To Serve or Not to Serve - ....There Is No Question!

I love to ‘people watch.’ I drive Michele crazy when we go out, because many times I am enthralled with just watching other people. If you don’t watch people regularly, give it a try sometime. I am constantly amazed by God’s creations. Sometimes pleasantly amazed, sometimes, well...

Have you ever found yourself looking at someone and giving him or her an imaginary job, background, personality or set of circumstances? An imaginary everything! If we’re honest, we play it every day. We often form our own conclusions about people or circumstances.

When I stand in Fellowship Hall or outside the Hearth Room on Sunday mornings, I often reflect on the “life stories” of those coming in. Looking around, I see children expecting to have fun as they learn the stories of our faith. I see youth coming to learn from the Bible and from the experience of an extended family that loves them. I see children and spouses who are reluctantly here. I see pain and loneliness. I see hope and faith. Some of the people come with a deep need to be refreshed and renewed. Some people come because they have nowhere else to turn. Others are just “drawn” here. Some people may not even know why they’ve come...they just come.

Having said this, I firmly believe we are called to be the face of Jesus Christ to one another. We are the ones who are here to minister.
All of us! Not one of us is exempt from carrying out God’s ministry through Shenendehowa UMC. How many times have we heard the cliché, “You get out life what you put into it?” This may be true in certain situations, but not when it comes to the Christian faith and life. In John 10:10, Jesus said, “I came to give life - life in its fullness.” When we give Him our ragged old life, He in return gives us life to the fullest measure. As Christians, you and I are blessed to actually get more out of life than what we give.

As we begin a new season of ministry together this fall, I invite each of you to become involved in serving God through Shen UMC. For as Christians we are given a mandate to serve Jesus Christ by serving the people of God. Take a look at two verses from Matthew. Matthew 25:40 says, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Yeah, everybody probably knows that one, but look just a little further and read Matthew 25:45. “I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” Hmmm... I won’t write the 46th verse...please read it for yourself.

Just a few of the incredible blessings which come through faithful service were highlighted on Sunday, September 17, as we celebrated our congregation’s 60th anniversary. During the two worship services we celebrated God’s faithfulness throughout the past 60 years as well as the steps of faith of those who had a vision for what could happen when four churches came together with a passion to serve the children, families and the community. Following the services, almost 250 children and adults gathered under the big tent for a roast pork and potluck luncheon. Wow! Following that, we heard from two former pastors and one former associate pastor. It was a wonderful opportunity to pause and give thanks to God and to the people who have faithfully served Christ throughout those many years. The challenge for all of us going forward is whether we will follow in their footsteps by stepping out in faith and stepping up to serve Jesus through serving at Shen UMC. Interestingly enough, one of the things I often hear is, “Pastor Lee, we seem to see the same familiar faces doing everything around here!” My prayer is for us to have a noticeable blend of the long-term, experienced, proven leaders of Shen, as well as the excitement, creativity and potential found within those stepping out to serve

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued on page 3)

The Jonesville Shenendehowa Helping Hands Food Pantry needs your continued support of donating non-perishable food items and paper goods.

The food pantry feeds an average of over 600 individuals per month. Because of the food provided for them, these families can keep their heat turned on.

So, please continue to support these families by filling the Collection Bins (marked “Food Pantry”) in Fellowship Hall with your food donations. Thank you!
Better Together—40 Days of Community (Sermon Series)

This is a congregational campaign which has the potential to change all of our lives as we focus on spiritually deepening ourselves and our church.

In this campaign, we’re going to answer the question, “What on earth are WE here for?” and look at how God’s purposes relate to our church and to our local community.

October 1
Worldwide Communion
“Better Together: Why We Need Each Other”
Chancel Choir & Kasheweta Ringers at 9 am
Worship Band at 10:45 am

October 8
“Better Together: Reaching Out Together”
Chancel Choir at 9 am
Worship Band at 10:45 am

October 15
Chancel Choir & Chimers at 9 am
Worship Band at 10:45 am

October 22
“Better Together: Serving Together”
Chancel, Youth, & Junior Choirs combined at 9 am
Worship Band at 10:45 am

October 29
“Better Together: How We Help Each Other Grow”
Chancel Choir & Youth Bells at 9 am
Worship Band at 10:45 am

Pastor Lee
(Continued from page 2)

for the first time.

Once again I think about our “life stories” and realize that in each of them we can see the face of Jesus. We desperately need one another—and as we will discover in our message series and small groups throughout October, we really are better together! For even as we serve those needing a friend, a shoulder, a smile, or a meal, we serve Jesus. Even as we teach children and prepare youth for the adventure of life, we serve Jesus. Each face represents an opportunity to live out our faith. They represent opportunities to be who we say we are. In Matthew 25:45, Jesus makes it crystal clear that He expects each of us to step up and invest our lives in each other. Do you claim Jesus? If so, are you serving Him? Does what you say match what you do?

Maybe you are ready to step up and serve Christ and Shen UMC, but you don’t know where to start. On October 29, before and after each service, Fellowship Hall will be transformed into a “Ministry Fair,” where each of our ministry areas/teams will have a table with information and a person to speak with about what their ministry team does and the time commitment involved. My prayer is that all of us will get plugged in somewhere. I look forward to welcoming you into a church family which is focused on our mission of Connecting People to Christ and Community through service.

With a Commitment to Serve With You,
The first meeting of Connecting Place was September 19, but you can still connect! On Monday, October 30, Connecting Place will host a good old-fashioned pot luck supper, and the whole church is invited.

Join us in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share, and please let Mary Ann (518 371 7964) in the church office know you’d like to attend so we have enough tables and chairs for everyone to be comfortable.

During and after dinner there will be a discussion on how things are going at church; what’s going well and areas where we can grow. There will also be some Methodist history and trivia and a Scripture meditation.

Based on the success of the 60th Anniversary pot luck on September 17, we know how much Shenendehowa United Methodist Church enjoys getting together to share food and fellowship, so please accept this invitation to Connecting Place. For further information and questions, email Denise Walling at dwalling@shenumc.org.

Over the Speed Limit Covered Dish October Luncheon
Program: “Celtic Adventure”

The Over the Speed Limit group, for SUMC members and friends over the age of 55, will meet on Thursday, October 12, at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. We will begin with appetizers (provided) and punch. This is a time of welcoming each other back after the summer and time to visit together. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share.

Dr. Dan MacGregor, Lauri Nair and Pastor Ginny Deyo will share their recent “Celtic Adventure” with us. We look forward hearing their special stories and sharing some music with us. This group was part of a larger group of singers who visited Scotland and Ireland on a musical tour. What a wonderful way to send representatives to other countries and share joyful and uplifting music.

Please bring your own place setting. Beverages will be provided. Sign up on the Connection Central Table in Fellowship Hall. If you are available to help with the set-up, please contact Barbara Mazurak at 518-289-5948. She is also available to answer any of your questions. Remember, guests are always welcome.
Senior Fellowship

**Scarves, Hats, and Mittens for the Homeless**

The SUMC United Methodist Women have been busy knitting scarves, hats, and mittens for the homeless in the Capital District. Before we know it, the warm days of summer and early fall will be behind us and the beautiful changing colors of the leaves will let us know that winter is approaching. Although we are able to be comfortable in our homes, those people who live on the streets and in shelters do not enjoy that special comfort. Please continue to donate any scarves, hats, and mittens to this project. As in the past, the June Pettis Memorial Christmas Tree will be located in Fellowship Hall in November near the UMW table. Please put your donation on the tree. All items will be donated to the homeless in Saratoga County, Veterans' shelters for men and women in Ballston Spa, Schenectady Inner City Mission and Head Start children in Saratoga County. If you do not knit, please feel free to purchase the items needed.

In addition, if anyone would like to donate new socks, the UMW will make sure that they are also given out to the homeless people of the community. Children are homeless too...so please keep them in mind when doing your donating. Donations can also be placed in the collection bin in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone who donates to this important mission project.

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**Fellowship of Friends to Attend Jonesville Turkey Dinner**

The Fellowship of Friends, an SUMC group of adult singles and couples, will plan to attend the annual turkey dinner at the Jonesville United Methodist Church on **Saturday, October 14**. Gather with friends for a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings for the 6:30 pm seating. Let Barbara Mazurak know by October 8 if you would like to attend the dinner so she can make the final reservations. Last year we had three tables reserved. You can sign up in Fellowship Hall or email Barbara at joebarbmaz@nycap.rr.com.

This event provides a great an opportunity to spend time with SUMC friends, and guests are always welcome.

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**Save the Date!**

- Fellowship of Friends’ Annual Progressive Dinner - Friday, December 8
- United Methodist Women’s Christmas Party at the Vista - Saturday, December 2
- United Methodist Women’s Annual Cookie Sale - Sunday, December 3
ShenKids October theme: Mini Pumpkins!

Tagline: Little things can make a big difference.

Synopsis: Kids love mini-pumpkins. They’re cute, and as mini-people, kids can relate to them. This series will introduce students to four kids from the Bible who made a big difference in their world.

Objective: Kids will learn that God can use them to do good things.

Miriam
Scripture: Exodus 2:1-10, Miriam protects Moses

Synopsis: Miriam was just a kid when her mom told her to look out for her baby brother. She saved his life, and her brother saved Israel. God can use kids like you to look out for even smaller kids.

Objective: Kids will be able to share one way they can help younger kids.

Josiah
Scripture: 2 Kings 23:1-4, 21-25, King Josiah

Synopsis: Josiah was just a boy when he inherited a kingdom that was falling apart. But thanks to the boy king Josiah, Israel was brought back to God. God can use kids like Josiah, and you, to set an example, even for grownups!

Objective: Kids will identify one way they can be a help to Mom and Dad this week.

David
Scripture: 1 Samuel 17, David and Goliath

Synopsis: When all the adults ran and hid, a boy named David defeated a giant. God can use kids to do great things!

Objective: Kids will develop a church or community service project that can be completed within the next month.

Samuel
Scripture: 1 Samuel 3, God calls Samuel

Synopsis: Samuel was one of Israel’s greatest leaders and a prophet, but did you know Samuel started serving God when he was a boy? Samuel shows us that God can use everyone, even kids, if they have a willing heart.

Objective: Kids will identify one way that God can use them to do His work.

Memory Verse: “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’” Matthew 19:14 (NIV)
More from Stephanie Hutchins

Pumpkin Patch

Our 8th Annual Pumpkin Patch will open Sunday, Oct 1. Plan to come with your family and friends to buy more than just a pumpkin! Each pumpkin sold helps our Youth WorkCamp and Youth Groups.

We also need help during our pumpkin patch. Please look at the list below and see how you and your family can help!

The Pumpkin Patch will run from Oct 1 through Oct 31.
Hours are: 11am - 7pm, Mon-Fri
9 am - 7pm, Saturdays
10 am -6 pm Sundays

We need all the help we can get to make this another successful year. Here is how you can help:

• Unload pumpkins (We have a HUGE truck to unload!!) Saturday, Sept. 30: 10:00 am.
• We would like to borrow wheelbarrows or wagons to help unload the pumpkins and use them throughout the month to help carry pumpkins to customers’ vehicles.
• Help sell pumpkins.
• Find and pick up pallets.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Stephanie Hutchins at shutchins@shenumc.org or Ashley Latham alatham@shenumc.org, call 518-371-7964 or visit our table in Fellowship Hall during Coffee hour.

Scholarships

Are you a college student? Could you use a $750 scholarship? Scholarship applications are being accepted until Nov 30. To get an application, go to www.shenmeth.org, click on the Ministries tab then on Christian Education. Scroll down until you see the link for SUMC Scholarship. After completing the application, mail it to the church: Shenendehowa UMC, Attn: Stephanie Hutchins, 971 Route 146, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

College Connection

If you are interested in hearing from the church while you are in college, please send your name, college mailing address, name of your school and email to one of the emails below. We send out emails and care packages to help you stay connected with your home congregation while you are studying.

If you are already signed up for College Connection, but your email or mailing address has changed, send us your updated information. Lynne Felczak - lfelczak@nycap.rr.com or Lee Ferron - lferron62@gmail.com
A brief summary of the Church Council’s August meeting

- The Church Council planned a retreat for September 12, which, as of this writing, did take place. They worked on creating a vision, and goals to accomplish. Pastor Lee facilitated, as he has experience with the “Hand to Plow” curriculum, and has led other churches in similar working sessions.

- The expenses and income for the church are both ahead of plan.

- The Finance committee continues to review discretionary and other funds outside the general operating accounts to ensure that resources entrusted to the church are well used and do not sit indefinitely.

- The Staff Parish Relations sub-team has been taking a strategic look at our staffing needs and has proposed that the Worship Leader role be expanded into a Worship Director role to enable further growth of the 10:45 service. The Church Council is excited by the growth we have seen in our second service and therefore adopted SPR’s proposal to increase the Worship Director hours to 30 per week. With Katie Kreidler taking the expanded Worship Director role, the Church Council agreed to work with SPR to urgently backfill the Sr. High Youth Leader role before the start of the school year. (As of this writing, Ashley Latham has been hired for the youth position.) Please see the update from the Staff Parish Relations Team on the next page for more details.

- The Council discussed communication of the expanded worship leader role. It was decided that we are due for a Fall SALT meeting and this will be one of the topics.

The Church Council meets on the fourth Monday of each month. We encourage church members to bring any comments or questions to a member of the Church Council. Church council members’ names are listed in the minutes near the church office.

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Becky Nold, Chair
Celebrating & Enabling Growth

God has been and is continuing to do amazing things in our midst!

A key element of living into our mission of Connecting People to Christ and Community is celebrating excellent worship services that meet the needs of those who enter our doors on Sundays. The Apostle Paul wrote that he was willing to “become all things to all people, that [he] might by all means save some” (1 Cor 9:22b). In Paul’s time, this meant preaching to both Jews and Gentiles. In our time, this means worshipping using different musical styles. Last fall, our Administrative Council decided to hire a part-time Worship Leader to work with Pastor Lee to launch a quality non-traditional worship service at 10:45. We were truly blessed to have hired Katie Kreidler for that role. During the first half of the year, that service has averaged 75 folks in worship. (# includes pastor, worship director and band.)

Many Methodist churches would be thrilled to have a total of 75 folks on a Sunday, but we know that there are more folks to be reached to ensure that, “every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Phil 2:11). In August, our Church Council decided to expand the Worship Leader role into a 30 hour per week Worship Director role focused on the 10:45 service. In this expanded role, Katie will continue to lead music and will take on additional responsibilities for other creative elements in the service, will provide musical mentoring, and will become the point person for the non-traditional service.

Pastor Lee will continue to preach and maintain a significant presence at both services.

With Katie focused on the Worship Director role, we are pleased to announce that we have hired Ashley Latham as our new Sr. High School Youth Leader. Ashley has been worshiping at SUMC for many years and has been active in our youth programs as a volunteer leader.

In her new role, Ashley will be working with Stephanie Hutchins, our Coordinator of Christian Education & Youth Ministries, who will continue to focus on children’s education, junior high school youth programs, and small groups.

Please join us in celebrating the ministries of Katie, Ashley and Stephanie, and let us all be in praise for the amazing things God is doing in and through us.

Brian Mitchell
Member of Church Council
# Shenendehowa UMC
## October, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
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| 1 | Worship, 9 & 10:45 am Holy Communion
Kash. Ringers, 6:30 | 2 | Worship Work Area, 7 pm | 3 | Connect Group, 10am
Youth Bells, 6:15-7:00
Youth Choir, 7-7:50 | 4 | Community Bible Study, 10:00 am
Sacred Journeys, 12 pm
Youth Group, 6:30
Connect Group, 6:30
Creative Hands, 7pm | 5 | District Gathering with Bishop Webb, 6:30 pm
Chimers, 6 - 6:30 pm
Junior Choir, 6:30-7pm
Chancel Choir, 7:15 pm | 6 | Friday Morning Moms, 9 am | 7 | Bottle Drive, 9-12
Worship Band, 9:30 am |
| 8 | Worship, 9 & 10:45 am
WorkCamp, 5:30pm | 9 | Circle of Faith & Dorothy Brown
Circle Joint mtg, 7pm | 10 | Connect Group, 10am
Youth Bells, 6:15-7:00
Youth Choir, 7-7:45
Buildings/Grounds, 7 pm
Education Work Area, 7 pm | 11 | Community Bible Study, 10:00 am
Sacred Journeys, 12 pm
Youth Group, 6:30
Connect Group, 6:30 | 12 | Over the Speed Limit, noon in FH
Chimers, 6 - 6:30pm
Junior Choir, 6:30-7pm
Chancel Choir, 7:15 pm | 13 | Friday Morning Moms, 9 am | 14 | Worship Band, 9:30 am |
| 15 | Worship, 9 & 10:45 am
Staff Meeting, 12 pm
Kash. Ringers, 6:30 | 16 | Program Council, 7pm | 17 | FOCUS DEADLINE!
Connect Group, 10am
Youth Bells, 6:15-7:00
Youth Choir, 7-7:45
SPR sub-team, 7pm | 18 | Community Bible Study, 10:00 am
Sacred Journeys, 12 pm
Youth Group, 6:30
Connect Group, 6:30
Creative Hands, 7pm | 19 | Chimers, 6 - 6:30pm
Junior Choir, 6:30-7pm
Chancel Choir, 7:15 pm | 20 | Friday Morning Moms, 9 am
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1 -6 pm
Lifetouch Pictures 2 pm - 9 pm |
| 21 | Men's Breakfast 7 am
at Cracker Barrel
FOCUS Workers, 9:30 am
Chimers, 6 - 6:30pm
Junior Choir, 6:30-7pm
Chancel Choir, 7:15 pm | 22 | Worship, 9 & 10:45 am
Mission Possible, 1pm
Kash. Ringers, 6:30 | 23 | Church Council, 7 pm | 24 | Connect Group, 10am
Community Dinner, 5:30pm
Healing/Visitation, 6:30
Youth Bells, 6:15-7:00
Youth Choir, 7-7:45
UMW, 7 pm | 25 | Community Bible Study, 10:15 am
Sacred Journeys, 12 pm
Youth Group, 6:30
Connect Group, 6:30 | 26 | Men’s Breakfast 7 am at Cracker Barrel
FOCUS Workers, 9:30 am
Chimers, 6 - 6:30pm
Junior Choir, 6:30-7pm
Chancel Choir, 7:15 pm | 27 | Friday Morning Moms, 9 am | 28 | Worship Band, 9:30 am |
| 29 | Worship, 9 & 10:45 am
Ministry Fair
Kash. Ringers, 6:30 | 30 | Connecting Point Pot Luck Dinner, 6 pm | 31 | Connect Group, 10am
Halloween!! | New Church Picture Directory Coming!
You may sign up at the Connection Place in Fellowship Hall or on the church website, shenumc.org.

First dates will be during the week of Oct. 15 (see those days for times). More dates will be scheduled, so don’t worry if the first week doesn’t work for you.
Mission Possible 2017 Is Here!

Join SUMC Sunday, October 22, from 1:30 to 5:00 for the Third Annual Mission Possible! This is a great opportunity to connect with others at church and in the community and to do some GOOD! In each of our first two years, over one hundred volunteers made a difference for many seniors, kids and families in our local community and beyond. Volunteers of all ages and abilities work with others from 1:30 – 4:30 pm. All meet at church at 5:00 for a free dinner and fellowship. Please join us! Signs up at church beginning October 1 or email:

missions.sumc@gmail.com

Mission Opportunities in a Nutshell:

**Yard Work** – Raking, trimming, etc., for folks needing help

**Light Repairs** - Perform repairs to porches, stairs, etc. Crews will be sent to various sites that have been pre-assessed by SUMC crew leaders.

**“Trunk or Treat”** – Volunteers host a trick or treat station from their decorated car trunks to connect with kids in the local community. **Trick or treating will take place from 2-4 pm.** SUMC missions will provide a $20 Price Chopper gift card to hosts to offset cost of candy & decorations.

**Crafts with Kids** – Teens and adults connect with kids through pumpkin painting and crafts.

**Flood Buckets** – Youth will assemble Flood Buckets to restock UMCOR’s depleted supply of buckets filled with cleansers and tools distributed to flood victims by first-responders.

**Health Kits** – People of all ages can participate in assembling health kits to demonstrate help for those in our nation and across the globe. All materials will be supplied.

**Senior Outreach** – Join a team visiting a local senior care facility to share music, play bingo and bring some joy.

Can’t Make it that Day? Consider a monetary donation to fund our Flood Buckets and Health Kit missions.

Connecting to Christ & Community
Through **ACTION**
Sunday, Oct 22, at 1:30 pm
Dinner & Fellowship at 5:00
Contemporary Worship Service

Contemporary Vision Team Gathering

The Contemporary Vision Team met on September 24, following the 10:45 service, to "cast a vision" together about the Contemporary Service. Ideas were flowing about re-structuring the service as well as finding new ways to get people connected and engaged in our church mission, from first-time guests, to current members, to those beyond our walls. This gathering allowed members of our church to be a part of the conversation as we continue to serve our mission here at Shen UMC in new ways. The Contemporary Vision Team discussed the big questions such as "how can we remain biblically commanded while being culturally appropriate?" "What creative elements should we start to incorporate into our worship service?" As a church body that strives to connect people to Christ and community, we believe it is vital to move in this exciting direction right here and right now. Our District Superintendent said it best: “The churches that are dying these days, my friends, are the churches that aren’t open to the new things God is doing around us, for us, and within us...they’re the churches that cling to what has been at the expense of what people need out there. You’re busy about helping people connect to Christ and community. And you’re doing that in all the creative ways that God is calling you to today. You’re doing it in Traditional Worship like I experienced wonderfully earlier today. Thanks be to God friends, you are doing it in Contemporary Worship too."

If you have any questions or would like to know more about our Contemporary Worship Service at 10:45, please reach out to Pastor Lee Carlson, or to Katie Kreidler, Contemporary Worship Director, at kkreidler@shenumc.org.

SUMC Worship Band

Together we have witnessed God's constant provision and faithfulness at the Contemporary Service. As a band, we pray that God's will be done in us and through us. The SUMC Worship Band is making strides together and is seeking to worship Christ in everything we do.

If you have an interest in joining our band or becoming an alternate band musician, please contact Katie Kreidler at kkreidler@shenumc.org. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we seek to serve the Lord through our music.
What are Connect Groups?

Life is not meant to be lived alone. God intends for us to experience life together, and that why we encourage you to join a small group.

A small group is a weekly gathering of three or more people who meet in a home, church, or anywhere! They visit, study the Word, and pray together. No matter where you are in life, it is important to have a group of people you get together with on a weekly basis to study God’s Word and have fun!

Connect Groups (Small Groups) at Shen UMC will be starting again the first week of October. To kick off the Connect Groups, we will be following the Pastor Lee’s sermon series, “Better Together.”

These groups will follow a video curriculum by Pastor Rick Warren, who is the pastor of Saddleback Church (and the author of The Purpose Driven Life.) He will show us how we were never meant to live life alone and how our purposes are fulfilled together, in community.

This study will help each of us experience relational renewal. Each week we will discover how we can love, reach out in fellowship, grow, serve, and worship together. We will cultivate deeper relationships with those around us as we discover how we are “Better Together.”

Connect Groups will run for six weeks starting the week of Oct 1 and ending the week of Nov 5. Sign ups will begin Sunday Sept. 24, in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Small groups will also be offered at different days and times. Please check out the bulletin, weekly e-newsletter and website for more information or contact Stephanie Hutchins at shutchins@shenumc.org or 518-371-7964 ext. 12.

District Gathering with Bishop Webb

Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Mark J. Webb will be visiting each of the Districts in the Upper New York Conference during his 2017-2018 District Days tour. The theme of the tour will be, “A Way Forward.” This year’s District Days is set up to facilitate active discussion. Conversations in small groups will be based on questions originating with the United Methodists’ Commission on a Way Forward, a group of laity and clergy from across our global church. The group has been charged to work on issues related to human sexuality which arose at the 2016 General Conference. The goal of these conversations is not to reach a consensus on the answers to the questions, but rather to record an array of thoughts and ideas to send to the Commission. In the words of the Conference’s Human Sexuality Task Force who have designed the day, “we will discuss the United Methodist Church, and what changes we might need to implement to make it more like what God wants us to be.” All church members and friends are welcome to join this discussion at SUMC on Thursday, October 5. Clergy will meet at 1:00 pm and laity at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.
As you probably know, I am a brother in a religious order, the Community of Aidan and Hilda. That’s why I am called Brother Paul. This group of women and men have taken vows to be willing servants of the Lord. We each work out our mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. My work is to be a minister and chaplain, bringing the knowledge of the love of the God through the Trinity to everyone I come in contact with. One of my duties is to write a weekly post on Face Book (you can access these by befriending me on same). It starts with the salutation “To my brothers and sisters and everyone.” For the past three weeks I have written on the topic of criticism, and I would like to share them with you here. This will be a two part series this month and next.

**Criticism Part One**

I came across a situation the other day where someone close to me said some things that I didn’t necessarily care for. This raised a question in my mind- how should I react to others complaints about me? In Proverbs 15:31-32 I found these words I could rely upon: “If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.” Constructive criticism should always be welcomed if it is given in love. To the one who gave me the constructive criticism that I needed to hear-THANK YOU.

One of my friends, Steve (maybe or maybe not his real name), dropped by my office the other day. He had read my post. We talked about it (criticism) and got into a discussion about “Destructive Criticism.” Scripture has a lot to say about this topic. There are a number of passages that address this issue- James 5:9, Matt. 7:1-5, Luke 6:37-42, Prov. 15:1, and Prov. 15:5, just to name a few. They deal with the giving and acceptance of criticism- as you give, so shall you receive. In the next issue I will deal with the topic of Destructive Criticism, what it is and what it does to the giver and the receiver. So stay tuned, hold your breath and eagerly await CRITICISM PART TWO.

Thank you for allowing me to pray with and for you.

*Brother Paul*

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*A pastor asks his flock, “What would you like people to say when you’re in your casket?”
One congregant says, “I’d like them to say I was a fine family man.”
Another says, “I’d like them to say I helped people.”
The third responds, “I’d like them to say, ‘Look! I think he’s moving!’ “*
We are back in school, welcoming new and returning students to SUMC Preschool. We are learning new routines and new policies and procedures to ensure that our preschool is a welcoming oasis as well as a safe environment for all. As a mission of SUMC, we are striving to Connect People to Christ and Community daily in our school, not only through our new “Faith Friends” program, but in our daily interaction with our families. "Faith Friends" is our preschool's Christian Education program, when we will share prayer, faith based songs, Bible stories, and Jesus Christ's message with our students.

We are receiving wonderful feedback to the updates that have been implemented this fall.

- We have added a healthy green initiative, including a recycle/reduce/reuse program, a cleaner environment, and promoting healthier snacks.
- We have added “Brightwheel,” an education platform for communication, billing, and attendance.
- We are on Facebook and are updating our website.
- Some of our class formats have changed and will continue to be updated based on the needs of our families.

I am grateful to this church, its members, our preschool board, our preschool staff and all the people who have given so much of their time and talent to bring our school to its current vision.

I look forward to continuing to address the needs of this community and continuing to share Jesus Christ’s love with our children.

Elizabeth Wygel
Preschool Director

Friday Morning Moms will meet October 6, 13, 20 and 27. Discussion topics will include the wrap-up of our study on Wilderness, a look at Bedtime Stories, and Money talk. Meetings are held in the Hearth Room from 9:00 to 11:00. Professional childcare is provided and newcomers are always welcome. For more information please visit our website www.fridaymorningmoms.org

Community Dinner

Our dinner this month is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. We will be having a favorite: lasagna with tossed salad, garlic bread, beverages and dessert. Our kitchen prep begins at 2:30 pm. Dining room setup starts at 4:30 pm, serving at 5:30 and clean up begins at 6:15 pm. We welcome help in all areas. Please contact Donna Rischbieter at dlrisch@nycap.rr.com or 518-877-0553 if you have any questions, or to volunteer.
Youth Group

Youth Group is an activity when students get together to connect with their friends, to make new friends and to connect with God. We meet regularly throughout the school year to learn more about God and how God works in our own lives through worship, Bible stories, games, volunteering and more! We volunteer at the Food Bank, Albany City Mission, participate in the 30 hour famine and so much more. All students are welcome to join, so grab a friend and plan to come!

Youth group is open to all students in grades 6-12. This year the youth group will be meeting on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. We will be meeting October 4, 11, 18, and 25.

Ashley Latham
Senior High Youth Leader

Stephanie Hutchins
Junior High Youth Leader

..Of Interest Mostly to Women

The Circle of Faith & Dorothy Brown Circle

Trusting God, Finding Peace, Connecting with Other Women

Please join the Circle of Faith and our very special guests from the Dorothy Brown Circle for a unique opportunity to connect with generations of women who have served and advanced our church and our mission of Connecting People to Christ and Community. The purpose of a joint meeting is to encourage women from both groups to become better acquainted by meeting, interacting and perhaps sharing some common experiences.

We will also kick off a new spiritual growth series led by Julie Keegan on “Unshakeable Trust” and the journey to unconditional peace. In these hectic and demanding times, women frequently experience worry, stress, and doubt. This is not God’s plan for us! Come learn why on Monday, October 9, at 7:00 pm in the Hearth Room. Refreshments will be provided by the Dorothy Brown Circle.

The New Circle is a connecting opportunity for women of all ages seeking to build faith and connection to God and to the church community. ALL women are welcome!

Since the Dorothy Brown Circle usually meets during the day, if night transportation is a problem, please contact another member for a ride. Any other questions may be handled by calling Linda Rice at 518-383-3115 or Barbara Piliere at 518-577-3100.
Please Keep in Prayer:

We Extend Sympathy to:
Everett Brownell and family on the death of his wife, Lois, on August 30.
Marcia Benton and family on the death of her husband, Don, on September 10.
Donna Burbank and family on the death of her husband, Ross, on September 15.

Baptisms on August 30:
Benjamin Michael Stout, son of Michael & Sarah Stout
Znthony David Loux, son of Andrew & Ashley Loux, grandson of Gary & Marilyn Parker

INTERESTED IN SCOUTS?
CUB SCOUTS is for boys K through 5th grade
CONTACT CHRIS GERSEY gersey scouts@nycap.rr.com

BOY SCOUTS is for boys ages 11 to 18.
CONTACT DAN FABRIS dfabris45@gmail.com
“CONNECTING PEOPLE TO CHRIST AND COMMUNITY”

Shenendehowa UMC Sunday Worship Hours
9:00 (Traditional Service) and 10:45 am (Contemporary Service)

PASTORS & STAFF
Pastor, Rev. Leland Carlson - pastorlee@shenumc.org
Chaplain & Visitation Minister, Brother Paul McCue - brotherpaul@shenumc.org
Deaconess, Denise Walling - dwalling@shenumc.org
Coordinator of Music Ministries, Lauri Nair - laurinair@shenumc.org
Organist, Dan MacGregor - dmacgregor@shenumc.org
Christian Ed. & Youth Ministries Coordinator, Stephanie Hutchins - shutchins@shenumc.org
Worship Director (10:45), Katie Kreidler - kkreidler@shenumc.org
Office Administrator, Mary Ann Cortese - secretary@shenumc.org
Administrative Assistant, Kathy Fitzmorris - kfitzmorris@shenumc.org
Treasurer, Denise Gottung - treasurer@shenumc.org
Financial Secretary, Kathy Kohler - financialsecretary@shenumc.org
Senior High Youth Leader, Ashley Latham - alatham@shenumc.org
Sunday Childcare Providers - Sheila Dempsey & Meg Fitzmorris
Director of Preschool - Elizabeth Wygel - preschooldirector@shenumc.org
Head Custodian, Peter Ryan; Sunday Custodian, Trish Hotaling

Contact Us:
Phone: 518-371-7964; emergency phone: 662-4463 (NOAHGOD)
E-mail: secretary@shenumc.org. Web Site: www.shenumc.org
Office Hours: 9 am - 3 pm, Monday - Friday

FOCUS Editor-- Dara Griffith
Help Bring Things Into
FOCUS
FOCUS is a monthly publication to help keep you informed of church programs, community events, and to report news of our members and friends.

November FOCUS article deadline:
Tuesday, October 17
To Submit Items:
Send to Dara Griffith
focus@shenumc.org.

Weekly Bulletin Announcements are due by noon on Wednesdays
Send to Mary Ann Cortese, secretary@shenumc.org.