



175 Fifth Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
(518) 584-3720
www.saratogaumc.org
office@saratogaumc.org

THE MESSENGER

From the Pastor's Desk



Over the forty days of lent we have journeyed with Jesus exploring the encounters that marked his ministry. These encounters have shown us the transformative impact Jesus had on individuals, communities, and the world. As our journey continues, before us lies the ultimate encounter of the resurrection. Jesus' resurrection is a life-changing event, not only for those who encountered it on that first Easter morning, but also for the present—here and now.

Yet, before we meet the risen Christ we must first continue our journey of encounters. On Palm Sunday Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, Hosannas are raised, palm branches waved, and the people danced as he entered the city. Afterward Jesus encounters Mary of Bethany who anointed his feet and prepared him for his eventual burial. Then Jesus shared the ancient Passover feast with his disciples, he broke bread and gave his love to the world. When the meal finished he knelt before them and wash their feet in an extravagant act of service. Later that night Jesus agonized in the garden where he was betrayed and encountered one of his own: Judas. After his brutal arrest and journey with the cross, Jesus cried out for God to forgive. As the earth shook and the temple

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor's Desk	1
Mission Minutes	2
Church Life	3
UMW News	4
Christian Education	5
In The Spotlight	6
In Our Prayers	7

crumbled, Jesus breathed his last and the world went dark.

These are the encounters that mark our journey too. In order for us to find our way to the empty tomb we have to first walk through the darkest valley. In so doing we emerge from these depths with the resurrected Christ as we too are born anew. This is our ultimate encounter, being broken open with Christ so that we might find, healing, transformation, and new life. This is where our Easter journey is leading, may we all encounter the risen Christ together this Easter!

Easter Blessings,
Pastors Heather and Drew

Holy Week/Easter Worship

March 20th 9:00 and 10:45 Palm Sunday Services

March 24th 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service

March 25th 7:00pm Good Friday Service

March 27th 6:30am Sunrise Service

9:00am Easter Service

10:00am Easter Fellowship

Mission Minutes:

UMCOR Hour of Sharing

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering, laying the foundation for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)'s ministry of assistance and hope.

Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover their costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects their donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Because they keep operating costs under 10% of their total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to under-funded programs, where they're most needed. They are also used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before other funds can be raised.

Because of your donations, UMCOR is ready to respond in times of crisis.

How does UMCOR do that? Through *One Great Hour of Sharing*. People who give on Sunday, March 13th provide the base of support for UMCOR's work.



A week after the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Melissa Crutchfield led a small team to the island to start assessing emergency needs for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The ability of her team to get to Haiti quickly was due in part to *One Great Hour of Sharing*.

To Crutchfield, who coordinates international emergency response for the relief agency, *One Great Hour of Sharing* "is the backbone of what makes everything possible." Because that fund pays for everything from staff salaries to electricity to cell phones, UMCOR promises to use 100 percent of donations earmarked for specific disasters and projects on the projects themselves.

And by supporting UMCOR's headquarter operations, One Great Hour of Sharing allows for both emergency and long-term responses to a wide range of domestic and international disasters and ongoing hunger and development projects.

--Linda Bloom, United Methodist News Service

*Our Vision:
Embracing Everybody through deep meaningful connections
To grow closer to God and transform lives*

Church Life

2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE:

Study Group will meet next on Sunday, March 20th at 6-7:30pm in the Lounge to consider several major issues before the delegates concerning restructuring the general agencies (reducing their size and eliminating the General Commissions of Archives & History, Status and Role of Women, and Religion and Race) and giving the General Conference authority to override rulings of the Judicial Council. The group will also view a video on the Human Sexuality issues and discuss a response by the Reconciling Ministries Network to a recent statement by the African UMC Bishops. The Study Group sessions are open to all.

TRUSTEE UPDATE

The Trustees continue to try to keep the building up to date and in good maintenance. The latest improvements coming shortly, which may not be all that noticeable, include new smoke detectors in approximately 30 locations. This is necessary to bring the building up to current fire code. We have also recently installed motion detector light switches in the bathrooms as a cost saving measure.

Those attending worship will notice in a month a much brighter screen in the sanctuary. A new projector will be installed which, according to our pastors, will allow them to enhance our worship experience with more varied use of the screen.

None of this would be possible without the continued financial support from the congregation! We are most grateful to have regular contributions to the building fund to help with the expenses involved with taking care of our church property. Thank you!

FINANCE UPDATE:

The finance committee would like to keep everyone informed of our finances as we enter a new year. We finished 2015 with a deficit (loss) of \$16,759. The good news is it was less than the budget loss of \$27,895. Additionally we had an increase in our pledges and gifts for the year. This is the first year that we experienced an increase in the last 7 years. We are moving in the right direction. The budget for 2016 has a forecasted deficit of \$45,464. We need to continue increasing our pledges and gifts to reduce this shortfall.

In previous years when we had a loss, we covered that amount by taking money out of the special events fund. After using funds for the 2015 shortfall that account balance is now \$3,409. We do not have the money in that account to cover a large deficit in 2016. For the first 2 months of 2016 we have already received additional pledges of \$15,556. The budgeted deficit has already been reduced to \$30,000.

Copies of the 2016 budget are located in the box next to the finance office. Please feel free to pick up a copy to yourself aware of our financial stewardship. Thanks for your continued support and giving.

Finance Report: January		
	Income	Expenses
Operating Budget	\$43,474.34	\$36,313.56
Pastor's Discretionary	\$ 1,193.00	\$ 1,850.00
Building Fund	\$ 4,255.00	\$ 281.50

March

6th 7:30pm - Methodism 101

8th 1pm - Quilters Group

14th 7pm - UMW Reads

17th 6pm - 3rd Thursday Fellowship
7pm - Finance Meeting

18th 10am - Living Springs

19th 5pm - Church Dinner:
Corned Beef & Cabbage

20th 6pm - General Conference Study Group

24th 7pm - Maundy Thursday Worship

25th 7pm - Good Friday Worship

UMW News



Tuesday, 3/22, 7:00 pm in the sanctuary: we would like to invite *all of our church family* to come hear about the Nicaragua Mission Trip that three of our youth went on during the February vacation week. Find out what led these three to venture so far from home and work when they could have been home relaxing! What challenges did they face? What work *did* they do?

Tuesday, 4/26, 7:00 pm - Mark your calendars now! Wellspring (formerly known as DVRC Saratoga) will present our program *and all of our church family and any members of the community that you would like to invite are welcome.* More info to follow in April's newsletter!

Friday, 4/8, and Saturday, 4/9 – Spring Rummage and Garage Sale!

OK – your New Year's resolution to lose a few pounds has been a success – but what to do with the clothes that no longer fit? Start setting your gently used clothing aside – you can begin dropping them off late Tuesday, 4/5, in the Fellowship Hall. *We will be having a bake sale, so start getting those yummy recipes ready!* Look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex – if you could spare 2 or 3 hours to help sort and fold clothing, it would be an immense help!

UMW READS CIRCLE: meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Lounge. On March 14th we will be discussing the historical fiction – "The Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman. The novel traces the exceptional life of Rachel Pomie, the mother of impressionist painter Camille Pissarro, from her childhood in 19th century St. Thomas in the Caribbean through widowhood in Paris – a span of 60 years.

On April 11th we will discuss "Prayers for the Stolen" by Jennifer Clement.

Come join our discussions. For more information please contact Natalie Bollerud at 584-1192.

LIVING SPRINGS CIRCLE: meets the third Friday of the month at 10:00 AM in the kitchenette. On March 18th, Brooke Conklin and Christine Root will discuss the courses they took at Mission U (formerly known as Summer Learning Fellowship). **COME JOIN US!**

RUTH CIRCLE: Ruth Circle will meet Monday, March 21st at 1:00 pm in the Activity Room of Woodlawn Commons, 156 Lawrence St.

Speaker will be Ken Bollerud. Topic to be announced

Christian Education

Sunday School

In March, our youngest United Methodists will be learning about the final days of the life of Jesus as well as his resurrection! They will learn about the washing of feet, celebrating Passover, and the entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate on Palm Sunday. Hosanna! With children we talk about the sadness of Jesus' followers following his death and then juxtapose it with the joy they felt when they found the empty tomb. Easter is a celebration of God's never-ending love for us!

Each week the volunteer teachers of the Sunday School prepare thoughtfully for the lessons taught to your children. They read through curriculum and plan the lessons as necessary. They make sure they have all the materials needed to make the lessons fun and meaningful, often buying them with their own money. They love to treat your children to small gifts like Christmas ornaments or fuzzy baby chicks on holidays. The teachers provide a large part of each child's faith journey and a touchstone for these children in the congregation. Thank a Sunday School Teacher today!

Have you noticed our Children's Ministries Table in the Narthex? In keeping with the vision that SSUMC has adopted, we have created this space to be a source of hospitality to the children, youth, and young families that we encounter on Sunday mornings. This table has books, games, coloring materials, craft sets, and quiet bags for babies and toddlers that are all available to the children of the church. It also has information about our children's programs. It would be helpful to also have a person to sit at the table each Sunday morning as a welcoming presence to the children and young families that are here for worship. Please consider volunteering a Sunday to be available in the Narthex from 8:40 to 9:10 and/or 10:15-11:00 to be a part of this ministry.

Youth Group

Youth Group meets each Sunday night unless we have a special event. Youth in grades 6-8 meet from 6-7:30 with Pastor Drew and Katie Iglar. Youth in grades 9-12 meet from 7-8:30 with Pastor Heather and Jason Jacobs. We spend time playing games, talking about our lives, and studying together. From 7-7:30 we have both groups together for worship.

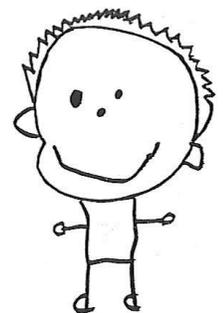
March's schedule: Regular meetings except on March 27: No youth group—HAPPY EASTER!

Small Wonders

Enrollment has ongoing for the 2016-17 school year! Our classes for two-year-olds and three-year-olds each meet twice weekly. Our prekindergarten class meets four mornings per week. We have a staff of wonderful teachers who look forward to work every day and sincerely love each child in our Small Wonders family. If you have any questions or would like to visit our school please contact Katie Iglar (christianed@saratogaumc.org) for a tour appointment.

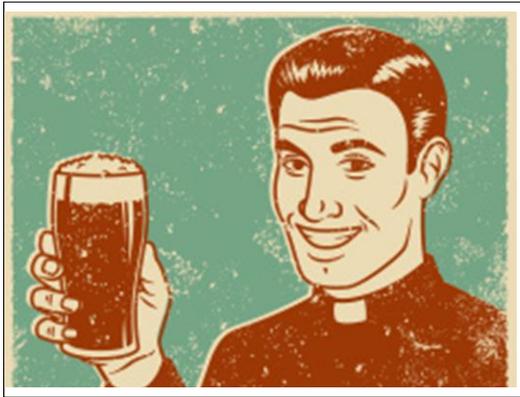
This month they will spend time learning about Easter, Saint Patrick's Day, rainbows, and the spring season. Look for some colorful artwork coming out of these classrooms Monday through Thursday.

It's time for the Spring Fling! This year we will beat the March *blahs* with a luau-themed event for the families of our weekday preschool ministry. If you would like to stop by to dance and sing with us (or just share an ice cream sundae) feel free to pop into the Fellowship Hall on March 18th between 6 and 7:30pm. See you then!



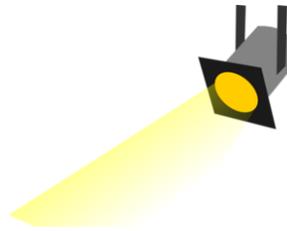
In the Spotlight:

Pints with the Pastor
by Colleen Farnan



Pastor Drew noticed that young men in the church didn't have a group to belong to so he recently started "Pints with the Pastor." He decided to organize the gathering for young or youngish men (anyone not retired) in a pub to offer them the opportunity to have conversations with each other about their faith and spirituality.

Pastor Drew is excited about the interest generated in the group so far. When he announced the formation of the group, 16 men showed up for the informational meeting. At the first meeting, eight guys participated. In the group the ages of the men range from 20's to 40's and 50's. When they meet they share pints of whatever beverage they choose: water, soda, or other. And answer one question from Pastor Drew, "How is it with your soul?" The conversations centered around common struggles men have such as parenting and what to do with work life. Although the participants were in different stages of life, Pastor Drew noticed how the men supported each other and looking forward this continuing in future gatherings.



"Pints with the Pastor"
Meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Barrelhouse; 68 Beekman Street.

Even though the group just started, Pastor Drew loves it. He relates that it is fruitful to see men who haven't had a group to belong gather to talk about their faith. Also, the evening time fits into people's schedules and the informality of the pub setting adds to the group.

If you know of a group in the church that you would like to see highlighted in the Messenger, please talk to Colleen Farnan or email her at ceefarnan@nycap.rr.com



In Our Prayers : Donna Bailey, Dr. Rachel Streit, Patty Gandee (Rosie Spring’s Aunt), Carolyn Vallelunga, Glen Flannagan, Ruth Burton, Betty Allen, Don and Linda Carpenter, Ray DeRidder, Arthur Crouch (Frank’s father), Thomas Family, Alden Barton, Ryan Vaughn, Robert Dake, Terry Ross (Kristen’s brother), Sandy Mercaldi, Peggy Evans, Louise Hunter, Margo Larson, Lori Bussing, Barbara Thomas, Linda Griffing, Peggy Abbondandolo, Lexi Gurka, Marti Ladue, Barbara Peck, Barbara O’Brien, Patricia Squailia, Frank Crouch, Tracy Imes, Sue Zutterling, Virginia Cooley, Ethel Clark, Shirley Bozony, Jeanne Cramer, Helen Richardson, Dorothy Place, Marge Bramhall, Helen Smead, Rev. Walter Taylor.

For Those Who Mourn the Loss of: Edna Lloyd, Charles and Jane Flannagan, Theron Robinson, Bob Allen, Janet Woodcock, Marjorie Grout, Eric Baum, Richard Gerlach, William Schewe, Stu Hefter, Kay Runge, Sylvia Hoyer, Don Smith, Rosy Zinn, Paul Jones, Mini Mae and Charles Coleman, Alden Sharp, Rev. Jane Borden, Miriam Ellsworth, Michel Kril, William Young.

For Those Around the World: Those serving their country at home and abroad, victims and families involved in violence, victims of recent natural disasters, those listed on our Prayer Board in the Lobby.

Holy Week/Easter Worship Times

March 20th

9:00 and 10:45

Palm Sunday Service

March 24th

7pm

Maundy Thursday Service

March 25th

7pm

Good Friday Service

March 27th

6:30am Sunrise Service

9:00am Easter Service

10:00am Easter Fellowship

10:45am Easter Service

Easter Flower Order Form

It is time to place your order for Easter Plants which will be placed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The Cost is \$12 for each plant.

A check must accompany this order.

Please indicate the number of plants desired:

___ Lilies

___ Tulips

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given By:

OR ___ I do not need a flower. Please give my donation to ___At Home Members

Return to: Easter Flower Orders Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church 175 Fifth Ave. 12866

Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church
175 Fifth Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-3700

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #6
Saratoga Springs, NY

*Address Service Requested
Dated Material-Please Deliver Promptly*

*We invite you to join us for Worship on Sundays at 9:00am & 10:45am,
with Coffee Fellowship between the services.*

Pastors

Rev. Heather Williams, x111
pastorheather@saratogaumc.org
&
Rev. Andrew (Drew) Sperry,
x112
pastordrew@saratogaumc.org

Office Manager

Mike Janicke, x110
office@saratogaumc.org
Monday-Friday,
9:30am-1:30pm
(518) 584-3720

Business Manager

Amber Lysczyn, x113
business@saratogaumc.org

Finance Secretary

Jim Douglass, x118
finsec@saratogaumc.org

Facilities Manager

Darrin Hartmann, x115
darrin@saratogaumc.org

Christian Ed Director

Katie Iglar, x117
christianed@saratogaumc.org

Director of Music

Rand Reeves
Rreeves1@nycap.rr.com

Organist

Erich Borden
erichborden@gmail.com



The Mission of Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church is to spread God's word as we embrace persons of any age, gender, race, ethnic background, sexual orientation, economic condition, and physical or mental ability as full participants in a loving community of worship, fellowship, study, and outreach.