



THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

www.delmarmethodist.org

Our new pastor comes July 1: Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater

Our new Senior Pastor, Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater will be here starting July 1, succeeding Rev. Janice Palm. Rev. O'Connor-Slater has most recently served as Director of Transitional Ministry for the New York West Area.

She has already met with the pastoral team to begin learning about our church. She looks forward to meeting all of the congregation and sent the following message to introduce herself:

"When I began my appointive ministry nearly 30 years ago in Henderson Harbor, NY, Bob and Ina Miller had recently moved from the Albany area to their retirement home in the Harbor. They shared with me their experiences of the spiritual, loving and caring community they left behind at the First United Methodist Church of Delmar. I never thought that one day I would be appointed to serve as senior pastor of their beloved church. To me this appointment is an affirmation of the connectional aspect of the Church and a continuation of the circle of ministry throughout the Upper New York area.

"Let me tell you a little about me and my family. I am married to Rev. Alan D. Kinney, an ordained elder in the UMC. We are known in United Methodist lingo as a 'clergy-clergy' couple. Alan is appointed to serve the Eastern Parkway UMC in Schenectady beginning July 1. We will reside in the Eastern Parkway parsonage and I will commute to Delmar on a daily basis.

Our Church Family

In our thoughts and prayers: Caroline Soka, Harriett Johnson, Woody Carver, Harold Johnson (Karl Parker), Maria Maynard and Gordon Durnford (Susan and Gordon Fitting), Jim King (Julie Bushart), Gail Ames, Lorraine Dickinson (Phil and Iona), Gianna Gisotti (Gisotti and Jachym families), George Marion Boswell, Jr. (Boswell-Penc family), Ginny Diederich (Nancy and Lee Diederich), Trina McCandless (Sarah Slingerland), Rob Heineman, Eleanor Haverly, Gerrit Milbert, Jean Richardson and Andy Grimes (Hyacinth Mason), Paul VanDemark, Patti Hardy (Pam Skripak), Mary Jane Hughes (Lynda Conway), Marco Bonato (Jane Lang, David Rathjens), Ray Scheesley (Ten Eyck Family), Gil & Elsie Faustel (Karen Tedesco), Mary Storm, Chris Sheridan (Dick & Jeanne Herrmann), Laura and Edwin Busch (Joan House).

We also hold all affected by the spring storms and natural disasters across the U.S. and around the world in our thoughts and prayers.

"I have two children by a previous marriage. My son Ben lives in Oswego with his two-year-old daughter Olivia (our only grandchild). My daughter Erin enters her senior year of study at Le Moyne College in Syracuse in the fall.

"A native of central Pennsylvania, I was placed in Utica in 1976 to serve as a missionary by the General Board of Global Ministries. Following my tenure there I entered Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas

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in 1978. I completed my studies in May of 1982 and have served as an ordained elder in the upper New York area ever since.

"I enjoy walking, sewing, reading, and needle-point. I am a novice skier and a duffer golfer. Alan and I are looking forward to our move to the Capital District and I am especially looking forward to serving as your senior pastor."

Charge Conference June 27

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held on Monday, June 27 at 7 pm in the Choir Room. Rev. Bob Kanuck will preside. All Administrative Council and team and committee annual reports will be accepted. In order to produce a booklet of those reports, teams and committees have been asked to hand in their reports by June 20 (via e-mail to churchoffice@delmarmethodist.org or delivered to the office by hand or mail). In addition to receiving the reports, the conference will consider a formal acceptance of the Syl Kedzierski bequest.

OUR CHURCH IN MISSION

► The United Methodist Committee on Relief has vowed an "absolute commitment" to respond to help victims of the **spring storms** across the U.S. — but it says that the organization's US Disaster Response funds are "**extraordinarily tight.**" You can make a donation on-line at <http://secure.gbgm-umc.org/donations/umcor/donate.cfm?code=3021326>. Or send a check to First United Methodist Church (designate U.S. Spring Storms, UMCOR Advance #3021326 on your check or envelope). Donations may be brought directly to Church Office or given with the Sunday offering.

Our Sympathy

To **Pat Hotaling** and family upon the loss of her husband Bill on May 2 at St. Peter's Hospital. Services were held at St. Matthews Church in Voorheesville. Rev. Kanuck presided.

To the friends and family of **Vivian Snook**, who passed away on May 5 at the Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home. A memorial service was held at Applebee F.H. on May 12; Rev. Dickinson presided.

To **B.J. Lornell** and family upon the loss of her husband, Wallace (Wally) on May 7 in Yarmouth Port, MA. The Lornells were members of FUMC for 41 years before moving to Cape Cod to be near family. A memorial service will be held on August 25 at 11am at the Northside United Methodist Church in Brewster, MA. Rev. Kanuck has been asked to participate; he has asked that we pass along remembrances or stories (humorous or otherwise) about Wally that he might share with the Cape Cod congregation.

To **Janet Gelzheiser** and family upon the loss of her husband Fran on May 11 at his home. A memorial service was held in our Sanctuary on May 15. Rev. Palm and Rev. Kanuck officiated. Contributions may be sent to the Salvation Army or to the charity of your choice.

To **Beth Willey Kiernan** and family upon the sudden loss of her husband Keith on May 27. A memorial service was held in our Sanctuary on June 1. Rev. Palm presided. Donations in Keith's memory may be made to the Company of Fifers & Drummers, PO Box 277, Ivoryton, CT 06442-0277 or the Delmar Rescue Squad, 145 Adams Street, Delmar, NY 12054.

Leadership needs continue

The Nominations Team has worked to fill many ministry needs in the church. Last month, a notice was published on two key leadership positions to be filled. Gratefully, someone has stepped forward to fill the need for the Finance Team Chairmanship. Thank you, George Supan.

Our Administrative Council is still in need of a Chairperson. Perhaps there are two of you who would share the chairmanship.

The Administrative Council is the key body of the church to which all teams report. During the last three years it has met once a month. The Chairmanship does not mean having to do everything, but rather to delegate responsibilities among church folks. It is beneficial to have a sense of the church and its organization. Skills needed are simply the ability to lead a meeting, to facilitate discussion and to ensure the full participation of all members of the Council. If you have questions or are being nudged in this direction, please talk to Rev. Palm.

A visitor from Mozambique

On Tuesday, June 14, Jeremias Franca, administrator of Chicupe Rural Hospital, will be speaking at the Averill Park United Methodist Church. Our church has long been a supporter of the hospital and helped support Jeremias while he was earning his degree in hospital administration in Texas. All are invited to attend and to share a pizza, salad and dessert supper at 6 pm at the church. There will be a free-will offering to cover expenses and to provide additional missionary support for Jeremias. The church is located on Route 43 in Averill Park. If you would like to attend, please contact Alice Trost (ABTrost24@aol.com or 674-1473).

Tent-a-Thon set for mid-August; will benefit Habitat for Humanity

The annual family event known as Tent-a-Thon will be held Aug. 11-18 at Tawasentha Park on Route 146 in Guilderland.

What is it? It's a benefit that raises funds for Capital District Habitat for Humanity. Participants sleep in tents to demonstrate their commitment to eliminating poverty and sub-standard housing. Each camper collects donations from family, friends and co-workers for their efforts on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. Campers enjoy music, softball, games and campfires. There is plenty of time to enjoy the beautiful park. You can hike along one of the Park's trails through the woods, visit the perennial flower garden and watch the sunsets over the Heldebergs. Complimentary dinner and breakfast will be provided. You can camp one night or all seven.

You can help in any of several ways, such as:

- Collect pledges and camp. This is our greatest need!
- Support other campers from the church.
- Pick up food from a restaurant for the evening meal on Monday, Aug. 15.
- Lead a fun event such as telling stories, playing a guitar around the campfire or sharing your talents in other ways.
- Provide "security" for the morning (8 am-1 pm) or afternoon (1 pm-6 pm) on Monday, Aug. 15, watching campers' tents and belongings during the days while they are not around.

However you decide to support Habitat, consider joining us for dinner during the Tent-a-Thon and meet some campers from area Methodist churches. For more information, please contact Kevin Conley (kconley1@nycap.rr.com, 475-9034



*From Rev. Iona –
Our church shouldn't
really be a well-kept
secret. Should it?*

Shhhhhh.....don't tell. Sometimes you want to keep the best things to yourself.

Your favorite quiet spot in nature, your favorite walking route, your availability on the one weekend your family has nothing scheduled, your favorite place to get ice cream – all in an effort to keep others from infringing on your space!

And unfortunately, the church is often one of those things. We like the people who are already here. We like what is currently happening and don't want anything to change. We like it that we know everyone and everyone knows us.

But, as a church, we ought to be about spreading the good news. Our vision statement reads:

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

In order to grow together and to be in service, not to mention be a community, we cannot be a secret. We have to open our doors, reach out in love, share with those in need, extend a helping hand, invite people to join us, help others to know that they are truly welcome.

While not something that we consciously do, secrecy is something that I think comes about naturally. We know what we know, and assume others do as well. Did you know that in Delmar 21.6 percent of the people think it is important to attend religious services? Did you know that 16.2 percent of people in Delmar would state that their faith is really important to them? To me, this means that we've been keeping our church a secret from roughly 80 percent of the folks living

in our community. This means that we have ample grounds to let folks know about the amazing ministry that is taking place here!

On Memorial Day, our church had a float and marched in the Bethlehem parade (thanks to the folks of Membership and Evangelism & Education Teams, as well as a variety of others who participated). As we walked along, I witnessed some of the following things:

- As one little boy showed his mom the Heifer Project pin that Karen Watterworth handed him she looked at it and said "Oh, we love Heifer, who was giving this out?"
- Countless people clapping their hands to the songs for this coming summer's VBS, and saying...."wow, what is that great music about?"
- Cheering from the sidelines from FUMC folks, who were telling those around them that this was their church!

It's the little ways that we begin to spread the word that God is doing great things here and encourage folks to join in! So, may church not be a part of your "keep it quiet" plan! Instead, spread the word, tell folks of the amazing things you see happening, be ready to share with others why you love this church.

Iona

JUNE FAIR TRADE SALE

► This Sunday, June 12, Fair Trade/Equal Exchange Coffees and Teas will be sold during Fellowship Hour. Special suggestion for the months ahead... make refreshing iced tea or iced coffee from our selection of regular, decaf and organic choices! *New: During the summer a selection of coffee and teas will be available for sale through the Church Office.*



PASTORAL MESSAGE

A time of new beginnings – and a time to welcome and embrace a new pastor

Rev. Janice Palm

We all have heard: there is nothing more constant than change. A signal of, and an opportunity for, change is when we face a new beginning.

We have many graduations in June that celebrate both accomplishments and steps toward new goals. Within the church, we have a grand class of 17 Confirmands who are about to take on their faith for themselves in Jesus Christ, and step into becoming professing members of the church. We will celebrate those new beginnings on June 12.

Several of us are about to enter into the celebration of another new beginning: the second annual meeting of our new conference, the Upper New York Conference. Our Upper New York Annual Conference meets the first full week of June in Rochester. Please pray for this meeting where 2,000 United Methodists will be gathering. Upper New York Conference will celebrate in its opening worship service the many folk who have been brought to Christ. Our church here in Delmar will be among those bringing almost 20 new folks to faith in Jesus Christ (including our Confirmands).

New beginnings. Each worship year begins with Advent at the end of November. The life of the church program year is marked by the beginning of the school year in September. The Annual Financial and Statistical Reports to the General Church, and our own Charge Conference, mark the beginning of a new year by the calendar: January through December.

On July 1 the church will be entering into another new beginning with a new Senior Pastor. May you, here in Delmar, be known in this new season beginning in July as hospitable folk reaching out in special and important ways in order to welcome your new pastor, Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater, so she might come to know you and vice versa. May you wear nametags more than one Sunday. May you offer your name often without being asked. May you dare to be as honest and open with your pastor as you are to one who sits next to you in the pew. May you create small gatherings inviting your pastor so she might get to know you in a setting with a small number of folks. Even, most especially, during the summer, might you begin to get to know this new pastoral leader. May you not say, "Call if you need help," but rather might you **be there** saying, "I am ready, what can I do for you? Would you like a break?" May you learn to call your new pastor, to say hello, to give a word of encouragement, or tell her something she needs to know. May your hospitality be radical and refreshing but most of all genuine.

In this new beginning, might you realize that you will not always agree with each another. But may you disagree, still recognizing the Christ in one another and loving one another.

May your new beginning this July be filled with excitement, fulfillment, and joy.

Shalom, *Rev. Janice*

School supplies needed

Equipping a child for the start of school will cost an estimated \$10 for grades K-2 and \$40 or more for high school. For parents who use the Food Pantry, these expenses can devastate their already meager resources. On the other hand, 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. By working together, we can provide supplies for these children for less expense.

Based on past experience, we need #2 pencils; pens with 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.**

Refugee children need items for summer camp

As you know, we have been helping refugees re-settle in the Capital District. Several of us are working on a project in which we need your help.

We are sending out this plea for donations of varied items needed by approximately 35 refugee children, ages 8-15, who live in Albany and Rensselaer. These kids have been offered full scholarships to attend various overnight camps this summer, but most lack many of the items they are required to bring. They all come from very poor homes and this is an incredible opportunity for them.

Needed are: Used (or new) boys' and girls' clothes sizes 6+: especially bathing suits, shorts, jeans, sleepwear, underwear, socks, tee and long-sleeve shirts, sweatshirts and pants, sneakers, hiking boots, warm sweaters and rain gear. Other needed items: twin sets of sheets and blankets, towels and wash clothes, pillows and compact sleeping bags, as well as small flashlights, sunscreen, non-aerosol bug spray, laundry bags and hygiene supplies.

Please contact Lynda Porter if you have questions or need to have items picked up. Phone: 461-7113, e-mail: porter1950@aol.com.

A chance to support Beth Gould's mission trip to Africa

In July our RPMs' leader, Beth Gould, will travel to the rural village of Denu, Ghana, to spend a month volunteering with the organization STAESA (Students Travel and Explore South Africa), helping with the planning and construction of an orphanage in a community called Adafienu. It will accommodate 80 kids between the ages of a few months to 18 years. Then she will go to East Africa to teach in the Alesi Orphanage in Arusha, Tanzania.

In both locations, she will stay with host families and be immersed in the local culture. Beth is funding the trip herself, with some help from the mission teams at FUMC and Delmar Reformed. Financial support is also needed for her program materials, the cost of room and board with the host families, and the vaccinations and anti-malarial medication that are required for travel to Africa. If you wish to make a contribution to help her, send your check to the Church Office, made out to FUMC and with a notation that it is to support Beth's mission.

Church Calendar

Upcoming events of note

Thursday, June 9	12 pm	Mary Marthas—50th anniversary lunch	Lounge
Saturday, June 11	7 pm	RPMs Senior Night	40 Broadway
Sunday, June 12	9:30am 1 pm	Confirmation Sunday RPMs End-of-Year BBQ	Sanctuary Town Park
Monday, June 13	7 pm	Staff Parish Relations Team	Rm. 207
Tuesday, June 14	11 am 7 pm 7 pm	Bible Basics (Rm. 207 if rain) Trustees Bible Basics	Perfect Blend Rm. 207 Rm. 216 (note change)
Sunday, June 19	11 am	Praise & Picnic at Town Park	Back pavilion
Monday, June 20	8 am 7 pm	Senior Ministry Team Finance Team	Four Corners Rm. 207
Tuesday, June 21	11 am 7 pm	Bible Basics (Rm. 207 if rain) Bible Basics	Perfect Blend Rm. 207
Sunday, June 26	11 am	Rev. Palm's Retirement Celebration	Fellowship Hall
Monday, June 27	7 pm 7:15 pm	Annual Charge Conference (Admin. Council) Education Team	Choir Room Rm. 207
Wednesday, June 29	7 pm	Worship Dream Team	Rm. 216

Regular weekly schedule

Sundays	9:30 am 9:45 am 10:45 am 11 am	Worship (Sanctuary) Church School (classrooms) Fellowship Hour Theological/Social Issues	Sanctuary Classrooms Fellowship Hall Lounge
Mondays	10:30 am	Community Playgroup	Nursery
Tuesdays	8 am 10 am 7 pm	Men's Breakfast Treasure Cove Upper Room Study Group	Four Corners Lounge Library
Wednesdays	10:30 am 10:30 am	Bible Study Community Playgroup	Delmar Place Nursery
Thursdays	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bell Choir Chancel Choir	Rm. 201 Choir Room

(Note: Pre-K Craft Corner is discontinued until further notice.)

The July issue of the Telescope will be mailed on **Wednesday, July 7**
Final deadline for copy for that issue is **Wednesday, June 29**

Follow our on-line calendar at calendar.yahoo.com/delmarmethodist



A Celebration on Father’s Day –June 19 Praise & Picnic at the Park

In addition to our usual worship service at 9:30 am, a special outdoor service arranged by our Worship Team will begin at 11 am at the back pavilion at the Town Park. Following service, Church Family Life has arranged fun for the day and we’ll have a catered barbeque with all kinds of sports and game options for people of all ages, and live music provided by Acoustic Heartland. *You must make a reservation for this event; sign up following service this Sunday, June 12.* The cost is \$2 per person.

A Time of Fellowship with Rev. Janice – June 26

On Sunday, June 26, we will gather after worship for a special fellowship time. This will be the final Sunday service led by Rev. Janice Palm, marking her retirement after 25 years of active service in the ministry, the past three years as our church family’s shepherd. This is a time to express our thanks, to enjoy her company, and to offer our best wishes. All are welcome!.



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

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