

The Forecaster - September, 2015

Official Publication of First Congregational Church, UCC
30 Main Street, Binghamton, New York 13905
The Rev. Dr. Arthur M. Suggs, Pastor

September



No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at First Congregational Church!

Message from Pastor Janet Abel

September always feels like the real beginning of the year to me--new pencils and pens, the sight of yellow school buses driving around town, leaves changing color and a snap to the air. It's that time of year again, and we're beginning a new church year on September 20th with Rally Day and Joyful Noise. The church is also hosting a Conference entitled *Exploring Quadratos* on September 17-20th (see article below).

We've kept busy this summer with all kinds of small groups meeting almost every night of the week, and we are busy planning for our annual Ice Cream Social and School Supply Give Away on September 3rd.

I'm writing this note as Art and Tracy are on a well-deserved vacation. The sympathy of the Congregation does go out to Tracy on the loss of her mother, Dottie.

Please consider joining us for Sunday worship at 10am, and check out the calendar of events, both in this Forecaster and online at www.uccbinghamton.org. Have a great September, and to all going back to school--best wishes!

- Peace, Janet

Exploring Quadratos With Alexander John Shaia

"Quadratos is a door to a new paradigm within Christianity, and a fresh dialogue with world spirituality, psychology, the arts and even science." ~ Alexander John Shaia

Within Christianity, Quadratos provides a deeper understanding of Jesus the Christ and a new foundation for affirming early Christianity's choice of four gospels and the ancient – now restored – gospel reading sequence for Sunday worship. The four progressive paths of Quadratos correspond to the four gospels and the four great questions of the spiritual life. Each gospel's question and practice is revealed within a particular landscape and its human experience.

First Path: How do we face change? Climbing the Great Mountain of Matthew

Second Path: How do we move through suffering? Crossing Mark's Stormy Sea

Third Path: How do we receive joy? Resting in John's Glorious Garden

Fourth Path: How do we mature in service? Walking Luke's Road of Riches

This weekend conference will be held on September 17-20, 2015 at First Congregational Church, 30 Main Street, Binghamton, NY. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 17, 7:00-8:45 p.m.: Talk – open to the public

Friday, Sept. 18, 5:00-7:30 p.m.: Preparing for the Journey & First Path (Matthew)

Saturday, Sept. 19, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.: Second Path (Mark), Third Path (John)

Sunday, Sept. 20, 1:00-4:00 p.m.: Fourth Path (Luke), Continuing the Journey & Blessings

Talk only: \$25; Retreat (Fri-Sun): \$150; Lecture & Retreat (full program): \$160

(Lunch & snacks included) Make check payable to *First Congregational Church*. Mail to 30 Main St., Binghamton, NY 13905.

To register, call 607-644-0736 or visit www.thesophiacenterforspirituality.org

Happy Birthday to those celebrating their special day



Carole Resseguie	9/1	Jane Wadsworth	9/27
Zeb Carstrom	9/1	Erick Clasen	10/6
Aleda Stamboulian	9/3	David Ely	10/6
Marian Simpson	9/12	Alison Beautz	10/6
Mary Cuddeback	9/14	Joyce Marderian	10/6
Clare Price	9/14	Brianna O'Neill	10/6
Delores Megyesi	9/15	Katie Izzo	10/13
Dorothy Gardner	9/16	Matthew Cluff	10/17
Peg Kingsbury	9/17	James Mateya	10/25
Dan Reissig	9/17	Charles Wadsworth	10/26
Mattis Krieger	9/19	Riley Patrick Gyllenhammer	
David Adams	9/20		10/28
Kim Reissig	9/20	Leslie Dahlgren	10/30
Verna Griffiths	9/25	Norene Robbins	10/30
Deb Miller	9/25	Michael Schaugency	10/31

Please call the office if you notice an omission from our Birthday List.



School Supply donations for our Ice Cream Social

Last year at the Ice Cream Social a little over 215 bags of school supplies were distributed for free - we ran out! This year the committee hopes to assemble more supply bags. In asking for donations, please keep the supplies to pencils, pens, lined note books, erasers, folders and some crayons. Samples are on display in the sanctuary. This way everyone receives same. Our Ice Cream Social will be held on September 3rd, from 5-7pm. In addition to ice cream and school supply give-away, there will be live music and games for the kids. We would love our members and friends to come and meet our neighbors and share the love of Christ. Signup sheets for volunteers to help at the social is posted in the hallway. Thanks for your help!

Art's Assistance Fund

Last year we donated money to Art's Assistance Fund instead of doing Easter Food Baskets. The need is still great, so we will continue donating to the fund again this year. Please put your contribution in an envelope in the plate marked for the fund with your name, or mail to the office. Thank you.

Heart Centered Living

Are you a spiritual seeker? You are not alone on your journey. As a seeker, HCL is the place to witness and experience your own truth. If you are feeling confused; If you are feeling disconnected; If things are changing too fast for you; If you are questioning the increasing turmoil in the world; If you want to make a difference but don't know where to start; join us in sharing and examining current and relevant topics such as Energy, Meditation, Healing, Health and Wellness, Global Awareness, Sustainability and Spirituality. Together we can affect positive change in ourselves, our community and create a more heart centered world. To learn more visit us at www.heart-centered-living.org, or contact Renée at 607-226-2354.

Are you interested in becoming a member of First Congregational Church?

Do you have questions about what is involved? If you would like to learn more, please speak with one of the Pastors, either Janet Abel or Art Suggs.

Science of Mind

The Metanoia Science of Mind work study group continues reading and discussing the Ernest Holmes book, "How to Use the Science of Mind," on Tuesdays 6:30-8:30pm at 3585 Carman Rd. Please call Ethy for further information at 727-1068.

Save the Date

We are privileged to have Tim Hamm join us for worship on Sunday October 25th, with a concert following in our Sanctuary. Tim is a writer, and composer of music suitable for all spirituality and uplifting life messages. Details will be forthcoming in our next Forecaster.



From the Office...

Our next Forecaster will be an October publication, so please send me articles, programs, events, and any 'save-the-date' reminders. The due date for your articles is September 15th. Thanks, Leslie



Spiritual Book Group (SBG)

The SBG is beginning September and the fall season with a new book: *Zealot* by Dr. Reza Aslan. Dr. Aslan has a BA in Religious studies, a minor in biblical Greek, a Masters in Theology of World Religions from Harvard, and a PhD in the Sociology of Religions from the University of California Santa Barbara.

About his book *Zealot* from Publishers Weekly: "The person and work of Jesus of Nazareth has been a topic of constant interest since he lived and died some 2,000 years ago. Much speculation about who he was and what he taught has led to confusion and doubt. Aslan, who authored the much acclaimed *No God But God: The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam*, offers a compelling argument for a fresh look at the Nazarene, focusing on how Jesus the man evolved into Jesus the Christ. Approaching the subject from a purely academic perspective, the author parts an important curtain that has long hidden from view the man Jesus, who is every bit as compelling, charismatic, and praiseworthy as Jesus the Christ. Carefully comparing extra-biblical historical records with the New Testament accounts, Aslan develops a convincing and coherent story of how the Christian church, and in particular Paul, reshaped Christianity's essence, obscuring the very real man who was Jesus of Nazareth. Compulsively readable and written at a popular level, this superb work is highly recommended."

Dr. Aslan was the keynote speaker and preacher at the annual UCC Conference for NY that Art and Tracy, Mary and Bill Cuddeback and Janet attended, and he was an excellent and interesting speaker.

Please join us on Wednesdays at noon in the parlor for our discussion of *Zealot*. Also, Dr. Aslan was interviewed by Fox News on his book, which you can find on Youtube.

Save the Date !

Our Annual Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, October 17th, from 9-2pm. Save your good merchandise, including books, for this fundraiser. Thank you.



BOOK-WORDS!

(another new direction for our church)

The End of Your Life Book Club, by Will Schwalbe. *Reading can, and probably should, lead to discussions about ideas. When the elephant in the room is a terminal illness, shared reading can deepen readers' lives, as it did in the case of this mother and son.*

616.99 SCHW

Protest and Praise: Sacred Music of Black Religion, by Jon Michael Spencer. *The author tracks the two major genres of sacred Black music, protest and praise, from their origins through their evolution, into their development as civil rights anthems and the blues. This is a unique account of a people's struggle with God through history.*

781.71 SPEN

The Sacred Sites Bible: the Definitive Guide to Spiritual Places, by Anthony Taylor. *Contains full-color photos of over 100 sacred sites as they appear today and reconstructions of how they looked originally. Includes details of their construction and information on why they are considered sacred. Bonus: advice on the best time of year to visit!*

910.202 TAYL

Christian Art, by Rowena Loverance. *A sumptuously illustrated survey of Christian art over 2000 years and across the globe, and a probing study of what "Christian art" really means, how it functions, where it arises, and whom it serves.*

704.9482 LOVE

Genius in The Shadows: a Biography of Leo Szilard, The Man Behind the Bomb, by William Lanouette. *A scientist of the first order, but overshadowed by others associated with the atomic bomb—Einstein, Oppenheimer, and Teller, Szilard was as great a contributor as they were to those efforts during World War II, and became far more active in the control of nuclear arms after the war than many of them.*

530.092 LANO

The People's Bible: the Remarkable History of the King James Version, by Derek Wilson and Diarmaid MacCulloch. *In response to the complaints of the Puritans, King James I of England commissioned a new translation of the Bible, readable by everyone in his kingdom and available in every church in the realm.*

And the world has never been the same since 1611, the year the Authorized Version was published.

220.52038 WILS

Christian Education
Why Church Matters to Kids

Now that school is out and the kids are getting so much free time to do what they want to do, see what they want to see and take in as much time as they possibly can outdoors, we want to offer up some spiritual food for thought as we gear up for the new church year.

The following are some reasons why church matters to kids:

- 1) The church matters (deeply) to Jesus.
- 2) The church is his body and kids matter deeply to Jesus.
- 3) Jesus wants to run to our kids and embrace them as his own children through love and prayers, song and praise.
- 4) The church matters because your kids matter to Jesus, and through his church, Jesus blesses them.
- 5) If Jesus matters to us, then what matters to Jesus will matter to us.

Seasons of Creation will begin in September with Forest Sunday, Land Sunday, Wilderness Sunday and River Sunday where each Sunday will evoke a connection with the story of Genesis.

Our children's program begins after the first hymnal in the worship service and we encourage kids to stay with their caretaker/parents until then so they can participate and be a part of the church body. We hope that you will be able to join us.

"Let the little children come to me for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14.

Reminder that Rally Day is Sunday September 20th.

Kindly contact Renée Guidelli at 607-226-2354 if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Board of Trustees, Meeting Summary,
June 16, 2015

May minutes were approved with corrections.

Financials: Motion to review investment accounts quarterly.

Pastor's report:

Art spoke about the New York State Conference of U.C.C.'s Covenant Sharing fundraiser. Discussion about Capital Campaign.

Old business:

Leaks no longer evident, in spite of recent heavy rains. We are keeping an eye on this.

Defibrillator training on worship schedule, June 28.

Audio problems still being investigated.

No date yet for UNOs fundraiser. (Update: Date is August 19th)

Mowing and fertilizing by interim continues. No quote yet for permanent worker.

Window cleaning quote received.

New business:

Discussion re: alarm system.

Discussion of repairs to clock in the parlor.

Library A/C will be included in the next window project.

Plaque needed for the wall for Janet, who is to be ordained in Autumn. Next meeting in September.

The Path

By Janet Marie Russo

2009

*Trust your instincts;
they will take you far.*

*Believe in yourself;
you can achieve anything*

Have faith in the path of your life.

*Place a picture in your mind
where you would like to be;
dwell there for a while.*

*Let your spirit
guide your steps
taking you as far in this life
as your heart desires.*



CHOW Sundays will be September 6th and October 4th. Our pantry needs are fruit juice, canned fruit, soup, ramen noodles, pasta sauce, pasta, canned meats, canned green beans, peanut butter and potatoes. Thank you.



Jazz Vespers

Save the date: Sunday, October 11th at 5pm. This is when the Jazz Vespers season begins with a fabulous program featuring our own Judy Giblin as vocalist. More details to follow in the next Forecaster. Mark your calendars now!

The Kreiger family came to town.

During July Rev. Markus Kreiger and his lovely family made a visit to Binghamton. Markus was an Intern Pastor here from the EKHN protestant church in Germany in 2011. With his wife, Susanne, and daughter Katharina, they made many friends here. Since then a son, Mattis, has joined the Kreiger family. In addition to worshipping with us three Sundays, Markus delivered the morning message on July 19th. It was fun to renew the friendship with our German family.



Senior Choir News by Nancy Wildoner

New members welcome!

Our first choir rehearsal will be on Sept 13th at 9:15am. Then, starting in October, we sing on the first two Sundays of each month.

Nancy will be performing at the New York State Fair Empire Theater on the Wurlitzer Organ Tues. Sept 1 (senior day) at 1pm and 3 pm, and on Wed. Sept 2 at 2pm and 4pm. Judy Giblin and Randy Messing will join her on a few tunes at the 4pm show.

We had a good time at the ball game!

The annual church outing to the B-Mets ball game this year was July 29th. There were 37 members and friends who attended from FCC. It was a beautiful summer evening that made for some great fellowship. The home town team played a great game of baseball and won the game! The evening ended with a nice fireworks display.

Markus Kreiger learned to like baseball while here in 2011 when a few members took him to a game July 17th since he would not be here on the 29th. That was another great evening and well-played game that the Mets won.

The B-Mets are playing very good baseball this season. If you haven't seen a game, you should give it a try!

While it is day by Toni Rorapaugh

We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. John 9:4

It was a beautiful day. At about 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 25, my husband and I drove to Otsiningo Park and registered for the Walk to Defeat ALS. If you know anything about Yankee baseball player Lou Gehrig, you probably know him as the most famous person ever stricken with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis--ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. We were there to support our friend, Ken, and his family. We were wearing our special t-shirts, which bore Ken's picture and our group name: Kenny's Team.

Just prior to the official start of the Walk, the organizer told us that there were over 600 of us there that morning, up from about 450 the previous year. As I stood there on the path, I saw the colorful t-shirts of many other teams. Some people also sported white signs that bore the name of the person they were walking in honor of or in memory of, names like Nancy, Bernie, Joe, Marc, Denise, and Ken. A man standing in front of me wore two signs; he was walking in memory of one person and in honor of another.

As we began the Walk, we passed a sign telling us that since Lou Gehrig's diagnosis in 1939, over 7 million more people have been diagnosed with ALS. Ken and Denise were both there, leading their teams from their wheelchairs, but many others are unable to get out--perhaps they lack the kinds of mobility that these two can manage. I tried to imagine what it must be like to be unable to move at all, except to breathe, to be confined to a bed, perhaps to struggle to breathe. This annual Walk--like the ice water challenge you may have heard of--helps to raise funds, in part, so that ALS patients have access to the technology that will allow them to survive until research finds a cure; it also helps fund that research.

(Continued on page 6)

(While it is day continued from page 5)

After the Walk, we were treated to pizza and snacks. Out of my small bag of sour cream and onion potato chips I pulled a heart-shaped chip. It was not the first heart-shaped chip I'd seen, so I didn't mention it. It was part way into my mouth before I noticed the small hole in it. A heart-shaped chip with a hole in it--oh, that's so corny! Didn't mention that, either.

But I did think that the holey chip was a kind of symbol, and I couldn't help but think about my friend's discovery of a tape her late husband had made years ago, that she had never heard, and just discovered recently. On the tape he sings of how time is running out, and how the Lord has charged us to do God's works before night comes, when no one can work.

It was a beautiful day in Otsiningo Park, and there we were, doing the works we were given to do while it was day.

How To Contact Us:

**Mon –Thurs, 9:00-3:00 pm,
(607)723-8981**

fcc@binghamtonwireless.com

Web: www.uccbinghamton.org

- The Rev. Dr. Arthur M. Suggs – Senior Pastor**
- The Rev. Janet Abel – Associate Pastor**
- Renee Guidelli – Director of Christian Education**
- Nancy Wildoner – Organist & Choir Director**
- Maureen Helms – Director of Joyful Noise**
- Judy Giblin – Director of Jazz Vespers**
- Leslie Dahlgren – Office Manager**
- Sharon Shaddock – Childcare Provider**
- Alice Pettit – Treasurer**
- Chuck Mallery—Financial Secretary**
- Erick Clasen – Web Master**
- Vanessa Warren– Bookkeeper**
- Cindi West-Davidson – Custodian**
- Toni Rorapaugh—Librarian**



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