

Coffee Hours

by Kay Clark

Coffee hours are a great way for us to become more acquainted with others and your friends .

The schedule for the month of June is as follows;

June 5 Team #2
June 12 Team #3
June 19th Team #4
June 26th Team #5

Volunteers are welcome. Feel free to ask and be added to a team.

Thank You all for everything you do. Our fellowship is such a wonderful time each Sunday.

Attendance in Church

April 3 66
April 10 90
April 17 95
April 24 57
May 1 63
May 8 94
May 15 101

Birthdays

June 6 Debbie Eldred
June 7 Johnny Moran
June 8 Sarah Barnes
Crampton
June 10 Diane Evans
June 11 Melana Gregware
June 11 Madeline Caruana
June 15 Kelly Carr
June 15 Steve Burkholder
June 19 Cleon Salisbury
June 27 Craig Lord

June 30 Jordon Rogers
June 30 Camden Gorsline

Anniversaries

June 3 Bob and Lynn Brooks
June 4 Claus and Esther
Evans
June 6 Dale and Winnie
Sortman
June 10 John and Bettie
Baldwin
June 10 Jason and Kristin
Burghardt
June 13 Scott and Kay Clark
June 29 Kevin and Lori Flohr
June 29 Bob and Bev
Sternbergh

Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are welcome from any member of the church, but articles from the leadership team is requested monthly to keep the church membership informed of their activities and actions. Please submit articles by e-mail to greenefumc@yahoo.com . We have a new church mailbox number now and you may also leave an article at the church in the mailbox #9.

The deadline for the July 2016 newsletter will be on June 20th, 2016.

Contact Information

The church could use your help in the way we can

contact you. If you have changes in your information such as address changes, phone number changes, and e-mail address changes or additions, Please contact the office so that the membership chairperson can update the church records and also so that information can be sent in a timely manner. It will also update your newsletter mailing whether it be sent by e-mail or regular mail. There is also a clipboard at the church on the table for the same purpose if you prefer to use that.

Thank You for your cooperation.

Many Hands Make Light Work

Apple Fest Planning for 2016 has started and we are looking for people who would like to help out. We will need people prior to the event and on the day of the event. So whether you can help for the day or for a few hours, we would love to have you.

In addition, we will begin to start the pie baking for Strawberry & Strawberry Rhubarb pies shortly, so look for signup sheet. Or if you are interested in being contacted, please contact Brenda Corey at 656-9289 or momcorey@frontiernet.net and she will contact you with pie baking schedule. Don't worry if

you have never made a pie before, they will walk you through it.

There will be a bin in the Social Room for donation of Flour, Crisco, or Sugar used with the Pie baking, so if you are doing your grocery shopping and spot a good sale, please consider buying some to donate to the Pie Baking.

The Next meeting will be 06/15/16 at 7:00pm. If you would like to help out, but can't attend please feel free to email Gerri Corey at gercorey@gmail.com or Call or text at 607-727-0699

Council of Bishops

Letter to the Church

Washington, D.C. — Reviving a tradition that is more than a century old, the United Methodist Council of Bishops sent this letter today to the people of The United Methodist Church following the 2016 General Conference, held in Portland, Oregon, May 10-20. The letter reads as follows:

“To the people of The United Methodist Church:

The Council of Bishops brings you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has called us to be servant leaders of the church. In 1812, Bishop Francis Asbury, Bishop William McKendree and General Conference Secretary Daniel Hitt sent the

first letter to churches following General Conference. This letter seeks to revive that tradition. Many bishops will also be communicating individually in their own areas.

Hundreds of lay and clergy delegates from around the world gathered in Portland, Oregon, along with bishops and pastors, church members and staff, volunteers and visitors, to engage in Christian conferencing, to make decisions for our church's future, to affirm our global connection, to worship and to celebrate God's faithfulness.

We celebrated the success of our Imagine No Malaria initiative, which seeks to raise \$75 million in the fight against malaria, a disease that takes the life of a child in Africa every two minutes. We celebrated our ecumenical partnerships as we move into full Communion with the Uniting Church in Sweden and toward full Communion with the Moravian church. We celebrated our heritage: the 250th anniversary of our oldest church, John Street United Methodist Church, the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women, the 25th anniversary of Africa University and others.

We continued in our acts of repentance with a presentation from the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes about the

Methodist involvement in the 1864 Sand Creek massacre. We shared in the consecration of deaconesses and home missionaries and the commissioning of missionaries. We moved toward a global Book of Discipline and global Social Principles. We voted to add five new bishops in Africa after 2020, and approved a churchwide study on our ecclesiology.

The Episcopal address set the tone for the event, focusing on humility and lifting up our accomplishments. We heard from our laity an invitation to members to be more involved in making disciples and getting involved in ministries to bring the love of Christ to others. We heard our young people say they “are engaged in Christ's journey with energy and love.” We also heard them say clearly that they do not want a divided church and urged us to “be in unity even if we do not have unanimity.” They give us hope for our future.

The body had difficult and challenging work before it as we acknowledged our differences over human sexuality. Amidst those differences, the delegates affirmed they want their bishops to lead and we found ourselves with an opportunity for a holy moment. We spoke candidly about what divides us and what our church might look like in the future if we dared to consider new possibilities. We offered a way forward, postponing decisions about sexuality matters and commit-

ting to having a different kind of global conversation that allows all voices to be heard.

Our differences do not keep us from being the body of Christ. They do not keep us from doing good in the world. They do not keep us from making a difference – and so we set forth bold new goals: to make a million new disciples of Jesus Christ; to engage 3 million new people to make a difference in the world; to transform 400 communities for vital abundant living; to reach a million children with lifesaving health interventions; and to double the number of vital congregations.

Most importantly, we affirmed our commitment to stay united. We proved that we are more than debates and divisions, more than rules and resolutions. We stood together as the body of Christ. As we reflect on our time in Portland, our prayer is for unity in the church for the advancement of our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

As John Wesley reminded us, “Best of all, God is with us.”

*Signed on behalf of the Council of Bishops,
Bishop Bruce R. Ough, president of the Council”*

Lasagna/ Spaghetti Dinner June 8th

Please save the date of Wednesday, June 8th on your calendar. The Trustees will have a Lasagna/Spaghetti dinner. Proceeds will go toward the window project.

Lectors

by Kay Clark

We have a group of people who assist Pastor Amy in the Worship service by providing someone to assist the pastor in the church service. This lector asks the Pastor what is needed before church starts and then leads the congregation in the opening of the service as printed in the bulletin and usually reads the beginning Bible passage. Bulletins are usually up on the Island in the church kitchen by late Thursday for the following Sunday, if you wish to view it ahead of time. If you would like to volunteer to be put on the lector list, please speak to or call Kay Clark, 656-7935, email kaysie.clark@gmail.com or put a note in church mailbox #7.

Thanks.

Finance Committee Report

Finance committee meetings are held regularly. All are welcome to attend. Copies of Minutes will be placed in the informational pockets on the wall in the Social Room for your reading pleasure! Questions can be directed to Bob Brooks at 656-8133.

Greene FUMC Book Group

by Carol Faught

The Saturday Methodist Book Group have chosen the book, “The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry,” for our next read. Author Gabrielle Zevin states A.J. Fikry’s life is not at all what he expected it to be. He lives alone. His book store is experiencing the worst sales in history, and now his prized possession, a rare collection of Poe poems, has been stolen. But when a mysterious package appears at the bookstore, its unexpected arrival gives Fikry the chance to make his life over — and he sees everything anew. This novel has humor, romance, touch of suspense, and most of all, love.

Hope to see you Saturday,

August 13 at 10:00 am at The Butcher, The Baker and The Sandwich Maker shop in Greene. All are welcome

Visitation Group

by Judy Kelly

Our new Visitation Group is willing to make house visits. Or if you prefer a phone visit, that is OK too.

There are times when we all need someone to talk to. Here are some of the members to contact: Judy Kelly; 875-4090, Eva Gibbs; 656-8935, Edie Miller; 656-9793, David Barnes; 644-3772, Mary Webb; 656-5348, Claus Evans; 656-8331, and Peg Moxley; 656-8313.

Maine's Program

By Tammy Nowalk

Do you shop in bulk? If so, Maine's Food and Party Warehouse has a program for nonprofits that you need to know about. If you sign up for the MaineSaver Program it gives 5% back to the non profit of your choice.

FUMC of Greene is a member of this program. If you

would like to sign up today see Tammy Nowalk or call her at 656-7261 for more information.

Easy way to raise money for the church while you shop!

Bottles & Cans for Camp

by Bob Brooks

We would like your bottles and cans for a good cause! Our bottle bin has been emptied and arrangements have been made to have them picked up on a routine basis going forward.

All proceeds from the sale of these items will go toward Sky Lake camp scholarships for our youth this summer.

Please help us out by bringing all of your bottles and cans, as well as those of neighbors and friends, to our bottle bin behind the church. Cash donations toward our Sky Lake goal are also needed, as well.

Thanking you in advance,
The Finance Committee

Thank You

by Marcia Miller

Thank you for volunteering at the Greene Community Food Pantry in the month of April. Our volunteers who

manned the Pantry were Esther Williams, Brenda Corey, Eva Gibbins, Judy Kelly and Esther Willaims.

Your food donation is always needed and appreciated, it can be dropped off at the Berean Church or in our donation box in our church's entryway, and the box is located under the coat rack

Some food needed now is cereal, jelly, peanut butter, Spam, dried beef, hash and cake mixes.

If you can help please give me a call Marcia 656-8751.

by Merelyn Rogers

I want to give a big thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the last Rummage Sale held in April.

Please save the date of August 29, 30 and 31, Mon., Tues., Wed. for the next big Rummage Sale

New Members Welcome

Are you interested in becoming new members of our church? Perhaps you are wanting to learn more about the United Methodist Church in general or about First United Methodist Church.

Please contact Pastor Amy to let her know that you are interested. Phone 875-4079 or email to abgregory@aol.com.

Mission Report

by Debbie Barnes

The Mission Committee headed this year's food challenge to raise food and monetary donations for the local food pantry. The food items collected were a total of 806 items. Also we raised \$1123 for the food bank. As usual our church went above and beyond our goal off 1000 dollars/items. It is wonderful to be part of such a caring church.

There is another challenge that was met on June 5th. That was for the Shelter Box Tent to be donated for disaster relief. Our church met that goal with the change collection on that day. Each Tent cost \$1000.

The Mission Committee is hoping to have an inside garage sale to raise funds for the upcoming Bosnia trip.

Donations will be made to Africa 360, Mission of Peace and Greene Area Churches Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$100 each.

We are also collecting knitted or crocheted infant hats for new babies in the hospital at Norwich as a continuing mission project.

Worship

Schedule

The church worship service is at 9:30 am weekly.

Sunday School will start after the children's sermon in the sanctuary.

Beginning on July 3rd, our services will begin at 10:30 am with Pastor Amy having services in North Fenton at 9:00 am.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Jan Carr

The prayer shawl ministry was started by several women in the church in 2005.

They are given to anyone that someone feels that they are in need of comfort and prayer. They are given to graduating students as they start their new journey through life.

Each shawl is blessed before it is given out and has a prayer attached.

As of the end of June, there have been 526 Prayer Shawls given. There are different colors and they give comfort to those receiving them.

If you feel led to do prayer shawls, feel free to do so and begin your shawls with prayer.

Anyone who knows someone that you know is in need and does not have one

yet, please talk to Pastor Amy or Jan Carr.

Soup and Scripture

Soup and Scripture meets weekly on Thursdays beginning at 6:00 pm at the church.

We begin by sharing a light meal and fellowship.

Then we continue as we have Bible Study till 7:30 or so.

This is open to anyone who would like to come to learn about God's Word and fellowship together.

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UMM Report

by Dave Barnes

The Methodist Night at the Ballpark is coming up very soon. The date is Thursday, June 23rd at NYSEG Stadium in Binghamton. The game begins at 6:30 pm.

Rev. David Kofahl will throw out the first pitch. The National Anthem will be sung by Hannah Truman, representing the United Methodist Homes.

I have tickets available for \$8.00. So purchase them soon. Many of us attended last year and had a great, relaxing time.

Plans are continuing for a men's retreat on September 16-17 which will be held at Sky Lake. The featured speaker is going to be Isaiah Kacyvenski, former linebacker with Harvard and Seattle. Music will be by The Mark Bolos Band. The theme of the retreat is "**Giving God Your All.**" Continue checking back soon as more information becomes available.

Reminder from Trustees

To avoid conflicts in scheduling please submit your request for use of church property for any event or meeting to the Board of Trustees as much in advance as possible.

Forms are available in the Social Room.

Trustees

Update

We have had a busy spring. The painting in the kitchen was completed, and the cupboards were cleaned. We had a code inspection and all is well for that. The roof leak in the choir room is solved so we will be fixing the ceiling soon.

Most of you are aware that the big stained glass window in the back of the church is coming out for repairs. Also the one near the stairs, half of that is also going to be done at the same time. The 20th of May is when work is scheduled to begin. You will receive a letter to tell you how you can help with this endeavor. If you have any questions or if you are aware of anything in need of upkeep, please let any of your Trustees know.

Vacation Bible Schol Plans Begin

With the beginning of Spring and thoughts of summer, there are also thoughts of what kids can do for a week in the summer. We have the perfect solution to your thoughts.

Vacation Bible School, better known as VBS, will be coming up this summer on the week of July 25th to 29th from 6:00 to 8:15 pm. It is hosted this year by the UCC First

Congregational Church on North Chenango Street on Monday thru Thursday. Then the Friday night block party will be at the Immaculate Conception Church on Route 206.

Plans are still being formulated but the theme this year is Workshop of Wonders. Continue watching the Facebook page for our church and local newspapers on planning and supplies needed.