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to receive this  
publication.**

# The Tidings

September 2019

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church



101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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## September Musings

This August I got to enjoy two, very fine local fairs: Saratoga Fair (practically in our backyard) with my daughter and husband, and Washington County Fair with my son. Going to the county fair has been a much-anticipated, annual event for me since I was a kid.

There are lots of reasons why going to the fair every year matters to me. Most of you know by now that I was raised on a good-sized farm, with cows, calves, horses, chickens, goats, ducks, and a pig or two. We ate what we raised, and lived off the garden as well. Tending to everything - the animals and fields, the paddocks, barn and tack room, the tractors and other farm machinery was a 7 days-a-week, 4 seasons of the year responsibility. I have a deep respect for the labor that goes into the fresh vegetables and fruits I eat, the cold milk I drink and the farm-raised meats I enjoy.

I learned on the farm to respect all animals and the land. To be grateful for sunshine and the rain. I gained an appreciation for hard, physical labor - sometimes it takes muscles and sweat to get a job done. I learned how valuable it is to help a neighbor down the road with their work, especially during haying season or when someone got sick for a spell. They would come just as quickly to your place to help you when things got tough. I learned the difference between worrying and a real crisis. Most things in life can be patched, just like our farm fences. But not too often should we ever think about giving up. Farmers know that bumper crops do happen, but much more often a person needs to take the yield God gives them and be grateful. And out in the countryside, a bad day can get better with a drive in your pickup truck, cruising country roads, the windows down but the country music turned up.

Going to the fair always grounds me. I wander through the many barns, with multiple generations of farmers, displaying their finest animals. The freshest, finest produce is judged and given ribbons. Tractors old and new draw much attention, along with music, entertainment and carnival rides. And fair food, well, who doesn't love that?

I hope you are savoring your summer experiences as well. May you find yourself feeling grateful to God and renewed in your spirit.

*Pastor Kelly*

## Mission and Outreach News

### Falling Leaves 5K Race & Kids Fun Run -- October 12, 2019



Only a month to go before our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Falling Leaves 5K Run on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. September is here and the 5K Committee is gearing up for the last month before the event. Many volunteers are needed to make the run a success and we thank everyone who has worked on the 5K in some capacity in prior years. We ask church members and friends to help in making the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Run a success again this year by either participating in the Run or volunteering to work on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Beginning on either Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will have sign-up sheets available for members and friends to

volunteer for the October 12<sup>th</sup> Falling Leaves 5K. Traffic Safety, food preparation and distribution, race registrations, t-shirt distribution and making baked goods are just some of the areas that you can help with.

Please promote our run to your friends and relatives as a community and family event on a scenic course through the beautiful Village of Ballston Spa with many gift certificates given out after the run. Last year local businesses donated over \$1,500 in gift certificates for the participants. **Our charity of choice again this year is the Veterans and Community Housing Coalition, with the funds earmarked for the two houses for homeless veterans in Ballston Spa.** Over the past three years we have been able to give back over \$22,000 to this charity. Registration by October 9<sup>th</sup> is \$25, and day of race is \$30. The Run begins and ends at Kelley Park near the Village Pool. Registrations can be made on Active.com or by sending a check to the Ballston Spa United Methodist Church at 101 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY 12020. More information and registration forms can be accessed at [www.ballstonspaumchurch.org/falling-leaves-5k-run.html](http://www.ballstonspaumchurch.org/falling-leaves-5k-run.html)

### The Mission HUB

Have you been curious about the display at the back of the sanctuary?

Take a look at the individual boxes and see how many ministries we are involved in at BSUMC. There will be changing displays to show even more over the next few months. If you have an idea for an outreach that you would like to feature, please contact Ilah Sisson Walser to get it put in place. The listing below is not a full list of everything we do, just a partial list to start the conversations.

Why do we reach out beyond this place and congregation? We are called by many scripture references to take care of those around us. To greet others in the name of Jesus Christ. To love one another. In Matthew 25, we are told to feed the

hungry (Food Pantry), clothe the needy (Thrift Shop), visit the sick (Visitation Program). We can always do more. If you would like to volunteer for any of these, contact Melody Babcock (Thrift Shop), Thelma Armer (Thrift Shop), Helen Senecal (Food Pantry), or Diane Solotruck (visitation).

Fair Trade Coffee (tea and chocolate) are part of a mission as well. The Fair Trade program pays local farmers a fair price for their produce. When we sell the coffee, tea, or chocolate, those funds pay for the product and any "profit" is then used to support mission giving from tis giving. Many gifts have been sent to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to support domestic and overseas mission projects. For further information, contact Stan Lockwood. By drinking or eating Fair Trade products, you are working in mission ministry! How easy is that?!

Collection of your old eyeglasses for the Lion's Club is part of the display. Something that you might throw away, can become useful to others. The Lions have been actively supporting vision mission for many, many years.

Another recently added display is for the collection of clean, empty pill bottles. These will be processed through a ministry in Ohio called Matthew 25. The containers will be shipped to other countries where the supply of pill containers is all be non-existent. Another ministry supported by what we might throw away.

Stop by the display. Support the mission ministries of our church. Add your ideas of what we might do next.





### **Fair Trade Sale**

The next Fair Trade sale will be Sept. 15th after worship service just outside the Connections Cafe. Decaf and regular coffee and tea will be offered. Sorry Chocolate Lovers, no dark chocolate bars until later this Fall.

### **Regional Food Bank Trip**

On August 11<sup>th</sup> a trip to work at the Regional Food Bank was scheduled. However, due to a power outage the work had to be postponed. This has now been rescheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> following the church service.

### **Rummage Sale Coming**

Please mark your calendars for a rummage sale at the church on October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am to 3 pm. Items are always needed so when you are doing your fall cleaning please consider donating your treasures to us. Your donations may be dropped off on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> between 4 and 7 pm. Help is always needed to man these times so please sign up in the Connections Café.

### **Prayer Shawl Story**

Last year, Florence Harrison shared that her grandson's newborn baby died within a week of being born. Florence went home with a prayer shawl that Sunday. This week, she informed me that her grandson had twins born this past July! Florence is so thankful and grateful for that shawl and knows that those prayers worked a miracle.

Submitted by Linda Sheeran

## **Church Happenings**

### **Pastor Kelly Vacation**

Effective August 24<sup>th</sup> through September 7<sup>th</sup> Pastor Kelly will be on vacation. She will be returning on September 8<sup>th</sup> and in the interim, Glenn Harrison will be on pastoral call. If in need of his services, he can be reached at 518-461-1295.

### **Please Help Us Out**

As most of you are aware, we now have a new software program to help keep track of important issues...such as you! As a United Methodist Church, we are required to keep records of births, deaths, marriages, baptisms, confirmations, positions held in the church, church transfers, and a myriad of other information. At this point everything important is in paper files. This software will allow us the ability to quickly locate and navigate all of this information in minutes, instead of hours or days. This information needs to be correct. So, and here is the hard part, we are asking that you complete a form giving us this information (and yes, the year of your birth is important!) so it may be put into the system correctly, the first time. After the program has been populated you will receive a print-out of what we have so you may check our information. This form can be located in the church, before or after the service, and when completed it may be either placed in the collection plate, placed in the Office Manager's mailbox in the Connections Café, or returned directly to the church office. This is important information. Your help in getting it to us is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for all of your help.

Sue Cramer, Office Manager

### **Music Notes**

Voice Choir rehearsals are now on Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the Connections Café. If you would like to lift your voice in praise, reverence and thanksgiving please come join us! The only requirements are a desire to enhance our worship services and have fun as we learn music together. You do not have to be able to read music. All are welcome!

Bell choir rehearsals will begin mid to late September. If you would like to ring anthems to supplement our worship experiences and glorify God, please come be part of this warm and welcoming group. Prior experience in ringing is not a necessity. However, bells need to be assigned in advance of the first rehearsal, so please let Cathy King know if you are interested. All are welcome!

### **Committee Meetings Resume This Month**

Please check the calendar for your meeting schedule.

## The Visitor

This summer I visited ten churches (as of this writing). I did this in order to see what other UMC churches are doing and how they do it. Things I learned:

Some had small, medium and large congregations.

The churches with smaller congregations were friendlier than those with larger congregations.

Some churches do not have a "front" door and you need to enter through a "side" door, depending on how the church was built. It would be nice to have some signage to that effect instead of having to ask people in the parking lot how to enter the church. If no one was outside I just kept trying each door I came to until I found an open one.

Some churches had more than 25 people for a summer Sunday. Good attendance!

Some people don't talk to you unless you ask them a question. (Mostly in medium to larger congregations.)

Some churches do not have any visual aids (projection power point slides).

Some churches depend on power point slides more than what is in their bulletin.

Having slides projected doesn't always help. At one church the pastor announced that we should all know the song "He Has the Whole World in His Hands" and we would be singing all verses. The person running the projector kept flipping around to try and find the verse that the congregation was singing (different areas of the congregation were signing different verses all at the same time). The choir didn't lead or say what order the verses would be in. **Thanks to our music director who thinks of these small but important elements!**

Some churches have cushions on/in the pews and others do not.

Some churches have hand fans to help combat the heat and others do not.

One church had a children's bulletin. Some churches had a welcome packet, but I only remembered to pick up one.

One person didn't have an answer to my question and said, "That's a good question." This was in reference to seeing 9 handicap parking spaces and then being directed to stairs to get to the sanctuary. I wondered how the handicapped were able to get to the sanctuary. The couple in front of me said there was an elevator and asked if I'd like to see it. We rode the elevator down to where the coffee hour was taking place. Again, signage would have eliminated my confusion.

In the church I visited on Communion Sunday, it was explained how communion would be served. Always a plus. However, this same church has the ushers start from the back and work their way forward for sending people up for communion which was not explained.

The majority of churches did not explain anything. Visitors were expected to be able to follow the bulletin. Umm, bad idea. During the last verse of the last hymn at one church, everyone moved to the middle. I looked up and wondered what was going on. Made me feel a little awkward and separated.

At another church they were having cake for the pastor and his wife. "Newly married" was the reason. Of course, it would be nice if people did not hover around the table so that others could reach the table. At this particular church, after getting their piece of cake the congregants "clumped" into groups of two or three. No one spoke to me. I had asked the gentleman sitting next to me a question regarding a bulletin and he introduced me to a Trustee when I explained why I showed up half an hour late. I did arrive in time to hear the whole sermon so that was good. Apparently, they only show the change in time on their website and not through the umc.org website.

Bulletins come in all shapes and sizes. Yes, I have them all with any inserts that came with them.

Some churches have a different order than we do. Which is fine, but visitors should arrive early to skim the bulletin. One church took the offering after the first hymn!

The most important thing I learned is there is no place like my home church. I am blessed to be a part of this friendly church family.

I hope to continue visiting different churches next summer to increase my knowledge of various ways to worship. By seeing what other churches do differently we can improve the experience of anyone who attends our church.

Submitted by the Secret Visitor

Ruth Persons, Chair of Worship (well, I guess it isn't a secret anymore)

Hi Everyone!! Hope you all had a great summer! Summer Gatherings seemed to miss the mark this summer. We are hopeful to try to do this again next year. Hopefully you will give it a go! We will try to have some fun things planned again. If you have suggestions for us to try, please let Karen Groff or Pastor Kelly know. So now It's time to dust ourselves off and get back to Sunday school. I for one am excited to get to see everyone again! We will begin Sunday school on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> a few minutes after service starting at 10:00 am. Our returning teachers are Marcy Wilson, Mary Drake, Kelly Schmidt and Karen Groff. If you have interest in helping out the Sunday school by either being a teacher or a roamer, we would love to hear from you! We are looking forward to having a fun year!



### **REMEMBER TO CALL THE CHURCH**

In a church of this size, we need your help to make us aware of your needs. The following suggests times when you might call the pastor or the church.

#### **REASONS TO CALL THE PASTOR AT CHURCH (518-885-6886)**

- when you have questions about the Christian faith, the Bible or the church
- before you or someone in your family goes to the hospital
- when you would like to talk or pray about a difficult situation
- when you know of someone else who is in need of spiritual help
- when events of great joy come to you or your family
- when there is a death in the family
- when there is a prolonged reaction to grief
- when you have questions about worship, Sunday School, your financial gifts or other areas of church life
- when you want to volunteer your time and talents, but do not know where or how to start
- after you have seen the pastor at worship. She can't possibly remember every suggestion or request given to her while shaking hands after worship, as much as she would like to, so please write her a note or call her for an appointment.

#### **REASONS TO CALL THE PASTOR AT HOME**

- you or a loved one is facing a serious and immediate crisis
- there is a pressing church concern that needs attention before morning
- you want to invite her or her family to your home for some socializing

In an effort to maintain a relatively normal home life, we ask that you confine routine calls to 9 am – 9 pm. In a pastoral emergency, please call anytime, day or night, to 518-309-3737.

*Just remember, the church, its staff and pastor hope you will call when any one of these situations arise. We are here to serve you.*

## **District News**

### **Walk to Emmaus**

You're invited to the 2019 Fall Walks which will be held at Sky Farm Camp & Retreat Center, 1884 E. Schroon River Road in Warrensburg. Come enjoy a long weekend in the Adirondacks where you will deepen your Christian faith through an amazing retreat. You will take a spiritual journey that includes inspirational talks by both clergy and lay leaders, worship, prayer, fellowship, great food, laughter, music and friends. The women's walk will be September 26-29 with Pastor Kelly as spiritual director and the men's walk will be October 10-13. For information visit [www.lwagm.org](http://www.lwagm.org).

### **District Workshop Day: Oct. 19 in Plattsburgh**

The Adirondack District Leadership Team will be holding a second District Workshop Day, "Informed to Transform," on Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Plattsburgh UMC, 127 Beekman St., Plattsburgh (12901). We will be following the same format as the day we held in March at the Saratoga Springs UMC. We will begin with registration at 8:30 AM and a time of worship at 9 AM. There will be three 75-minute blocks of workshops, and lunch will be served. The day will conclude with worship and Holy Communion at 2:30 PM.

The cost will be \$10. Pastor Kelly will again be doing trainings for Staff Parish and for Stewardship.

As the day draws nearer, we will be posting workshop descriptions and a schedule.

If you have questions, or ideas on topics for workshops, please be in touch with Carrie Boyer at the District Office, [adirondackdistrict@unyumc.org](mailto:adirondackdistrict@unyumc.org) or (518) 480-4866.

### **Plan ahead to attend Mission U in September – at Silver Bay**

**Friday - Sunday, September 6 - 8** This is being led by our very own Ilah Sisson Walser!

A special time for worship, learning, friendships, and fun in the Adirondacks

#### **Mission u Studies for 2019 - Choice of**

-- Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark & Radical Discipleship OR

-- What About our Money?

-- United for Change: UMW Mission 150 Years & Beyond is open to all.

**Scholarships Are Available.** Watch for more details at: [www.unymissionu.org](http://www.unymissionu.org)

Mission u - Silver Bay is a program of the Upper New York Conference United Methodist Women and UMC



- 9/1 Lily Reid
- 9/3 Darryl Leggieri
- 9/4 Barb Cope
- 9/6 Brian Bussing
- 9/7 Ben Winslow
- 9/8 Edna Komada, Glen MacMillan
- 9/9 Tricia Cummings
- 9/10 Bill Mason
- 9/11 Patrick McAuliffe
- 9/12 Jackie Capone
- 9/13 Melissa Morrison, Carolyn Duquette
- 9/14 Joan Glossner
- 9/16 Sheri Litchfield
- 9/17 Kelly LeRoy, Bill Parlipiano, Matteo Sansone
- 9/18 Donna Bisbee, Terri McAuliffe, Campbell Simmons
- 9/21 Ilah Sisson Walser, Ilijah Sutton
- 9/22 Karen Staulters
- 9/24 Danielle Coffey
- 9/25 Joe Adkins
- 9/26 James Fenton
- 9/28 David Heffernan

9/29 Brad Heffernan, Breta Sisson



- 9/6 Ronald & Diane Solotruck
- 9/9 Ruth & Gary Persons
- 9/16 Maria & Keith Dickerson
- 9/17 Debbie & Clifford Miller Jr.
- 9/18 Shirley & Paul MacMillan
- 9/28 Karen & Bill Parlipiano

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



Natalie Jean Patton

Born August 20, 2019 at 2:53 PM

9 lbs. 10 oz. and 20 ¾ inches long



**Newsletter Deadline:**

**The deadline date for the October issue of The Tidings newsletter is September 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

*September 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**

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

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