



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



Pastor's Perspective

I read an interview a couple weeks ago that was beautiful, moving, and is with me still. The gist of it was that a spiritually sensitive editor of the journal Parabola, Jeff Zaleski, was interviewing Barry Svigals, who was the lead architect for a new elementary school to replace the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

After the tragedy there on December 14, 2012, the community decided to raze the school and build anew. The building is now complete and will open for the new school year on August 29. What impressed me as I read was the way in which Mr. Svigals used his art, that of architecture, to help heal, to project a feeling of safety for the children, to instill a sense on that very site that the children were loved and cared for and they can learn in a healing space. Facets of the conversation had to do with incorporating nature into and around the building (a flock of ducks were common at the old school, sometimes coming inside and needing to be shooed out), the matter of security, and how to display various forms of artwork the children had made.

Below are a couple paragraphs to give you a feel for the interview. If you would like to read it in full, which I highly recommend, it is at parabola.org, the August 1, 2016 (current) issue.

P: I understand that you said to the people of Newtown, in effect, "I can't decide how this new school should look. You should decide."

BS: Well, it was deeper than that. Nobody knew, including them, what was needed. And it wasn't simply the school. The school was going to be a manifestation of whatever the process was. And the tendency for architects is to focus upon the result—to imagine what it's going to look like. And how people will feel in it, all those things. We can forget to remain as long as possible with a question of what the need is. What are we serving? Often it's much broader and something we can't possibly know. The most important tool is to remember that we don't know—an active not-knowing.

P: What's the balance between not knowing and yet, from your experience as an architect, having a reservoir of knowledge and understanding that you could bring to this project?

BS: It's quite a natural one. It is a wish to listen as deeply as possible. If there's any single attribute of successful engagements around the making of something that's to serve a need, it is that. And it's a very particular kind of listening that allows for a transformation of a situation in ways that are inevitably surprising.

(continued on page 4)

**Happy Birthday to those celebrating
their special day in
September and October...**



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

Please call the office if you notice any omissions/errors from the birthday list. Thank you.

Beginning Tai Chi Class

Tai Chi supports good circulation, better balance, and mental acuity. Class will be held on Mondays, from 6-7pm in the Eden Room, and led by Dr. Stanley Barrett. Please wear comfortable clothing and donations are welcomed at each session.



Soul Writing Classes Coming Up Soon

Details will be available in the office soon for upcoming Soul Writing classes taught by Ellyn Sanna. Ellyn will offer several classes with different dates and times (tba) so chances are it will fit in with your scheduling needs. These are the topics that will be included:

- Soul Writing Alchemy: Using the Power of Words for Inner Transformation
- Soul Writing Through Oz: Storytelling Your Life with *The Wizard of Oz*
- Soul Writing and the Body: Reconnecting with Your Physical Being
- Soul Writing and Nature: Feeding Your Writing with the Power of the Earth.
- Soul Writing and Your Memories: Discovering the Creative Value of Your Past

We will post the details in upcoming bulletins, or call the office.

Spiritual Book Group

Spiritual Book Group will be back on September 7th – meeting every Wednesday at noon. Our next book will be, “The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why” by Phyllis Trickle.

From Publisher’s Weekly:

“North American Christianity is presently undergoing a change every bit as radical as the Protestant Reformation, possibly even as monumental as its natal break with Judaism. And it’s right on schedule. Tickle, the author of “God-Talk in America” and PW’s founding religion editor, observes that Christianity is holding its semimillennial rummage sale of ideas. With an elegance of argument and economy of description, Tickle escorts readers through the centuries of church history leading to this moment and persuasively charts the character of and possibilities for the emerging church. Don’t let this book’s brevity fool you. It is packed with keen insights about what this great emergence is, how it came to be and where it may be headed. Tickle issues a clear call to acknowledge the inevitability of change, discern the church’s new shape and participate responsibly in the transformation. Although Tickle’s particular focus excludes the forces of Asian, African and Central/South American Christianity, this is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the face and future of Christianity.”

We will be using the paperback edition, dated 9/1/2012. Please join us, and have a great Summer! - Pastor Janet Abel



Rally Day, 2016 is Here!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11th when we will celebrate our special ‘wear your red’ Rally Day.

Joyful Noise will worship with us and our annual group picture by the church steps will be taken.

Coffee Hour will be sponsored by the CE Committee and they will have pizza and other refreshments on hand.

It’s a fun start to bringing in the activities of the fall season. See you then!

- Tracy Suggs and the CE Committee

Fellowship Evening

By popular request, our September Fellowship evening on Friday the 16th, will feature another TALENT NIGHT. Once again, you are asked to share your gift, your talent, whatever is your favorite thing to do that would be of interest to the rest of us.

As before, it doesn't have to be long – keeping it to ten minutes or less will allow time to fit everyone in. Please give some thought over the summer to what you would be willing to present and let Bob or Allyson White know, either in person, e-mail at: aa2rwwhite@stny.rr.com, or phone 687-6294.

Every day, think as you wake up,
Today I am fortunate to have woken up.
I am alive, I have a precious human life.

I am not going to waste it.
I am going to use all my energies to develop myself,
to expand my heart out to others,
to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings.

I am going to have kind thoughts toward others.
I am not going to get angry, or think badly about others.
I am going to benefit others as much as I can.

-His Holiness, The XIV Dalai Lama

(Submitted by Mary Cuddeback)

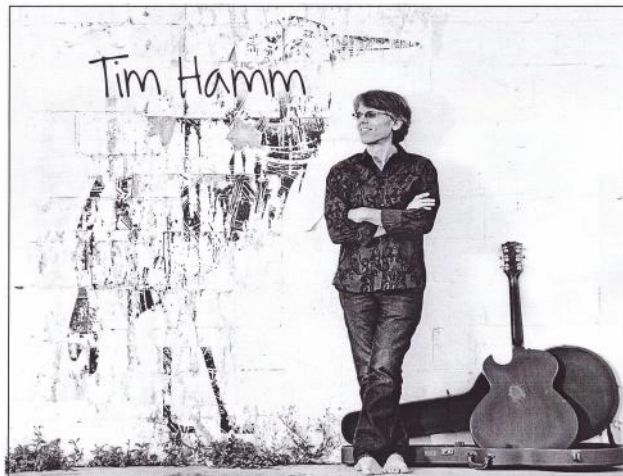


Rummage Sale

This year's Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday, October 22nd from 9-2pm.

Please bring your clothing, (clean and in good condition, please), housewares, linens, holiday items, books, coats and warm clothing for winter, and jewelry. We will not be accepting shoes.

If you can help the committee by offering some extra hands, please let Mary Cuddeback know. Although this is a neighborhood mission, it is a main fundraiser for FCC.



Tim Hamm in Concert

"Music, Mindfulness, and Metta"

Sunday, September 25th - 1:00 pm

First Congregational Church, U.C.C.

30 Main Street Binghamton, NY 13905

For more information, go to timhamm.net

Ice Cream Social

This year we are planning to hold our fifth neighborhood Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening, September 1, 2016 from 5 to 7pm. In addition to ice cream, games and live music, we have distributed hundreds of bags of school supplies for kids going back to school the following week. As a special treat, for older kids we have two bicycles to raffle off along with a backpack.



In the school supply giveaway, we try to include three notebooks, pens, pencil, eraser, and for younger kids, crayons. During the middle of the summer there are some good sales on these items. We would like members to donate supplies or make a cash contribution for the committee to purchase the items.

We will also be looking for help on the night to serve ice cream, distribute supplies, hand out raffle tickets, put up tables and help with crowd control. You will hear more about this during the summer. It makes a busy couple of nights, but it's a nice community outreach opportunity.

Thanks to all who helped in any way!

-surge-
"i am like water."

You are my mirror
on a still lake
my
quiet
river.

wave upon wave
i float... i drift...

i flow
with
You.

rippling on Your current

i am Your

Truth

Beauty

Light.

i am Yours

i am Love

now

always

forever.

"I AM LIKE WATER"

-Surge-

Julie Ann Johnson, 2013

From The Sophia Center for Spirituality

We will offer the following programs in September:

- Tuesdays, 12:15-12:45p.m.: Lunch with the Psalms.
- Thurs., Sept. 15, 6:30-8:30p.m: Lin Neil's lecture series "Encountering Earth - Reclaiming the Human in the Web of Life" begins with the first talk, "Dreaming a New Way," in the Sanctuary. Donation: \$20 or \$75 for the five-part series.
- Sun., Sept. 25, 6-7 p.m.: Prayer Service in the Manner of Taizé, in the Sanctuary. Free-will donation.

(Pastor's Perspective continued)

That listening also is something that changes the person who is speaking. It can be an encouragement. It can be that this openness can resonate in others, so that it is a shared openness. So, in a way, the person speaking is also listening to something that is larger than both of us who are speaking. That is, we're in the embrace of this other that we don't remember. That we're not sensitive to and don't realize that we're a part of—a collective group. And this is what happened at Sandy Hook, where we had a lot of people whom we gathered to create an atmosphere of respect. Listening was essential in allowing what needed to happen, happen. That the transformation from the trauma and the grief and the loss into the creation of something that would serve children who had not yet been born, would happen—and to have the wish for our children to be fulfilled in some way. The school needed a process of that opening in order for people to participate.

And then at the end of the interview...

P: So on August 29th some little kids are going to walk into that school for the first time. What would you like them to experience? What do you think they will experience?

BS: I want them to smile. And I want them to feel the embrace of the building. The town's First Selectman Pat Llodra spoke at one of our events. She said to the sea of people who had been working on this site, "Thank you all for being here, thank you for doing what you're doing. My wish is that the love that you have for what you do will be in this building, so that when the children come in, they'll feel that love." And my wish is that when they walk into this building, they'll feel the love that so many people have put into this building, and I think they will.

Hope this has been a blessed Summer for you all,

FCC Trustees Summary Report, June 21, 2016

Pastor's Report

Former member Bob Conklin died Monday.

The beautification of the showers upstairs is completed.

New tenants, BRSC, have their own internet account in order to get the bandwidth they need.

Tai Chi and writing classes coming.

Financial reports

Motion to approve; passed.

Motion to authorize \$600 for audio equipment: passed.

Old Business

1. Meeting with financial advisors not needed now, but perhaps once per year.

2. Additional motion detector in system, keyless entry, and auto-arm approved.

(Continued page 5)



From the Office...

Our next Forecaster will be an October publication, so please send me articles, programs, events, and any 'save-the-date' reminders for October, and November, as well. if you have them. *The due date for this publication is September 21st.*
Thanks, Leslie



Joyful Noise Schedule

Rehearsals will be on 9/1 and 9/8. We will then play on Rally Day, September 11th.

From Nancy Wildoner

Choir rehearsals will begin again Sept. 19 at 9:30am.

Nancy will be playing the Wurlitzer at the NYS Fair on Aug. 30, 31, and Sept. 4 & 5.

(Trustee Summary Report continued)

3. No news on former Ridley-Lowell building.
4. New tenants have moved in.
5. New bequest paperwork completed.
6. Capital campaign update: Delta and Keystone coming next week. Bearsh Compeau Knudson will be contacted and shown David's idea. Carpeting in Sanctuary on list. New windows (phase 3) approved on May 22.

New Business

1. Discussion of Church Administrator's supervisory responsibilities.
2. Discussion of appropriate budget line to use for microphone purchase.

Motion to raise hourly rate for Custodian and add hours: passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. with prayer.

Next meeting will be in September.

Sitting At A Crossroads

Dou Treiman

Throughout history, great religious institutions have arisen at major crossroads. Many of the cities named in the Bible, especially those for whom New Testament books are named, were the natural intersections of valley highways, rivers, caravan routes, and harbors. Where people naturally gravitate, they bring their religious ideas as well as their varied cultures and needs. Poor people, as well, gravitate to crossroads, as it is there that they are more likely to find enough generous-hearted people who would be willing to give them some measure of relief.

Among the many features that make FCC unique in our community is that it sits at one of the key intersections in Binghamton and, of course, just a few feet over from the Department of Social Services. So, it is little wonder that the needy of our community would gravitate towards us as place where they can find emergency assistance or even just a moment's respite from the sun and the cold, and the endless quest for food and shelter.

We address these needs on many levels and in many means, and it does me proud to be a member of a Church family that recognizes the need and rises to it, as we are able. Disproportionate to our numbers of members, the amount of cash and cash equivalents we give out to these desperate people is both astounding and simply inadequate. Thus in our Congregational Conversation of this past August 7, Art called this to our attention as he is the one who usually hands out the cash—often, but not always in exchange for some chore or bit of work Art assigns to these needy persons, at least as much to preserve their dignity as to meet our institutional needs. Doing so, Art responds to no lesser command than that of Jesus himself, (Luke 14:13-14) "Invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Clearly, we all should be thinking about how we should be funding this ongoing effort.

Organ Crawl

You are invited to an organ crawl on Saturday, October 1, 2016. The event is very informal. We start at Tabernacle Methodist Church, Binghamton at 9am. We will arrive at First Congregational Church of Binghamton at 10:30 a.m. At each church we will receive a handout about the pipe organ, and a member of the American Guild of Organists will describe the instrument. We will have lunch in Whitney Point, New York. Our last visit will be to St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ithaca where we will hear a new pipe organ. We will sing at least one congregational hymn. You are welcome to attend any portion of the tour. The only cost is for lunch. Please phone 570-268-5035 for additional information.

Dates to Remember:

Church Council meets Tuesday, September 6th, at 7:15pm.
Spiritual Book Group resumes Wednesday, September 7th, Noon.
Rally Day is Sunday, September 11th.
Fellowship Evenings resume monthly—September, 16th at 6pm.
Senior Choir resumes on September 18th.
Board of Deacons meets Tuesday, September 20th at 7pm.
Board of Trustees meets Tuesday, September 20th at 7:15pm.
October Forecaster Items due September 21st.
Photo Club resumes September 23rd at 7pm.

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
Dr. Dov Treiman - Pastoral Intern
William Cuddeback - Treasurer
Curtis Hartwig - Assistant Treasurer
Arlene Price - Membership Clerk
Nancy Wildoner – Organist & Choir Director
Maureen Helms – Director of Joyful Noise
Judy Giblin – Director of Jazz Vespers
Leslie Dahlgren – Church Administrator
Sharon Shadduck – Childcare Provider
Alice Pettit – Treasurer Emerita, Church Hostess
Martin Rorapaugh- Financial Secretary
Erick Clasen – Web Master
Vanessa Warren – Bookkeeper
Cindi West-Davidson – Custodian
Toni Rorapaugh - Librarian, Historian



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