

**Pastor***Rev. Kelly Warner***Office Manager***Susan Cramer***Custodian***Tom Chase***Music Ministry***Cathy King***Church Council Chair***Ilah Sisson Walser***Trustee Co-Chairs***Gary Perkins**George Mallette***SPRC Chair***Jackie Capone***Treasurer***Lynne Blake***Financial Secretary***Cherrie Sanders***Lay Member UNYAC***Linda Sheeran*

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# The Tidings

September 2018

Ballston Spa United Methodist Church



101 Milton Avenue, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

## Pastor's Column

Dear Church family,

As summer winds up, and the long Labor Day weekend becomes a sweet memory, we become more active in the life of the church. On September 9<sup>th</sup> our Sunday School program begins again, this year with a new curriculum called Whirl. The teachers selected this as their resource because it has an excellent weekly video component, individual learning booklets and a take-home sheet so the whole family can know about and practice the faith lesson.

This year, the Sunday School will move from a large group learning time, to two age levels. On the first of every month all of the kids will learn traditional and contemporary songs and will do crafts and/or a mission project. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of each month there will be lessons taught from Whirl. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month there will be Family Church so that the kids can worship, pray and learn with their parents in "big church".

Our Youth group has fall meeting dates scheduled, with a really great surprise coming in October! Food and snacks, games and faith lessons, mission projects and plenty of fun are right around the corner. This is for 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and all are welcome whether or not they regularly (or ever) attend our church!

In September, our Finance Committee will continue their work on the planning for a 2019 budget and Consecration Sunday. The Trustees will present their recommendations for a contractor to repair the Church House, and make the bathroom by the North entrance handicap accessible. Nominations is busy asking people to prayerfully consider ways they can serve on teams and committees. Staff Parish is attentive to the needs and celebrations of our staff. The music program that went strong over the summer with Cathy King's leadership, has even more special treats planned for our fall worship services. And the clothing and Food Pantry ministries assisted an extra-large number of clients. One other fantastic outreach was our ecumenical Lunch Program, which kept many local kids fed over a long hot summer.

On a personal note, my daughter Katie and I officially moved into the parsonage full time on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. She is attending Loudonville Christian School in Latham. Our son Jonathan and my husband Mark will be living in our South Glens Falls home until our son can move into a residential home in Albany at the end of this month. Given the extra busy summer for our whole family – we didn't manage to take any vacation time. So this fall I will take off a week some time for that, and for my (required) continuing education. I think you will all enjoy the persons who will be leading worship in my absence.

If you happen to have noticed that this newsletter came out after September 1<sup>st</sup>, it's because of some health concerns I have been dealing with (Lyme

disease) and our Office Manager Sue's husband has Legionnaires disease. Neither of us could have imagined that we would be coping with these realities, but we are – and will be for some months to come. It is so good when Sue and I pray together and encourage one another as we seek to serve our Lord and all of you. We also want to say thank you for flowers and fresh vegetables from your gardens this summer. And a huge thank you for all that we see and hear about all of you doing to bless and strengthen the church. Word travels when it is good news.

Speaking of good news, I have the privilege of sharing something special that happened earlier this week... there was a surprise visit to the church house by David Lotto and his three children Elena, Grace and Henry. They came in the front door carrying several grocery bags, ready to donate everything to our food pantry. I learned that the children had done some creative fund-raising and earned over \$33. Their dad had just taken them to a grocery store and let the three of them shop, purchasing items that they themselves enjoy and also learning about what items are most practical to donate to a food pantry.

As it turns out none of them had ever even been in our church house! (The building is located on the south side of the church and is open much of the day from Tuesday through Thursday if you would like to take a look around. It is where the pastor and office manager work and where we house our food pantry and clothing thrift shop.)

The Lotto family got a grand tour! The first stop was to bring their donations into the food pantry and learn all about what happens in that special area of the building. They were curious and enthusiastic and it was a joy to see. Next everyone explored the office space, raising questions and offering comments. They appreciated a stop in my office for some Smarties candy, they took some for themselves and some to share with friends on the first day of school. Then the children used the back stairs to head up to the thrift shop; they are a bit

narrow and steep with a sharp turn at the top but it made for a fun adventure. They thoroughly explored that space as well.



I think of the tour as an introduction to their church's hands-on mission giving. Wherever these exuberant young children might go in this world, I think the memories made this week will be a seed well planted. Only God knows how each one will bear fruit in the decades to come. So... well done church, you who are faithful today are inspiring the next generation.

Grateful to serve Christ and all of you,  
Pastor Kelly

## Mission and Outreach News



### A Personal Care Mission Collection

We are opening a mission collection for Personal Care Items during September and the first half of October. These items will be distributed to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem, Maine, and to our own food pantry. These pantries will distribute the items to the persons in need.

We will be collecting soaps, toothpaste and brushes, deodorants, feminine products, toilet paper, shampoos and hair products, and dish soap. We can also use new socks, and new underwear. There will be a tote in the back of the Sanctuary for this collection.

These items are luxuries for many low-income people. Those who might be on SNAP do not get these items with that program. So many things we may take for granted are just out of reach for many of our neighbors.

So, when you are out shopping, pick up an extra item and add it to this collection. Your generosity will make someone else's day so much better.

Ilah Sisson Walser, on behalf  
of the Missions Committee



### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Falling Leaves 5K Run October 6, 2018

Only a month to go before our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Falling Leaves Run on Saturday, October 6, 2018.

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 run in some capacity in prior years. We ask for church

members and friends to help to make our 5K a success again this year by either participating in the Run or volunteering to work on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please promote our run as a community and family event on a scenic course through the Village of Ballston Spa with many gift certificates given out after the run. Last year, local businesses donated \$1,600 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.

On Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will have sign-up sheets available for members and friends to volunteer for the Falling Leaves 5K on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Traffic control, food preparation and distribution, race registrations, t-shirt distribution and making baked goods are just some of the areas for you to sign-up to help. If you have any questions about the 5K, please contact one of our committee members: Gary Wilson, Lynne Blake, Stan Lockwood, Betsy Sillars or Alaina Greco.



### Fair Trade

The next Fair Trade sale will be on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> after worship in the north entryway. We will have coffee (including hazelnut), tea and hot chocolate. Sorry – you chocolate lovers – no dark chocolate bars until November.

### UMCOR Training

Do congregants want to “do something” to help flood survivors in the Finger Lakes, PA, NJ and other places? How about getting trained to actually go to places affected by natural disasters? Would you like to be “the Hands and Feet of Jesus”?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has a training program called Early Response Teams (ERTs) which prepares folks to work in disaster sites such as West Virginia and Florida, as well as in our own communities, knowing what to do and how to do the work safely, being self sufficient and self sustaining so as not to place any additional burdens on the devastated community.

A Basic Early Response Team class will be held at Vienna UMC, State Rte. 49, Blossvale, NY (Pastor Marsha Madore) on Saturday Sept. 22 at

8:30 AM and conclude at 5 PM. The class members will receive an ERT manual, training, hands-on practice, a Safe Sanctuaries background check, and an UMCOR photo ID badge all for just \$25.00. People from other denominations are welcome to attend. Registration is required. Payment is due at the class check-in. You may contact me at [www.bngreenwald@windstream.net](mailto:www.bngreenwald@windstream.net) or 716-763-7735 for questions; the class will be facilitated by Rev. Carl Shepard and Kelly Crane.

Requirements are only that one be 18 or over, of average physical fitness, able to carry a bucket of water up a set of stairs, available on short notice (many of us are retired), and willing to be a team player, taking directions from an experienced team leader. A typical ERT trip includes travel time and 3 days on-site of actual disaster response, then home again.

### **Thrift Shop News**

This summer has been very busy in the Thrift Shop. Many bags of nice clothing were donated and we had happy customers. Even the children who came in with their parents seemed to enjoy picking out clothing for themselves.

In August we sold a grocery bag of clothing for \$1 to move our summer clothing. Due to limited space please remember to donate seasonal items.

We meet interesting people and some tell us how much this shop means to them.

More volunteers are needed and you will learn that 2 ½ hours a week is an important mission of this church.

Fall and winter clothing is now stocked and ready. At \$2 a bag it's a bargain.

If you'd like to help some Tuesday from 9:30 to noon, please notify Melody or Thelma. We appreciate all the help.



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

**The Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry has been very busy this summer. July and August had 138 families.

Helen Senecal has done the requirements for the Northeast Regional Food Bank and now a truck delivers the food here.

Generous contributors from our congregation, the Elks Clubs, and people in our community have helped fill the Pantry.

We are blessed and thankful for our many volunteers.

## **Fall Happenings**

### **Music Notes**

As the new Sunday School year moves into high gear, so do our music programs.

The voice choir rehearses on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the Connections Café. We are busy learning new pieces for the fall season and will soon begin working toward the Advent and Christmas season. Come join and enjoy the warm fellowship of this group as we lift our voices in praise!

Bell choir rehearsals will begin again on Sunday, September 16 after church in the sanctuary. All interested ringers are welcome, whether they have experience or not. However, in order to make sure everyone has music and a bell or two to ring, Cathy King needs to know of your interest no later than September 9. We will be ringing both old and new favorites this year. Come experience the joyous friendship of this group!

If enough children in the second grade and above are interested, we will start a children's bell choir. A minimum of six ringers are needed. No experience is necessary. Good ringing technique and some musical basics will be taught during part of the rehearsal time. Rehearsals will take place Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Please contact Cathy King with questions or to let her know of your interest.

Cathy can be reached at (518) 538-4523 or [cathys.notes@gmail.com](mailto:cathys.notes@gmail.com)



### **Requests Anyone?**

The song baskets are back! Thanks to Linda Sheeran, the song request baskets have returned to the back of the sanctuary. If you have a favorite hymn, please put your request in one of the baskets so it can be used in a future service.

### **Thank you from our High School Graduate**

Thank you so much for all the support you've given me throughout the years and for the gift!

AJ Schmidt



### **Congratulations!**

On July 28 Megan Schialdi and Kyle Woodard were married. Congratulations to the happy couple!

### **Trustees News**

Over the summer our Trustees installed A/C units in the church house, replaced one of the large fans in the sanctuary, painted the threshold in the south entrance for better visibility, and installed two handicap accessible signs in our parking lot.

Clean ups were done at the parsonage and the church. A much-needed vacuum cleaner was purchased for the custodian's use.

### **Save the Date!**

Retreat at Skye Farm!

Friday, October 19 - Saturday, October 20, 2018!

Details coming soon!

### **New: Pew Offering Envelopes**

New pew offering envelopes are being phased in as the supply of the older style is being depleted. They have a space for your name as well as the fund you are supporting and the amount of your giving. These envelopes will replace the special envelopes such as Christmas, Easter and flowers that have been used in the past. As always it is requested that you use separate checks for each gift for accounting accuracy.

### **Annual Church Conference**

Our Annual Church Conference will be held on **Monday, October 22, 7 PM**, with Adirondack District Superintendent, Rev. Debbie Earthrowl, presiding. It will be held at our church with light refreshments offered at 6:30.

### **Installation Service for Rev. Debbie Earthrowl, our Adirondack District Superintendent**

The celebration will take place from 4 to 7 PM **Sunday, October 7** at the Plattsburgh United Methodist Church, 127 Beekman St., Plattsburgh. We will join together in worship and song, and Debbie will deliver the message. A reception will follow the service. Interested in going? Contact Linda Sheeran at [lsheeran6@gmail.com](mailto:lsheeran6@gmail.com) or 518-885-1729

### **Bishop Webb to host Fall Gatherings centering around "A Way Forward"**

Following the 2016 General Conference, the Commission on a Way Forward was formed to deliberate and help the General Conference address the issue of sexuality in The United Methodist Church. The Commission was made up of 32 individuals, including eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members. They will present a report during a Special Session of the 2019 General Conference, which will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri.

This fall, Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb is hosting six gatherings around the Conference in preparation for Special Session of General Conference to talk about Commission on a Way Forward for The United Methodist Church.

The regional gatherings will include a presentation of the plan and process of General Conference, a time to remember our mission, and worship and prayer. The two sessions that are nearest the Adirondack District are:

- September 30, 4-6 PM: Potsdam UMC and
- December 2, 4-6 PM: Shenendehowa UMC

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



### **14 Ways to Serve Your Church**

1. Welcome people as they come in and help them find where they need to go
2. Provide a ride for people who can't drive (children, elderly, disabled, etc)
3. Stick around to clean up after service or special events
4. Call and [invite new visitors to return](#)
5. Send cards to those in the hospital, battling illness or who have lost a loved one
6. Help finalize details for special events

7. Do yard work/housework for church members who need help
8. Pray for the pastor, church members, missionaries and those in your community
9. Invite other families over for lunch after church
10. Compliment others regularly
11. Write an article for the church website or bulletin
12. Introduce people to each other
13. Coordinate a [special service project opportunity](#)
14. Be the first to participate, and encourage others to participate too



### Looking Ahead in Worship

**Sept. 2** - Our Identity in Christ  
James 1: 19-27

**Sept. 9** – Fresh Starts  
Isaiah 49:4  
Job 7:6, 16  
Jeremiah 29:11  
Ephesians 3:20

**Sept. 16** - Small Blessings

**Sept. 23** – Jesus Welcomes Little Children, And So Do We  
Mark 9:30-37

**Sept. 30** – Let Us Pray For One Another  
Guest Speaker  
Blessing of our Prayer Shawls



- 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
- 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

*Happy Anniversary*

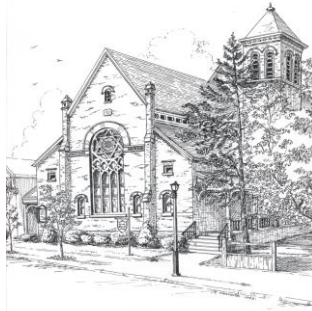
- 8/8 Kelly & Mark Warner; Joan & Edward Glossner
- 8/24 Sherrie & Kevin Grentzer  
Linda & John Sheeran; Jennifer & Steve Briggs;
- 8/25 Nancy & John Cummings
- 8/29 Terri & Sean McAuliffe
- 9/6 Ronald & Diane Solotruck
- 9/9 Ruth & Gary Persons
- 9/16 Maria & Keith Dickerson
- 9/17 Debbie & Clifford Miller Jr.
- 9/18 Shirley & Paul MacMillin
- 9/28 Karen & Bill Parlipiano

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

# SEPTEMBER

## Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline date for the August issue of *The Tidings* newsletter is July 20th. 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)

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### **Email**

[bsumc@albany.twcbc.com](mailto:bsumc@albany.twcbc.com)

### **Web Site**

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

*“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.”*