

Pastor
Rev. Kelly Warner

Office Manager
Susan Cramer

Custodian
Tom Chase

Music Ministry
Cathy King

Christian Education
Karen Groff

Church Council Chair
Ilah Sisson Walser

Financial Secretary
Cherrie Sanders

Lay Leader
Linda Sheeran

Treasurer
Lynne Blake

Trustee Co-Chairs
Gary Perkins
Helen Senecal

**Youth Group
Leaders**
Melissa Taylor
Cherrie Sanders

**PLEASE notify us of
any address
changes and/or if
you no longer wish
to receive this
publication.**

The Tidings

May 2019

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church



101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Pastor's Column



I know that my Redeemer lives!

What comfort this sweet sentence gives!

He lives, he lives, who once was dead: He lives,

My ever-living Head! He lives to bless me with his

love: He lives to plead for me above: He lives my hungry

soul to feed: He lives to help in time of need. He lives to grant

me rich supply: He lives to guide me with his eye: He lives to

comfort me when faint: He lives to hear my soul's complaint. He

lives to silence all my fears: He lives to wipe away my tears: He lives

to calm my troubled heart: He lives all blessings to impart. He lives,

my kind, wise, heavenly friend: He lives and loves me to the end: He

lives, and while he lives, I'll sing: He lives, my Prophet, Priest,

and King! He lives and grants me daily breath: He lives, and I

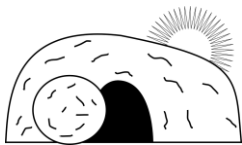
shall conquer death: He lives my mansion to prepare: He lives to

bring me safely there. He lives, all glory to His name! He

lives, my savior, still the same: Oh, sweet the joy this

sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!





"Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb"

*Morning breaks upon the tomb,
Jesus scatters all its gloom.
Day of triumph through the skies -
See the glorious Savior rise.
Christians! Dry your flowing tears,
Chase those unbelieving fears;
Look on his deserted grave,
Doubt no more his power to save.
Ye who are of death afraid,
Triumph in the scattered shade:
Drive your anxious cares away,
See the place where Jesus lay.
-William Bengo Collyer*

RESURRECTION

How does a crocus know,
Underneath the winter snow,
That it must grow?
And how do bulbs of tulip
And those of daffodil,
Know the time has come,
Their purpose to fulfill?
Why do they start to resurrect
When snows of winter still deflect
Light and warmth away from them?
What unseen impulse
Calls them forth
Before the winter cold is done,
To struggle upward
Toward the promise of the sun?
The minute the snow goes,
Their new green shows.

We, who've thought ourselves so smart
All throughout our history,
Cannot fathom the human heart,
Nor solve this mystery.

If we could feel God's touch,
Amid the dark and cold of sin,
Then we would spring to life, -
A world of beauty would begin.

God's hand can bring new life
To hearts of flowers;
Surely He can do the same
For that of ours!



Easter Changes Things

Here's a bit of trivia that relates to ancient burial customs. Did you know that before the time of Christ, mourners would bury their loved ones facing west – toward the sunset and the darkness of night? After the resurrection, this custom was reversed. Loved ones faced east, toward the dawn of a new tomorrow... Isn't that an interesting and meaningful tradition? We are a people who possess a sure and certain hope – of life after death, so why not show the world how confident we are of that hope!



God had one Son on Earth without sin, but never one without suffering.

-St. Augustine

Not Defeated!

When Jesus cried, "It is finished," He did not take away the conflict, the test, the fight. No! He took away only your defeat.

-Ira Taylor

Mission and Outreach News

Mission Giving

Through your generosity, \$365 has been given to One Great Hour of Sharing which is for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Because you give, the United Methodist Church can respond when tornadoes rip through Oklahoma, or when a massive tsunami devastates lives in Japan, or even when the next mass crisis occurs. UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give.

Our collection for the Ballston Area Clergy Association has reached \$524. This fund serves residents of our school district when help is needed for things like rent, electricity or other necessities.

Human Relations Day had a collection of \$107. This is to extend a helping hand to those in crisis so they can overcome formidable obstacles.



Fair Trade

The May Fair Trade sale will be on Sunday, May 19th after worship near the South entrance to the Connection's Cafe. We still have a few dark chocolate bars remaining along with the usual coffee, tea and hot chocolate items.

Prayer Shawl Ministry News

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to knit or crochet shawls and blankets for our congregation to help heal, provide comfort, or celebrate a joy. It touches the heart of our ministry to see shawls and blankets picked up as needed. We are thankful to those who continue to purchase yarn or donate funds to keep our hands active in ministry work. This past year, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has expanded its work and began knitting, crocheting, and sewing fleece hats, mittens and scarves. We dubbed it "Hats Across America."

The ministry received grant funds to purchase yarn and fleece. The grant was awarded to us by the United Methodist Women Conference Mission Projects. With smart shopping skills (A.C. Moore coupons and JoAnn's fleece sale) we were able to utilize the grant money to its fullest potential. Through meticulous record keeping we have been able to track the bountiful items made and shared amongst several communities. The Prayer Shawl Ministry recently celebrated its accomplishment of 2,150 total hats, mittens, and scarves made and distributed! Where did they all go?

- UMEM Strong/Salem, Maine
- SUSTAIN and Raindrop Closet in Schenectady, New York
- Blessing Box, Ballston Spa Village library
- Food Pantry, Ballston Spa United Methodist Church
- Code Blue, Saratoga, New York
- Workshop without Walls, Rome, New York
- Wellspring, Saratoga Springs, New York
- Ballston Spa and Saratoga School Districts
- Unadilla, NY Food Pantry and Headstart
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Pantry, Clifton Park, New York
- St. Joseph's and Nogales ministries, Arizona
- Christmas giving programs

Our ministry will continue to work and build our supply of hats, mittens, and scarves for the upcoming winter.

Through this ministry, we will continue to keep the momentum of shawls and blankets flowing. The gifts of God are skillful, plentiful, and loving as we provide both spiritual comfort and physical warmth. Remember, there is no age minimum or maximum to join our group!

Blessings, The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Youth Group Notes

The 4th-8th grades Youth Group met after the worship service on April 28th for snacks and service. Books were checked and labels placed in each one, all of which will be donated as part of the Red Bookshelf project. Plans are underway for a fun last gathering before summer break begins!

Sunday School is Cool



Sunday school is catching up on their Tidings report so bear with us!! We did some traveling in March. We delivered the books from our Red Book Shelf mission to the Spa Laundry Mat, the church food pantry and thrift shop. As you might have noticed we had many more to deliver and we are getting there in due time! We also took a field trip to the Rock the Spectrum Gym in Ballston Spa where we had an awesome time playing on their zip lines, trampolines, and jungle gyms to name a few things we tried out! We also are moving forward with the Whirl

Curriculum and have the spring session on hand. In April, we did some baking for the Shelters of Saratoga and we had some delicious fun! We also have June 9th earmarked for our end of the year Recognition Day. If you have any children that are graduating from high school or college, please let Karen Groff know so that we may recognize them on that day. Our children have some things they have learned to present to you that day also. Make sure you can make this a priority in your busy schedules to see our children's accomplishments!

5K Thank You Dinner

The May 5K Dinner will be at 6:00 PM in the Connection's Cafe on Thursday, May 16th. We will order food from the Front Street Deli menu on Tuesday, May 14th. Please contact Melody Babcock (518.490.2015) or Stan Lockwood (518.885.1552) to sign up, give them your order, and make payment before the 14th. All are welcome to join in on the fun and enable us to give back to our Falling Leaves 5K Sponsors.

Church Happenings

Church Council Report

The April meeting of the Church Council was held April 9. Reports of the work areas and ministries of the Church were presented. Action taken during the meeting included the proposal from the Trustees to repair the sign in front of the church. They presented three bids for the work. Approval was given for the work to be done by Saratoga Sign Pro for \$2485. Appreciation was expressed for the Trustees work. The loose plate offering on Easter will be donated to UMCOR for disaster relief.

Our next meeting will be at 7pm in the Connections Café on May 14. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Ilah Sisson Walser, Chair

Seder Celebration

On April 19th we had a Passover Seder celebration in the Fellowship Room. There were 19 in attendance. It was the first time having lamb for some of us. Dining by candle light was a peaceful experience. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience.

There are extra "Welcome to a Passover Seder Celebration" pamphlets that are available in the Connections Café for anyone interested. Special thanks to:

- Ben Taylor for the Lego display, reading of the four questions and finding the Matzah so we could end the meal
- Carol Markley for the dishes, tablecloths, Haroset, dates, tangerines, dried apricots and doing one of the readings
- Linda Sheeran for the glasses, lamb, parsley, lighting of candles the old-fashioned way, and Seder themed napkins;
- Pastor Kelly for leading us through the meal;
- Mark Warner for doing some of the readings; and
- Ruth Persons for hard boiled eggs, salt for salt water to dip the parsley and/or lettuce in (the bitters) and grape juice.

Summer Camp Registration is Open!

It may be frigid outside, but what better time to look forward to summer! Registration is now open for Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries summer programs, including your classic favorites and some new adventures!

Go to <http://campsandretreats.org/summer-camp-2019>, or pick up a brochure on the Welcome tables, and plan your kids' summer fun at Skye Farm!



Skye Farm Open House

Saturday, June 1, 1-6 pm.

Walk the campgrounds. Meet the staff. Participate in activities. It's free! It's fun! It's for the whole family!

Contact: 518-494-7170 or info@skyefarmcamp.org

New Rabaska Canoe for Skye Farm

A New Rabaska Canoe, (capable of holding 12 paddlers!) was purchased in 2018 thanks to many gifts, large and small, from faithful donors. The old wood Rabaska Canoe was retired, refinished by Terry Lasher, and has been hung in the dining hall for all to enjoy. The new canoe was delivered during 2018 staff training with many hands carrying it down to the water. Many campers and staff were able to take a ride in and paddle the new canoe during the summer season. We are excited for it to be used this summer in a new program - ADK Island Canoe Trip. In this canoe, youth will experience the Adirondacks by canoeing up rivers and on lakes, making camp, exploring, and relaxing among the trees and waves. We hope that future, intentional donations, like that of the canoe, will allow us to build the offsite trip offerings that campers have enjoyed in the past, so that youth may adventure in the Adirondacks for countless summers to come.



Weekend Getaway at Skye Farm, May 17-18, 2019

Enjoy some time in the Adirondacks at Skye Farm, a UM gem of a camp just north of Warrensburg. Hiking and canoeing. Burgers and S'mores. Games or quiet time. It is up to you what you want out of this escape. RSVP to Linda Sheeran at 518-885-1729 or lsheeran6@gmail.com. *Everyone is invited- families, singles, couples.*

Posting Anyone?

Do you have an event that you would like posted on our website or Facebook page? Please let Karen Groff know by contacting her at 518-928-1656 or kgroff59@gmail.com. Events that are posted in this manner get much more publicity than local papers or billboards. Take a look at how many people followed our last event on Facebook for the Birdhouse and Banner Event!

Advertising Summary for Ballston Spa United Methodist Church

Event Promotion

Birdhouse and Banner Decorating Event
Saturday, March 30, 2019, 1 PM - 4 PM
Promoted by Karen Smith Groff on Mar 20, 2019

Completed
1,793 People Reached
34 Event Responses
55 Post Engagements
24 Link Clicks
34 Event Responses

April Fool's Fun Day

We gathered on April 1st for a "Fun Day" celebration. We shared jokes. Katie Warner shared a few card tricks with us (How did she do that?!). Mark Warner showed videos of Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First?" and another of the Three Stooges as well as other funny clips. Of course, we wouldn't be true Methodists without having refreshments! We had cake, pie, jelly beans, and brown E's. All had an enjoyable time. Keep an eye out for our next get-together! It will be "Coming Soon"!

District News

Safe Sanctuary Training



The standard Safe Sanctuaries training will be held from 9 AM to Noon on **Saturday,**

June 1 at the South Glens Falls UMC, 15 Maplewood Parkway, South Glens Falls (12803). Please arrive by 8:45 AM to register.

The training will follow the curriculum developed by the Upper New York Annual Conference Safe Sanctuaries Team, educating those involved in ministries who work with children and vulnerable adults on risks and prevention strategies related to abuse. The training will be facilitated by Arlene Schmidt and Ruth Persons.

A "Training of Trainers" course will also be offered that afternoon (from 1 to 4 PM) for those interested in facilitating Upper NY's Safe Sanctuaries Training as part of the District's training team and/or for their local church. Completion of the standard course is a prerequisite. The course can be completed that morning (or if you've completed it at a previous time). Participants must be affirmed by District Superintendent Rev. Debbie Earthowl. Carol Barnes, the Conference Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator, will facilitate the training.

Lunch will be provided at 12:15 PM for those who enroll in both courses.

Please register with Carrie Boyer in the District Office, and indicate which training(s) you are enrolling in. She will send you pertinent information: adirondackdistrict@unyumc.org or (518) 480-4866



Do We Really Need to Do Background Checks? from Church Volunteer Central's "Tuesdays tips"

How real is the risk?

In an audit of 3.7 million background screenings completed during 2002 and 2007, over 189,000 individuals with at least one criminal conviction attempted to gain employment or volunteer with a nonprofit organization.

Of the 2007 audit:

- Over 2700 registered sex offenders
- 3,900 sex related crimes
- 37,400 drug related crimes
- 651 murder convictions

The audit revealed that the hit rate for the nonprofit sector is 5.06%. This means for every 100 individuals who were screened, more than 5 of them were found to have prior criminal convictions.

Key audit findings.

- Each day, 144 individuals with criminal records applied for employment or a volunteer opportunity with a nonprofit. (Who can say how many more people with a criminal history would have applied for paid or volunteer positions if they hadn't been persuaded not to because the organization did background screening?)
- Every 11.5 hours, a registered sex offender attempted to obtain a position at a nonprofit.
- A significant percentage of the convictions found occurred in a state other than the applicant's current state of residence and would not have been found if a national search hadn't been conducted.

No one likes to talk about it, but the reality is that we owe it to our church, our volunteers, and the people we serve to provide a safe environment for ministry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

5/1	Greg Wilson
5/2	Mark Warner
5/6	Brenna Schmidt
5/8	Sean McAuliffe, Danielle Wolsey
5/15	Dennis Taylor
5/17	Nathaniel Coffey
5/21	Darci Doyle, Melissa Taylor
5/23	Bill Haege
5/26	Amy Lockwood, Edward Sutton
5/28	Jenna Heffernan

5/30	Lance Evans
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Happy Anniversary

5/1 Donna & Mike Conley
 5/4 Darci & Bill Doyle
 5/20 Barbara & Jim Cope
 5/24 Louisa & Mike Heffernan

Please let the Church Office know if there are any additions and/or corrections.



Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the June issue of The Tidings newsletter is May 20th. You may e-mail your article to bsumc@albany.twcbc.com, drop it off, or mail it to the office. Anyone may submit an article for the newsletter.



**Sunday Worship 10 AM - Nursery Care Available
Sunday School 10:15 AM**

**Ballston Spa United Methodist
Church**

101 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Address Service Requested

May Tidings

Church Office Phone

518-885-6886

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pastor Kelly Warner

Tuesday – Thursday (all day)

Email

bsumc@albany.twcbc.com

Web Site

