

THE FORECASTER – June, 2019

Official Publication of First Congregational Church, UCC
30 Main Street, Binghamton, New York 13905
Rev. Lisa Heckman, Interim Pastor

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

Pastor's Ponderings



*Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know
it completely.*

~ Psalm 139:4

*The single biggest problem in communication
is the illusion that it has taken place.*

~ George Bernard Shaw

Dear Friends,

Communication is so important! How could we ever live together in families, work cooperatively, get anything done, and show our love and emotions, if we couldn't express ourselves and be understood?

In a lovely psalm of being known by God, the Psalmist says God even knows what we'll say before we say it. Unfortunately that's not the case of us humans for one another! Far more true is the quote from Bernard Shaw. How many times have you shared with your friend, spouse, or child something that has happened, only to hear them say later, "You never told me that!?" All too frequently in the church we put announcements in the bulletin and in the newsletter, share during worship, even send out a special email regarding an upcoming event, then have someone indignantly proclaim: "I didn't know that was happening!"

One of the difficulties with communications today is the sheer amount of information bombarding us. We're overloaded. It is hard to take it all in. Experts say that a message has to be given 10-12 times through a variety of means before it penetrates our consciousness. It's no wonder things get missed!

Despite all that, please keep making the effort!

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This wonderful congregation has so many worthwhile activities taking place and we extend our building to many outside groups as well. That makes communications very important to avoid double booking and to keep everyone in the loop. Before you announce an event, tell your group when your next meeting is, etc., please check with Li (Lisa Roth, our new church administrator) to make sure nothing else is on the calendar for the space and time you want. Then keep Li in the loop for announcements, newsletter articles, and the website so the communications extend to the wider community. Again, the more ways we can spread the word, the better!

God is doing good things in and among us. Let's get the word out!

Grace and Peace.

Lisa

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Please call if you have a pastoral emergency

Worship Schedule

June

6/2 Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47

Liturgist: Phyllis Martin; Ascension

6/9 Acts 2:1-21; Gen 11:1-9

Liturgist: Deb Miller; **Pentecost w/**

Communion

6/16 Ps 8; Gen 1:1-2:4a

Liturgist: x; **Father's Day/Trinity Sunday**

6/23 Lk 8:26-39; Ps 42

Liturgist: x; What are our demons?

6/30 **Guest Preacher: Zach DuBord**

July

7/7 2 Kings 5:1-15; Lk 10:1-11,16-20

Liturgist: x; The healing of Naaman

7/14 Lk 10:25-37; Amos 7:7-17; Ps 82

Liturgist: x; The Good Samaritan

7/21 Lk 10:38-42; Col 1:15-28

Liturgist: x; Martha and Mary

7/28 Lk 11:1-13; Col 2:1-13; Ps 85

Liturgist: x; The Lord's Prayer

Please note: Where there is an "X" after Liturgist, it means a volunteer is needed. Please sign up on the list in the Parlor. Thanks.

Pentecost Happenings!

Pentecost Sunday is **June 9th**.

We want to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the Church with Spirit, color, music, wind, and fire!

There are several ways you can help make this day special ...

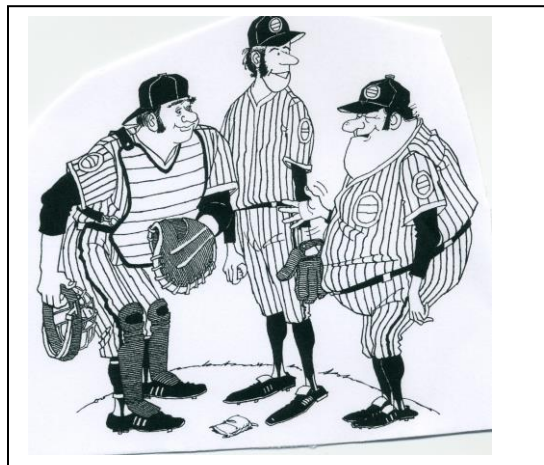
- For worship that morning, wear red, yellow, and/or orange – the colors of fire
- Tell Lisa what your favorite version of the Bible is: NIV? NRSV? King James? Jerusalem Bible? These will be incorporated into the reading of Acts 2:1-21
- Volunteer to be one of the readers of the Acts passage
- Do you speak a foreign language? If so and you'd be willing to speak part of the Lord's Prayer in that language, please also let Lisa know.

We are going to a Ball Game!

Our annual church night at the ball park this year is Monday, June 24. The Rumble Ponies will be playing the Erie Sea Wolves, affiliated with the Detroit Tigers. Game time is 6:30 PM. The special promotion that night is “dog night”. The first 150 dogs get a doggie bag!

We have reserved seats in section 5 with the sun at our back and safety net in front. It is always a nice relaxing evening of fellowship at the park.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parlor. This year the tickets cost \$12. Please reserve your tickets by Monday, June 17, to allow time to pick up and distribute the tickets.



Baseball is the only team sport where there is not a race against the clock to finish. The teams play until one team wins. So bring your date, relax, and have a nice evening with good company.

Profile Committee

The Profile Committee will be meeting with Marsha Williams, Assoc. Conference Minister, on Thursday, May 30. At that time she will share with the committee the materials needed to proceed with forming a profile of the church. The committee will be meeting regularly during the summer to accomplish this task and to keep the congregation informed of its progress. Committee members are Tom Bucker, Chair; Heidi Bowne Roberts, Chris O’Neill and Jamie Walters.



Leaders of the United Church of Christ (Present and future)

At the annual meeting of the New York Conference of the UCC, the keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, president of the denomination. In addition to an excellent keynote talk, Dr. Dorhauer did a 1 ½ hour question and answer “conversation” in which his grasp of issues was very impressive. Pictured here are John Dorhauer flanked by Ministers in Discernment Zach DuBord and Margie Price.

The Annual Meeting of the New York Conference, United Church of Christ, was attended by 180 delegates from approximately 100 churches. Our congregation was represented by Rev. Lisa Heckman, Zach DuBord and Clare Price. Business at the meeting included various committee (Cont. on Page 4 – Leaders)

(Cont. from Page 3 – Leaders)

reports, adopting an “almost” balanced budget, and adopting a resolution on environmental care. In the election of officers, Zach DuBord was elected to the Governance Board. He will be representing Susquehanna Assoc. as well as our congregation.

Academic Achievement Awards

With the school year winding down, many students are thinking about next year’s schooling and the expense involved. The church has a fund that can help with the cost of college expenses.

Applications are available in the church office. Deacon Dick Gormly is coordinating the program for the Board of Deacons. Applications need to be in by June 20, 2019.

Coming Events

This is the last Forecaster before summer break. While it may be vacation time, life goes on at First Congregational. On August 9, the Veterans for Peace, who meet in our building, are planning a neighborhood “Peace Fair”. The event will be held in the church parking lot for kids in the neighborhood.

August 29th is the date of our annual Ice Cream Social and give away of school supplies. This is kind of an annual block party and provides opportunity for outreach in the community. We will share free ice cream sundaes, games, music, and school supplies. Please keep the date free, because there is quite a bit of work in setting up and running the party. You may like to give some donation to help purchase ice cream and school supplies.



Rally Day for First Congregational Church UCC, is scheduled for September 8. In addition to being the start of the fall program, our congregation will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the dedication of our sanctuary in September, 1869. Plans are being made to have a luncheon after morning worship and a program sharing the history of our congregation. Please save the date!

Annual Church Picnic

This year our church picnic will be held at the home of Chris and Tim O’Neill, 375 Conklin Avenue, Binghamton. This event is scheduled for Sunday, June 30, after morning worship. All members and friends are welcome.

Guests are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert; comfortable lawn chairs are a good idea as well. Church will provide the meat and beverages. Check the Sunday bulletins for more details.

Can’t sleep? – Counting sheep? – Talk to the Shepherd!

Trinity Sunday – All the different ways we know God

June 16th, the Sunday after Pentecost, is called Trinity Sunday in the liturgical calendar. We'll be using this opportunity to explore the many different ways we know and understand about God. Yes, there is the traditional "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit", but we know even those 3 terms are limiting. God is so much more!

When we pray The Lord's Prayer that day, we are going to use a version from *The New Zealand Prayer Book*. It names God in a variety of ways and gives fresh language to the petitions of the prayer. Be assured, this substitution is for June 16th only, to fit with the worship of the day and is not a permanent change to what we pray. Here is the text of the prayer, so it won't be a surprise that morning.

The Lord's Prayer made known through
A New Zealand Prayer Book/ He Karakia Mihinare Aotearoa.

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Trustee work day

The Board of Trustees held a work day on Saturday, May 11. The primary project was to remove the old handicap ramp at the Main Street entrance to church. With the new entrance off the parking lot, it was no longer needed. In need of paint, it did not look too good, but when it came time to take it apart, it was very strong! There is still some material to remove and work to be done on the railing and rotted window wells.

Another May improvement was putting motion sensors in seven restrooms to turn the lights on and off. If no motion is detected in 15 minutes, the switches turn the lights off.



Board of Deacons Summary – May, 2019

Rev. Heckman had a number of items to discuss, including revising the prayer card in the pews, holding a hymn sing, purchasing geraniums to be planted after Pentecost Sunday, and finding a substitute organist when N. Wildoner is away. The worship schedule and Pastor's report were distributed.

Chair D. Miller passed along favorable comments she has received since the Aaronic benediction has been reinstated in Sunday services.

During the Sacred Sites Tour pictures of pastors and the church building were displayed. Pastor pictures will be hung in Fellowship Hall. The tour had 30 visitors.

The Decorating Committee has ordered hallway signs for the bathrooms. A baby-changing table will be located in the ADA bathroom. Additional picture molding has been ordered for the hallway.

One application for an Academic Achievement Award has been received. Applications are due June 20.

Zach DuBord will cover all but one of the dates Rev. Heckman will be away. His remuneration is under discussion, as he is still a ministry student, rather than ordained clergy.



Sacred Sites Open House

The Board of Deacons opened our church again this year for the Sacred Sites program of New York State. On May 19, houses of worship were open to the public all around the state. In the Southern Tier we were one of 23 sites. Our church had a brochure about the history of our congregation for visitors. Guides showed the sanctuary to guests and told about it. We also showed the chapel with its beautiful windows, and a display of pictures in the new lobby area. Guests were very impressed at the

collection of pictures of all our called pastors since our congregation was organized in 1836. Being the 150th anniversary of our sanctuary, it was a special treat to show folks around and “tell our story”. There was never a “big crowd” but a steady flow of guests kept us busy from 11:15 to 1:45PM – probably about 30 people in all.

Thanks to Deb Miller who organized the program in our church and Cindy in setting up some displays. Also thanks to Bill & Mary Cuddeback, Clare Price and Merri Warren who were guides and facilitators.

Congregational Conversation

After worship on June 23, we will have a congregational conversation. Everyone will be asked to share their thoughts on two topics that have been raised recently:

1. What building improvements would you like to see happen over the next 5-10 years?
2. What does it mean to be a community/neighborhood church? What would that look like to you?

The first question will provide input for a soon-to-be formed Capital Planning Team. The second will help the Assessment/Profile Team describe part of our vision for our future. We hope many can stay to be part of the discussion.

EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

In the land of Esh, Zook, and Stolfus
the fields are striated tan, yellow, and green
and the sun shines as if this is its home

One of us says,
“These people make their fields a work of art.”

“Brown gold” rolls uphill in the back of a pickup truck
Cows and bulls, sheep and ducks, horses and chickens
pig out in troughs, barns, and byways
Women and girls in purple and black tend gardens
sell produce and plants by the side of the road
Mule teams till, harrow, fertilize, guided by men and boys
Automobiles, in another world, zip down roads and around this life force

A black buggy trots past a huge horse wagon hauling tourists
One of us jokes, hand like a microphone,
“...and on your left, ladies and gentlemen,
a genuine Amish buggy containing a genuine Amish family...”

Later, on our way home, we see an ambulance coming toward us,
a modern one, lights flashing and horns blaring
Thinking perhaps one car did not travel around but through
One of us says,
“God bless us, every one.”

-Toni Rorapaugh

+Book-Words
{Featured items from the First Congregational Church Library}
June, 2019

The Fall of the Pagans and the rise of medieval Christianity, by Kenneth W. Harl. *Find out with this course how Christianity ultimately achieved dominance in the Roman Empire, eclipsing paganism. One of the most influential turning points in the history of Western civilization, it has given the Western world most of the underpinnings of its thought on sin, redemption, ethics, forgiveness, and much more.*

DVD KIT 270 HARL

Ancient Mesopotamia: life in the cradle of civilization, by Amanda Podany. *What does it mean to be civilized? Learn about the ancient civilizations of modern-day Iraq and Syria, including their writing system, the change from hunting/gathering to farming, and stories that made their way into our Bible, barely changed from the originals.* **DVD KIT PODA**

The Apocryphal Jesus, by David Brakke. *The works studied in this course may be familiar to you, considering how much of what we know about Jesus and his followers come from apocryphal sources. Find out how the ideas from these works made their way into mainstream Christian belief, even if they were excluded from the Bible itself.* **DVD KIT 232 BRAK**

Confucius, Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad, by Mark W. Muesse. *What does it mean to live a meaningful, ethical life? Learn the historical backgrounds of each of these wise teachers, find similarities, and draw distinctions in how they viewed humankind's place in the universe.* **DVD KIT 200.922 MUES**

The History and achievements of the Islamic Golden Age, by Eamonn Gearon. *The bridge between the ancient and modern worlds, from about 750 AD into the 1200s AD, is the Abbasid Empire. While the Roman Catholic Church dominated Europe's dark ages, the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia were thriving as multi-cultural, cosmopolitan entities where science, poetry, and medicine, among other disciplines, thrived.* **DVD KIT 909.0976 GEAR**

Welcome to Lisa "Li" Roth!



The Trustees have hired Lisa Roth as our new Church Administrator. Li (pronounced "lee") comes to First Congregational Church with over 10 years' experience, doing similar work at two Jewish Synagogues in New Jersey. Originally from the Southern Tier, a recent move back to the area was to be near family.

Li has great administrative/office skills, is highly motivated, and is willing to learn new things. From prior positions as an event planner, she brings a wealth of creativity. Best of all

she loves interacting with the congregation!

Li started on May 13th, giving her two weeks to train with Leslie and will be working the same office hours of Monday - Thursday, 9:00AM to 3:00PM.

Please stop in and welcome her.

Much thanks to the Personnel sub-group: Bernie Lewis, Doug Garnar, and Bill Fenson; also to Bill Cuddeback who participated in the search process. These four people worked hard this past month to come up with a candidate to present to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Celebrating July Birthdays/Anniversary

- 4 Miran Brigham
- 10 Phyllis Martin
- 14 Liza Beautz Turner
- 17 Bernie Lewis
- 19 Virginia Kronk
- Judy Pegos
- 23 Peter Cirba
- 29 Ruth Teuchtler

- 12, 1969 Judy & Doug Garnar

Celebrating August Birthdays/Anniversaries

- 6 Christopher Brewton
- 24 Elizabeth Neill
- 25 Amber Brown
- 27 Susanne Krieger
- Arlene Pewterbaugh

- 14, 1976 – Tracy & Art Suggs
- 14, 2004 – Deena & Art Price
- 15, 1998 – Toni & Marty Rorapaugh

It's been fun and rewarding

It has been fun and rewarding to fill the position of Editor of The Forecaster for the last two years. Now that the church has hired a new Church Administrator, the newsletter will be published by the church office again, as has been the tradition for many years. Thank you to all the folks who sent in their articles, reports, etc. each month. **YOU** are the strength and backbone of the newsletter. A profound thanks to my husband, Clare, for working each month for your reporting and photography, and the "fun" of collating The Forecaster. It was a joy to work on this project together. His help and support has been invaluable.

Arlene M. Price

How to contact us
Mon-Thurs, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
fcc@binghamtonwireless.com
Web:www.uccbinghamton.org

Rev. Lisa Heckman – Interim Pastor
Lisa (Li) Roth – Church Administrator
Tim O’Neill – Trustee Chairman
Deb Miller - Deacon Chairwoman
Judy Giblin – Church Council Chairwoman
Arlene Price – Church Clerk
Clare Price – Treasurer
Martin Rorapaugh – Financial Secretary
Nancy Wildoner – Organist & Choir Director
Judy Giblin – Director of Jazz Vespers
Sharon Shadduck – Childcare Provider/Teacher
Cindi West-Davidson – Custodian
Toni Rorapaugh – Librarian & Historian
Arlene Price – Membership Clerk

Celebrating June Birthdays

1 Warren Resseguie
5 Stephanie Cirba
6 Doug Garnar
 Arlene Price
8 Nancy Wildoner
10 Jill Andrews
 Tracy Suggs
11 Teresa Cluff
16 Michael Christian
19 Barb Thompson
20 Kris deVente
25 Bob Giblin
27 Joan Eidenier
 Martin Rorapaugh
29 Allyson White

Anniversaries

18, 1966 – Carol & Paul Bazzeghin
19, 2015 – Judy & Doug Pegos