

**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*

**SPRC Chair**  
*Joyce Garlock*

**Treasurer**  
*Lynne Blake*

**Trustee Co-Chairs**  
*Gary Perkins*  
*Helen Senecal*

**Youth Group Leaders**  
*Melissa Taylor*  
*Cherrie Sanders*

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

# The Tidings

**July and August 2019**

**Ballston Spa United Methodist Church**



**101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020**

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## Sharing Exciting News

Late last year, a group of church members involved with media in the church (audio, video, online) met to discuss visions for the future. We quickly agreed that two potential areas for increasing ministry effectiveness and addressing member concerns were replacing the sanctuary sound system and upgrading the projection system.

Starting in January, the newly formed Media Team met with three audiovisual vendors who presented their proposals. In March we shared the three vendor proposals with Church Council; the Council affirmed the project in principle but asked to see proposals that were based on comparable equipment configurations.

We passed this request on to the vendors, and at the June 11 Church Council meeting we presented the three revised proposals. The Council voted to accept the bid from Sound Solutions of Saratoga.

The project will include installation of a ceiling-mounted laser projector providing approximately twice the lumens of the current portable projector, integrated with a full sound system incorporating 2 lavalier-style microphones, 2 handheld mics, 2 floor mics, 4 hearing-assist receivers, and a mixing board that can be controlled in real time either from a station at the rear of the sanctuary or a handheld tablet.

The total cost of the system will be approximately \$20,000. Church Council approved dividing the cost evenly between the current expense budget and the Trustees budget. The Council also voted to solicit funds from the congregation between now and the beginning of October; any funds received will be used to "pay back" the current expense and Trustees funds in the same 50/50 ratio.

As of today, we expect installation to begin before the first of August.

If you have any questions, please speak to one of the Media Team members: Dave Edwards, Karen Groff, or Mark Warner.

## **Mission and Outreach News**



### **Fair Trade Donation**

From the sale of the Fair Trade items \$300 has been collected. Half will be sent to each of the domestic and international UMCOR programs for disaster relief. Your purchases are doing great works.

### **5K Thank You Brunch**

A 5K Brunch will be held on Thursday, July 11th at 10:30 AM at the Iron Roost on Front St. We will meet at the restaurant at 10:20 before ordering. Please contact Melody Babcock (518.490.2015) or Stan Lockwood (518.885.1552) before Tuesday, July 9th so we can notify the restaurant how many people to expect. This is the last 5K thank you meal until after this year's Run.

### **The Mission HUB**

The Mission HUB in the back of the sanctuary is taking shape. Each week there is something a little different in the display. Keep watch and see how many missions we are involved with here at Ballston Spa UMC.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Ilah Sisson Walser. It is a joint effort of everyone to be involved in reaching out, sharing, and taking action.

## **Church Happenings**

### **Summer Gatherings**

Hope everyone can take advantage of summer gatherings this year and help take care of a small group some Sunday. Supplies can be found in the Sunday School Supply Room. Help yourself! Here are some sure-fire fun things the kids love to do!

- Color and make cards for someone
- Play with bubbles, chalk
- Duck, Duck Goose, Red Rover, Kick the Can and other small group games
- Cook a cake or cupcakes for the shelter
- Hopscotch
- Ice cream party
- Make paper airplanes
- Find a craft provided to do.
- Read a story and discuss

### **Congratulations Graduates**

We want to congratulate our 2019 graduates. They are:  
Riley Schmidt who graduated from Ballston Spa Central High School. He is going to SUNY Schenectady in the fall to study business.

Brennan Coffey, who graduated from Hudson Valley Community College with an Associates of Occupational Studies Degree in Electrical Construction and Maintenance and is pursuing a career as an Electrician.

Nathaniel Coffey, who graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications and has begun searching for a job in the Plattsburgh area.



### **A Message from the Financial Secretary**

Please put your name on the offering envelope so the Financial Secretary is able to credit your offering to your Giving Statements. Envelopes have been received without a name in the last few months and the Financial Secretary would like to know to whom to give the credit. If you should have any questions, please contact the Financial Secretary either via email or by phone. The email address is [umc1267@gmail.com](mailto:umc1267@gmail.com) or 518/419-5091. God Bless and Thank You for your cooperation.

### **Church Council Meetings**

As a reminder, the Church Council will not be meeting during July and August. If we need to transact any business, we will contact the email listing for sharing the information and taking a vote, if necessary. To be placed on the email listing for the Church Council, please send your email address to Ilah Sisson Walser at [isissonwal@aol.com](mailto:isissonwal@aol.com)

### **Summer Lunch Program Offers Free Lunches for The Ninth Year**

The members of The First Baptist Church of Ballston Spa and the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church are once again offering a Summer Lunch Program to children who receive free lunch at school. This program provides free lunches to children over the Summer. Approximately 150 nutritious bag lunches are served Monday thru Friday during the months of July and August.

A permission form needs to be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian before a student can receive lunches. They are available on the website [bspabaptist.org](http://bspabaptist.org) or can be picked up from participating churches, and should be turned in to the First Baptist Church office.

**Volunteers are needed on weekdays, 9 am – 12:15 pm** to help make, pack, and distribute lunches. It's only a few hours a day, but it is making a difference in these children's lives.

Sign up online at **SignUp.com**: <https://signup.com/go/YEuUSFq> or follow the link at: [bspabaptist.org](http://bspabaptist.org). **SignUp** will take you through the process step-by-step. You will be able to select the specific spots and dates you want to fill, and **SignUp** will send you automated confirmation and reminders. Or you can always contact the church office for assistance, 518-885-8361 or [bspabaptist202@gmail.com](mailto:bspabaptist202@gmail.com).

### **Backstretch Program**

Summer is just around the corner and the Backstretch Kids Summer Program will be starting soon. This is held every Saturday, and at the moment most dates are open. Please check the posting on the bulletin board to see what the program is all about, what is provided and what you would need to provide. Thank you for your faithful service in this program.



**Thank you** to... Thelma Armer, Betsy Sillars, and Diane Solotruck for filling in for Sue Cramer in the Office for July 2 - 11.

**Best Wishes** to Sue Cramer on a speedy recovery!



### **Happy Birthday Pastor!**

Pastor Kelly will be having a birthday on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday Pastor Kelly!

## **Preparing, Serving and Storing Food Safely**

from "Safe Church", This month Serving and Storing Tips:

By following these recommended food safety tips, not only will you make your church kitchen safer, but you could prevent the possibility of an accidental case of food poisoning or something worse from occurring. Be proactive in protecting the people who enter your church, and make sure that your church kitchen is as safe as it can be.



### **Serving Tips**

- When someone brings food from home, be sure it is heated or refrigerated until it is served.
- When hosting a buffet, do not mix new food with existing food.
- Use separate platters for holding raw and cooked food.
- Food should not be left out at room temperature for more than two hours (one hour if over 90 degrees Fahrenheit outside). Remember, any food brought from home will already have been out for a significant period of time.
- Hot foods should be refrigerated within two hours after cooking.
- Reheat leftovers to 165 degrees Fahrenheit or above. Food should be reheated only once.
- When being served, hot foods should be kept at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or above and cold foods at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below. (A log should be kept of when and who checked temperatures.)
- Separate utensils should be used for each food item during cooking and serving.
- Disposable gloves should be used when handling ready-to-eat foods without utensils.

### **Storing Tips**

- Label all foods with a date.
- Most refrigerated leftovers should be used in three to five days.
- Don't ever taste food to check for freshness. When in doubt, throw it out.
- If using coolers, food should only be consumed if there is still ice in the cooler and the food is cooled to refrigerator temperature.
- Refrigerator temperatures should range from 34 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit (one to three degrees Celsius). Foods spoil rapidly above 40 degrees Fahrenheit (three degrees Celsius).
- The best temperature for frozen food storage is at zero degrees Fahrenheit (-17 degrees Celsius). The temperature should not reach higher than five degrees Fahrenheit (-15 degrees Celsius).
- Refrigerator and freezer temperatures should be periodically checked, and a log kept of when and who checked temperatures

### **Kitchen Sanitation**

- An agreement with a professional pest control service should be in place for the kitchen area. This is not a service that should be provided by inexperienced staff members or volunteers.
- Mechanical dishwashing equipment should be in good repair and temperature gauges should be monitored and documented.
- Garbage should be removed from the building after each meal.
- Garbage containers should be located an adequate distance away from the building.
- All food contact surfaces and utensils need to be cleaned and sanitized.
- Appropriate sanitizing solution should be used in correct concentrations. Bleach is not approved for sanitizing food contact surfaces.
- Employees and/or volunteers handling food should wash their hands frequently and correctly, should not use aprons or towels to dry hands after washing and should not handle, prepare or serve food if they have an apparent illness.

## District News

### Annual Conference 2019

#### Together in Prayer: Moving Beyond Our Comfort Zones

*"In this season... how did we get here? Why are we here? And how long do we have to stay here? Let me remind you that God has a plan. God is at work." Bishop Mark J. Webb in his Opening Sermon responding to the "season" we find ourselves in with the differing views on same-gender marriage and practicing LGBTQ1+ clergy.*

This was the 10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Upper New York Conference (UNY), and also my 10<sup>th</sup> year as your Lay Member to Annual Conference. It has truly been my privilege to attend and share with you some of what happens at these conferences. Here are some highlights:

**Socializing-** I deliver greetings to the Ballston Spa UMC from these fine folks... Rev. Yohang Chun (whose daughter will be attending Princeton in the fall), Rev. Kim Reed and Rev. Rich Weihing (whose son Evan attended his Junior Prom), Rev. Janice Palm, Rev. Bill Mudge and his wife Sheri, Rev. Bob Long, Rev. Debbie Earthrowl, Lay Minister Gary DiLallo, Lay Minister Glenn Harrison, and Beth Mickel (mother of Rev. Chris Mickel)

**Giving-** Offerings are always taken for various missions or funds. This year the primary focus was on **New Faith Communities**. Over \$10,000 was collected from the attendees in just 3 days. Fact: UNY has had the most new faith communities for the past 7 years in all the United Methodist Churches in the US! Note: most of the funding for starting new "churches" comes from the closing of other churches, a mixed blessing. This year Newcomb UMC and Peasleeville UMC closed in the Adirondack District. Mission of Peace (youth trips to other countries with the goal of spreading peace and understanding), Helping Hands (for lay members who are in dire need of financial assistance), Clergy Cares (for clergy who are in need of financial assistance), Mission Hub (for those affected by emergency disasters), and Camperships (for those needing assistance to attend camp) were the other recipients of offerings.

**Voting-** The year 2020 will convene both the Northeastern Jurisdictional (NEJ) Conference (composed of ME, VT, NH, CT, RI, NY, DC, MA, MD, DE, NJ, PA, and WV) and the General Conference (delegates from UMC around the world which meets every 4 years). Five laity (non-clergy) and 5 clergy delegates were voted on for each conference. Rev. Bill Mudge, our previous District Superintendent, was the very first delegate voted in. These groups are our legislative/decision-making body for the whole UMC. This year, all voting was done with handheld devices, so all votes were confidential.

**Reports-** It takes many teams of people to make UNY run smoothly. One such team is **Trustees**. They govern over churches, parsonages, district and conference offices, and camp sites. Originally, a slate of three candidates were presented for three openings. However, a motion was made and approved to include members of more diversity (based on race, gender, age, etc.). A new slate was presented and voted in. **Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CF&A)** reported that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, UNYAC has made 100% of their Ministry Shares to General Conference despite lower Ministry Shares giving from churches around the conference. BSUMC, however, has given 100% of their Ministry Shares for several years in a row. CF&A also suggested a 1.6% pastor salary increase for 2020. We are very fortunate to have Lynne Blake on the Equitable Compensation Team. Lynne keeps us well informed.

**Resolutions & Petitions-** these are requests for official action on an issue.

**#1 Action on Nonconformity with the General Conference of the UMC-** this was seeking that UNY "not conform, comply or cooperate" with the Traditional Plan. Despite pages of signatures, and the Bishop's cooperation in bringing it up for conversation and potential change in wording, this was declared "Out of Order."

**#2 UNY Response to Actions of 2019 General Conference-** this "condemns the decision... and apologizes for the harm that it has caused LGTQIA+ persons". This passed.

**#3 Call for Structural Change-** this allows for both the Traditional and Progressive understandings of LGBTQIA+ clergy and same-gender weddings. This passed.

**#4 Create a Team to Consider Processes for Future Movement of Congregations-** this addresses the details involved in any large-scale separation movement of churches and clergy to an alternative Methodist denomination. This passed.

**#8 Caring for LGBTQIA+ Ministry Candidates-** this asks districts to provide information for a Queer Clergy Caucus support person for all candidates. This passed.

**#11 A Call for Attention to the Worth of All Immigrants.** This passed.

These were just some of the petitions for our Annual Conference.

The petitions for General Conference either passed, or were referred to committee, due to time constraints.

**Note:** In the past, these discussions have become heated. At the Special Session of General Conference in February, many in attendance reported how disrespectful these conversations became. However, at this conference, our Bishop led, and we followed, in a calm, respectful manner- and sometimes even with humor. This is not to be taken for granted. We are fortunate to have the spiritual leadership of the bishop that we do.

**Study & Worship Leaders-** delivered by **Rev. Vance Ross**. Bible verses referenced were Matthew 6:5-15 and Romans 12:1-2. We have plenty of leaders, but not spiritual leaders, those who connect heart and mind. Pray- for inspiration. Pray- to connect us to God's will. Pray to connect us to one another. Grow in grace- don't stay in the same place you were when baptized. Transformed minds keep God alive. What must we begin, or continue, or get rid of to live a transformed life?

**Bishop Webb-** referenced Isaiah 42:9-16. Fear of the unknown is an anchor keeping us from trying something new. God calls us to move, step out of the boat, and catch up to him.

**Young Adults-** a female Native American, a gay male want-to-be pastor, a female delegate to General Conference, a gay male son of a pastor, a Hispanic male, and a female pastor all shared personal stories of how the church they love has inadvertently discriminated against them.

There is so much more that could be shared. I encourage you to check out the videos and details at **unyumc.org**. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have.

Linda Sheeran- [lsheeran6@gmail.com](mailto:lsheeran6@gmail.com) or 518-885-1729.



### **Skye Farm News**

**Volunteers-** Would you like to spend some time in the great outdoors... using your skills (for example, carpentry, crafts, boating) ... for a week, a few days, once a week for the summer... with food cooked for you? Skye Farm might be the place for you. Look for a form on the Welcome Tables in the entryways if you are interested, or under "Volunteer Opportunities" at [www.skyefarmcamp.org](http://www.skyefarmcamp.org).

### **Family Camp: Sunday August 11 - Wednesday, August 14**

Want a carefree time at Skye Farm? Register for this getaway! Forms are on the Welcome Tables. There is a \$75 non-refundable deposit. Costs vary based on age and type of sleeping accommodation (RV, cabin, or tent).

**Adirondack Fishing: Men's (age 18+) Retreat- September 6 - 7, 2019 (\$90)**

**Paint & Sweets: Women's (age 18+) Retreat- September 20 - 21, 2019 (\$90)**

Contact Linda Sheeran at [lsheeran6@gmail.com](mailto:lsheeran6@gmail.com) or 518-885-1729 for more information.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

7/2 Sherrie Brewster  
 7/3 Molly Grentzer, Dillon Costanzo  
 7/4 Rebekah LeRoy, Heather Forster  
 7/7 Jenna Litchfield, Emily Litchfield  
 7/12 Pastor Kelly Warner, Sue Cramer  
 7/14 Aspen Caswell, Scott Harrington  
 7/15 Brittni Doyle  
 7/17 Jeff Blake  
 7/18 Edward Glossner, Ann Heffernan  
 7/20 Katie Sheeran  
 7/21 Brianna Drake  
 7/23 Natalie Thomas  
 7/25 Maegan Conley, George Thompson  
 7/27 Estelle Simmons, Kelly Schmidt  
 7/28 Benny Zlotnick Jr.  
 7/29 Linda Sheeran  
 7/30 Clara Dutcher, Beverly Westfall  
 7/31 Miriam Evans  
 8/2 Joshua Simmons  
 8/6 Albert Schmidt Sr.  
 8/10 Heather Thomas  
 8/14 Kyle Poteralski  
 8/17 Jacob Thomas  
 8/20 Katie Winslow  
 8/22 John Cummings  
 8/30 Steven Briggs, Jacob McAuliffe  
 8/31 Donna Lockwood

# Happy Anniversary

7/19 Debbie & Benny Zlotnick  
 7/21 Ruth Ann & Troy Caswell  
 7/22 Shelli & T.C. Wolsey  
 7/24 Jan & Jeff Clark  
 7/31 Karen & John Staulters  
 Kelly & Mark Warner; Joan &  
 8/8 Edward Glossner  
 8/15 Beverly & George Thompson  
 8/24 Sherrie & Kevin Grentzer  
 Linda & John Sheeran;  
 Jennifer & Steve Briggs; Nancy  
 8/25 & John Cummings  
 8/29 Terri & Sean McAuliffe

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



"I'm warning you, Edgar. You're getting too much sun."



### **Newsletter Deadline:**

**The deadline date for the September issue of The Tidings newsletter is August 20<sup>th</sup>. You may e-mail your article to [bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto: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

*July/August 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](mailto:bsumc@albany.twcbc.com)

### **Web Site**

[Ballstonspaumchurch.org](http://Ballstonspaumchurch.org)

*"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors."*