



SARATOGA SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Embracing Everyone

THE MESSENGER—SUMMER 2019

He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees.

When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.

Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near." —Luke 21: 29-31



Summer Sermon Series

FAITH AND FILMS

A family-focused worship service

WORSHIP SUNDAYS IN JULY AT 10:00AM
MOVIES WEDNESDAYS IN JULY AT 6:30PM



**ADMIT
ALL**

TICKET #175

From The Pastor's Desk

As we write to you for our last time as a team, we are inspired thinking by all that has been done through ministry together with you. We also share great hope for all that God has still in store for SSUMC. Our church family has always exemplified the essence of Romans 12, "love from of who you are, don't fake it." In the past five years, this is seen by your courageousness to join us in creative new adventures. You joined us is the opening of UMC West, which was a bold expression of our commitment to serve our community. This ministry

led several folks to join us on Sunday mornings here and helped many others connect to our church in a variety of ways. When we dreamed about a recovery worship service, you supported us by helping to begin Fresh Start ministries. This ministry also brought folks to our church on Sundays and helped many as a part of their sobriety journey. In 2015, we stepped out in faith together developing an intergenerational mission trip. Our first trip that summer brought us to West Virginia with youth and adults working side by side to repair two homes. Since then this trip has sent folks to the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, and the Ganienkeh Territory in New York. In 2016, we all entered into the role of mentoring current and future leaders of our church as we began our ministry intern program. There have been countless other expressions of our love being shared together and with the world, such as new worship formats, deeper connections with the Small Wonders Pre-School and the Wesley Senior Community, increased focus on youth ministries (including a youth music group), many building improvements, and dozens of new meaningful connections that have led to transformed lives.

Staying rooted in these expressions of love and living in the hope of God stirring new ministry to life will continue to set SSUMC apart as a community of faith. Some ways that we see God's stirring spirit rising up are through the focusing of our missional efforts to three regional, national, and global missional relationships. In doing so we will be able to build deep connections with these communities that will lead to more profound transformation by helping fewer communities with greater support and financial assistance. We also feel a stirring in the creation of a global mission partner by partnering with the General United Methodist Church's Global Ministries division. We are uncertain of the details as of now, but we excited by the potential impact of such a relationship on our church and the world. Additionally our congregation's recent revitalization of its Justice ministries, especially with its support of the LGBTQIA+ community and our partnership with the Annual Conference's Imagine No Racism program, we will continue to show the world how to love from the center of their beings, build meaningful relationships, and transform lives.

In Christ,

Pastors Heather and Drew

-Pastors Heather

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Pastors' Desk	2
Church Life	3
Prayer Chain/Caregivers' Group	4
Vacation Bible School	5
Giving Garden	6
In our Prayers	7

Church Life:

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt thank you must be expressed to the dozens of members and friends who generously supplied meals and goodies to the military veterans who partnered with the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery dig project at the Saratoga Battlefield. Breakfast, lunch bags, and dinner were served on 4 separate days over the 4 weeks they were in the area, each one taken care of by a different set of willing volunteers. In addition, many days we were able to deliver snacks as well as homemade baked treats for them to enjoy in their off hours.

This program builds veterans with physical or mental injuries into a peer-supported community with the help of archaeological researchers who provide goal-oriented, team-centered excavations. Together with the National Park Service, they undertook a dig of the Barber Wheatfield (Stop 5), a historic site associated with the 1777 Battles of Saratoga. A number of church folk were privileged to visit the dig site one morning to observe the process and examine a few of their finds.

They are in preliminary discussions to return to the Saratoga Battlefield next spring. Please consider volunteering to participate in our meal program so perhaps we can expand our involvement next year. It is truly a blessing to be of service to these men and women who have served us and our country so heroically.

Coming This Fall



September 8th: Homecoming Sunday — back to 2 services! We will begin the sermon series “A Place at the Table: Jesus, Table Fellowship, and Justice

During September: Launch of new SSUMC cookbook project, “A Place at the Table”.
Details coming in August.

September 14th — Chicken Barbecue Dinner

September 19th — Third Thursday Potluck, Pastor Heather will be sharing about Ireland.

September 20/21 — Churchwide retreat at Skye Farm.. Bonding, spiritual renewal, and work project planned. Mark your calendars now! Friday to Saturday, 7pm to 7pm.

November 2nd — Chicken and Biscuits Dinner



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Do you have a concern that you would like to share with our prayer chain?

It's easy!

Call Sue Zutterling at 518-893-6408

Email Lorraine Bittel at

lbittel@skidmore.edu

or text 518-495-5347



*What wings are to a bird
and sails to a ship,
so is **prayer** to the soul.*

- Corrie ten Boom



The Caregivers' Group

We will meet Sunday, July 28, at 1 :30 in the Lounge (note change of location). Stuart Gibbs will be our guest presenter. Stuart is an occupational therapist, retired from a career in the Army. His duty consisted significantly in caring for the mental health of his peers, including identifying those of his comrades who were experiencing debilitating stress, counselling them and referring them for treatment. A few years after Stuart had retired from active duty, he was invited to return to Walter Reed Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland as a civilian to serve as the head of the Wounded Warriors Division of the hospital. His assignment was to establish standards and protocols of diagnosis, goals, and evaluation measurements of treatment, which had become inconsistent and lax over time. He was also to develop a method of inventory, maintenance and replacement of such rudimentary equipment as wheelchairs and crutches. He served in this capacity for two years until he felt he accomplished all he could and resigned to return full time to his family on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. He was awarded the highest civilian award of honor in recognition of his service. Stuart currently teaches occupational therapy at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, Maryland.

In line with his work, Stuart has developed a power point informational presentation about stress: what it is, what causes it, how our body responds, how to recognize its symptoms and how to construct coping strategies. Stress is inevitable at one time or another in all of our lives and is not confined to military personnel.



Vacation Bible School at Saratoga Springs UMC

July 8-12 9-11:30am

To Mars and Beyond will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become Voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. Beginning in your Assembly area-an outpost on Mars-they'll lift off to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is

\$30 per child

Scholarships and large family discounts available

Registration forms available at saratogaumc.org

For more information contact Katie Iglar at

**Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask
or imagine by God's power at work within us!**

Giving Garden:



Have you been to our revitalized Giving Garden in the back of the church? We invite you to come take a stroll and see all of the veggies that are growing. Please also consider offering a couple hours of your time this summer to water, weed or harvest produce. All of our veggies go to the Franklin Community Center or other places in need.

Volunteers make the garden grow! Questions? Call/text Anna Knapp at annabknapp@gmail.com.



Ticket entitles holder
and family to movies and popcorn.

\$FREE

JOIN US IN JULY

- "Friendship" -- Toy Story -- David and Jonathan: 1 Samuel 18-20
- "Family" -- Coco -- Ruth and Naomi: Ruth 1:6-18
- "Diversity" -- Zootopia -- From the Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 7:1-5
- "Community" -- Lego Movie 2 -- Acts 2: 42-47





In Our Prayers: Kevin Porter, Alfred Moses, Wayne Deshaw, Heather Rakus, Barb Rumsey, Frank Crouch, Mary Chen, Karen Elmendorf, Christopher Davis, Donna Bottari, Tom Passante, Mary DeRidder, Jody Long, Sue Hammann, Heather Smith Xie, Theresa Ray, Lisa Parker, Tracey Ingersoll, Jim Neal, JD Wood, Anya Demick, Scheuer Family, Walter Demick, Margo Larson, Ellen Ciampa, Bobby McGlynn, Pat Ashley, Christine Luczak, Kathy Flannagan, Bob Waldron, Pastor Rod Wilson, Mary Hibbert, Carl Klain, Donna Bailey, Emery Miller, Don Carpenter, Thomas Family, Alden Barton, Ryan Vaughn, Sandy Mercaldi, Peggy Evans, Barbara O'Brien, Patricia Squailia, Sue Zutterling, Virginia Cooley, Shirley Bozony.

For Those Who Mourn the Loss of: Bob Cornute, Susan Kirchner, Fred Baum, Rev. Harold Smith, Sally Wise Russo, Helen Smead, Roberta Fishbeck, Marge Bramhall, Patricia Duval, Betty Longo, Pamela Organ, Charles Goody, Ann Riebel, Alisha Scheuer, James Lloyd, Charles Salaway, Ethel Clark, Tony Sano, Shelley Lynn Merchant-Myers

For Those Around the World: Those serving their country at home and abroad, victims and families involved in violence, victims of recent natural disasters, victims of terrorism throughout the world.

To add or remove a name from our prayer requests list, please contact the Church Office at 518-584-3720.

Fellowship Hosts

July 7th

Missions, Joy in the Morning, Church & Society

July 14th

Hospitality and "Birthday People"

July 21st

Music Teams

July 28th

Trustees, Finance, & SPRC

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.

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

*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. Ralph Merante x112
pastorralph@saratogaumc.org

Office Manager/Youth Music

Mike Janicke, x110
office@saratogaumc.org
Monday–Thursday,
9:00am–2:00pm
(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, x114
Katie@saratogaumc.org

Pastoral Intern

Paul Sweet x117
paul@saratogaumc.org

Assistant Office Manager

Glen Flannagan
Glen@saratogaumc.org

Director of Music

Rand Reeves
Reeves1@nycap.rr.com

Organist

Erich Borden
erichborden@gmail.com

Handbell/Joyful Hope Director

Pamela Easler
Sweetpeasler@gmail.com

Our Vision:

Embracing Everybody through deep meaningful connections
To grow closer to God and transform lives