



# THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

[www.delmarmethodist.org](http://www.delmarmethodist.org)

## Conference calls for us to help with Hurricane Irene recovery

The rains came down and the floods came up in the eastern end of our Upper New York Area. As the waters recede, our neighbors need our help.

- 1. The greatest need is for funds** for immediate relief and long-term recovery. Send your donations to Church Office, designating your gift for Disaster Response # 4200 (Upper NY Hurricane Recovery) in the memo portion. Remember: 100 percent of gifts made through our United Methodist Church are available for recovery work.
- 2. The second great need is for Cleaning Buckets and Health Kits.** FUMC and all churches have been asked to collect the supplies and assemble these kits for distribution. Directions for assembling the kits can be found at

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket/>

Lists are also posted on the bulletin board directly across from Church Office.

## Church School starts Sept. 11; Homecoming Sunday is Sept. 18

Our Church School will kick off on Sunday, Sept. 11. Our awesome teachers are prepared for what is sure to be another exciting year. And the Chancel Choir will add their praise in music and song on Sept. 11 as well.

Then, on Sept. 18 we will enjoy our traditional "Homecoming Sunday." Celebrate autumn and

## Our Church Family

**Our prayers and sympathy** to Sarah Slingerland and family upon the loss of her sister, Trina McCandless, in Groton, CT on August 25.

**In our thoughts and prayers:** Doug Jones (Robin Cairns), Bob Green, Dean Reinhart (Joyce Bee), Sharon Ornoski, Velma Jones, Shirley Post, John Lang Sr. (John & Jane Lang), Kevin Farnell (Pat & Roger Sutliff), Marilyn Peterson, Cynthia MacKenzie (Thrift Shop), Alan Robertson, 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), 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).

begin a new season of ministry together! 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 are resuming their practice schedules as noted below – and newcomers are welcome.

◆ **Chancel Choir** (began Sept. 8): Open to all adults, rehearses on Thursdays from 7:30-9 pm in the Choir Room.

◆ **Handbell Choir** (began Sept. 8): 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.

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

### Silent Auction at Fall Fair just around the corner!

Would you cook and donate a Friday night dinner for four? Provide three days of pet sitting? How about a week in your vacation home?

These are just a sampling of things you could offer for FUMC's Silent Auction at the Fall Fair, Nov. 5. Please, please, please call or email Jamie Cable [jlsgoes@verizon.net](mailto:jlsgoes@verizon.net) or 439-4193 if you are willing to make a contribution!

### 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; 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.

## Nursery care providers on board

The Education Ministry Team is pleased to announce the hiring of two Nursery Care Providers, Jackie Franks and Sarah Rabinow. Jackie, Head Nursery Provider, has a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education as well as a Master's in Literacy. For the past several years, she has taught and supervised the Town of Bethlehem Swim Program and served as substitute teacher. Sarah, Assistant Nursery Provider, is a member of FUMC and currently pursuing a bachelor's in biology. Jackie and Sarah will be in the Nursery on Sunday mornings from 9-11 am. They also may provide nursery coverage for the church during special events. Please welcome Jackie and Sarah as you see them.

## Monthly Fair Trade/ Equal Exchange sales resume

Church and Society will offer coffees, tea, chocolate, nuts and cranberries during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, Sept. 11 as they resume their usual monthly sale of Fair Trade/Equal Exchange goods. FUMC Cookbooks will also be on sale for \$10; all proceeds benefit the Capital Region Food Bank. The Exchange is offered the second Sunday of every month.

## Tent-a-Thon success!

Thanks to you, we raised over \$930 toward the next Methodist-sponsored house built by Capital District Habitat for Humanity. In total, area Methodists raised nearly \$12,000. Thank you to Maia Boswell-Penc and her family for camping a few overnights, Jane Lang for picking up food, Tom Stephany, Jim Bryden, Deborah Suparmanto and Marilyn Hasbrouck for providing tent security, Dave Hart for entertaining us in the evening, and the congregation for their generous financial support.

## 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.

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## *RPMs youth program resumes this month – check it out!*

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Anyone in 9-12th grade is invited to come and see what RPMs is all about. RPMs Youth Group is an ecumenical group drawn from three churches: the Reformed, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches in Delmar. Any 9-12 grade students are welcome to come and join in the fun. The RPMs do community service around the area including working with Habitat for Humanity, cooking for Interfaith and the Overflow Shelter, and much more! We 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](mailto: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

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*From Rev. Iona Dickinson –*  
**What a year this  
 has been!**

Many mornings, my 2-year-old daughter Eliza watches a show called “Jack’s Big Music Show.” Each episode closes with a catchy song that goes like this: “What a day! Thanks for being here today – it sure was fun!” That’s my feeling as I look back over this past year. “What a year! It sure was fun [mostly]!”

A year ago mid-August, Phil, Eliza, our dog Lucky and I rolled into town, having driven cross-country from Southern California, to make our new home here in Delmar. We were ready to set down new roots, to make new friends, and to reconnect with family and friends that we had seen occasionally over the years.

And over the past year, we have done just that, and more. We have settled nicely into the parsonage – a great home in a wonderful neighborhood. We have been blessed to have great neighbors who have become good friends! We have had the opportunity to reconnect with friends and family. And, of course, we have loved every minute of our time at First United Methodist Church. The outpouring of welcome when we arrived was incredible, and I especially thank those who took my word seriously and repeated their name over and over. I’ve had great fun worshipping in this church where music and children are welcome parts, where good reflection of God’s presence in our lives is expected. And, I’ve enjoyed the work I’ve done with the various teams that are hard at work here.

Of course, as is the case in any given year, there were changes. Yes, there was the change of sea-

sons (a big change after living in So. Calif. for 11 years!), but there was also a change in senior pastor leadership, the illness and loss of my mother, the joyous anticipation of a new child in our family. Some changes welcome, some changes extremely difficult, some changes that were not for the better or the worse, but just different. Life is full of change and this year is no exception!

In the second year of my time here, I am looking forward to more change: change in adding a worship service, change in the ways in which we do some of the things “we’ve always done,” change in the ways in which we welcome babies and toddlers (yea for paid nursery folks!), and who knows what else...

If we worry about change, the song from Jack’s Big Music Show reminds us: “There’s just one more thing we want you to know, you’re always welcome on Jack’s Big Music Show!”

And it’s true here too ... you’re always welcome here at FUMC. Even, or maybe especially, if you’ve been away a while, even if you feel disconnected and lost ... you’re always welcome. Even, or maybe especially, if you’re enduring a big life-change ... you’re always welcome (tears and all!). YOU are welcome here! You are expected here! Hope to see you soon!

### *A Note of Thanks*

Thank you to all who reached out to me and my family following the death of my mom. Your cards, your calls and hugs all reminded me that I am not alone in this difficult journey. The display of love shown to me and my family during this time exemplifies what the church is about – support during life’s difficult moments (and joyous ones too!). Thank you also for the beautiful flowers sent to my mom’s funeral!

*Iona*



## PASTORAL MESSAGE

## *This September is a time to reflect on the meaning of 'forgive and forget'*

*Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater*

There is an old adage my Sunday school teachers used to drum into my head: "Forgive and Forget." I was told that this is what the Bible tells us to do. Yes, the Bible does tell us to forgive — but the actual phrase "forgive and forget" does not appear in the Bible. In *Matthew 18: 21 and 22* Peter poses the question to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus responds, "Not seven times, but seventy times seven." In more contemporary language, "Not seven times, in fact, stop keeping count. Your forgiveness must be unlimited."

Likewise in *Jeremiah 31:34* God's prophet gives this unqualified announcement of salvation to a wayward people; "I will forgive their iniquities, and remember their sins no more." God does forgive and God does forget our failings.

I don't know about you, but unlimited forgiveness is something I aspire to in my Christian journey, yet never fully attained. Unlike God, my forgiving comes with conditions; I will say "I forgive you," but what I really mean is I will hold the offensive action in the recesses of my mind, and if or when a new offense is enacted, I will recall the old offense as well as the new.

In his book *Forgiveness, the Way of Freedom*, Dutch theologian Henri Nouwen wrote:

"There are two sides to forgiveness: giving and receiving. Although at first sight giving seems to be harder, it often appears that we are not able to offer forgiveness to others because we have not

been able fully to receive it. Only as people who have accepted forgiveness can we find the inner freedom to give it. Why is receiving forgiveness so difficult? It is very hard to say, 'Without your forgiveness I am still bound to what happened between us. Only you can set me free.' That requires not only a confession that we have hurt somebody but also the humility to acknowledge our dependency on others. Only when we can receive forgiveness can we give it.

"To forgive another person from the heart is an act of liberation. We set that person free from the negative bonds that exist between us. We say, 'I no longer hold your offense against you.' But there is more. We also free ourselves from the burden of being the 'offended one.' As long as we do not forgive those who have wounded us, we carry them with us or, worse, pull them as a heavy load. The great temptation is to cling in anger to our enemies and then define ourselves as being offended and wounded by them. Forgiveness, therefore, liberates not only the other but also ourselves. It is the way to the freedom of the children of God."

As I ponder the tenth anniversary of the horrific events of September 11, 2001 I wrestle with the question, Am I ready, let alone able, to forgive and forget? Are we, as a nation ready to forgive and forget? If not now, then when? I would be willing to enter into a conversation with you about "forgive and forget." Until then, I'll see you in church. *Deborah*

## A new study course – ‘Having a Martha Heart in a Mary World’

There is nothing wrong with being a Martha. The world would be a hungry, dirtier, less appealing place without the Martha in all of us. This study helps us to find the balance between the “living room Mary” and the “kitchen Martha”. The author, Joanne Weaver, relates some of the truth she has found while working out the demands of being a wife and mother and her desire to know God more intimately. Starting on Sept. 25 at 11 am we will spend an hour a week talking about the chapter for the week. We will meet each Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month. We will have a hiatus from Thanksgiving until January. If interested, call Connie Tilroe at 439-7571.

## Women-in-the-Middle

Women-in-the-Middle is a group of women that meets for breakfast once a month to network, support, and enjoy one another’s company. Ages run from approximately 40 to 60, and many are in the middle of many passages of life journeys, such as kids in college, aging parents and partners, menopause, illness, and much more! Anyone is welcome to participate at any meeting.

The next breakfast gathering will be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at Tool’s Restaurant at 8:30 am. Please let Mary Lou Jackson, 475-1861 or [mlj7w@yahoo.com](mailto:mlj7w@yahoo.com) know if you will be attending.

## Treasure Cove crew to celebrate

The Treasure Cove will celebrate 19 years of service with a luncheon, Thursday, Sept. 29 at noon at the 333 Café on Delaware Ave. in Delmar. For reservations and menu selection please call Jean Pelham at 439-4495 before Sept. 22.

## Methodivas to meet Sept. 11

Methodivas, a women’s group for all women, will meet on Sunday, Sept. 11 (*note change for September*) at 11 am in Fellowship Hall. Please join this group of women as they discuss plans for an upcoming retreat, baking assembly line for Fall Fair, the next “cook first, ladies night out second” evening and more!

The regular monthly schedule for gathering is typically on the first Sunday of the month and we will therefore meet next on Oct. 2. Questions? Contact Jamie Cable, 439-4193 or [jlsgoes@verizon.net](mailto:jlsgoes@verizon.net).

## Basic lay speaking course

This fall the Lay Speaking Ministries’ “Basic Lay Speaking Course” will be held at 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. 12) for a total of five sessions. Details are available on the Upper New York conference web site, [www.unyumc.org](http://www.unyumc.org). Sign-up forms are posted on the bulletin board outside Church Office.

Interested parties may contact Denise Gisotti, Certified Lay Speaker, [golfing1020@yahoo.com](mailto:golfing1020@yahoo.com).

### A NOTE OF THANKS

► To those of you in First United Methodist Church of Delmar who heard the news that I had reached the pinnacle age of 80 and wrote to me. I truly appreciated the shower of cards!

– Carole Carver

## Church Calendar for the month

Sunday, Sept. 11	11 am 11 am 7 pm	Methodiva Women's Group Church Family Life Team RPMs New Member meeting	Fellowship Hall Room 207 Delmar Reformed
Monday, Sept. 12	7 pm	Bible Basics (& 9/19,26, 10/3)	Library
Tuesday, Sept. 13	11 am 7 pm	Bible Basics (& 9/20,27, 10/4) Trustees	Library Room 207
Wednesday, Sept. 14	6:30 pm	Membership & Evangelism	Room 207
Saturday, Sept. 17	8:30 am	Women-in-the-Middle	Tool's Restaurant
Sunday, Sept. 18	9:30 am 11 am 7 pm	Homecoming Sunday Picnic RPMS regular meeting	Sanctuary Lawn (or F.H.) Delmar Reformed
Monday, Sept. 19	8 am	Senior Ministry Team	Four Corners
Tuesday, Sept. 20	5:30 pm 7 pm	Staff Parish Relations Team Finance Team	Room 207 Room 207
Saturday, Sept. 24	2 pm	Caroline Soka Memorial	Sanctuary
Sunday, Sept. 25	11 am 11 am	"Intersection of Faith & Politics" "Having a Martha Heart..." Study	Room 207 Chapel
Tuesday, Sept. 27	7 pm	Administrative Council	Room 218 <i>*note change</i>
Wednesday, Sept. 28	6:30 pm 7 pm	Basic Lay Speaking Course Worship Dream Team	Room 207 Library <i>*note change</i>
<b><i>Regular weekly schedule</i></b>			
Sundays	9:30 am 9:45 am 10:45 am 11 am  11 am	Worship (Sanctuary) Church School (classrooms) Fellowship Hour Junior/Int./Youth Choirs <i>(no rehearsals 9/18)</i> Theological/Social Issues	Sanctuary Classrooms Fellowship Hall 219/Choir Rm/218  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	Room 201 Choir Room

Final deadline for copy for our next issue is **Wednesday morning, September 28**

## More fascinating 'Bible Basics' classes with Rev. Iona

Ever wonder about some of the poetic aspects of the Bible? Come throughout September and early October to explore some of the books found in the middle of the Bible. Prior attendance at Bible Basics not needed, and feel free to come to just one or two of the sessions or simply do the reading at home!

We meet in the Library. Led by Rev. Iona Dickinson: [associate@delmarmethodist.org](mailto:associate@delmarmethodist.org), 439-9976

### Sept. 12, 7 pm – OR Sept. 13, 11 am

The Story of Job – Job 1-2, 7:1-7, 14:1-14, 23:1-17, 38:1-41, 42:1-1

### Sept. 19, 7 pm – OR Sept. 20, 11 am

Psalms 23, 51, 103, 139, 150

Your favorite Psalm (if not one listed above)

### Sept. 26, 7 pm – OR Sept. 27, 11 am

Proverbs Chapters 1-4, 8, 22:1-23, 31

### Oct. 3, 7 pm – OR Oct. 4, 11 am

Sept. 26, 7 pm – OR Sept. 27, 11 am

Proverbs Chapters 1-4, 8, 22:1-23, 31

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

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