

THE CARILLON



2011

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Dear Friends,

Welcome back to Scotia United Methodist Church! There is something special that happens as the calendar changes to September. Families return from summer vacation, people return from camp. Church gears back up as Sunday School is in session and the choir is singing. I want to share some exciting events that are taking place this September.

On **September 11th**, we will be focusing during the worship time on a service of remembrance, healing and forgiveness. You are also invited to the 9/11 Memorial Interfaith Commemoration at 2 pm at the Veteran's Park (with a rain location of First UMC, State Street, Schenectady).

Our homecoming event will take place on **September 18**. Come and celebrate with new and old friends and join in the instillation of our new pastor, Rev. Megan Stowe. There will be a special coffee hour following the service. See upcoming bulletins for more information.

Another exciting thing is that we are getting ready for Sunday School. The first day of Sunday School will be **September 25**. See the Sunday bulletin for more information about a teacher training and a church-wide work day to get the Sunday School rooms in tip-top shape.

-Pastor Megan



Mon. 6:30 pm

Wed. 7 pm

Tues. 8:00 pm

Thurs, 6:30 pm

NA group meets on Sundays at 7 pm.

Altar Flowers

If anyone would like to put flowers on the altar for a Sunday or special occasion,

please let me know the date. Contact

me by e-mail: dcies204@aol.com or call me

at 372-5562 with your date and occasion.

Flowers can be artificial or fresh.

A bouquet from your garden at this time of year is a wonderful idea.

-Deb Cieslak

Welcome to our New Pastor!!

Sunday, September 18th will be a day of celebration as we officially welcome Megan Stowe as our new pastor here at Scotia. During the morning worship service we will celebrate Megan's appointment to our congregation. After service join us for brunch. You can catch up with friends, old and new, find out about exciting opportunities coming this year and personally offer your congratulations to Pastor Megan and her family. We hope everyone will join us as we kick off an exciting new year at Scotia UMC.

Missions

Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry -As you know, we collect for the Scotia-Glenville Food Pantry, both food and cash, during service on the **second and fourth Sundays each month**. There are baskets in each corner of the sanctuary for food donations anytime. Cash will allow the food pantry to buy from the Regional Food Bank at reduced prices as well as fresh items and those items they run short of. The pantry will use anything we donate but they can always use peanut butter, jellies, juices, pasta sauces and pasta.

Regional Food Bank - A great opportunity for fellowship with others from our church and a group from Bank of America. On the second Tuesday of each month we go to the Regional Food Bank to sort and repack products from various stores. We meet at the church to carpool at 2:00 and usually return around 4:30. No long term commitment, join us whenever your schedule allows. Our next trip is **TUESDAY, September 13th**.

If you have any questions or want to sign up for anything, please contact Dick Knapp (393-5737 or rknapp5@nycap.rr.com) or anyone on the Mission Team.

Bible Studies in the Fall

The Tuesday morning Bible Study will continue to use the *2011 Disciplines* through the month of September and when we gather together, we will come up with a plan for October and November. The first meeting will be Sept. 13th at 9:30 am.

The evening Bible Study will start on Thursday, Sept. 15th at 7 pm. Before the actual study will be an organizational meeting on Thurs. Sept. 8th at 7 pm. We will be looking at the book, *"What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?"* by Martin Thielen. The book costs \$11. Please check with Pastor Megan for the book and for more information. This book study will allow us to discuss several things Christians don't need to believe. For example, we don't need to believe that Christians don't doubt or that it is ok for Christians to be judgmental and obnoxious. However, we will spend most of our time studying what Christians do need to believe (in Jesus- his life, teachings, example, death and resurrection). A great benefit to these beliefs is that they provide promising answers to some of life's most profound questions, including: What matters most? Am I accepted? Where is God? What about suffering? And is there hope?

Liturgists

9/4 Mikaela Potter
 9/11 Bob Dieterich
 9/18 Bob Hatt
 9/25 Stephen Long

Sound

9/4 Todd Lavery
 9/11 Mark Cieslak
 9/18 Dave Read
 9/25 Bob Hatt

Greeters

Month of September
 Howard & Merry Maloy

Ushers

Month of September
 Dick & Pat Knapp

Fellowship

9/4 Kim & Dave Huhtala
 9/11 Cindy Handy
 9/18 Welcoming Team
 9/25 Clarence & Jackie Mosher

Monthly Calendar

Sept. 4th - Blessing of the Backpacks
 Sept. 6th - Trustees meeting 7 pm
 Sept. 7th - Choir Practice 7:30 pm
 Sept. 11th - Service of Remembrance
 Sept. 12th - Women's Group
 Hobby Night 7 pm
 Sept. 18th - Homecoming Sunday
 Sept. 19th - Staff Parish meeting 7 pm
 Sept. 25th - Sunday School begins
 Sept. 26th - Admin. Council 7 pm

Schenectady Remembers

The Schenectady Clergy Group is sponsoring a Remembrance Service on Sunday, September 11th at 2:00 p.m. at Veterans' Park in Schenectady, which is directly across from First UMC on State Street. This will be a 10th anniversary service with all faiths represented. Save the date!

Hands 4NY

The Upper New York Conference has a mission focus for this year of Hands4NY, specifically looking to feed one million hungry people in upstate NY. The Albany District is hosting an event on Oct. 15th from 10 am to 2 pm at the Burnt Hills UMC called Rethink Hunger: Regional Hunger Action Fair. At this Fair, we will be educating the public and one another about the many ways local UM churches are reaching out to meet the needs of hungry New Yorkers. There will be free food, a bake sale (with proceeds to go to the Regional Food Bank), live music, an obstacle course, a trebuchet launching pumpkins among many other things. The cost of admission is \$1 or a canned food item. Please let either Dick Knapp or Pastor Megan know if you are interested in attending or helping with this event.

Sunday School Updates

We are still in need of a few volunteers to be teachers. We know that the education of our children and youth is critical so we ask that you please consider volunteering, even if only for a few Sundays between now and Christmas. We will be holding a confirmation class for students 8th grade and older. Confirmation class is a time in which we really wrestle with the questions of what does it mean to be Christian? Why would we want to be United Methodist? Why become a member of Scotia United Methodist Church?

We are doing a fundraiser to purchase our Sunday School curriculum and supplies. In the hallway will be a giant backpack. We will be encouraging people to fill up our backpack with mini-book bags (which represent a share of the Sunday School expenses). You can buy a mini-book bag during Coffee Hour starting on September 4th.

We are re-vamping the Safe Sanctuaries Policy so that our children and volunteers are safer and the church is less at risk. This means if you have a child who attends Sunday School or is in the nursery, we will have a registration form for you to fill out, alerting us of any medical conditions that we need to be aware of including your contact information in case we need to get a hold of you during the week.

SUMC Golf Tournament

Sunday, October 9th, 2 p.m.
 Van Patten Golf Course
 \$70 per person
 9 hole Scramble
 Includes golf cart and food afterward.
 Contact *Stephen Schad* at 688-9515 or sschad@gmail.com, to play or to donate a prize.
 (A portion of the proceeds will go towards local missions.)

Hobby Night

Calling all those with a Hobby! On Mon., September 12, 2011, at 7:00 PM in the Loomis Room, the Woman's Group will host our 1st Hobby Night. If you have a hobby you would like to showcase, give Sue Sykes a call, 377-3861 to register. Each hobby will have a place/table reserved to display your hobby. We would like you to talk about your hobby, how you got started, etc. This event is open to everyone but you need to register beforehand.

Fall Sermon Series

Our Fall Sermon Series will focus on one of the most foundational items of our faith, the Apostle's Creed. From September 18th till the end of November, we will explore the different parts of the Creed, why the Creed was originally written and what does it mean to our faith today? Pastor Megan is happy to receive suggestions of other topics that you'd like explored through sermons.

World Communion Sunday

October 2nd is World Communion Sunday, a day in which we celebrate communion with our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. This is one of six special Sunday offerings in the UMC. This special offering goes to support racial and ethnic minority scholarships for US and international students. These scholarships enable people around the world to serve and lead their home churches and communities by making higher education a reality.

From the Pastor

As we passed out name tags recently, I heard a lot of people mention, “oh, but we’re not members here.” So I would like to invite you to be officially united with this community. I will be glad to let you know what our church is all about. You may join by transferring from another congregation or by making a Profession of Faith (if you have never been baptized or joined a church before.) You may join by Reaffirmation of Faith. This means you were a member of a church at one time but you fell out of the habit of church. You may ask, “Why should I bother joining a church? I’m not into organized religion.” I hear you. If it helps, we are mostly disorganized.

I understand joining a church doesn’t provide you with many worldly benefits. Members get to vote at charge conferences and they can be elected to our Staff Parish Relations committee (the church’s human resources dept). For most, that may not be much of a prize. Many folks participate and have done so for years without actually joining. You don’t have to be a member to be involved in our activities.

But those who take the plunge often do so because they believe in what we are doing and want to stand with us. We encourage and support people who are involved in peacemaking, human rights, and environmental and economic justice. We encourage and support people who are involved in repairing homes, preparing meals, and healing bodies. We aren’t looking for folks just to get them on our membership rolls. We are looking for folks who, having found a home here, are ready to roll up their sleeves and work with us, take off their shoes and dance with us, let loose their inhibitions and sing with us, and put on their hiking boots and explore creation with us!

It doesn’t matter if you have been attending for a few Sundays or for a few decades, we’d be happy to talk with you to see if this is the right step for you. It is an easy process to join. If you are interested in discussing this, I would be happy to arrange a time to meet with you. We will have new member conversations soon and those who decide to join will be introduced to the congregation so we can celebrate with them. Let me know if you are ready to jump in with both feet and take the bull by the horns!

-Pastor Megan

Holistic Small Group Leader’s Workshop Sept. 16–17

First UM Church - 68 Maple Avenue, Voorheesville, NY 12186-9404

(<http://www.unyumc.org/churches/detail/1148>)

Friday - 6:00 till 9

RSVP: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8G7TSHL>

Saturday 9 till 4:00

Cost - \$20 includes lunch- due day of workshop

This workshop is for pastors, small group leaders and potential small group leaders. It is based on the ChristCare system of small group leadership with a strong influence from the Saddleback small group system. The goal of the workshop is that:

1. Pastors will go back to their church and set up a small group system that will result in many holistic small groups. We believe that a good small group system is essential for the creation of holistic small groups and those holistic small groups are an essential aspect of a healthy church of any size.
2. Each lay person trained will confidently go home and recruit, organize and lead a holistic small group.

Dan and Karen Finch have been small group leaders for many years and have been leading small group leader workshops for the past five years throughout the northeast. Dan is the pastor of the United Methodist Church of Livonia. Karen is an author and faculty member of RIT.

