

The Family Circle

A Publication of Fairview United Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation

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January-February 2021

From the Pastor...

"This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone." verse one, hymn by Brian Wren.

I think we are all happy to turn the calendar to a new year. We just made it through a very difficult year. As a church we were closed for 6 months and had to think creatively about doing ministry, reaching out and staying connected.

Our life of faith is a journey for sure. We are always on the road to something. Each time we enter a new year we have the opportunity to pause, ponder where we have been and consider where we are headed! This Sunday we will end worship outside with a ritual of letting go. We will toss into the fire a statement about what we hope to let go of as it relates to 2020 and consider what things or ideas we hope to continuing holding! Now is the time to revision and consider what we can do to renew our faith.

As you walk into this New Year, I am asking every church member to be involved. Consider what you can do to have an active role in the life of our church. Is it time to return to worship? Can you bring a book for the lending library or hats and mittens for our clothes line by the bus stop? If you don't feel comfortable worshipping in person, have you considered staying in touch by the online Bible Studies? Send a card to the weekly "think of a friend." Make a financial pledge. (Now you can even have it electronically transferred from your checking account) See our website. Pray daily for your church. Worship online. Share it on your Facebook page or invite someone to join you in watching. Give to the air conditioning project. (Air conditioning will be important to have in place if we are still wearing masks in the summer!) Offer to help at our Food Pantry or Community Meal. (See Sue Boucher, Sue Barton or Karen Gdovin) Come in and put newsletters and mailings together. (call the office) Help the Trustees with projects around the church. (See Kris Ballard) Read a story for our Wednesday Bedtime Stories. (See Elizabeth Noonan) Call someone from church you haven't seen and stay connected. Make masks for us to hand out at the Food Pantry. Knit a hat. Volunteer to be a Shepherd Minister (See Korin Spencer or Myrt Buchanan) Our program is limited right now but the possibilities to be involved are vast. What can you do to help the church move forward? How can you become more active as we seek to be a vital church on the east side of Binghamton and beyond!

Prayer: God of this new year, as we continue to journey forward may we do our part to be the church. Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each morning with the assurance that you walk each day with us. Year 2021 here we come!

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

Valley View Manor Nursing Home

Pat Reynolds Valley View Manor Nursing Home
40 Park Street
Norwich NY 13815

At Home

Dan & Estella Armstrong 30 Harry L Drive
Kirkwood NY 13795

Sarah Baker 146 Old State Road
Binghamton NY 13901

Dawn Dressler 47 Moeller 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

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Evelyn Evans who passed on November 19, 2020. Also to the family and friends of Larry Baker. Larry, a 76 year member of Fairview UMC, passed on January 1, 2021.

THANK YOU goes to:

- Pastor Jan & Carol Carpenetti and Sue Boucher & Gary Loichle for cooking Community Meals in December and to all others who helped
- Dave Gardiner, Kris Ballard, Gary Loichle, Kevin Emmons for help around the church, for new lighting in entranceway, work on heat switches and covers
- All who offered help with our Christmas Offering. To date, \$2,320 has been received for ministry shares.
- Those who brought hats, mittens, scarves for our clothesline

From Bob and Peg Muth: Thank you to everyone who sent us cards, notes or made telephone calls. We really appreciated hearing from you!



PRAYER MESSENGERS

During this more-than-difficult time in our lives, we are all experiencing overwhelmingly stressful issues and needing prayers even more than ever. Please know that the Fairview Prayer Messengers are continually being sent requests and informed weekly, even daily, of a need for our help in lifting a concern to God. If you wish us to unite in prayer for you, please call or text me at 607-427-1533 or email me at kayreno1@yahoo.com. We are a powerful force and welcome the opportunity to serve all of those in need of prayer.

God bless you all. Karon Lewis

Leading Us in our Worship..... January 2021

January 3

Greeter: Blenda Smith
Liturgist: Pastor Doug Clark
Acolyte: Maddie Button
Ushers: David Tyler, Kevin Emmons,
Dave Gardiner, Sue Barton
Sound Board: Robin Eastman

January 10

Greeter: Karon Lewis
Liturgist: Kevin Emmons
Acolyte: Elena Rose
Ushers: Korin Spencer, Riley Spencer
Sound Board: Mike Purdy

January 17

Greeter: Steve Deinhardt
Liturgist: Deb McMichael
Acolyte: Aariana Reid
Ushers: Paul & Jeanette O'Malley
Mike Purdy, Aaron Noonan
Sound Board: Darnel Reid
Scripture: I Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20, John 1:43-51
Sermon: "Getting to Yes"

January 24

Greeter: Michelle Purdy Newkirk
Liturgist: Ellen Gardiner
Acolyte: Lexi Rose
Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty
Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy
Sound Board: Stacey Rose
Scripture: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12
Mark 1:14-20
Sermon: "In God we Trust!"

January 31

Greeter: Cindy Minus
Liturgist: Sarah Gaeta
Acolyte: Delilah Kachmarik & Aariana Reid
Ushers: Ellen Gardiner, Mike Purdy
Blenda Smith
Sound Board: Robin Eastman
Scriptures: Deuteronomy 15:7,11, Psalm 9:18,
12:5, 140:12, Proverbs 14:31,
Matthew 25:35, I John 3:17-18,
Luke 18:22
Sermon: "Caring for Those on the fringes"

February 2021

The themes for February will be based on the book, "*Altars of the World*" by Barbara Brown Taylor

February 7

Liturgist: Amy Kehoe
Acolyte: Elena Rose
Ushers: David Tyler, Kevin Emmons,
Dave Gardiner, Sue Barton
Sound Board: Stacey Rose
Scripture: Genesis 28:16-17, @ Samuel 7:5-6
Sermon: "The Practice of waking up to God"

February 14

Liturgist: Pastor Doug Clark
Acolyte: Aariana Reid
Ushers: Korin Spencer, Riley Spencer
Sound Board: Mike Purdy
Sermon: "The Practice of Getting Lost"

February 21

Liturgist: Kevin Emmons
Acolyte: Maddie Button
Ushers: Paul & Jeanette O'Malley
Mike Purdy, Aaron Noonan
Sound Board: Robin Eastman
Sermon: "The Practice of Saying NO"

February 28

Liturgist: Deb McMichael
Acolyte: Delilah Kachmarik and Aariana Reid
Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty
Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy
Sound Board: Darnel Reid
Sermon: "The Practice of Encountering Others"

"Plant seeds every single day that you know who you are, you know what you're about, and you know what goals you've set for yourself."

— *Steph Curry, athlete.*



MUSIC NOTES

From Darkness into Light

My husband Steve and I took a trip to London England in 2019. One of our side trips was to Stonehenge, that incredible circle of stones that has stood for over 4,000 years. One of the most famous winter solstice celebrations takes place at Stonehenge when people gather to usher in the first sunrise after the longest night. They sing and dance as they await the light of a new day.

Advent is that time of year when we Christians embrace this period of long darkness to take time to reflect on the approaching birth of Jesus. The music presented derived from ancient chants. “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”, “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” and “O Come, O Come, Emanuel” all have their origins in chants. They were arranged by contemporary musicians to keep them relevant for today’s listener.

The Chancel choir presented songs like “The Advent of Our God” and “Prepare the Way, O Zion” beautifully. Videotaping our Christmas Eve service was a new challenge for most of us. Yet everyone rose to the occasion and we presented a very moving service. The choir now has “singer’s masks” which are specifically designed for singers so we can rehearse and sing safely.

The longest night has passed, Christmas has come and we now enter Epiphany, a time of growing light. There are celebrations as a new year comes. In many countries there are 12th night celebrations. Wassailing, getting together with family and friends, dancing herald the light. Music for January will continue the focus of seeking the light.

During this time of mid-winter, take some time to renew your spirit. Here are some musical suggestions as you contemplate the lengthening of the light:

- George Frideric Handel’s *Messiah*

- Haydn’s oratorio, *The Seasons*, is devoted to winter and *The Creation* celebrates the creation of light or in Christianity, the first day of creation.
- *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi
- “Clair de Lune” by Claude Debussy
- Saxophonist Paul Winter’s *Winter Solstice Celebration*

Happy New Year, Claudia

HIGHLIGHTING A COMMITTEE

The **Board of Trustees** is the committee that is in charge of the church building, the parsonage and grounds. They are elected for a three year term and it is the only committee that elects their own chair. 2/3 need to be church members, 1/3 need to be women and they need a quorum in order to make any decisions.

Pray for our Trustees for this year as they have an important role!

Upon election: Chair, Kris Ballard

Class of 2021

Rev Doug Clark, Gail Merritt, Chuck Purdy

Class of 2022

Judy Knewasser, Kevin Emmons, Kris Ballard

Class of 2023

Gary Loichle, Cindy Minus, Paul O' Malley

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Happy New Year to all – hope you had a joyous and blessed Christmas holiday season, different as it was....

In building news; the east side stairwell changes/updates are under way and should be completed by the end of January. This will make the stairs safer in the winter weather with treads, among other improvements. This is the area to your right as you come in the brown doors on Bigelow Street.

Thank You to Kevin Emmons for repairing the heater in the (currently) main entry.

On committee member news; Dave Gardiner, Robin Eastman, Bryan Meeks and Dan Coleman have ended their term(s) on the Trustees. Two of the incoming

Trustees are returning after a term off, Gary Loichle and Paul O'Malley. The new Trustees are Chuck Purdy and Cindy Minus. A big thank you to those 'retiring' and a welcome to those serving.

~ Gail Merritt, scribe



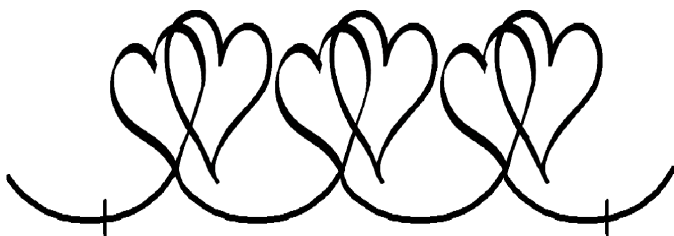
What a year this has been for all! COVID 19 has certainly challenged us here at Fairview. May 2021 bring us back to "normal", whatever that is!

We would like to thank anyone and everyone who helped this mission continue in our community. We also want to thank Food Bank of Southern Tier for providing us with food and other items at little or no cost. They have helped us with grants to obtain more food than what we could do independently. Also, we have been given money from you (our church members and friends) almost every week.

At Christmas we were able to give away the usual packed full bag of food, plus a huge bag of personal care items. A bag of apples was also given. I wished I could have taken pictures of the big smiles of appreciation on the faces of our clients.

In 2021 we will continue to give out food to those who come to our door. We will continue to see the smiles on everyone's face. And, most of all, we will continue with this great mission with your and God's help. Thank you, again.

God is good. Karen Gdovin & Sue Barton



ADVENT IN A COVID WORLD

In December several of us met on Zoom for an Advent Study, using the book Making Room by Ed Robb. The focus was on how we make room in our hearts and lives for Jesus by recognizing and welcoming him in four different groups of people: our neighbors, strangers, the outcast or disenfranchised, and ourselves. You can imagine the struggle this presents in a COVID world, with so many of the health restrictions preventing us from even going near others. We had so many interesting discussions, about what it feels like to us to be alone and lonely, or lost, or on the outside of things. We talked about Mary and Joseph's experience being in a strange land without the comforts of home, of having to flee for their lives, of how they welcomed the strangers in their own experience. I asked the group to take the challenge of thinking outside the box, not just for Christmas, but for all year, of ways we CAN welcome and help others to feel less lonely, less lost, and more part of a community. Because that is where we meet Christ, where he waits for us, in community.

I would issue the same challenge to you, dear reader, to keep Christmas all year by thinking of creative ways to reach out to others and hopefully bring the love of Jesus to them. If any of you would like to read the book we used, several of us have copies we are willing to hand out, some for loan, and some for keeps. It's an easy read, and can be applied to any time, not just Christmas, a book I think you'll really enjoy. Give me a call or text or email if you want one (607-592-5783, elizabethnoonan7545@gmail.com).

One of our participants came up with a brilliantly creative and wonderful way to celebrate the recent holiday, involving her community, and completely within COVID restrictions. I've invited her to share her story with you and I know you'll love it!

Noisemakers on New Year's Eve

(from Jennifer Evans)

During Advent I participated in the Advent study group lead by Elizabeth Noonan. She has explained the study and the book and I will explain how this study moved me into action. During the first week of the study, we discussed

what it meant to be a neighbor. Ideas were tossed around about how to extend love to strangers in our community... in our neighborhoods... and during COVID. As the weeks of the study went on, and even after, the thought of extending love stayed on my mind and I started noticing subtle ways others were reaching out. The day after the snowstorm in December, as I was outside shoveling, I noticed the people in the neighborhood helping each other dig out of the 40 in. of snow. Those with snow blowers went from house to house doing their part to help their neighbor. There was a sense of togetherness that has not been felt in a long time and it felt good. I also noticed the elderly man that lives across the street with his wife. I wondered how long they have been isolated from their loved ones.

At Christmas, there was an idea floating around social media of going outside with a bell on Christmas Eve at a designated time and ringing the bell to celebrate the birth of Christ. I thought that was a wonderful idea. As I pondered the idea of including the neighborhood in ringing a bell, I remembered the Muslim family that just moved in next door. The idea was not very inclusive.

As my family sat at the table for Christmas dinner, we talked about New Years Eve. In years past, we celebrated with friends and food, music and silly string. This year was going to be much different. Aariana looked at me with a disappointed face and reminded me that it has been a tough year and demanded we celebrate even if it was just us celebrating alone. I thought, why does it have to be just us? I remembered the feeling of togetherness I felt when all the neighbors were outside during the snowstorm. I also remembered my elderly neighbors that have been isolated during the holidays. So I went to the store and bought noise makers, lots of them. I recruited the kids and we bagged and delivered 60 noise makers to as many houses as we could. In the celebration bag was one noise maker and a note that said:

This year we have spent a lot of time isolated from our friends and loved ones. New Years Eve is a time for celebration but this year it is one more occasion that will look a lot different than years in the past. In an attempt to bring our

neighborhood together to celebrate the end of a year that has been difficult, I invite you to join my family and I in celebrating by coming out of your house at 7:30pm on 12/31/20 and blowing the noise maker provided. We look forward to celebrating with you.

Happy New Year!! Your neighbors at 122 West End Ave

Here we are on NYE. It is 7:15pm and I am bundling up the kids to go outside as we realize the noise makers do not make any noise. I was mortified. Darnel prepared the kids for what may be a disappointing turn of events and I scrambled through the house collecting the loudest toys Amayah owns. I told the kids I needed them to be as loud as they could be. We made our way outside and started cheering and making noise with the toys I was able to gather. To our surprise, others started cheering too. Lots of others. Sounds of tambourines, noise makers, bells, car horns, clapping, and loud cheers rang through the neighborhood. The noise makers we delivered did not work but people showed up. They found a way to be together. We were all craving the sense of community that was created that night. My elderly neighbors came outside to join the celebration and I learned their names for the first time. The kids danced in the snow and neighbors chatted from porches to sidewalks. Although the celebration only lasted for a few minutes, the love that was extended to each other will last a while longer.

From the Finance Committee ON LINE GIVING

Fairview UMC is now set up for on-line giving. You can set up your secure account on our church website.

www.fairviewumcbinghamton.wordpress.com

click on "About Fairview"
click on "Opportunities for Giving"
scroll down and click "Online Giving"
click on "Contribute Now" and continue following instructions.

If you have any questions call Phyllis Smith (Financial Secretary) or Barb Blincoe (Treasurer) or the Church Office.



Happy New Year



MISSION AND OUTREACH

Happy New Year Fairview Church! We continue to reach out to our neighbors on a regular basis. Our Food Pantry is available the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Our free Community Dinner is being offered on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. The meal schedule for January and February is as follows:

January 11, 2021

Cooks: Michelle Purdy, Linda Purdy
Servers: Barb Medinosky, Joan Murray
Clean Up: Blenda Smith

January 25, 2021

Cooks: Cindy Minus, Jean Balmer
Servers: Myrt Buchanan, Addie Pinney
Clean Up: Gary Loichle

February 8, 2021

Cooks: Kris and Kathy Ballard
Servers: Karon Lewis, Kathy Sheehan
Clean Up: Blenda Smith

February 22, 2021

Cooks: Sue Boucher, Gary Loichle

Servers: Shirley and Joe Coons

Clean Up: Blenda Smith

Our Blessed Bakers, cookies for each meal are Karon Lewis and Phyllis Smith.

Our Runners and Servers at the door are The Spencer family.

Thank you to all who help out. Please contact: Sue Boucher @ 724-5084 OR Sue Barton @724-0798 if you are interested in helping out or cannot make the day that you signed up for.

Many of our congregation are lonely and could use a phone call, note, email. Please consider extending a gift of friendship. In our bulletins each Sunday we have a name and address of someone who could use a pick me up.

Now that our Blessing Box has been put away for the winter, we are offering hats, scarves and mittens on a clothes line at the front of our church. (Robinson Street @ the bus stop) Please feel free to add your donations to the line.

I am proud to help who we can... by any means we can....in any way we can...

Sue Boucher, Co-Chair



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The committee will be meeting April 26, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Recently the group was actively involved in the Christmas Eve play and many thanks go out to all who helped put this event together. Additionally, Elizabeth Noonan led an Advent series which focused on caring about caring for those we know and those we may not know as well. The central theme of reaching out was discussed and many thanks to Elizabeth for this study time. We are looking forward to developing small Sacred Circle groups which will

focus on bringing us closer to our own faith journeys. Our Sunday School group will be discussing how we come back together as we all reimagine the world.

Prayers of hope to all,
Karon Lewis and Kathy Sheehan



During Advent, Fairview UMC had beautiful services with beautiful music. Thank you to all of the families that participated in lighting the advent wreath candles this year. On December 20th we took communion together for the first time in an exceptionally long time. Pastor Jan held a Blue Christmas devotional service from her home on December 21st.

Our Christmas Eve service was recorded and available on Facebook and YouTube. Included in the service was music from our chancel choir, bell choir and a beautiful trumpet solo by Erin Bentley. The service was complete with a Christmas play written by Pastor Jan and acted by members of our congregation.

The Worship Committee invites those that are able, to return to church. Protocols are in place to ensure that conference and state requirements are met including social distancing, mask wearing, contact tracing, and sanitation. If you have questions about what steps are being taken to provide a safe place to worship, please reach out to Jennifer Evans, worship chair. Gathering for worship provides opportunity for fellowship with others that share Your faith, an opportunity to be supported in your faith and spiritual growth and be present to support others.

Sunday morning Worship will continue to be on Facebook live Sundays at 10:30am. Hymns and prayers will be displayed during the service so you can sing and pray from home.

As we enter Epiphany we remember the light of the star that led the wisemen to baby Jesus.

Let us also remember to share God's light with all those around us.

~ Jennifer Evans, Chair

BEDTIME STORIES ON FACEBOOK

Since the Pandemic began and we were forced to close down Sunday School and other activities for the children, we've been using Facebook to reach out with a Bedtime Story every Wednesday. The heroes here have been our Sunday School teachers, who have been willing to have themselves taped reading a story and have it posted on Facebook. Others besides the teachers have been added to our readers, and we're so grateful for all of them who have been helping with this. Now we also are having the Bedtime Stories put on our Church website, so there is a second way to view them, and they stay posted so you can go back and view at a later date. We are always interested in welcoming new people to help with the reading, so if you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Noonan at 607-592-5783. We will continue with a new story each week, until further notice. Please enjoy watching!

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 2020)