

# The Messenger

The Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Greene NY  
May/ June 2018

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From Pastor Michele:

Greetings my friends, I hope and pray this newsletter finds you doing well. Winter is finally over and the hope of new life which comes with Easter and Spring surrounds us. Holy Week was extraordinary for me, and I hope it was for you as well.

As we continue in Eastertide, the season following Easter and ending with Pentecost, my message today is all about what Christ did for you and for me. My friends, Easter is the ultimate love story. Now we've all heard and read the crucifixion story many times. In fact, we may be so familiar with the facts of the story that we aren't as moved by it as we once were. We look at Passion Week as the time in Christ's life when his suffering begins, but his entire life was one of suffering. Even as a small child, he experienced an attempt on his life that caused his parents to have to flee the country. Not much is known about his childhood years, but he probably was no stranger to loneliness, since he was the perfect Son of God living among people who were filled with sin and selfishness. We know that once he became a man and started his ministry he was ridiculed and rejected not only by the religious authorities, but also by his own people. He was tempted by the devil and then tortured by the sinners he came to save.

*He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Isaiah 53:3*

And he did this for you and for me! He suffered for those he came to save, and his suffering ultimately ended in his death on the cross.

Why does the Crucifixion matter? On the cross Christ experienced the full force of God's wrath against sin. Every single ounce of God's justified anger, which was once meant for us, was satisfied by the blood of the one who was and is holy, righteous and perfect. It's hard for us to understand how great a debt we owe because we don't really understand the horrendous nature of sin.

The Crucifixion also matters because on the cross, God's love shines most brightly. You want to know how much God loves you? Look to the cross where he sacrificed his son for your sins – many of which we aren't even sorry for. If you ever doubt the love of God for you, go to the cross and really think about what he has done for you. Marvel, weep...and rejoice.

Through the Crucifixion you were rescued from the power of sin and the torture of hell. You were placed into the family of God, given Christ's robe of righteousness, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and given a new heart. This kind of love can't ever be broken or undone.

While we must give an answer to God for our life, Christ has become our answer. We experience many sorrows in this life, but Jesus became the "Man of Sorrows" in order to obtain for us an inheritance which includes everlasting joy in the presence of God himself.

The Easter story, when you really read it, think about it and dive into it...well, it's a love story. It's a story about a hero laying down his life for those who can't help themselves, can't save themselves: People tangled in bondage to sins, failures, regrets, and mistakes. It's a story of a Son's radical obedience to his Father, all for the sake of the reconciliation of sinful people.

*With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. Mark 15:37*

The One who came to seek and save the lost, became the spotless lamb who was slain. The One who loved well and lived a sinless life, died a gruesome sinner's death. The One who created life was sacrificed for the very ones he breathed life into. And at his death, the curtain that separated our Holy God from sinful people, was torn in two...starting at the top. (Mark 15:38)

Isn't that like God? He is always the one initiating, reaching out...loving first. And this "curtain" wasn't your everyday curtain, not by any stretch of the imagination. It was around 60 feet in height, 30 feet in

width, and four inches thick! The tearing of the curtain from top to bottom showed that Christ's death for our sins now gave us direct access to God. We no longer need a middle man.

Because of what Christ did on the cross, we can now approach God with confidence and boldness. (Hebrews 4:14-16) No longer do we need to go through a priest or sacrifice an animal to have our sins forgiven. Jesus is the High Priest who willingly, lovingly laid down his life so that we now have unlimited and direct access to God.

*Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith. (Hebrews 10:19-22)*

And on that old rugged cross, our sweet Lord said, "It is finished" ...mission complete. So, allow this truth to not only enter your mind, but let it go further and let it penetrate deep into your heart and change you from the inside out! Don't go through the motions this Easter but rather allow God to do a mighty work in your heart as you focus on the price he has paid for your salvation.

Don't ever forget that the grace we experience from God is free...but it is not cheap. Our freedom, our forgiveness, our hope in eternity was all purchased with his blood. Let us live changed, focused, and humbled by what Jesus did on the cross for me and for YOU!

Grace and Peace to all,  
*Pastor Michele*

On May 20, we will celebrate Pentecost but also Confirmation of five of your special children. Your 2018 Confirmands are Madelynn Cummings, Trevor Ketcham, Shannen Quarella, Sarah Sexton, and Natalie Specht. In addition, there are several adults who will be joining the church. Praise God for bringing all of these together into our family called Greene.

On June 10, we will celebrate Children's Day along with our Teachers and Graduate Recognition Day. Your 2018 High School Graduates that we celebrate are Lindsey Branigan, Scotia Craver, Faith Doll, Gloria Stracquadiano, and Mary Zaengle. May God bless them in all their endeavors.

Pastor Michele can be reached by cell phone: 910-260-0660 or Email: [revmicheleclark@gmail.com](mailto:revmicheleclark@gmail.com)

## **MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS**

From Debbie Barnes, Missions Chair

We have been collecting "change" for hurricane relief since last fall (September) on each Communion Sunday. As of the April collection, we have received \$532.48. there is a huge need in Puerto Rico and other areas as a result of the terrible hurricane season in 2017. The next collection is May 13<sup>th</sup> when we have our next Communion.

We continue to collect food in the bin in the Social Room for the local food bank. Food items needed at this time are: canned pasta sauce, canned tuna fish and canned chicken, canned tomatoes, red kidney beans, peanut butter, jelly and cake mixes. So far many items have been donated for March and April.

At our meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup> a project for food packing for those in need was discussed. Also discussed was our participation in a Red Bird Mission project.

Sky Lake camp forms are out. We will be sending information home with Sunday School students. Missions helps with funds for camp. Please continue to bring cans and bottles in to help fund Sky Lake Camperships.





May 13: *Last Day of Sunday School* ~ Nursery Helper: N. Specht UPK-2<sup>nd</sup> Helpers: Cummings family

May 20: *Confirmation Sunday/ Welcome New Members* Pentecost

June 10: *Children's Day/ Senior Recognition Sunday*

*If anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School next year please contact Joy Ketcham.*



**UNITED  
METHODIST**

**WOMEN:** From Kay Clark Meeting: Thursday, May 17, 9:30am at the home of Kay Clark  
No meeting in June.  
Mark your calendars now for Thurs. July 19: Lunch at Geneganslet

**SKY LAKE OPEN HOUSE and 5K TRAIL RUN/ WALK**

*The perfect opportunity to visit Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center!*

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> ~ 1:30 - 5pm.

Whether you're up for running, walking or just cheering others on, you'll certainly enjoy this opportunity to raise money for the Sky Lake Campership Fund. A shuttle will be available between the parking area on West Shore to the race check-in/ start location on East Shore. A coat/bag check will be available in the Gift Shop in Founder's Lodge for a free-will donation. A ticket for the hot dog roast is included with paid 5K registration.

**REGISTRATION FEE** for 5K Run/Walk: \$18.75 until Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> (shirt included), \$25. from Apr 23 - May 6<sup>th</sup> (shirt included), \$25. from May 7-19<sup>th</sup> (no shirt included), and \$30. the Day of the race (no shirt included).

5K Run/Walk begins at 3:30pm - there is also a Kids 1K Fun Run/Walk/ Stroll at 3pm with the 1K Fun Run "free" (optional shirt for \$10 is available for order until Sun. May 6<sup>th</sup>)

*While this is a classic trail/run/walk through woods and grassy portions, be prepared for uneven terrain, tree roots, rocks, hills and even a few muddy spots. In the event that conditions do not allow the trail system to be used, an alternative lap course using West Shore Field and Campground Road will be available.*



## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL/ MOONLIGHTERS CONCERT**

Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:30 – 8pm

Come and enjoy the fellowship of good friends and neighbors, some delicious ice cream and listen to the music of *The Fabulous Moonlighters* – dance if you wish!

## **SHOES FOR SERVICE**

The United Methodist Men of Greene are taking on a project sponsored by Binghamton District United Methodist Men and collecting usable shoes to go to 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, and will be bagged as described. Someone will deliver the filled bags to the Endwell collection point. So if you have shoes that can be used for this project just bring them to church. We will be collecting until May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Usable Boots, flip flops, kids, men's and women's shoes are accepted. They should be collected 25 pair per clear plastic bag – they will be Taken to Endwell UMC and distributed to third world countries. Money from the collected shoes will be distributed to: Veterans & Society of St. Andrew for the potatoes distributed in our area.



## **12<sup>th</sup> Annual United Methodist Night at the Ball Game**

Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:35pm

Our designated mission projects to benefit from the proceeds are:

- Upper Room Prayer Line
- Society of St. Andrew
- Handicap Children's Association
- Southern Tier MobilePack
- Truth Pharm Inc

This year's National Anthem will be performed by Hailey Ritter of Endwell UMC.

See Dave Barnes for tickets and information or contact Ken Summers (725-7709 or [Kensummers28@gmail.com](mailto:Kensummers28@gmail.com))

*If you would like to get the church newsletter or other church-related information sent to you via email, please send your current email address directly to David Barnes or add your current email address to the list in the Social Room. Help us all in saving time and postage. Thank you!*

## **WELSH COOKIE TIME**

From Kay Clark



It's time again to begin thinking about baking Welsh Cookies for the Greene Craft Fair and also for Applefest. Baking will begin on Monday June 18<sup>th</sup> and continue each Monday (June 25, July 9, July 16 and maybe July 30). Some of us gather early (7am) in the church kitchen – others come in time to wash dishes and clean up. We need you all!

We usually make over 100 dozen each week. Yes we sell lots of them before the Craft Fair, but our goal is to sell as many as we can on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> (Craft Fair day). Our booth is on the corner by the Sherwood Inn which is a busy spot. We'll be looking for volunteers to work on that day too – older children are welcome. Questions? Call Kay Clark at 656-7935 or 725-4112 (cell). Thank you!



## **NATIVE AMERICAN NOTES**

From Scott Clark

Red Cloud Indian School is one of the largest privately funded Indian schools in the United States. It has educated 600 students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in a remote part of South Dakota since 1888, and sees itself as educators of the young men and women who will become the leaders of tomorrow in the service of others and their community.

## **USHERS FOR MAY & JUNE**

May 6: Mary Webb & Edie Miller  
13: Carol Faught & Lorna Eroshevich  
20: Judy Kelly & Connie Smithka  
27: Esther Williams & Mary Webb

June 3: Edie Miller & Carol Faught  
June 10: Connie Smithka & Lorna Eroshevich  
June 17: Esther Williams & Edie Miller  
June 24: Judy Kelly & Mary Webb

## **LECTORS FOR MAY & JUNE**

May 6:  
May 13: Youth  
May 20: Scott Clark  
May 27: Ray Sullivan

June 3: Youth  
June 10: Children's Day  
June 17: David Barnes  
June 24:

## **COFFEE HOUR TEAMS**

May 6: Team 3  
May 13: Team 4 *Last Day of Sunday School*  
May 20: Team 5 *Confirmation/ Pentecost*  
May 27: Team 6

June 3: Team 1  
June 10: Team 3 & 4 *Children's Day Senior Recognition*  
June 17: Team 2  
June 24: Team 5 & 6 *Hymn Sing/ Choir Recognition*

## **ATTENDANCE**

March 4: 76	April 1: 82
March 11: 68	April 8: 61
March 18: 78	April 15: 62
March 25: 81	April 22: 90
	April 29: 72

### **BIRTHDAYS IN MAY**

2. Valerie Dunckle
3. Leslie Gorsline
8. Maxwell Evans
10. Gloria Stracquadanio
13. Sadie Sexton
14. Lindsey Branigan
15. Merelyn Rogers
19. Liam Griffin
21. Scotia Craver
22. Naomi Burghardt
23. Boris Trifunovic
24. Colin Evans
25. James Carr Jr.
28. Maryanne Lord
29. Garrett Hebbard

### **ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY**

10. Earl & Thanna Howell
23. Bob & Edie Miller

### **BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE**

6. Debbie Eldred
7. Johnny Moran
8. Sarah (Barnes) Crampton
10. Dianne Evans
11. Melana Gregware
11. Madeline Caruana
15. Kelly Carr
15. Steve Burkholder
19. Cleon Salisbury
27. Craig Lord
30. Jordan Rogers
30. Camden Gorsline

### **ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE**

6. Dale & Winnie Sortman
10. Jason & Kristin Burghardt
13. Scott & Kay Clark
29. Lori & Kevin Flohr
29. Bob & Bev Sternbergh

### **APPLEFEST UPDATE**

It's never too early to begin thinking about Applefest, so mark your calendars now: **Sat. Sept 29<sup>th</sup>** - it will be here before you know it. Then prayerfully consider how you might help with pie baking, setting up the field, working at the tent or even praying for a beautiful and successful. Speak to Leslie and David Gorsline, this year's Applefest Chairs. More information will be made available as plans evolve.

*If you think you may not be listed on our birthday list, or you are listed incorrectly, please let Joyce know as soon as possible by leaving a note in mailbox #11 or send an email to: [joycesemer@gmail.com](mailto:joycesemer@gmail.com)*

# May 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1. Trustees mtg. 7pm Choir 7pm	2. Italian Night Dinner 5-6:30pm Finance mtg. 6pm	3. Soup & Scripture 6pm	4. Pastor Michele away	5.
6. thru Sunday	7.	8. Choir, 7pm	9.	10. Soup & Scripture 6pm	11.	12.
13. Last Day Sun School UMCOR Coin Offering  COMMUNION  MOTHER'S DAY	14.	15. Choir, 7pm  GAC mtg. 7pm Assembly of God	16.	17. UMW meets 9:30am @ Kay Clark's  Soup & Scripture 6pm	18.	19.
20. Confirmation  PENTECOST  Sky Lake Open House 1:30 – 5pm	21.	22. Missions Mtg. 10am  VBS mtg 5:30pm at First Cong UCC  Choir, 7pm	23. UMW goes to Sky Lake	24. Soup & Scripture 6pm	25.	26.
27.	28.	29. Choir, 7pm	30.	31. ANNUAL CONFERENCE		

# June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1.	2.
					ANNUAL CONFERENCE	
3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
				Soup & Scripture 6pm		Outreach Opportunity at Mary Webb's 10am  Eagle Scout Dinner
10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
CHILDREN'S DAY  SENIOR RECOGNITION	ICE CREAM SOCIAL/ CONCERT 6:30pm	Garden Club meets 6pm		Soup & Scripture 6pm		
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.
FATHER'S DAY	Welsh cookie bake begins		Baccalaureate  Finance 6pm Ad Council 7pm	Soup & Scripture 6pm		
24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
HYMN SING SUNDAY  CHOIR RECOGNITION	Welsh cookie bake		PPRC meets 6pm	Night at the Ballpark 6:35pm		

Looking Ahead: Sat. July 28: Greene Craft Fair  
Sat. Sept. 29: Applefest



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