



JANUARY 2012

THE TELESCOPE

First United Methodist Church of Delmar

www.delmarmethodist.org

Seven Sundays to reflect on '24 Hours that Changed the World'

After worship on seven Sundays beginning Feb. 5, we will present a thoughtful study course built around the book by Adam Hamilton, *24 Hours that Changed the World*.

This study, focused on the crucifixion story and led by Denise Gisotti, is a special opportunity for us to grow in the Lenten season. It will run through Sunday, March 25 (skipping Feb. 12).

"No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth," wrote Hamilton. In his book, he guides us through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. Whether readers are long-time Christians or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, they are invited to join the author in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

The course includes a hardcover book. Please sign up as soon as possible to ensure that enough books are available for all attendees. In addition a Lenten daily devotional is available. Please contact Denise Gisotti, Lay Leader, at 439-1779 or golfing1020@yahoo.com. Video sequences of Adam teaching from the Holy Land on the Video Journey product were made possible by Educational Opportunities Tours. For more information, visit www.eo.travelwithus.com.

Our Church Family

Our prayers and sympathy to Mark and Nan Rabinow and family upon the sudden death of Mark's brother John on Jan. 3.

To Dori Hallenbeck and family upon the loss of her beloved husband Steven on Jan. 8.

In our thoughts and prayers: Kim Muehe (Rathjens & Lang families), Donna Mueller (the Langs), Marge Larkin (Melissa Larkin), Velma Jones, Marilyn and Austin Cline, Dr. Brolin Parker, Albert Mertz (Emily Thomas), Doug Jones (Robin Cairns), Bill Ramey & Kevin Farnell (Pat & Roger Sutliff), Marilyn Peterson, Jim King (Julie Bushart), Gianna Gisotti (Gisotti and Jachym families), Jean Richardson and Andy Grimes (Hyacinth Mason), Patti Hardy (Pam Skripak), Ray Scheesley (Ten Eyck family), Gil & Elsie Faustel (Karen Tedesco), Laura and Edwin Busch (Joan House).

Church Family Life sponsoring our Talent show on Saturday, Jan. 21

Get out your tap shoes and warm up your voice – the Talent Show is back! Dave Gordon and Tom Denham are chairing this event. If you'd like to "wow" the crowd, then let them know you are interested.

The event begins at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall; please bring a dessert to share that needs no forks or plates! Admission to the show is a non-perishable food item for AUMS. Contact Tom Denham – careersintransition@yahoo.com.

We'll welcome new members on Sunday, Jan. 29

On behalf of the pastors and the faith community of The First United Methodist Church of Delmar, we extend to those who have been attending our church, and are searching for a church home, an invitation to become members of our Christian fellowship. New members will be received on Jan. 29 at our 9:30 am Service of Worship.

If you have any questions or interest in becoming a member of this faith community, please contact Rev. Bob Kanuck, Pastor of Congregational Care at rkanuck@delmarmethodist.org, or at 439-2689.

Martin Luther King Sunday – a day of service for our children

To honor MLK's legacy, we are performing a day of service in lieu of Sunday school classes this coming Sunday, Jan 15. Please arrange for your child up to participate in one of the following projects. **Any child needing a CAR SEAT must be driven by own parent.

◆ **Bulletin Board making** – pre-K and up, 9:30 – 11 am.

◆ **Visiting homebound folks** – pre-K and up; 9:30 – 11 am.

◆ **Emmaus** – K and up; travelling to and from Emmaus church in Albany, 10 am – 12 noon. **Drivers/ chaperones needed**

◆ **Cooking for Interfaith** with Rev. Bob & crew – K and up. 9:30 – 11:30 am **Adult helpers needed**

◆ **Schoharie Cleanup** – 12 years old and up; 11:15 am – 3 pm. **Drivers/extra adults needed** Call Beth Gould if you are attending, 596-2116.

If you are able to help, please contact Jen Bailey education@delmarmethodist.org.

Habitat build on Saturday, Jan. 14

Are you interested in participating in a Habitat build this Saturday? It's on Alexander Street in Albany, a rowhouse setting of 10 homes. We will start at 8 am and finish around 3 pm. Lunch will be provided. Contact: Mike Ryan at 439-9240 (home), 339-8613 (cell) or knmryan@verizon.net.

Mary Marthas to learn about end-of-life issues this Thursday

The next meeting of Mary Martha will take place this Thursday, Jan. 12, at 1 pm in the church Lounge. Our speaker will be The Rev. Donald Stake from The Community Hospice. He will present information regarding the types of advance directives and some of the issues associated with each, particularly as they relate to end-of-life planning. A review of the Health Care Proxy will be presented including guidance for initiating this important and often difficult discussion. For further information call Barbara Logan at 439-4782 or Shirley Milbert at 475-1298.

Lenten programs will kick off on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22

Save your Wednesdays – Feb. 22, 29, Mar 7 and 14 – for our 2nd Annual Lenten Series!

We will have a casual soup/salad dinner from 5:30 – 6:30 pm each Wednesday, followed by a 6:30-7:30 pm program. Childcare will be provided from 6:30-7:30 pm each session.

On Ash Wednesday the program is a simple service. Each Wednesday thereafter will be a selection of program offerings. The team is completing the list but it will include things like an introduction to bell ringing with Ken Loiacano, pastoral-led sessions, and a Faith and Film session with Dave Gordon.

The Emergency Overflow Shelter needs ...

Volunteers: Adult volunteers for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 6-9pm., to interact with our guests (homeless men); assist with meal set-up and serving; handling laundry (bedlinens, towels, etc.), organizing supplies, etc. Call the Shelter (at First Lutheran Church in Albany) phone 426-1227 between 6-10 pm. Training required (and provided).

Clothing: Winter coats & jackets for men, hats/gloves; thermal and regular underwear, T-shirts, and socks.

Supplies: Coffee, powdered creamer, cereal; sturdy paper plates; paper cups (for hot drinks). Donations at FUMC may be placed in the Overflow Shelter box in the near the Nursery.

A new, adjustable organ bench

We provided an extra little Christmas present, so to speak, for our organists, Ken Loiacano and Linda Conway.

The first "deliverable" included in our Organ Upgrade Project was received in time for our special Christmas Music service on Dec. 18. It's an adjustable organ bench that enhances the comfort and convenience of our organists as they "reach" for the upper and lower notes on the pedal keyboard. This new bench will be adjustable to the height of different organists' legs and thereby reduce the distance of the so-called "throw" leg and the foot stretching needed to reach the desired keys.

RPMs need warm winter items for 'Midnight Run' to the homeless

The RPMs have placed donation boxes around the church and they need lots of warm items (preferably dark colors) for their annual "Midnight Run" to help the homeless in New York City. Items needed include hats, gloves, coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (large and x-large), pants (sizes 32-40), boots and/or sneakers (men's sizes 9-12, women sizes 8 plus), long underwear and toiletries.

Meanwhile the RPMs are also gearing up for the annual **Spring Mission Trip**, which this April will take them to Claryville, NY and nearby Frost Valley to help with home repair and demo work due to damage caused by our recent disasters of Hurricane Irene and Lee.

Your donations can help make this trip a success. Please make your check payable to "RPM Seniors," and mail it to Delmar Reformed Church, 386 Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054, Attn: RPMs. Your contribution is tax-deductible and will entitle you to a complimentary dinner when the group returns and shares information about their experience.

Also, the group will have its annual fundraising coffee house on Saturday, March 10 at 7 pm at Delmar Reformed Church.

Senior High class using donuts and your donations to help Food Bank

The Senior High Sunday School Class will be collecting money and canned goods to help the hungry on Sunday, Jan. 29 and Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 5). Look for the Soup Pots at the doors of the Sanctuary to make your contribution.

Also, plan to buy donuts and baked goods made by the class at coffee hour on "Souper" Bowl Sunday Feb. 5. All proceeds will be donated to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY.

The Christmas Gifts We Shared This Year

During the Christmas season, many people in our congregation took advantage of opportunities to assist individuals and groups in need, both locally and elsewhere in our world. There seems to be no end to what we are capable of doing for other people! We continue to demonstrate that we care – and that we are willing to share what we have with those who have far less than we do.

◆ For **AUMS** (Albany United Methodist Society), we supplied several carloads of toys, hats, mittens and scarves for parents to give their children. We also provided wrapping paper, bows, and gift bags and small items such as knickknacks, costume jewelry, puzzles, memo pads, and tools for children to select and wrap as gifts for their parents. In addition, we donated a number of “gently used” coats and boots for children and adults.

◆ For **Support Ministries**, which offers residential services for people with HIV/AIDS, we provided two “angel tree” gifts for every man, woman and child in the program. (For most of those individuals, those were the only gifts received.)

◆ For the **Overflow Shelter**, which is operated by the Capital Area Council of Churches in partnership with the First Lutheran Church in Albany, in addition to our regular contribution of “home cooked” dinners each Saturday during the winter months, we provided a special Christmas Eve dinner of baked ham, potatoes, broccoli

casserole, and pumpkin pie. As Christmas gifts for the 19 men at the shelter, we provided warm “hoodies” and gift bags of candy, personal care items, hand warmers – and hand-knitted scarves and homemade cookies. What a treat for guys who need to be reminded that there are people in this world who care!

◆ For **Cookson Hills United Methodist Center**, which serves Native Americans in Cookson, Oklahoma, we provided money for the purchase of Christmas gifts such as battery cables and flannel shirts.

◆ Our **Mission Movers** were able to make several furniture deliveries the week before Christmas, making rather Spartan apartments a bit more comfortable for some families in need.

◆ **Good Samaritan Nursing Home** residents who have no close relatives to help them celebrate the holiday received 30 beautiful lap robes that had been crocheted or knitted by women in our church.

◆ And at last count, our “alternative to poinsettias” donations for **Heifer, Inc.** added to money contributed earlier in the year, totaled over \$4000! That money will help people in impoverished countries become self-sufficient. It will help families feed their children. It will train farmers in environmentally sound agriculture. It will provide livestock where needed. It will help make the world a better place!

– Mission Ministry Team



PASTORAL MESSAGE

Some books on faith, community and ministry that have meant a great deal to me

Rev. Deborah O'Connor-Slater

In June of 2012 I will be celebrating 31 years in ordained ministry in the United Methodist denomination. In that time I have read thousands of books, sacred and secular, that have informed my theological perspective, charged my imagination and shaped my spiritual journey. In my 31 years as an itinerant pastor I have moved eight times. Each time I move I look through my accumulated library to decide what will stay.

It goes without saying that I still have every Bible I have ever owned – many with tape holding the cover and spine together. Here is a short list of other books that have traveled with me:

◆ *Your God Is Too Small*, by J.B. Phillips. “Many men and women today are living, often with inner dissatisfaction, without any faith in God at all,” he writes. “This is not because they are ... godless, but because they have not found with an adult mind a God big enough to ‘account for’ life.” The purpose of his book is to expose the inadequate concepts that prevent us from seeing the true God – and to suggest ways in which we can find the real God ourselves.

◆ *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (completed in 1938 and was translated to English in 1954). He writes, “Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ. No Christian community is more or less than this. Whether it be a brief, single encounter or the daily fellowship of years, Christian community is only this. We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ.”

A German by birth, Bonhoeffer taught for a time at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, returned to his homeland during the rise of the Hitler regime, joined the resistance, was captured and executed at Flossenbug concentration camp just weeks before it was liberated.

◆ *Disappointment With God: Three Questions No One Asks Aloud*, by Phillip Yancey. Yancey helps us wrestle with why bad things happen to faithful people. “We tend to think, Life should be fair because God is fair. But God is not life. And if I confuse God with physical reality of life – by expecting constant good health, for example – then I set myself up for a crashing disappointment.”

◆ *Generation to Generation; Family Process in Church and Synagogue*, by Edwin Friedman. A rabbi working in Maryland until his untimely death in 1996, he helps us apply concepts of systemic family therapy to the emotional life of a congregation. Viewing the congregation as a “family,” Friedman compares the emotional processes at work within individual families to those in church and synagogue, and suggests that clergy can often do more to help families by the way they lead their congregations than they can through specific counseling sessions.”

I have several more books that have traveled with me through the years. To be continued...

Blessings for the day – **Deborah**

Join new team to help with communications and marketing

The Administrative Council has approved the formation of a new committee to assist our church in Communications & Marketing. The committee will develop a business plan to submit for funding approval for 2013. Items under consideration include:

- ◆ Redoing the website.
- ◆ Develop a plan and recruit a staff to continue the *Telescope*.
- ◆ Advertising.
- ◆ Press releases.
- ◆ Sponsorships.
- ◆ Creating attractive flyers for other committees.
- ◆ Opening a Facebook account.

The committee is seeking people who have talent in advertising, marketing and creativity – and we have a special need for some youth/teens to who will take on a task to completion. Especially helpful would be people who can:

- ◆ Photograph or video church activities.
- ◆ Design and create flyers for others.
- ◆ Write.
- ◆ Understand Facebook and other social media.

If you are interested, please email John Giordano at johnleah@verizon.net and include your areas of strength and interest in the above items.

A NOTE OF THANKS

► Thank you all so very much for the generous gift upon the birth of our daughter Salina Rose. It is such a gift to be part of this faith community and even more so for both of our daughters to be loved by this community. Thank you for your generosity and for being you!

— Iona Dickinson and Phil Jenkins

Friendship Club on Jan. 27

Friendship Club will begin its 2012 programs on Jan. 27 with a special presentation on Dr. Mary Edward Walker, the first (and only) woman to receive the Medal of Honor. (And we're optimistic that this year, the weather will treat us better than last, when we had so many cancellations.)

We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm, followed by our program. The meal is potluck; 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, neighbor, or a fellow church member.

The Jan. 27 program will be a presentation by Valerie Thompson entitled "Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Civil War Surgeon."

If you are not on the calling list, call Hertha Thayer for reservations at 453-0450. For questions, call Mark Baumbach at 765-4419.

Program planned on Alzheimer's

On Sunday, Jan. 22 at 11:15 am, Church and Society will sponsor a presentation on "The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease," by Karen Britt, Western Regional Program Manager for the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York. Her presentation, which will take place in the Hummel Chapel, is aimed at people who want to learn more about this devastating illness for themselves and/or loved ones.

Karen has been with the Alzheimer's Association since 2002 in various capacities, and has worked extensively with individuals suffering from dementia and with their families. All of us either know someone affected by this disease or have worried that it will affect our families and friends. Please plan to stay after the service for this important presentation.

Church Calendar for the month

Thursday, Jan. 12	1 pm	Mary Marthas	Lounge
Sunday, Jan. 15	9:30 am	Special MLK Sunday Service Activities	Church School
Monday, Jan. 16	8 am	Senior Ministry Team <i>Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observed</i>	4 Corners Restaurant <i>Offices closed</i>
Tuesday, Jan. 17	5:30 pm 7:15 pm	Staff Parish Relations Team Education Ministry Team	Room 207 Room 218
Wednesday, Jan. 18	6:30 pm 7 pm	Membership & Evangelism Administrative Council	Room 207 Room 218
Saturday, Jan. 21	6 pm	Church Family Talent Show	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Jan. 22	11 am 12 noon	Special program on Alzheimer's Confirmation Class Session #1	Hummel Chapel Fellowship Hall/216
Monday, Jan. 23 (<i>& 30th; Feb. 6 & 13</i>)	6:30 pm	Building Your Personal Theology	Hummel Chapel
Tuesday, Jan. 24	7 pm	Finance Team	Room 207
Wednesday, Jan. 25	7 pm	Worship Dream Team	Room 207
Friday, Jan. 27	6 pm	Friendship Club	Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Jan. 29	9:30 am	New Member Sunday	Sanctuary
Sunday, Feb. 4	11 am	<i>24 Hours that Changed the World (begins)</i>	Room 207
<i>Regular weekly schedule</i>			
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 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, February 1			

Building Your Personal Theology



From a pocket knife in the past to a smartphone today, we all have ordinary, everyday, dependable things that make our lives better.

Having a good, workable theology is also one of those essentials. Come put together the pieces of your theology.

Through conversation, creative reflection and connection

to God, join us in building your personal theology. Some homework is required before the class starts and between each session.

Led by Rev. Iona Dickinson and Lisa Ball. Please register by **Wednesday, Jan. 18** so we can get you the class materials. Call Iona at 439-9976 or email associate@delmarmethodist.org.

- ◆ **January 23, 30, February 6, 13** 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Hummel Chapel
- ◆ **Cost: \$20** (if you register with a friend, the second person is just \$10)
- ◆ Childcare available for \$5/child/week. Request for childcare, as well as payment, due by Jan. 18.

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

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