



SARATOGA SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Embracing Everyone

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019



October 27th 2pm



November 1st & 2nd

The Fullness of Community

Connect, Grow, Serve With Us!

October 6th ~ Connect to Community ~ World Communion Sunday Luke 17:5-10, 2 Timothy 1:1-14

“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ”

October 13th ~ Grow in Community Luke 17: 11-19 , Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

“And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

October 20th ~ Serve Alongside Community Luke 18:1-8, Jeremiah 31: 27-33

“ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

October 27th ~ Our Commitment to Live Into the Fullness of Community Luke 18: 9-14 , Joel 2: 23-32

“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Church Life

Church Conference All are invited our Annual Church Conference on Saturday October 26th at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary. At this time we will make guiding decisions for our 2020 year of ministry.

Third Thursday in October

Join us for food and fellowship at the Third Thursday Pot Luck on October 17th at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall. The Missions team will be sharing about their Maine trip as well as the many other activities of their ministry. Join us the third Thursday of each month. Any dish to pass is welcome! For more information see our Lay Leader, Laura LeCours! November's date is the 21st.

All Saints Day

This year will be held on November 3rd. Please submit the name of your loved one that has gone home to the saints in glory this past year. We seek to remember those who have shaped our lives and now commune with us around the sacred table of grace. Send the names of those to remember to the church office by October 30th preferably by email. Contact church office with questions.

Picture Project

October 27th during coffee hour we will be creating a tapestry of saints for worship on All Saints Day – November 3rd. We need you to bring a photograph of a saint you would like to add to the creation. We will also be providing printers to print photos from smart phones to add to the canvas in fellowship hall. For any question contact Pastor Heather.

October Sermon Series

The sermon series and book discussion will center around Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks, by Diana Butler Bass. Pastor Heather will be ordering books by 13th please let us know if you would like a copy. You can also purchase the kindle edition on Amazon!

Caregivers Group:

We will meet Sunday, October 27th and November 24th at 1:30pm in the Library. This is a mutually supportive group of people who share their concerns and experiences with others in a similar situation. Anyone responsible for the care of a mentally or physically impaired spouse or other loved one is welcome.

The Quilters Group

Continues their monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month on October 8th, 2019 at 1:00 pm in the Kitchenette.

Kids Corner News!

Save the Date!

October 6 World Communion Sunday

October 9 Playground Play w/ Pastor Ralph

October 27 Trunk or Treat

Children's Choir Sings

November 5 Election Day Bake Sale

November 15 Small Wonders Family Festival

November 24 Children's Choir Sings

October & November 2019

SSUMC Children's Ministries Newsletter

Programs for kids at SSUMC

→ Sunday school classes for preschool through 5th grade at 9:00 and 10:45 services

→ Childcare available at Sunday morning services for babies & toddlers

→ Youth group for grades 6-12 every Sunday at 10:45

→ Children's choir & youth choir rehearses between services each Sunday morning



We need:

Trunks—Buy some candy and decorate your car in a fun way!

Kids—Put on your costume and move from car to car getting treats! Yum!

Friends—Come to watch the adorable kids and enjoy fellowship with your church family!

Sign up in coffee hour or on Katie Igler's office window today!

Please join us for **Trunk or Treat!** On October 27 at 4 pm we will host a special event. People gather and park their cars in the parking lot. They open their trunks, or the backs of their vehicles, and decorate them. Then they pass out candy from their trunks to children in costume. Prizes will be awarded to creatively decorated vehicles! Following the festivities in the parking lot, we will move inside for games, snacks, crafts, and fellowship. This is an all-ages event, everyone young and old can have fun together!

During October, we will be collecting new adult socks for homeless people in our community. Drop off socks in the designated boxes in the Fellowship Hall or Education Wing. Let's help our neighbors keep warm!



Small Wonders Christian Preschool is a ministry of SSUMC. It is our mission to provide a great start to a child's education while providing a loving Christian environment.

On November 5 we will host our annual Election Day Bake Sale in the Narthex. If you would like to support this ministry of our church, you can donate baked goods on Sunday or Monday before the sale in Katie's office.

On November 15 at 5:30 we will host our Fall Family Festival with a potluck meal, crafts, and games. We would love our church family to attend!

Our Education Team is working hard at developing our own curriculum that is tied in with the worship of the day. The pastors are in full communication about the sermons and scripture so we can plan a lesson for your child that will be familiar to you after worship. We are hoping that this will lead to more meaningful conversations in your family.



Let us know how we are doing! We are looking for feedback on your children's lessons, your family conversations, and what you think of the change. Feel free to e-mail your thoughts to Katie, and keep your eye on your email for a survey soon.

Do you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the Children's Ministries at Saratoga Springs UMC? Are you itching to volunteer with some kiddos? Are you curious about Small Wonders Christian Preschool? Call or e-mail anytime!

Katie Igler, Director of Children's Ministries

584-3720 x114 katie@saratogaumc.org

TWO SIDES

TO EVERY STORY:



Pastor Heather's Story:

The Fullness of Community — For me these words bring me back quickly to a day 20 years ago. My family and I began our journey into ministry by moving into a farmhouse in Penfield, NY. Together we embarked on this path and left the support of family and friends. It was only a few weeks into our move that I knew we needed community, family, a church home, so we began worshipping at Penfield United Methodist Church. After a couple of months attending the church the pastor, Jeff, asked if he could come for a visit. I got the house clean and ready and one fall afternoon a gift of great generosity would care for each of us. As the pastor began to talk he expressed how concerned the new congregation that we had just met was, that our family have access to health care. Since we were both not working we were trying to secure coverage. After conversations with the church leaders, they decided to pay for our year of health care coverage. Moved to tears, and in no position to refuse the graciousness of this gift, we expressed our deep gratitude. This is what I have always known church to be, the fullness of community, the family of faith. So many moments over my lifetime the church was there to pick up the end of the burdens others would carry. This bridge between layperson in the pews and clergy in leadership, empowered my call to encourage relationships that foster a God centered family. We are all blessed in different and life giving ways. When we share our blessing with each other glimpses of God's kingdom make its way into our lives, community, and world. The fullness of community happens when we, as a God centered family, remember how we are individually blessed and how the collective blessing comes to life—in our living, our loving, and in our sharing—whatever our blessing may be!

Pastor Ralph's Story:

Have you walked into a car dealer, furniture store, or a high intensity gym and felt the stare of the hunter? Known the feeling of being chased stalked taken sold?

I loved my job as a fitness trainer. I hated the job of getting the next sale. I thought, this competition will be cutthroat. Nine highly trained, powerfully skilled, people wanting to be first. Instead I found a community of caring affirming cooperation.

Our sales and training community was built on the strengths and needs of people. We believed there is enough for all. If a trainer has skills better suited to a client, I step aside. Trainers bragged about the skills of the other trainers.

Once a rogue arrogant trainer tried to take over: talked bad about teammates, shamelessly self-promoted, falsely claimed competencies, took others' equipment, ... the poor attitude pulsed through the the staff like a virus. Everyone was out of balance. Clients were uncomfortable and failed to reach goals. He realized that selfishness didn't work.

Colleagues who could have taken from me; added to my success and I to theirs. Young athletes, I referred to the eager coach. Body builders, to the awarded competitor. Those who are physically challenged, recovering from surgeries, coworkers sent to me. One man who survived a stroke came using a walker, presented his withered hand to me and proceeded for the next three years to exercise harder than any client I'd seen in 12.

All the trainers from the hockey star to the Olympic swimmer: encouraged and congratulated this man as the champion he is. He benefited from not only me, but from nine. More than I could do alone; we built a community of health, and success.

Mission Minute

Fifteen members of SSUMC participated in this summer's annual mission trip to The United Methodist Economic Ministry (UMEM) in Salem, Maine. Long-held relationships with the staff of UMEM and residents of the surrounding area were renewed and strengthened during the week.

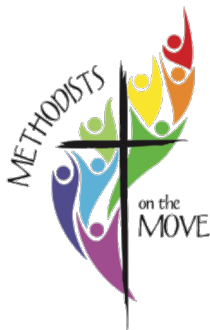
The region served by UMEM is one of the most economically disadvantaged areas of the state of Maine and the needs for food, clothing and shelter are great. UMEM operates a food pantry, thrift shop and arranges for housing repairs for local residents.

The team from SSUMC worked on two major projects this year. Half of the group spent the week filling backpacks with sneakers, socks and school supplies for students returning to school at every grade level. The other half of the team replaced skirting around a mobile home for a disabled woman who spent part of last winter with frozen water lines.

It was only through the very generous donations from members of the SSUMC congregation that both projects were able to be successfully completed. 140 backpacks were distributed to families in the community and the majority of the sneakers and numerous items on the school supply list were purchased using SSUMC donations. The trailer skirting project cost well over \$900, and since the UMEM line of credit at the nearest lumber yard would not have come close to covering the cost, it was possible to still make the purchase with SSUMC donated funds.

It is not just the people of Maine who are the beneficiaries of our efforts each year. A little boy really, really wanted a Paw Patrol backpack. Our team was able to find him one and imagine the look on his face when he received it. When Pastor Heather and Laura LeCours learned that the birthday of the woman in the mobile home would occur while we were there, imagine the look on her face when they presented her with a birthday cake. Or imagine the reaction of the UMEM staff when Will Chamberlin donated his pick-up truck to the ministry. These are the kind of rewards that our group receives each and every year that we visit the ministry.

It cannot be over-emphasized that it is only through the support of the SSUMC congregation, both financially and in spirit, that our relationship with the people associated with UMEM continues to flourish. And for that, we thank you so very much.



ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

Stone Soup Minstry: All are welcome to join in meal preparation in the church kitchen every Monday afternoon from 1:30–3:30pm. The meals are taken to Nolan House. Food and monetary donations are greatly appreciated. See Julie Borden (518–480–9814) or Rockstarhair7@yahoo.com

Sunday Morning Book Study Every Sunday at 10:45am we meet in the church lounge to explore books on social and religious topics. This class leads to deepening faith, growing social awareness, and strengthening relationships. The group is led in discussion by Ken Bollerud. Check the [Announcements Page](#) of the website for the current book.

Joy in the Morning meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 in our kitchenette (except on the second Thursday when we join the interfaith prayer meeting at Longfellows Restaurants at 7:15). We take these mornings to spend devotional and supportive time together. At each gather we reflect upon a weekly pondering that urges us to a deeper relationship with God, creation, life, and ourselves.

UMW Reads Meets the second Monday of the month 7:00 PM in Lounge and is a group of women that gathers to discuss books — fiction or non-fiction — usually with an element of spirituality or social justice. Come join us! See page 8 of this newsletter or our [Church Calendar](#) for the upcoming book(s) or contact Natalie Bollerud at 584.1192 for more information.

United Methodist Men includes all men of the church, and all are welcome. We meet for for lunch every week at Applebee's on Mondays at noon and Thursdays at Ninety Nine at noon.

Living Springs Circle meets the third Friday of each month at 10:00 AM in the kitchenette. Refreshments will be served! Check page 8 of this newsletter or the [Church Calendar](#) for the topic of the program.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Youth Music is directed by [Mike Janicke](#) and rehearses on Sunday mornings at 10am. This group sings and plays instruments for gospel, non-traditional, and original music. Youth Music offers songs during worship about once a month.

Children's Choir is directed by [Renee Hostetler](#). Rehearsals are each Sunday at 10:10am during the school year. The children sing in worship as scheduled.

Chancel Choir is directed by [Rand Reeves](#) and accompanied by [Erich Borden](#). With rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm, this choir's repertoire includes traditional and classic sacred music, along with contemporary anthems. Chancel Choir sings every week in worship, alternating between the 9am and 10.45am services.

Joyful Hope Choir is directed by [Pamela Easler](#), and accompanied by [Renee Hostetler](#). With rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm, this choir sings in worship once a month, sometimes at 9am, sometimes at 10:45. Joyful Hope is casual in feel, and sings a variety of music.

Handbell Choirs are directed by [Pamela Easler](#). The bells frequently play in worship services. Rehearsals are as follows Chancel Ringers Wednesday at 6:30pm, God's Bells Thursday at 6:00pm, and AcaBella on Tuesdays at 1:30pm.

Each choir welcomes newcomers of every ability!



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

UMW Reads Circle

circle meets the second Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the lounge.

On Oct. 14 we will discuss "Southern Lady Code" by Helen Ellis. The Nov. 11 selection is "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. For more information please contact Natalie Bollerud at 518.584.1192.

Living Springs Circle

meets the third Friday of the month at 10:00 A.M. in the kitchenette.

Oct 18 a trip to New Skete in Cambridge followed by lunch is planned. Our Nov 15 meeting Will be on climate justice. For more information please contact Natalie Bollerud at 518.584.1192.

I'm not quite sure what happened to September – it was here one moment and gone the next! But I love this time of year as everything begins to start up again.

Our UMW gave \$200 camperships to two of our youth to attend church camps this summer. They enjoyed their camp experiences and are looking forward to going again next summer!

We will be selling RADA cutlery as an ongoing fundraiser: to order online go to – <https://bit.ly/2mS62rU> Your order will be shipped directly to you for those who prefer not to order online, look for catalogues in the Fellowship Hall.

Our fall rummage, bake, and garage sales will be held Friday, 11/1, (9 am – 5 pm) and Saturday, 11/2, (9 am – 12 noon). Clean, gently used clothing, shoes, linens, etc., can be dropped off in the fellowship hall beginning Tuesday afternoon (10/29) after 2 pm. Garage sale items can be dropped off in the kitchenette..

–Lorraine Bittel, UMW President

Music Notes



Frobenius Concert

We'll have two classically trained musicians, both with broad musical interests and a variety of work in many of New York City's musical circles. Michael Hey (organ) and Christiana Liberis (violin) embarked on a partnership to bring a new and fresh approach to the organ and violin repertoire and to explore and create vastly different styles and genres of music for these two great and remarkably flexible instruments. The concert will be on Friday, November 15th at 7:30pm.

The Music Box

God calls us as his children to Reach Out to all people with God's love and spirit. Thus members of the Saratoga Springs UMC are united together in special groups to bring their musical gifts to various communities in and around Saratoga Springs. The AcaBella chimes and vocal ensemble is a group of 6 retired teachers who perform at nursing and assisted living homes including Wesley Health Care Center, Woodlawn Commons, Home of the Good Shepherd, The Summit and others. They perform between 8 and 15 concerts each year. Programs include a variety of musical styles and genres, from Broadway to Brahms, folksongs, movie themes, and inspirational numbers. Residents are encouraged to sing along and to try ringing the chimes. They are welcomed by residents and are frequently invited back, and have been voted their favorite entertainment by some residents.



The choirs of Joyful Hope, Canticum Novum, God's Hand Bells, Chancel Bell Ringers, AcaBella, a total of 75 persons, and a very young girl on the violin with her father on the guitar, have collaborated in presenting musical concerts at Embury Apartments for Independent Living by special request of the residents and arranged by a resident, a member of God's Bells. Their concerts take place each Christmas and in the spring. Music includes hymns, spirituals, Christmas carols, and some popular music. The Residents have rejoiced in these programs and relate feeling spiritually uplifted. The members of the music groups welcome with joy these opportunities to share their time and talents, and to make friends with the residents. God's Blessing to all those giving and receiving !

–Rev. Eleanor Dearstyne

OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Worship (9:00 & 10:45) Children's Choir (10:10) Youth Music (10:00) Canticum Novum (10:10) Youth Group (10:45) Book Study (10:45)	UMM Lunch Each Monday Noon @ Applebee's	1 Acabella (2:30)	2 Chancel Ringers (6:30) Chancel Choir (7:30)	3 Joy in the Morning (7:30) UMW Lunch (12:00) God's Bells (6:00) Joyful Hope (7:00)	4 First Friday Worship (7:00)	5
6 World Communion Sunday	7 Stone Soup (1:30) Monday Readers (7:00) Meditation Group (7:00)	8 Quilter's Group (1:00) Acabella (2:30)	9 Chancel Ringers (6:30) Chancel Choir (7:30)	10 Joy in the Morning (7:15) God's Bells (6:00) Joyful Hope (7:00)	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day Stone Soup (1:30) UMW Reads (7:00) Monday Readers (7:00)	15 Acabella (2:30)	16 Chancel Ringers (6:30) Chancel Choir (7:30)	17 Joy in the Morning (7:30) God's Bells (6:00) Third Thursday (6:00) Finance (7:00)	18 Living Springs Circle (10:00)	19
20	21 Stone Soup (1:30) Trustees (6:00) Mindfulness Class (7:00) Monday Readers (7:00)	22 Acabella (2:30)	23 Chancel Ringers (6:30) Chancel Choir (7:30)	24 Joy in the Morning (7:30) God's Bells (6:00) Joyful Hope (7:00)	25	26 Church Conference (4:00)
27 Caregivers (1:30) Trunk or Treat (2:00)	28 Stone Soup (1:30) Monday Readers (7:00) Church Council (7:00)	29 Acabella (2:30)	30 Chancel Ringers (6:30) Chancel Choir (7:30)	31 Joy in the Morning (7:30) God's Bells (6:00) Joyful Hope (7:00)	Looking Ahead: November 1 & 2 Rummage Sale November 3 rd All Saints Worship December 13 th and 14 th Christmas Fair	





In Our Prayers: Heather Rakus, Barb Rumsey, Frank Crouch, Karen Elmendorf, Christopher Davis, Donna Bottari, Tom Passante (Glen's brother-in-law), Mary DeRidder, Jody Long, Sue Hammann, Heather Smith Xie, Theresa Ray, Lisa Parker, Tracey Ingersoll, Jim Neal, Anya Demick, 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 (Lil Robertson's cousin), Don Carpenter, Thomas Family, Alden Barton, Ryan Vaughn, Sandy Mercaldi, Barbara O'Brien, Patricia Squailia, Sue Zutterling, Shirley Bozony

For Those Who Mourn the Loss of: Ralph Nicolson, Mark Juhlin, Joe Lane, Virginia Cooley, Bob Cornute, Fred Baum, Peggy Long, Rev. Harold Smith, Sally Wise Russo, Helen Smead, Roberta Fishbeck, Marge Bramhall, Patricia Duval, Betty Longo, Pamela Organ (Glen's cousin), Charles Goody, Ann Riebel, Alisha Scheuer, James Lloyd, Charles Salaway (Nora's son), 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

October 6th

Mission, Church and Society & Joy in the Morning

September 13th

Hospitality and "Birthday People"

October 20th

Music Teams

October 27th

Trustees, Finance, & SPRC

*The Mission of Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church is To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
Our Core Values are Radical Inclusivity, Justice-focused Outreach, and God-Centered Family*

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Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-3700

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Saratoga Springs, NY

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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

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Rev. Ralph Merante x112
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Organist

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**Handbell/Joyful Hope
Director**

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Our Vision:

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