



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



### Pastor's Perspective

At the worship service on October 23, I think we set a record for verbosity. Sermon was about average, but we had 22 minutes of announcements, and then following the service at our Congregational Conversation (which I didn't time) we discussed eight topics. I would like to highlight two of these for further reflection.

An idea that I heard years ago involved a rather insightful look at the way churches conduct their worship services. The insight/critique was that they are nearly 100% left brain. So the emphasis traditionally has been on linear thinking, a logical sermon, appropriate language, and a respect for facts. All of such things are very good. But that isn't the whole picture. The right brain emphasizes creativity, imagination, intuition, visualization and the arts -- feelings as well as thinking. One other facet of this idea was that a typical worship service focused on only one of the senses -- hearing. Visual senses, as in the autumn display around the pulpit, the cross, and the stained glass, are certainly there, but hearing still is the main thing.

So the idea was to have a "Right Brain Committee" whose charge would be to seek balance. It reflects the underlying belief that all the senses are of value in the worship and service of God. All of the brain, as well as all of the person, both the head and heart, rationality and emotion, are of equal value.

So this is an idea which we are pursuing further, and if this sounds of interest to you, maybe you would like to help with it.

The second topic also has to do with balance, but of a different type. We are seeking a balance between the amount of volunteer energy and time we have as a church, and then efficiently expending that energy and time in a way that is BOTH fun and serves our community. In the past we have had Rummage Sales, Ice Cream Socials, Columbus and St. Patrick's Day Parades, Chicken BBQ, Open Houses, and both First Friday and First Night events. This is a lot! Actually, it's huge. And this isn't a comprehensive list.

So I ask now the question...regardless of what we have done in the past, if we had a blank slate, what would we choose to do in the future? On the assumption that we can't do it all, at least without killing ourselves, therefore how would we prioritize?

So my request to you is to ponder that, and express your opinion to one of our Deacons, Trustees, or Council members. My hope is that with the guidance of some of our wise and sensitive leaders we might settle upon a plan for 2017 that is creature friendly, fun, and of service to our neighborhood.

In the meantime, I wish you joy and a deep satisfaction as we enter into the Thanksgiving Season.

Blessings upon you all.

**Happy Birthday to those celebrating  
their special day in  
November and December...**



Christopher Gass	11/3	Jack Brink	12/2
Steven Schaugency	11/5	Art Price	12/3
Amelia Christian	11/9	Kurt Kennicutt	12/6
Ann Marie Mateya	11/10	Deena Price	12/9
Delores Tower	11/12	Justin Gass	12/10
Pete Perkins	11/14	Barb Thompson	12/11
Abigail Rose Winans	11/19	Julie Ann Johnson	12/13
Esther Joyce	11/23	Evelyn Allen	12/14
Lynne Beautz	11/25	Renee Guidelli	12/18
Nick Gabello	11/25	Nancy Allan-Elliott	12/23
Ethelyn Enos	11/26	Eginhard Dominique	Jean-
Dave Moody	11/29	Philippe	12/24
Cotter Smith	11/30	Merri Warren	12/25
Dick Gormly	12/1		

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

**Mission Committee**

During October, our congregation held the third “special collection” of the United Church of Christ – “Neighbors in Need.” We collected \$285 that is sent to the national setting of our denomination. THANK YOU to all who contributed.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27, 2016, is the first Sunday of Advent. In addition to decorating our sanctuary, the Mission Committee will have “gift angels” available. For the last five years we have adopted 6 or 7 families from Woodrow Wilson School and given each family Christmas gifts. Two angels for each person will be available for our members to choose from. Written on the angel is the age, sex, and size or interest of the recipient. We ask each donor to buy and wrap the gift. It is then returned to church by Sunday December 18. It is a lot of fun and makes some families very happy at Christmastime.

The next meeting of the Mission Committee will be Thursday evening, November 10 in the church library. We begin about 7:15pm and anyone interested in mission is welcome. Questions? See Tom Bucker or Clare Price.

(Bob White continued from page 5)  
adult dancer with Allyson, Bob has drawn upon his skating background for the plot for “Deadly Ice.” The book will be in the church gift shop before Thanksgiving.

**Spiritual Book Group**

Our next book, to begin on 11/30, is “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

The following from Amazon.com:

An Amazon best book of 2015. Readers of his work in The Atlantic and elsewhere know Ta-Nehisi Coates for his thoughtful and influential writing on race in America. Written as a series of letters to his teenaged son, his new memoir, *Between the World and Me*, walks us through the course of his life, from the tough neighborhoods of Baltimore in his youth, to Howard University--which Coates dubs “The Mecca” for its revelatory community of black students and teachers-- to the broader Meccas of New York and Paris. Coates describes his observations and the evolution of his thinking on race, from Malcolm X to his conclusion that race itself is a fabrication, elemental to the concept of American (white) exceptionalism. Ferguson, Trayvon Martin, and South Carolina are not bumps on the road of progress and harmony, but the results of a systemized, ubiquitous treat to “black bodies” in the form of slavery, police brutality, and mass incarceration. Coates is direct and as usual, uncommonly insightful and original. There are no wasted words. This is a powerful and exceptional book.

**November at**

**The Sophia Center for Spirituality**

Wednesday, Nov. 2 - 6:30 p.m.:

**Miraculous Stories for All Souls’ Night**

Local author, Bianca Podesta, joins us for an evening of storytelling perfect for the celebration of All Soul’s Day when we remember those special people in our lives who have influenced our spiritual growth in various, and sometimes unexpected, ways. Bianca will read selections from her 2016 book, *Miracles on My Watch*. Participants will then be invited to share stories of spiritual events in their own lives that Bianca’s readings inspire. Free-Will Offering accepted.

Save the date:

Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.: **Earth My Home** - part three of Linda Neil, CSJ's eco-spirituality series.

## To Hear, To See, To Touch—To Think, To Emote

Dov Treiman

The splendor of human creation is that we, being one species, belong to many distinct *kinds* of people, long recognized by psychologists and ministers. This is no less evident than in the way we process information. There are a number of ways of grouping folks, but there are two in particular I would like to discuss with you.

The first is the audio-visual-kinesthetic spectrum in which experts have noticed that some folks receive their information principally from sound, especially the spoken word; some folks receive their information principally from vision, especially *non-text* visuals like most classical artwork; and some folks receive their information mostly from touch, although “touch” includes taste and smell. Folks who receive their information in these manners also *broadcast* them the same way.

Imagine, if you will, two people in conversation and one is explaining to the other a complicated emotional situation. A person who is an “audio” type (by far the largest group) may very supportively reply, “I hear what you’re saying.” A “visual” type’s response, however, will be, “I see what you mean.” And a kinesthetic (the smallest group) will say, “I feel what you’re going through.” Most preachers are themselves in the audio group, but we, your Pastoral Team, are aware that we need to be engaging our visual and kinesthetic congregants as well.

The second grouping is between those who principally process information from an intellectual angle as compared to those who process it from the emotional side. In the first group, we typically find hard scientists, accountants, and mathematicians. In the second group, we typically find poets, artists, and musicians. Note, however, that there are many folks who land in both camps.

We on your Pastoral Team are aware that all the functions of our Church, but especially worship, need to engage in both these categories as well.

I am therefore reaching out to you, to all of you, who may feel underserved in either of these groupings and let me know what more we can be doing to speak your language, be it the language of sight and touch, or the language of feeling and emotion. All of us can be serving all of us. Sometimes it just takes a little translation.

## Ten Commandments Hike

Each November, the Baden Powell Council of the Boy Scouts of America holds a Ten Commandments Hike. Different communities are used each year for the event. This year the hike will be in downtown Binghamton. The scouts hike from one church or synagogue to another and at each location hear about another commandment.

The hikers will use our church for the last stop on the hike, having visited other places of worship in our central city area. (Kind of fits the last (12<sup>th</sup>) scout law, which is “A Scout is Reverent”).

## For All The Saints *By* Dov Treiman

It was a year ago I buried my mother, which people found unobjectionable because she had died a few days previously. The entire time I was at the cemetery, the hymn “*For All The Saints Who From Their Labor Rest*” was going through my mind. This is odd because from any Christian measure, my mother was no saint. Technically, we count as saints all who were baptized. My mother was not. We tend to refer to folks as saints when we find their lives exemplary. But, having had a relationship with my mother that she aptly described as “tendentious,” “exemplary” was not the usual word I applied to her.

But November is the month even we Congregationalists think about saints. We must because the fourteen times we find the phrase “all the saints” in the New Testament make clear that we are to regard all Christians as “saints.” While I include many non-Christians in that word, it makes us consider what we mean by the word “saint” if we don’t limit it to folks who wear halos or lead particularly exemplary lives.

The New Testament word for “saint” is “*hagios*,” meaning “holy one” (as does the English word “saint”). What does “holy” mean? It is *not* something possessing magical properties like the Ark of the Covenant or the Holy Grail. According to the Old Testament, “holy” simply means “set aside for God’s use.”

We of this Congregation, whether baptized or not, should be thinking of ourselves as “set aside for God’s use,” even when we are living that part of our lives that is not particularly “set aside,” as the old children’s hymn puts it, “in school, or in lanes, or at

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## Minutes of the Board of Deacons

First Congregational Church, October 18, 2016

**Chairperson's Report** - Deb agreed to handle the Poinsettia orders for this coming holiday season. Janet and Art attended the latest Susquehanna Association semi-annual meeting.

**Pastor's Report** - Art went over the upcoming worship schedule, highlighting the Congregational Conversation on 10/23, All Saints Day with formal communion on 10/30, an Adult Forum to hear from the Solar Works/Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition on 11/6, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Broome County Council of Churches on 11/13. Art spoke of some other special events coming up. Observance of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on 10/2 including a copy of the editorial written by Gary Doupe, as well as other educational offerings by the Sophia Center and the Unity Church. Art spoke about the upcoming lectures to be given by national speaker Judith Snow representing the Theosophical Society of America, on 11/1, 6:00 pm at FCC. At the request of the Deacons at the September meeting, a subgroup created a Position Description for Dov Treiman as Assistant to the Pastors. This was approved unanimously with thanks to Dov for his willingness to serve in this way.

**Associate Pastor's Report** – Spiritual book group has resumed, looking at Phyllis Tickle's *The Great Emergence*. Janet will resume membership on the Family Counseling Committee.

**Deacon Advisor Report** – Dov

All fourteen of the Good Friday liturgies have now been filled; however, there is still a need for black and white reproducible artwork. Dov spoke further about replacing the RSV pew bibles with the NRSV. More information will be provided at the Congregational Conversation. Cost would be approx. \$1,000.

**New Business**

Judy updated the Deacons on the plans for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jazz Vespers.

(All the Saints, continued from page 3)

sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea." We are called to be saints in all these places and everywhere else, set aside as instruments of God's love and mercy.

And yes, when my mother volunteered to serve free Christmas dinners to the poor "because it was no holiday of hers," she too clearly was a saint.

## Come Meet Our New Partners In Ministry

For the past several months, FCC has been happy to have Southern Tier Solar Works (STSW) as tenants. They are a not-for-profit organization that introduces homeowners, businesses and other not-for-profits to the exciting new world of solar energy. We are privileged for us to be part of this effort to use Binghamton as an anchor for a growing group of solar energy installations, designed to provide clean, endlessly renewable, and earth friendly power to our region. Following the example of places like the entire nation of Germany that recently committed to 100% use of renewable energy in the next fifteen years, we are encouraged to see organizations like Southern Tier Solar Works using our space for this effort to save the planet God has entrusted to our care.

On November 6, 2016 at 11:30am, STSW will be giving a presentation on the work they do, allowing time for your questions and how you personally can be involved in this inspiring effort. We urge you to be present.

## Board of Trustees, October 18, 2016

Minutes of previous meeting, as per Forecaster, approved. Financial reports for September approved.

**Pastor's Report:**

Position description for Dov Treiman approved by Deacons. New title designated: Assistant to the Pastors. Increased building requests are coming in. Recognize need for someone in the evening at entrance door. Congregational Conversation Oct. 23 to help determine direction of fellowship & outreach.

**Church Administrator's Report:**

Distributed amended rental forms. **Motion** passed to allow Sentry to expand building coverage. Building Usage calendar to be posted near door. Computer in office to be replaced, and Library computer to be upgraded. Lighting nearly completed. New fixtures needed in bathrooms - approved by Trustees.

**Two Heart Centered Living Programs going on at the same time? Oh my! Choose from:**

**Monday, November 7th, 6-8pm, Fall Fermentation Class** with Erick Clasen-Get your immune system tuned up and ready for the winter with fermented foods packed with vitamins, minerals, probiotics and tastiness all rolled into one. \$20 includes Sauerkraut, Carrots/Ginger as well as samples of kefir, kombucha and beet kvass.

**Monday, November 7th, 6-8pm, Energy Exchange Night.** Come out and receive or give Heart Centered energy to each other, our community and our planet. \$10 donation.



### From the Office...

Our next Forecaster will be a December publication. I will include your programs, events, reports and any 'save-the-date' reminders for January. *The due date for this publication is November 17th.* Thanks, Leslie

### Jazz Vespers

**Jazz Vespers will be on Sunday, November 13th, from 4-6pm.**

**(please note earlier start!)**



**This will be our 20th Anniversary Celebration featuring past performers as follows: Ladene Bourne, vocalist; Mike Carbone, saxophone; Bill Carter, keyboards; Jim Ford, keyboards, Judy Giblin, vocalist; Al Hamme, saxophone; Corky Klinko, trumpet; Ralph Muro, vocalist; Mike Rohrback, trombone; Laurence Elder, keyboards and Donna Wood, flute.**

**The amazing trio to back these performers are: Gene Cothran, keyboards; Larry Lolli, bass, and Joe Smales on percussion.**

**This is an event you don't want to miss. Mark your calendar.**

**Reception to follow in the church Parlor.**

### Updates from the Church Administrator...

There will be a new section on our entrance bulletin board called, "Church Programs and Policies."

As we get busier with additional classes, new tenants, and happenings around the building, a calendar of building use will be posted for teachers and leaders to see who is in the building, at what time, and in which room. This will be helpful to see who might still be in the church prior to alarming the security system. (Please see me to book all programs, classes and meetings if you have not done so already).

The policies posted will highlight what to do if you set off the security system causing a false alarm, instructions on using your entrance code on keypad, and how to reach me if necessary.

When you are purchasing items for the church and prefer not to incur out-of-pocket expenses, please see me for other options. We have house accounts with local vendors, a credit card, or may be able to order online. All that is necessary is to retain your receipts, and/or order confirmation and invoices. If you are unsure of what remains in your budget, please email or call me and I can get you that information.

Reminder that budget requests are due to the Trustees by November 8th.

Thanks for all your support, Leslie.



### Bob White's Latest Book at RiverRead Books

"Deadly Ice" is Bob's eighth book and the third novella in the Ben and Francesca series of cozy mysteries and intrigue. He will be at RiverRead Books on Court Street, next to the bridge, on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm to tell the untold story behind the story of "Deadly Ice," and how he and Allyson discovered Binghamton. He will be there until 6pm signing books.

The story is set in London and features a visiting American family, their teenage figure skater, her abusive mother and the dilemma between accidental and intentional death. Having spent more than thirty years as a social and competitive,

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### Faith Works

Columbus Day Parade—Faith Works once again provided our hospitality station at the annual Columbus Day Parade. The parade was on Monday October 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers helped set up and take down the tents and tables. Our bakers made lots of cookies. Thank you to all who helped in this neighborhood outreach event.

October Fellowship Evening—Again this year Chris and Tim O'Neill graciously offered their home to host fellowship Game Night since our Fellowship Hall was being prepared for our Annual Rummage Sale. Everyone had a great time! Thank you to the O'Neills.

Thanksgiving Baskets—As has been our custom the last several years, we will be collecting money to provide Thanksgiving dinner baskets for our less fortunate neighbors. We will assemble the baskets at our November fellowship meeting, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Last year we did 25 baskets and we hope to do as well this year.

**Dates to Remember:**

Tuesday, Nov 1st, Theosophical Society program, Judith Snow  
guest speaker, 6pm; Church Council, 7:15pm.

Tuesday, Nov 8th, all budget items due to office.

Sunday, November 13, 75th Anniversary of BC3, 1pm;  
Jazz Vespers, 4-6pm

Tuesday, November 15, Trustees (7:15pm) and Deacons (7pm)  
Meetings

Friday, November 18, Assembling Thanksgiving Baskets, 6pm

Sunday, November 20, Church Thanksgiving Dinner after worship

Sunday, November 27, Deck the Halls after worship

Tuesday, December 6, Christmas Tea, Noon in Parlor

**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 - Assistant to the Pastors

Leslie Dahlgren – Church Administrator

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

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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