heard this before but we'll say it again: "Our church has left the building. We are out spreading God's love."

~ Blenda Smith, Chair

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

Reminder, you can purchase flowers for Sunday morning worship in memory or in honor of a loved one. Call the office a week in advance to place your order. You can bring your payment (\$25) to church or mail it in.



THOUGHTS: Giving, Generosity, Sharing

You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble. ~ Bob Hope

If a man's religion does not affect his use of money, that man's religion is in vain. ~ Hugh Martin



share in this difficult time but with strength through our church connections.

Stay spiritually strong,
Karon Lewis and Kathy Sheehan

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Spiritual Development Committee has kept connected through the use of Zoom meetings. Our Pastor has been busy, during this time providing several bible studies using Zoom. They include studies on Philippians, James and Mark (part one) which offered to our church members and some from out of town the opportunity to grow in their faith using the main themes of these chapters of the Bible which focus on “rejoice and rejoice again, patient perseverance during trials and tribulations, and Jesus’s deeds, strength and determination in overcoming evil and defying the Roman Empire.” About 12 people were involved in each session. Thank you, Pastor Jan.

Additionally, there will be upcoming spiritual growth opportunities, called Sacred Circles, for small groups of dedicated people to gather to enhance their personal growth along their spiritual walk by sharing and learning with others about the wonder of God’s love. Please stay tuned to learn more about this opportunity.

Many thanks to Deb McMichael and Robin Eastman, along with the Sunday School teachers help, provided spiritual “stay connected” goodie bags to 14 students from our Sunday School which is on pause at this time. The students received goodies, books, and other trinkets to remind them of our Sunday School usual efforts and that we, at the church, were missing and value them. Many smiles in the driveways of the students.

While we have not been able to be together, as we normally were, we are still connected and send prayers of caring to each of our church members.

Please feel free to contact church members just “Say hi, how are you doing? To connect with one another. We are so fortunate to have Sunday Service, both live and on Facebook, service projects helping others and each other to



Over the past two months we have finally been able to gather in our sanctuary again and what a joyous reunion it has been. As the weeks go on, we are starting to become accustomed to the changes that have taken place in order for us to join together. We have even had to stay home for a couple weeks while our community worked to slow the increasing number of positive COVID tests results. Although worship looks quite different than we are used to, the changes are necessary steps to ensure that we are safely able to worship together in the sanctuary.

A huge shout out to the team of people that shared thoughts, concerns, ideas, and put procedures in place to make reopening a reality. Also a huge shout out to our newest acolyte, Delilah Kachmarik.

As we approach the Christmas season, we start to think about the Christmas Eve Service. The service is sure to look quite different this year than the traditional service over the past years. More information will be given as it becomes available.

Worship services will continue LIVE on Facebook at this time.

What a blessing it is to be together again!!
THANKS BE TO GOD!!

~ Jennifer Evans, Chair



FUMC 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 embrace diversity as a rich gift in our community. We celebrate that diversity and fully welcome and affirm 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.

(Adopted March 20020)

AN INTRODUCTION (from our Organist and Choir Director)

Bill Gaither wrote, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, for I'm part of the family of God."

To those of you who do not already know me, let me introduce myself. My name is Claudia and I am your new organist/choir director. While I have been an organist/choir director for over 40 years, this is a new position for Fairview church. I am married to Stephen and we have two grown sons, Scott and Shaun as well as two grandchildren, Delilah and Isaiah. Our beagle Sadie, rounds out the family. For the past ten years Steve and I have owned and operated the 1810 Juliand House Bed and Breakfast in Greene, NY.

This is a homecoming for me for it was over thirty years ago that I was the organist here. We lived across the street on Biglow Street. Scott was a part of the youth group here and has wonderful memories of growing up in this church. He lives in Dedham, MA and is a TV news producer. Tody Shaun, his wife Kasey, and my grandchildren attend church with you and have been warmly welcomed. So, this was a large reason instead of retiring as I had planned, Pastor Jan and I decided we really wanted to work together and so here I am. I guess my church work is not completed yet.

We are in uncharted territory as far as church music is concerned. No congregational singing, limited choral music, and for Fairview, getting accustomed to a combined organist/choir director position. You have already met many of my friends from the Madrigal Choir and I look forward to having them continue to share music with you. So, while we are limited in our ability to sing in worship, we will continue to use music to lift our spirits and center our minds together as we find other ways to "make a joyful noise to the Lord".

I look forward to being with you all and getting to know you. It is strange not making a pitch for new choir members but, God willing, this pandemic will not last much longer and we will be back to singing. Because, I know you and you are a singing church. I look forward to being a part of the Fairview family and am glad to be back with you.

So, for now let's find new ways to "Praise God from whom all blessings flow".

Soli Deo Gloria, Claudia Kachmarik