

# The Family Circle

A Publication of Fairview United Methodist Church

607-724-6886

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Website: [www.fairviewumcbinghamton.wordpress.com](http://www.fairviewumcbinghamton.wordpress.com)

## May/June/July 2021

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From the Pastor...

*But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.  
I Thessalonians 5:21*

I have been thinking about habits lately. Habits are small decisions we make and actions we perform every day. According to the researchers at Duke University, habits account for about 40 percent of our behaviors on any given day. We have patterns of behavior that we repeat daily. I make coffee first thing! (It's best for everyone if I do!) I put on my seatbelt as soon as I get in the car. I try to exercise three times a week. I have some great habits and some that are not so great. Do I really need the cheese and crackers before bed? Do I need to pack so much into my day that I compromise my efforts for self-care? Do I burden my loved ones too much with concerns when I could be taking them to God?

What we repeatedly do ultimately forms the person you are, the things you believe and the person you portray. We are creatures of habit! How in shape or out of shape are you? It is a result of your habits. How happy or sad are you? It may have something to do with your habits.

Habits relate to our spiritual life as well. Growing in faith is about nurturing our holy habits. What holy habits have been helpful to you during this pandemic? Have you put some actions into your routine that help you care for yourself or be a better neighbor? I have heard about folks checking on folks down the street and calling relatives who live at a distance. Some shared they have been writing cards, letters and emails. Others related that they have been taking daily walks to clear their minds and pray. When the church was closed and later when folks chose to stay home for safety reasons, many mentioned the habit (and blessing) of on line worship. Personally I have become much more diligent in my morning prayers. I have gotten into the habit of coming early to church on Sunday so I can kneel at the altar and pray before anyone arrives. It is stressful to be a pastor during a pandemic and this habit of centering prayer has made a big difference. What holy habits have helped you to cope?

I am excited to welcome folks back to worship. Each week we have been seeing folks return now that they are getting vaccinated. We pray that as the weeks unfold, others will feel more confident to join us. It is easy to get out of the habit of worshiping in person. The longer you wait to return the harder it will be to get in the habit of coming to church. It's so much easier to tune in when it fits your schedule and you don't even have to leave the house! But it is not the same as worshiping together. Church is all about community. Please consider returning and making this a holy habit worth keeping.

“Your beliefs become your thoughts,  
Your thoughts become your words,  
Your words become your actions,  
Your actions become your habits,  
Your habits become your values,  
Your values become your destiny.”

— Gandhi

**See You in Church!**  
**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

### **Hilltop Community**

Jean Barker United Methodist Homes  
Rm 1044  
286 Deyo Hill Road  
Johnson City NY 13790

### **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

## **Leading Us in our Worship.....**

### **May 2021**

#### **May 2**

Scriptures: Psalm 22:25-31, I John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-18

Sermon: “Vine, Branches and Fruit”

Greeter: Blenda Smith

Worship Leader: Debbie McMichael

Candle Lighter: Lexi Rose

Ushers: David Tyler, Kevin Emmons

Dave Gardiner, Sue Barton

Sound Board: Stacy Rose

#### **May 9** Theme: Love One Another

Scriptures: Psalm 98, John 15:9-17

Sermon: “All You Need is Love”

Greeter: Sue Boucher

Worship Leader: Amber Gregory

Candle Lighter: Delilah Kachmarik

Ushers: Korin Spencer, Riley Spencer

Sound Board: Darnel Reid

#### **May 16**

Scriptures: Psalm 1, Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Sermon: “Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things”

Greeter: Jean Balmer

Worship Leader: Joe Coons

Candle Lighter: Maddie Button

Ushers: Paul & Jeanette O’Malley

Mike Purdy, Aaron Noonan

Sound Board: Mike Purdy

#### **May 23 Pentecost - Wear something RED**

Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21, Romans 8:22-27

Sermon: “Bring on the Wind”

Greeter: Jeanette O’Malley

Worship Leader: Kevin Emmons

Candle Lighter: Aariana Reid

Ushers: Joan Murray, Penny Daugherty

Karon Lewis, Linda Purdy

Sound Board: Darnel Reid

#### **May 30 Trinity Sunday**

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, John 3:1-17

Sermon: “One God with many Personalities”

Greeter: Amy Kehoe

Worship Leader: Blenda Smith

Candle Lighter: Elena Rose

Ushers: Ellen Gardiner, Mike Purdy

Sound Board: Stacy Rose

## **THANK YOU goes to:**

- Jennifer Evans and Arianna Reid for providing lunch (and flowers!) for our New Members Class
- Sue Barton for helping to fold bulletins each week
- Dave Gardiner for replacing ceiling tiles
- Carol Carpenetti with Jean Balmer helping and Sue Boucher & Gary Loichle for cooking Community Meals in April
- Kevin Emmons, Kris Ballard and Gary Loichle for their work in getting the elevator up and running
- All those who work behind the scenes in a variety of areas, helping in many countless ways.

## **Special Thank You**

My parents used to say, "Better late than never."  
(I am embarrassed of how late this is.)

I want to extend my thanks for all the love, cards, food and other things I received during the recovery of my knee surgery, and then, my COVID time three months later. This church has so much love in their hearts.

Thank you, Susan Barton

## **Summer Bible Study**

Where: Port Dickinson Park on Chenango St

When: 4 Wednesdays in June  
June 2, 9, 16, 23

What: Bible Study on Part 2 of the Gospel of Luke (We did part 1 in the fall on Zoom)

Time: A time together in three parts.

Join for all parts or just parts of the day

12:00 bring chair and lunch,  
Let's eat together and visit

12:30-1:30 the Bible Study  
Let's study and learn together

1:30 a walk in the park  
Let's take a walk and work on our health

## **GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING**

We are happy to welcome back folks each week! We hope to have more in person meetings, Sacred Circles and Sunday School for all ages by the fall. Time will tell! We have not gotten any direction from the Conference yet regarding a full choir, singing in worship or the ability to serve food. We need to take our cues from Conference Leadership and decisions made by our Governor. Thank you you're your continued prayers as we seek to re-open and be in ministry together!

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS who**

joined our church on Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Amber Gregory	Judy Knewasser
Bruce Gregory	Patty Lacey

Susan Button (to be recognized at a later date)

## **UGLY QUILTS**

Good news, Ugly quilters!!!

We can now resume our mission to provide our quilts to the homeless...with a few COVID-related changes.

1. You must be fully vaccinated in order to participate.
2. You must call or text me to sign up. There can be only four quilters (2 at each table) plus myself in the Bouton Room at a time. I'll need to know in advance if you wish to attend.
3. The time has been changed from Mondays, 2-4 to Mondays 1-3, beginning May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
4. All needles, scissors, threaders, etc. will be sanitized and packaged individually.
5. No snacks or drinks can be served. You're welcome to bring your own beverage, if you chose.

For those not familiar with the "My Brother's Keeper" (a/k/a "Ugly Quilts") quilting group, allow me to explain. This is a nationwide mission started years ago by Flo Wheatley from Hop Bottom, PA where donations of scrap materials,

blankets, sheets, etc. are sewn into 7'x7' squares filled with even warmer materials. They are then turned into sleeping bags filled with miscellaneous items, such as soaps, shampoo, tooth brushes, paste, socks, hats and scarves and tied with donated neckties. When complete, they are delivered to City Church for distribution to the homeless. In just two years, we have completed 45 sleeping bags!

A group of us have met weekly since February 2018 until COVID hit last March. We talk, laugh, (previously) snacked, coffee'd and most importantly, required NO SEWING ABILITY!! All you need do is tie some knots with needle and thread. It's honestly a great two hours of fellowship while providing warmth and prayers to our homeless community.

For anyone wishing to join us, please call or text me at 607-427-1533, or email me at kayreno1@yahoo.com. We'd LOVE having you!

~ Karon Lewis, Project Coordinator

## THE LITTLE LENDING LIBRARY

(on Bigelow Street)

Hello church!

I'm The new Little Lending Library "Librarian," Amy Soto (some of you might know me as Merrill) and I live just across the street. I'm actually a retired school librarian and reading teacher, so I LOVE and know a lot about books! If you have any gently used books and would like to donate them, please drop them by during church office hours.

Thank you,  
Amy Soto



## Let's get involved in some community outreach! Here are two ways you might consider:

Announcing our Church as the Eastside Wednesday Pick Up Location for **VINES Farm Share!**

### What is Farm Share?

VINES Farm Share is a weekly subscription to a box of local veggies. You sign up ahead of time and pick up your share each week at the same time and location. We work with local farms to help you eat veggies that are being harvested within 60 miles, which makes them super fresh! We offer different size shares and flexible payment plans. We proudly accept EBT/SNAP benefits. Each week we provide member education for our members so that you know what it is in your share and how to store and cook what you're getting!

### Payments and Discounts

VINES Farm Share is open to families of all income levels. We accept cash, check, EBT/SNAP, credit card, and FVRx Vouchers. In an effort to make healthy food affordable to all families, VINES Farm Share offers a 25%, 50% or 75% discount on shares to members who fall within our income eligibility guidelines.

### Why should I sign up for VINES Farm Share?

Because it's awesome! You'll eat good food, save money, receive weekly tips, support local farmers and have fun doing it!

NOTE: We are a new location on the Eastside for pickup. Wednesdays 3-5PM  
STARTING Mid-June to the end of October.

Pastor Doug and I just signed up. Why not give it a try, get fresh veggies and support local farms at the same time! Check out online for more details and to sign up.

[www.vinesgardens.org/farmshare](http://www.vinesgardens.org/farmshare)



## Church in the Wild

*We are an alternative worship and service community, dedicated to connecting with and caring for Creation, working for environmental and social justice.*

### **Some upcoming events for Church in the Wild:**

#### **Sky Lake Volunteer Work Day!**

Saturday, May 8 at Sky Lake  
Save the date, more info and sign up link to come!

#### **Spring Forth Retreats**

Thursday, 5/20 Clergy Retreat 10 to 3  
Thursday, 5/27 Laity Retreat 10 to 3

A time to gather outside and enjoy the beauty of Sky Lake as we consider what is blossoming in our world and in our life  
Cost \$30, includes a hot lunch.

[Register through Sky Lake](#)

#### **WEEKLY WORSHIP**

Weekly worship will begin Sunday, June 6th at 4:00pm  
at Sky Lake, 501 William Law Rd. Windsor

Pastor Jan serves on this Board and encourages us to check out the website: [www.churchinthewild.org](http://www.churchinthewild.org) and get involved.

## FROM THE TRUSTEES

The air conditioning has been installed and is working in the sanctuary. It should make for more comfortable Sunday mornings in the next few months. A big "Thank You" to all who donated and made this possible.

If you drive down Gaylord Street and look at the roof from that side, you can see that there are a couple of areas on the roof that are in need of repair. We are planning to proceed with those repairs and keeping our fingers crossed that insurance covers the bulk of the cost from wind damage.

There will be a Spring Work/Cleanup Day on June 5 beginning at 9. If we have enough helpers, we can usually wrap it up between noon and 1. There are many jobs both inside and out to be done.

~ Gail Merritt, scribe

## From the Finance Committee ON LINE GIVING

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

[www.fairviewumcbinghamton.wordpress.com](http://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 Dave Gardiner (Finance Chair) or Barb Blincoe (Treasurer)



## MUSIC

**SPRING – A time of Renewal and Growth**  
Somehow, as I write this piece, it is freezing and snow is flying here in Greene. Steve and I were fortunate to get away for a few days towards the end of April. We went down to the beaches in Delaware where the flowering trees were in full

bloom and the temps were in the 70's. It was wonderful to sit by the ocean and have the warm sun bless us. Exploring this new area gave us thoughts of new potential for our future. May is an important month in the life of the church. We celebrate the Ascension of our Lord, the birth of the church at Pentecost, and the mystery of all mysteries, the Trinity of God. The choir will sing *Seek Ye First* but with an added variation to bring new life to this song. *Hark, Ten Thousand Harps and Voices* is a new piece written by Robert J. Powell and Thomas Kelly. "Jesus reigns, and Heaven rejoices, Jesus reigns, the God of love Hallelujah!" The ladies of the choir will welcome the Holy Spirit with a lovely arrangement of *Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome in This Space*. The handbells will play on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

The choir will be on hiatus starting the third Sunday in June. We will need special music for the summer months. With the onset of vaccinations and the new air conditioning system in the sanctuary, it is time to come back to the church building. We need your musical contributions as we start to renew and rebuild our in-church life. Please let me know how you would like to serve so we can begin making our summer plans. On that note, it is time to bring back the Praise Band. This group will play an important role in our summer music program so please let me know how you would like to contribute. We need singers & instrumentalists.

Thank you to the PPR committee for their lovely gift and card. I am so grateful to be a part of Fairview UM church especially during this most trying time. The choir and handbells have been faithful stewards of their musical talents so please take some time to send them a thank you note or a word of appreciation. I look forward to that time, perhaps this fall, when we will be able to have our large choir back and our congregation singing with full voice. Until then, please consider how you with musical talents, can renew your commitment to rebuilding our Praise Band, providing special music during the summer and anticipate how we will begin to grow together again as we enter this new time spiritual potential.

May the Son shine on us and renew our spirits,  
Claudia

**FESTIVE RINGERS BELL CHOIR** - We are hoping to add to our merry band of ringers this fall. Let Pastor Jan know if you want to be part of our group next year. We will probably offer special music in August one Sunday as well.



On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Fairview welcomed 5 new members to our Church Family. We are so excited to widen our circle. We have also been so happy to see members of the congregation returning for in person worship. What a blessing to see you and connect with you in our sanctuary! And did you see.... The A/C units have been installed! Worshipping in person this summer will be safe and comfortable!

On Sunday we worship in-person at 10:30am. Please remember not to gather in the Narthex before or after the service. Services also continue to be live streamed on our Facebook page with our new and improved streaming equipment. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!

A reminder that your gifts and pledges can be mailed to the church or we are now set up for on line giving through Vanco. It is an easy process to sign up. Check out the details on our website.

~ Jennifer Evans, Chair



[www.coloring-pages.info](http://www.coloring-pages.info)





Our Food Pantry continues to do well.

The pantry continues to do well, despite of the pandemic. Our volunteers are great but we can always use more! The once-a-month "Meal in a Bag" has had a good response from our clients.

The month of May, we will celebrate the mothers. We will be giving a bag full of food to make a "Breakfast in Bed". Also, in May and June, we will be giving goodie bags in honor of Mother's and Father's Days. We also have homemade pillow cases made by our own Pat Kavalesky! (Thanks Pat.)

We continue to work with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. They have assisted us in so many ways from advice to special grants that enable us to receive some of our food at no cost to us. The affiliation with FBST has enabled us to get much more food for our money!

We thank everyone for what you do for the pantry. 10 years and strong!!

*1Peter 4:10 says, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

~ Sue Barton and Karen Gdovin  
Pantry Coordinators



### MISSION AND OUTREACH

Greetings to all who read this. The flowers are popping up, the robins are singing to us, my woodpeckers are keeping a quick rat-a-tat-tat, and the weather is promising to improve!

The M&O committee met on April 19th. So here is our news for you:

The Food Pantry is doing well. See information in the separate Pantry article.

Our Community Meals continue to do well. However, we need more volunteers to keep the project going. Twice a month, we need cooks, servers, runners, and a cleanup crew. A sign-up paper is in the narthex or you can call the office to volunteer. Please consider volunteering for this community outreach project.

The "Blessing Box" is back! Thanks goes out to Gary Loichle for refinishing the box and also, Amber Gregory for helping to keep it stocked during the week.

The "soup give away" at the corner was a big hit. Thanks to all who helped with this.

The "winter clothesline" has been taken down until the cold weather season returns! It was well received by many. Thanks to all who donated scarves, hats, gloves, mittens, masks and other miscellaneous items.

We have found out from Food Bank of the Southern Tier that we can give food to the Rescue Mission as long as we don't cook it for them or charge them. They have been struggling due to the pandemic.

We still want to pursue a "diaper bank" on the Eastside. We need to solicit different stores (i.e. Walmart, Sam's Club, \$\$ stores, etc) Also, we need to approach other churches to assist in this project. And, of course, individual donations will be needed. Pastor Bryant Clark's wife, Kristina, has been very helpful in giving us ideas for starting this project.

We have been asked to help contact people who have not been attending church for a while. I think of the old song that said, "Reach out and touch somebody". (I am certainly dating myself.) During this time, we need to do that --- Reach Out!

*Acts 6:4 says, "And he said to them, Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."*

May God continue to be with us all.

~ Sue Barton, Co-Chair with Sue Boucher



## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Spiritual Development Committee would like to start by thanking all the persons who have been working hard to connect with our youth here at Fairview. The Sunday School teachers have been holding zoom meetings with the next Zoom Meeting planned for Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am. The last one was a chance for teachers and students to connect and actually “see” their classroom, virtually. Teachers have been making calls and assisting in delivering the “Sunday School in a Bag” materials. Students have had the opportunity to think about how to be a good neighbor at home, in their neighborhood and globally. They have made bread, completed art work and focused on the story of the Good Samaritan. The next “Sunday School in a Bag” will be available on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> after church services. In June, we hope to have a safely modified “ice cream” after church as we have in years gone by for our Sunday School students and all in attendance!

The committee will be planning for the fall Sunday School Program in the upcoming weeks and if you feel you would like to be involved in these efforts please contact the church office to let us know.

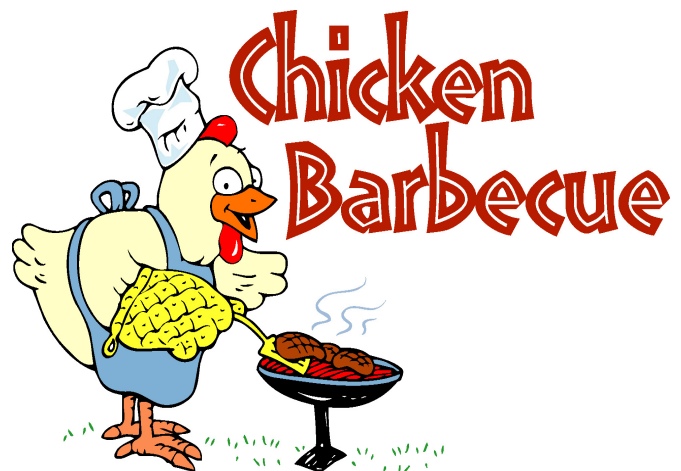
Another sign of Spring and Summer coming is that Sky Lake has announced they are going to run summer camps. More information will follow on this exciting return to “camp life” at Sky Lake. As you may be aware, we have a scholarship fund available to support our children from Fairview to be able to attend camp. Each year we have supported at least 15 or more students to attend camp. There will be more information available in the days to come but if you are interested in supporting a child please feel free to contact Kathy Sheehan at 648-9774 for more information. We will be sending out information on applying for a scholarship soon. Stay tuned!

There will be, as Pastor Jan noted in her reports, a summer Bible Study. This is a time to enjoy the good weather, to connect with members/friends of our church and to allow you to focus on the Bible and what it says to you. All are welcome to join us in this relaxed, time in the nice weather, with friends and a chance to learn more about ourselves and the Bible.

In closing, the main theme of our Sunday School Bags has been around the book of Luke, especially 10:27b “Love your neighbor as yourself” and just as a reminder, we have neighbors who we are very close to, those we see at church, our local merchants, those that we hardly know but in our social circles, and those beyond our local world.

Kindness is spreading sunshine into people’s lives regardless of the weather!

Karon Lewis and Kathy Sheehan  
Co-Spiritual Development Team Leads



**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**11:00 a.m. till Sold Out**

**\$10.00**

**½ BBQ Chicken, Salt Potatoes  
Baked Beans, Roll/butter, Cookie**

**Take-Out Only**



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The year 2020 was an unusual year in many ways, so it probably is no surprise that financially speaking it was unusual for Fairview Church as well. Some expenses were lower than anticipated such as the heating bill due to the church building being closed for several months. At the same time income was lower than expected also due to the church building being closed. At the end of the year when all of the expenses and revenue were added up we had spent \$60.00 more than the revenue that was received, very close to a break even year! Considering the circumstances the end result was surprising.

There are a couple of items that stand out from 2020. The first of note is that our church participated in the federal payroll protection program (PPP for short). You may have heard about this program in the news last year. A part of the federal support for non-profit entities last year allowed our church to “borrow” about \$21,000 utilizing this program. By using the borrowed money to pay specified items such as for payroll costs the “borrowed” amount was forgiven. Without this PPP program we would have experienced a year end shortfall much greater than the above noted \$60.00.

The second item of note is that we were short of paying our church’s share of ministry shares by more than \$10,000. Unfortunately, we were not able to fund our share of the Conference’s work locally and around the world.

Turning to the current year, as we completed the budget process for 2021 we realized that we had a significant budget deficit. A smaller number of persons completed a pledge for the current year and the amount pledged was less than the previous year. Thus, our anticipated income for 2021 is less than in 2020. A check of the actual results of the first three months of 2021 finds that expenses to complete our church’s ministry exceeded income by \$1400.00. On the plus side we were able to secure another PPP load for 2021 which will be used for specified expenses during the year.

There are many challenges ahead for our church this year and one of those challenges will be to fund the ministry of our church in our community and beyond. You can assist with this challenge in a variety of ways. On May 22 we will have a chicken BBQ to raise money for the programs of the church, dinners will be sold for \$10.00. You can stop by to pick up a meal to take home to enjoy. If you have not made a pledge for 2021 you can still complete a pledge and fulfill that pledge over the course of the year. One time giving donations can be mailed to the church or made on line from the Church’s web site (<https://fairviewumcbinghamton.wordpress.com/>). From the web site click on “About Fairview” then choose “Opportunities for Giving” and follow the steps to complete your donation.

~ Dave Gardiner, Finance Committee Chair

**HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER and remember, Sunday morning worship doesn't take a vacation! See you for worship in our newly air conditioned sanctuary!**



**Food Pantry-**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month  
need volunteers, people to stock shelves

**Community Meal**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month  
need cooks, people to package meals, servers at  
the door

Can you spare an hour or two a month with  
these important projects?

Call the church office - 607-724-6886