



AUGUST 2011

THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

www.delmarmethodist.org

Homecoming Sunday Sept. 18 – start of another exciting year

Celebrate autumn and begin a new season of ministry together! Our traditional “Homecoming Sunday” will be celebrated Sept. 18.

After the 9:30 am worship service, enjoy a Homecoming picnic on the church lawn (or in Fellowship Hall, if need be). Please bring a food item to share (i.e. casserole, salad, dessert, etc.) and your place setting(s); beverages will be available.

Let’s gather to feast , renew acquaintances, recharge our spiritual batteries and get ready to begin another great year together!

Our choirs are back in action; newcomers are welcome

Our choirs will resume their practice schedules as noted below – and newcomers are welcome.

- ◆ **Chancel Choir** (begins Sept. 7): Open to all adults, rehearses on Thursdays from 7:30-9 pm in the Choir Room.
- ◆ **Handbell Choir** (begins Sept. 7): High schoolers and adults with ability to read music, rehearses on Thursdays, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
- ◆ **Youth Singers** (begins Sept. 11): Open to all high school students, rehearses on Sundays at 11 am in Room 218.
- ◆ **Intermediate Choir** (begins Sept. 11): Open to all children grades 4-8, rehearses on Sundays at 11 am in the Choir Room.
- ◆ **Junior Choir** (begins Sept. 11): Open to all children grades K-3, Sundays at 11 am in Room 219.

Our Church Family

Our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Catherine Ferne Smith upon her death on Aug. 4, at AMCH. A private service is being held at the convenience of family. Her daughters are Eileen Fogerty and Elizabeth Smith.

Our congratulations to Jenn and Matt Mahoney upon the birth of their son Connor on July 24 (mom’s birthday!) at St. Peter’s. Proud grandparents are Debbie and Karl Parker.

In our thoughts and prayers: Cynthia MacKenzie (Thrift Shop), Alan Robertson, Lorraine Dickinson (Phil and Iona), David Essex, Barbara Logan, Ann Ten Eyck (Sally and John Ten Eyck), Selma Robinson, Harold Johnson (Karl Parker), Maria Maynard and Gordon Durnford (Susan and Gordon Fitting), Jim King (Julie Bushart), Gianna Gisotti (Gisotti and Jachym families), George Marion Boswell, Jr. (Boswell-Penc family), Ginny Diederich (Nancy and Lee Diederich), Trina McCandless (Sarah Slingerland), Jean Richardson and Andy Grimes (Hyacinth Mason), Paul VanDemark, Patti Hardy (Pam Skripak), Mary Jane Hughes (Lynda Conway), Ray Scheesley (Ten Eyck Family), Gil & Elsie Faustel (Karen Tedesco), Mary Storm, Laura and Edwin Busch (Joan House).

Contact Joe Farrell (farrelljl@mac.com or 439-4558) about the Chancel Choir or Youth Singers; Ken Loiacono (kenloiacono@gmail.com or 479-3032) about the Handbell Choir; Sue Loiacono (singstampsue@yahoo.com) or 479-3032) about the Junior Choir; or Lynda Conway (439-7763 or lyconway@nycap.rr.com) for Intermediate Choir.

School supplies needed

Equipping a child for the start of school will cost an estimated \$10 for grades K-2 and \$60 or more for high school. For parents who use the Food Pantry these expenses can be tough. But those of us who have cars and a few extra dollars can take advantage of special sales, rebates, and “buy one, get one free” offers on school supplies.

Our Mission Ministry is asking for donations of school supplies for inner city children.

Based on past experience, we need the following: #2 pencils; pens - blue or black ink; pocket folders - plain and 3-hole punched; marble composition books; rulers; school scissors; glue sticks and bottles; colored pencils and markers; sticky-back notes - 3"; pencil sharpeners; pencil boxes and pouches; pink erasers; yellow highlighters; notebook paper — wide-ruled and college-ruled; spiral notebooks - wide—ruled and college—ruled; 3-ring binders (1"-2"); crayons - 24 count; calculators; combination locks.

Please **bring donations to FUMC by Aug. 28** so that supplies can be distributed by the AUMS and FOCUS Churches Food Pantries prior to the start of school. Boxes for donations are located outside the Nursery.

Summer Book Sale!

A great chance to pick up some good reading for the Fall. Our sale will be held in Fellowship Hall:

- ➔ Thursday, Aug. 25: 4 - 8 pm
- ➔ Friday, Aug. 26: 12 - 8 pm
- ➔ Saturday, Aug. 27: 8 am - 4 pm
- ➔ Tuesday, Aug. 30: 12 - 6 pm

Helping refugees get resettled

Refugee and Immigrant Support Services of Emmaus, Inc. (RISSE) is a local refugee assistance agency based at Emmaus Methodist Church in Albany that aims to give refugee families the skills they need to be independent in their new country. RISSE is one of the only programs offering English language classes to refugee adults in Albany. In addition, RISSE runs an after-school program that serves 60 children during the school year and 100 during the summer.

RISSE is currently expanding its operations in order to fulfill its mission of serving the entire refugee family. Children receive school support and remediation, as well as socialization. Adults learn English language in curriculum that also introduces U.S. civics, nutrition, practical life skills, and job search support. One of the aims of this approach is to avoid the difficulties that develop when children learn the language and culture faster than their parents, and have to take on translation and other family responsibilities beyond their age level. English language skills will also help adults find work and learn the skills needed for coping with many situations in the United States, such as meetings at their children's schools.

In the past year Delmar FUMC has become increasingly involved with RISSE. Several members volunteer with the program and many have supported its work through the donation of goods and services. Most recently, Delmar FUMC hosted 20 refugee children at Vacation Bible School.

How You Can Help? Volunteers are needed to work with adult ESL students from 10 am-12 pm and 1- 4 pm weekdays; to help with the children's programs; and sorting and organizing donations. For more information, contact Colleen Cook at cook.colleen@att.net or 439-4083.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club has scheduled three Friday evening programs for the fall of 2011. We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm, followed by a program. The meal is pot-luck; for those bringing a casserole, salad or dessert the cost is \$2 and for those without a food donation the cost is \$7. Bring a friend, a neighbor, or a fellow church member. If you are not on the calling list, call Hertha Thayer for reservations at 453-0450. For questions, call Ray or Beth Bell at 439-0871 or Mark Baumbach at 765-4419.

Sept. 23 – A new member of the church, George Supan will discuss the program Outward Bound. George was a senior administrator for Outward Bound for many years. The program aims to enrich the lives of young, middle-aged, and older people by exposing them to challenges found in exploring rivers, oceans, lakes, and forests of the United States. George's presentation will be complemented by slides and by tales of participants who accepted the program's challenges and discovered inner strengths they did not know they had.

Oct. 21 – Ray and Beth Bell will present a program on roses grown in the Pacific Northwest, specifically four gardens in Portland, Oregon and one in Victoria, British Columbia. Ray and Beth are members of the American Rose Society and the Capital District Rose Society. The local society manages the Central Park Rose Garden in Schenectady which was rated as one of the three best rose gardens in the United States.

Dec. 2 – Mark Baumbach has arranged for a program on the Civil War.

Women-in-the-Middle

This women's group will be gathering for its first breakfast meeting of the new program year on Saturday, Sept. 17 at 8:30 am at Tool's.

Mary Lou Jackson has agreed to take over the e-mailings this year. You can contact her at 475-1861 or via e-mail: MLJ7W@yahoo.com. Please RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 15.

Methodivas to meet Oct. 2

The next gathering of our new Methodivas women's group will take place on Oct. 2 (skipping September) at 11 am in Fellowship Hall. We'll make plans for the months ahead, chat and support one another. We are making plans to cook for Interfaith, and for a Fall Fair baking assembly-line. And we're open to any ideas folks want to explore! Bring your energy, sense of humor, and willingness to get involved!

Request from our Church Historian

I know that many of you take photos of events which happen with our church family throughout the year. I'm building scrapbooks and I really could use your help.

It's nice to archive some of them to look back on in the future. We watch our children grow up, recall special events and remember those who continue to build the fabric of this congregation.

If you do have a picture that you would like to share, please PRINT it and put it in my mailbox. (Unfortunately, I'm not very good at doing pictures electronically.)

Also, if you are cleaning out your files and find some items relating to church history, you may have something that we do not already know about – so please send it along! Contact me at ladosta@aol.com.

– Marilyn Peterson



From Rev. Deborah –
Can faith and politics intersect?

I was recently asked why some Christians including United Methodist Christians get so involved with political issues. I did my best to explain to my questioner that some Christians believe that political activism is one way to express their belief that the love of God, made known to us in Jesus Christ, is an active love. One cannot sit on the sidelines and watch as injustices are perpetrated against individuals or groups of individuals who do not have the wherewithal to advocate for themselves.

I thought that was a good answer but my questioner walked away unconvinced that faith and politics can, or should, go hand-in-hand. That started me thinking. Can faith and politics intersect or do they run parallel with one another, never to meet?

I think faith and politics do intersect. I do believe God calls us to: be the voice for the voiceless, be an advocate for the vulnerable, and actively seek peaceful alternatives to war.

Having said that, I want to invite you to an adult forum, "The Intersection of Faith and Politics," tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 25. There will be some assigned reading to help inform our conversation. If you are interested in being a part of the forum please contact Nan at Church Office at 429-9976 or via e-mail: churchoffice@delmarmethodist.org.

Blessings, *Deborah*

Basic lay speaking course

This fall the Lay Speaking Ministries' "Basic Lay Speaking Course" will be held at the First United Methodist Church of Delmar.

This course is a foundational course for other leadership training courses. It will begin Sept. 28 and run on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm (skipping the week of Oct. 19) for a total of five sessions. Details are available on the Upper New York conference web site, www.unyumc.org.

Signup forms are posted on the bulletin board outside Church Office. The fee for the course is \$26, which includes the book and the conference fee. Checks should be made out to UNYUMC.

If you feel God's call, or know anyone who wants to explore God's call in their lives, please consider attending and spread the word regarding this wonderful class of leading, caring and communicating as disciples of Christ. Interested parties may contact Denise Gisotti, Certified Lay Speaker, golfing1020@yahoo.com.

AUMS FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

► When children in inner city Albany are out of school, many go hungry because they are unable to access free meal sites while their parents are working. Consequently, greater demand is placed on emergency food pantries. Grocery items of all types are needed, especially those that are "child friendly." If you wish to donate non-perishable food items, place them in the AUMS grocery cart which is in the Narthex on Sunday morning and in the hall near the Nursery during the week. Checks and cash may be left in the money container on the cart Sunday morning or taken to the church office during the week. Thank you!



PASTORAL MESSAGE

Let's think about creative new ways to make the Sabbath a real part of our lives

Rev. Iona Dickinson

Summer is a time when we think of life having a slower pace. Many of us carry fond memories of childhood where summer seemed like an endless amount of free time – free from school, full with exploration and adventure.

As we ponder the idea of summer being a different pace, perhaps this is the perfect time for us to consider the idea of Sabbath. In Exodus 20: 8-10 we read “Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work – not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting your town.” (*The Message*). Perhaps that sounds like our childhood ideal of summer – but in our busy world, I would guess that for most of us, even the idea of a day without work or chores seems unimaginable.

As summer progresses, I challenge us all to consider keeping the Sabbath. Remember that while we as Christians consider Sunday our Sabbath, we also recognize that Sunday might not be the best day for your Sabbath. As a family then, consider a Sabbath that goes from Saturday lunch to Sunday lunch, or a Sabbath that is two nights a week from after work/school to bed. The important thing is not the WHEN of Sabbath but the actually observing of Sabbath!

Sabbath is about open hands, wondering hearts and the unexpected. Consider your conversation on the Sabbath and aim for conversation that is

rambling, filled with silences and laughter and small revelations. Sabbath meals are slow and simple. And Sabbath rituals should be sparing. Remember that the most important rituals usually create themselves. If your family finds sunrise a magical time together, allow that to become your ritual. Don't be afraid to try things...and to let them quietly end if they aren't working. Consider ways to bring your children into the ritual mix, perhaps by having them read a psalm, or saying a prayer as a family before sharing a meal. Again, it matters not WHAT you do, but that you find meaning and rejuvenation in it together!

Maybe these following questions will help you think about how to spend your Sabbath time:

- What tastes remind you of comfort? Remind you of favorite holidays? What foods strengthen you? Bring your mouth alive? Convey a feeling of health?
- What activities leave you refreshed? Help you feel whole and centered? Ease tired muscles? Awaken the skin's sensitivity?
- What sounds and aromas bring you peace? Fill you with pleasure? Transport you to a place of quiet attentiveness?

Create special Sabbath times for yourself, for your family. And, may we all find meaningful Sabbath moments during the rest of the summer and on into fall!

Iona

Methodist House is underway

Area Methodist churches built the first-floor walls for this Habitat for Humanity home on Saturday, July 30. Methodist work crews will be working on Aug. 20 and 27. Contact Kevin Conley (kconley1@nycap.rr.com, 253-4907) to join the builders. *And*, there is still time to support the Tent-a-Thon fundraiser for the next Methodist-sponsored home. Stop by the pledge table during Fellowship Hour or contact Kevin.

Volunteers in Mission

Calls have been announced for an Upper New York Conference VIM trip to northeast Alabama, around Columbus Day weekend, to help rebuild following this year's tornadoes.

The volunteers will be working in a rural area near Ft. Payne, Alabama. They will be staying in a church with a kitchen and showers that the group can use. Specific work details will not be known until a week or so before departure. Travel there will be the volunteers' own responsibility, with an arrival date of Oct. 23, and departure on Oct. 29.

Contact Jay Dunkleberger, team leader, at 371-7071 or jdunkleb@nycap.rr.com for details.

Altar flowers

If you would like to honor a loved one with flowers on the altar, please contact Tina Caballero at 439-9565. Payment for each order is \$35, checks made payable to FUMC, noting date of altar flowers in memo portion. Please mail/deliver payments directly to Church Office.

Charge Conference minutes

Copies of minutes from the Annual Charge Conference held on June 27, 2011 are available in Church Office.

Where in the world is our RPMs leader?

Beth Hickox Gould, our RPMs leader, is in Africa on a mission trip. She's finished her work in Ghana and is now in Tanzania teaching in an orphanage.

We can follow her work on her fascinating blog at: www.bethgould.blogspot.com. (Printed copies are also posted on the Mission bulletin board located across from Church Office.)

RPMs resume in September

Anyone in 9-12th grade is invited to come and see what RPMs is all about! RPMs Youth Group is an Ecumenical Group comprised of three churches: the Reformed, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches in Delmar.

The RPMs do community service around the area including working with Habitat for Humanity, cooking for Interfaith and the Overflow Shelter, and much more! They travel to New York City to do a Midnight Run, go on a retreat and travel for our annual mission trip in the spring. This is a great group!

For more information please email Beth Gould at RPMsYouthGroup@gmail.com.

September Schedule:

- Sun., Sept. 11 – New Member Meeting, Delmar Reformed Church, 7 pm
 - Sun., Sept. 18 – All Member Meeting, Delmar Reformed Church, 7 pm
 - Sat., Oct. 1 – Car Wash, First United Methodist Church, 10 am-2 pm
 - Sun., Oct. 2 – Students & Parents Meeting, Delmar Reformed Church, 7 pm
-
-

Church Calendar

Upcoming meetings & events

Monday, Aug. 15	8 am 7 pm	Senior Ministry Team Bible Basics (& 8/22)	Four Corners Rest. Library
Tuesday, Aug. 16	11 am 7 pm	Bible Basics (& 8/23) Finance	Library Room 207
Wednesday, Aug. 17	6:30 pm	Membership & Evangel-	Room 207
Monday, Aug. 22	7 pm	Bible Basics	Library
Tuesday, Aug. 23	11 am 6 pm	Bible Basics Admin. Council Potluck	Library Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, Aug. 24	7 pm	Worship Dream Team	Room 207
Thursday, Aug. 25	4–8 pm	Summertime Book Sale	Fellowship Hall
Friday, Aug. 26	12–8 pm	Summertime Book Sale	Fellowship Hall
Saturday, Aug. 27	8 am – 4 pm	Summertime Book Sale	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Aug. 30	12–6 pm	Summertime Book Sale	Fellowship Hall

Regular weekly schedule

Sundays	9:30 am 10:45 am 11 am	Worship (Sanctuary) Fellowship Hour Theological/Social Is-	Sanctuary Fellowship Hall Lounge
Tuesdays	8 am 10 am 7 pm	Men's Breakfast Treasure Cove Upper Room Study	Four Corners Lounge Library
Wednesdays	10:30 am	Bible Study	Delmar Place

The September issue of the Telescope will be mailed on **Wednesday, September 7**
Final deadline for copy for that issue is **Wednesday morning, August 31**
 Submit articles to: churchoffice@delmarmethodist.org and shafferdf@gmail.com
 Follow our on-line calendar at calendar.yahoo.com/delmarmethodist

‘Bible Basics’ classes with Rev. Iona continue this month!

We have moved through Genesis and the story of Moses and are moving on to the time of The Judges, and the Rise and Fall of Israel. Come share your insights and hear from others as we explore together what the scripture says, what it doesn't say, and where and how we see God moving in the midst of the story. All classes will meet in the LIBRARY. Led by Rev. Iona Dickinson: 439-9976, associate@delmarmethodist.org.

Aug. 15, 7 pm – OR Aug. 16, 11 am

David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 16:1-18:16

David and Saul – 1 Samuel 23:7-24:22

King David – 2 Samuel 5:1-7:29

David and Bathsheba – 2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

Aug. 22, 7 pm – OR Aug. 23, 11 am

King Solomon – 1 Kings 2:1-3:28

King Solomon – 1 Kings 2:1-3:28

Elijah and the Prophets – 1 Kings 16:29-19:18

The Fall of Jerusalem – 2 Kings 25:1-25:30

Coming in September...prepare to dive into Job, Psalms, Proverbs,
Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon!

There will be more information in the September *Telescope*.

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

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Delmar, NY -
 Permit No. 13

First United Methodist Church of Delmar
 428 Kenwood Avenue
 Delmar, New York 12054-1806
 (518) 439-9976