



THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

www.delmarmethodist.org

Church Conference – and potluck supper – on Feb. 26

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Fenimore, has called for our Annual Church Conference to be held on Thursday evening, Feb. 26. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the church budget for 2009, and to hear the names of persons who cannot be contacted and who would be removed from our membership rolls by the 2010 Annual Church Conference. In addition, our District Superintendent has business to present to the congregation.

A hardcopy of the Administrative Council's recommended 2009 Budget will be available on Sunday, Feb. 22 in the Sanctuary's entry way and at the Feb. 26 Church Conference. A copy of that budget will also be available through a link from the church's website.

All church members are encouraged to attend, and may vote at this Church Conference. We will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The meeting will follow at about 7 p.m. Please RSVP by Feb. 18 to Church Office (churchoffice@delmarmethodist.org or 439-9976) so we can make arrangements for tables.

As is the tradition of FUMC Delmar, another Church Conference will be held in June to receive reports of the church's administrative and ministry teams, with summaries of the ministries from the year past and dreams for the upcoming year. This will include a report from the Nominations and Lay Leadership Development Committee.

Habitat to work on 'Methodist House' in the spring

This spring, Capital District Habitat for Humanity will break ground on a new Methodist House to be located in the South End. HfH expects to finish the current houses by March and to start builds in both north and south Albany in April. We are scheduled for work Feb. 14, March 14 and April 18. Hopefully, on April 18 we'll be clearing the lot for the Methodist House groundbreaking.

To join us this Saturday, Feb 14 contact Kevin Conley at 475-9034 or kconley1@nycap.rr.com. We start at 9 a.m. on Odell Street. Let Kevin know if you want to carpool. Carpoolers would meet at the school end of the church at 8:30 a.m.

This Sunday, Feb. 15 we will be meeting in Room 207 at 11 a.m. to set plans for supporting the Methodist House construction. Habitat for Humanity is interested in one of us assuming a "Build Site Team Leader" role on our build days.

The meeting on Sunday is to discuss this role and your willingness to fill it.

Budget and stewardship update

Given the economic climate, the Administrative Council, with the Finance Committee, has looked very carefully at the church's budget and trimmed many line items. Though individuals and families have pledged more than \$300,000, that is still more than 10 percent less than the church needs to support the full complement of staff and programs of our Church.

We are aware that some pledges are still outstanding. And some members who give regularly are nonetheless hesitant to commit in writing to a weekly amount. But to move forward with a sound budget for this year, we need to have the best available information about the financial support upon which the church can depend. If you've just put off making that financial commitment or lost the commitment card (there are some in the church office and on the bulletin board outside the church office), would you consider sending a commitment card to the Church Office addressed to the Financial Secretary?

We believe that if we hear from those who intend to give but have not yet responded, the portion of the church's income that comes from pledges will be sufficient to sustain a healthy ministry.

– Stewardship Ministry Team

Vision – Mission – Path

On Saturday, Feb. 28, from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., the Administrative Council will bring together the ministry teams of our church around the goal of forming a common set of priorities for the next year. We'll explore questions like: What does your path of faith exploration look like? Who is joining you on your journey? How do you serve, and how do others serve you, during the journey?

If you are serving on a ministry team, please join us. If you want to serve on a ministry team, please join us. If you want others to join you on your journey, please join us.

– Rev. Palm, Jeff Peterson, John Lamitie

SUNDAY WORSHIP

February 15
9:30 a.m.

Sermon by
Rev. Janice Palm
"What Do You
Choose?"

Text:
[Mark 1:40-45](#)

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'A Christian community, growing together in faith and in service to God'

Church Calendar

Thursday Feb. 12	1 p.m. – Mary Marthas (Lounge) 6:30 p.m. – Bell Choir (201) 7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir (Choir Room)
Saturday, Feb 14	8:30 a.m. – Habitat build (car pool from parking lot) 8:30 a.m. – Women-in-the-Middle (Tool's)
Sunday, Feb. 15	9:30 a.m. – Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m. – Jr. Church School (begins in Sanctuary) 10:45 a.m. – Fellowship Hour 11 a.m. – Intermediate/Youth Choirs (Choir Room/216) 11 a.m. – Theological & Social Issues (Lounge) 11 a.m. – Habitat meeting (207) 7 p.m. – Women's Study Group (Library)
Mon., Feb. 16	Offices Closed – Presidents Day Observed 10:30 a.m. – Playgroup (Nursery)
Tuesday, Feb. 17	8 a.m. – Men's Breakfast (4 Corners) 10 a.m. – Treasure Cove (Lounge) 7 p.m. - Upper Room (Lounge)
Wednesday, Feb. 11	10:30 a.m. – Bible Study (Delmar Place) 10:30 a.m. – Playgroup (Nursery)

Organ console fund established

Our Chancel's elderly pipe organ is a bit like an old, high-mileage car – it works most of the time, but not all that well. Ken Loiacono's expert sleight-of-hand has kept the instrument working and its diminished beauty-of-sound alive. But Ken reports that the weekly task of making good music on this console is increasingly difficult.

An organ committee, set up by the Trustees, got on-site evaluations from three of upstate New York's most reputable organ builders. Based on their proposals the Organ and Music Committee hopes to undertake the following:

- Upgrading the **console**, including rewiring, replacing the keyboard and pedal contacts, installing a new power supply, and other electrical work. The lowest estimate for this portion of the work is about \$25,000

- Tonal work on the **pipes**, including re-tonguing and regulating of all the reed stops, increasing the wind pressure for greater volume and dynamic range, and other work, at a cost estimated between \$15,000 and \$32,000, depending on the extent of the work.

A special account, the **Organ Console Fund**, has been set up by the Trustees to accept money to fund these future improvements. Donations are being accepted from individuals and businesses.. Some may wish to designate memorial gifts, or to indicate the Organ Console Fund in a bequest. Checks or bequests should be made payable to the Delmar FUMC Trustees with the memo portion indicating "Organ Console Fund," and sent to Karen Seward, Trustees' Treasurer, Contact Joe Farrell, Alan Robertson or Ken Loiacono for additional information.

There are simply no words ...

... to truly express my gratitude for all of the calls, visits, best wishes and prayers shared during my recuperation. Without your kindness, surely this journey of healing would be made far more difficult for me. I am truly blessed by my church family and home of 57 years.

– *With love, Harriett Johnson*

Our Church Family

Our prayers and sympathy to Denise Gisotti and family upon the loss of her mother, Isabella Cornwell, Saturday, Feb. 7 in Florida. A memorial service is being planned for March 21 and will take place in our Sanctuary.

In our thoughts and prayers: Karen Boughton (Linda Blattner & Kim Ryan), Steve Collier (Brian & Barbara Collier), Sally Young (Gail Garson), Barb Wiley, Lee Diederich, Connie Johnson (John Tedesco), Jonathan Carpenter (Kevin Conley), Julia Hymes ((Mary Noble), Maud Denham, Nellie Evans, Bill Harden (Natalie Darrone), Tiffani Hughes (Byron & Barbara Wilson), Lynn Mallory, Chuck Payne (Ray Bell), Ken Huddleston (Karen & Kyle Jones), Austin Cline, Nick Dubroff (Sally and John Ten Eyck), Sam Kunis (Dana Burns), Denise Knaack, Mary Storm, Susan and Marge Stewart (John Stewart), Isabella Cornwell (Denise Gisotti), Bernice Kapral (Joan Kapral), Sharon O'Connor (Lynda Conway), Priscilla Wing (Dori Hallenbeck), George Hartman (McEwan, Ten Eyck families), Kevin Rice and family (Nancy and Steve Rice), Louise Marshall, Geneva Long, Jean Drew, Clara Cabesas (Marian and Bill Jewell), Capt. Sean Quinn (John and Sally Ten Eyck), Chris Sheridan (Dick & Jeanne Herrmann), Bernice Drozd (Karen Ward), Edwin Busch (Joan House), Noah Hyde (Mil Harmon), Viva Klim.