

Vision

A newsletter of the Troy Larger Parish's First United Presbyterian Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

October 2009

Adult Education News from Kathleen Roe & Jim Corsaro

America is a great nation with problems. Those problems are found at the local, national and international levels. Wars in the Middle East, an economy in deep trouble, growing numbers of poor and homeless people, political and partisan conflict and environmental problems are just some of the issues confronting the American people, including the people of Troy and the congregation of First United Presbyterian Church. Those problems cannot be solved by faith alone, but our faith in God may help solve them and helps us by giving us solace in times of trouble. Adult Education in October and November will be devoted to several of these issues and we will see how Faith in Difficult Times may help see us through to better times.

October 4

<u>John Savaria</u>, a veteran of the Iraq conflict will describe some of his experiences in Iraq and as a veteran and will lead a discussion to help us better understand that conflict.

October 10

Kate Dahlstedt, a clinical psychologist with Soldier's Heart, will discuss the work of that group with veterans and trauma survivors. Soldier's Heart is an organization devoted to healing those hurt by war and other traumatic events.

Dick & Diana Loeffel, Welcome!!

Diana and Dick are newcomers to the Capitol Region, arriving in July 2009 and living in Cohoes. They had spent all their previous years in Bergen County, New Jersey. The birth of their grandson Luke, brought them to the North Country!

Dick was drafted into the Korean Conflict and then studied at Farleigh Dickinson University.

He was a finish carpenter contractor for over 50 years. Diana graduated from Barnard College with a degree in American History. She taught high school for 5 years and left teaching to raise 2 children and returned to the work force as a travel consultant, a career she has continued to practice for almost 40 years.

They were active members of their local United Church of Christ church and were introduced to First United by Marsha Cutting who is a neighbor in Cohoes.

Call to the Conéreéational Meetiné October 25, 2009

At its stated meeting on September 28, 2009, Session issued a call for a meeting of the congregation of First United Presbyterian Church to be held on Sunday, October 25, 2009, immediately following the service of worship. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the 2009 Nominating Committee and to elect church officers (5 elders and 4 deacons). All active members are urged to be present. *Donald Drew, Clerk of Session*

A Pastoral Note

from Alexandra

The first Sunday of faith education saw the elementary, middle, and high school age children and youth gathering in 'The Upper Room' for Scripture and prayer before dispersing to three learning workshops focused on the Biblical story of Abraham, his wife Sarah, and Isaac, the son born to them when they were both of advanced age. The gathering space is enhanced with a tent, palm trees, sheep, a camel, as well as fabric and small rugs from the Middle East provided by workshop leader Pat Carlson.

In that same space, Pat is leading an art workshop during which the children are making footprints and reflecting on the Biblical story as journey and their own 'walk' with God. Sue Steele is leading an audiovisual workshop which approaches the story through laughter its sound and the feelings associated with it; Lois Lanoue and Kerry Welcome are leading a games and puzzles workshop with a room-size Biblical game that helps the children experience and reflect on the element of surprise in the Biblical story, and Dan and Laura Rogers are leading a music and worship workshop where children will learn the story through song. The preschool children are being engaged by stories from the Hebrew Scriptures, using our wonderful Godly Play figures, and our senior highs have begun a year-long series of confirmation classes that will include a wide variety of experiences and activities. A team of teachers led by Claudia Schwendeman is teaching Godly Play, and Reverend Lusak is teaching the confirmation series.

Reverse Trick-or-Treating: what's that?

On Halloween night, Saturday, October 31, children and adults all across the U.S. will unite to help end poverty among cocoa farmers and forced child labor in the cocoa industry, promote Fair Trade, and protect the environment by handing Fair Trade chocolates back to adults while Trick or Treating! Reverse Trick or Treating is in initiative launched by the human rights organization Global Exchange in cooperation with Equal Exchange, the Fair Trade organization from which First United orders the coffee we serve at refreshment time. We have ordered 100 cards and Fair Trade chocolates from Equal Exchange and will be distributing them to our church school trick-or-treaters.

For more information: check out www.reversetrickortreating.org



October 18th Bread for the World Sunday

Moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ, We raise our voices to help end hunger at home and abroad.

Please give what you can.

www.bread.org

Ministry of Music News from Maury A. Castro

It takes a great deal of educating for children to understand what adults consider the most basic aspects of a worship service. This is very easy to forget. For example, do your children know how to read and sing a hymn from the hymnal? This sounds terribly basic, but I still remember when someone took a moment to explain to me that the words are read with the music, which goes from system to system; I was trying to read along with the words from the first lines of every stanza (like a book reads)! I couldn't figure out where everyone was!

Make it your job to create teaching moments out of every worship service. Show your child how to read a hymn and follow along with your finger until it becomes natural. Figure out who is the composer of the music for a hymn. Figure out who is the author of a hymn. These simple facts can open up an entire world to your child!

A word of thanks:

Dick Loeffel has created fantastic new booths for the choir to store not only their choir folders, but also their hymnals and other incidental music that we might be studying. These booths are a great help to the choir, and have freed up the previous choir slots for the children's choir to use. A win, win!

Thank you Dick!



Upcoming Events:

Friday, October 30 at 6:00pm

A Troy Night Out Halloween Event



Featuring organists

Maury A. Castro & David Vredenburg

The second annual 25-minute concert for kids & adults!

Friday, November 20 at 8:00pm

Eastern New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents



Isabelle Demers organ concert

Ms. Demers of Montreal is fast becoming an organ sensation in North America. She will be playing a concert of transcriptions and original works.

Information about this artist can be found at http://www.concertartists.com/ID.html

This concert is free to members of the AGO \$20 for non-members

First United welcomes a new children's choir intern!

Carolynn Mackey is currently enrolled at the College of Saint Rose in the Advanced Graduate Certification program in Music Education. She has a Bachelor's in Voice from SUNY Fredonia and studied under the late Delia Wallis. Ms. Mackey was also a participant in the Schlern International Music Festival in the Italian Alps studying under Dr. Sheila Allen. As the new intern for the Children's Choir, Carolynn is absolutely overjoyed and excited for this new opportunity. You can see her in action weekly on Tuesdays at the church, or on October 18, November 22, and December 24 when the Children's Choir sings!

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October 18 ~ Bread for the World Sunday

Mark Dunlea, Executive Director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State, will speak the programs of the HANNYS, a statewide anti-hunger coalition that combines grassroots organizing at the local level with state level research, education and advocacy to address the root causes of hunger, including poverty.

October 25

<u>Paul Dellio</u> will speak about the programs of Joseph's House and Shelter and the Inn from the Cold project begun in 2008 and continuing this coming year. Joseph's House is one of the local missions of FUPC and we hope to again enthusiastically support the work of wonderful agency.



Pride Sunday at First United

On Sunday, September 27, the new Rainbow banner was dedicated during the worship service. The exquisite banner was designed and created by Elder Karen Harpe. The banner combines the Gay Pride rainbow

stripes with the Trinity Knot. The Knot was fashioned from 9,600 glass beads.

The banner highlights First United's commitment to full inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the life of the church. Thanks to Karen for the many hours of work involved in the making of the banner.

October Worship

Sermon series:

Book of Job

October 4

World Communion & Peacemaking Offering

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

October 11

Columbus Day Weekend

Psalm 22:1-15 Job 23:1-9

October 18

Bread for the World

Psalm 104:1-4, 24, 35c Job 38:1-7, 34-41

October 25

Reformation Sunday

Psalm 34 lob 42:1-6

Session Notes

from Don Drew, Clerk of Session

Session **RECEIVED** the Overture on Marriage from the More Light Ministries Team for a first reading.

Session **APPROVED** hosting the Inn from the Cold at First United during January and February.

Elder Sue Steele **REPORTED** on behalf of the group of members who are working on revisions to the church's website.

Elder Jim Corsaro **PRESENTED** a request for action on the Church Archives for first reading

Elder Sue Steele was **ELECTED** Clerk pro tem for the October Session meeting.

Session **ACTED** to call the Fall Congregational Meeting on October 25 for the purpose of electing officers.

Session **APPROVED** a proposal to be a delivery site for Roxbury Farm again for 2010.

Session **APPROVED** a request from the Personnel Committee to hire Carolynn Mackey as Children's Choir Intern.

Session **APPROVED** a special offering for Bread for the World on October 18.

Session APPROVED a request from the Board of Deacons to initiate a mission project inviting the congregation to purchase children's pajamas for Joseph's House Christmas Party and children's hats and mittens for the winter months; Mother's Day Church World Service Blanket Offering and Father's Day Tools Offering.

Session **RECEIVED** a report from the **FacilitiesFin**ance**Stew**ardship Team regarding budget requests.

Session **APPROVED** the Communion Schedule for October 2009-September 2010. The schedule reflects the recommendation of the Worship Committee that communion be celebrated during the festival season of Christmas rather than during the season of Advent.

Session **ACTED** to change the date of the October Stated meeting to October 19.

Updated First United Financial & Investment Information

We have switched our bank accounts to the First Niagara Bank. Along with our regular checking and payroll accounts there, we are also utilizing their UVest Investment Services. If you are interested in making any financial donations to the church, ie stock, you may contact our financial representative at the bank. Her name is Corinne Cox and her phone number is 518-270-3366. She is located here in the Troy downtown Branch at the corner of Second & State Streets. I have found her to be very responsive. (It is also very helpful if you notify me if you are making a transaction / donation to FUPC so that we can make our records accurate on your behalf)

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robin at 233-1606. Thanks.

~ Robin Wheeler, Treasurer

Peace March & Rally on Saturday

October 17 West side of the Capitol, Albany at 12 noon

Speakers to include:

Iraq Veteran Against the War, Military Families for Peace and others

March with us through downtown Albany.

Endorsers: North East Peace and Justice Action Coalition (NEPAJAC), Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace, The Solidarity Committee, Guilderland Neighbors for Peace, Women Against War, Troy Neighbors for Peace, Upper Hudson Peace Action, Tom Paine Chapter of Veterans for Peace, Saratoga Peace Alliance, Albany Friends Meeting, Syracuse Peace Alliance, Capital District Interfaith Alliance, Schenectady Neighbors for Peace, Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian society of Schenectady, Berkshire Citizens for Peace and Justice and Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice

Deacons News

from Shirley Bowes & Peşşy Drew Co-moderators

Do you know . . .

... how our Board of Deacons touches so many aspects of the life of our congregation and beyond? We provide communion supplies, hospitality supplies, resource materials, and pay for postage to mail bulletins to our special care members. Last year we also purchased a \$400 digital camera to provide photos for the website, brochures and programs. Each year we host an Organ Concert and Luncheon for senior members and friends, and we provide Thanksgiving Dinners for eight needy families.

In addition to our support of church activities, we budget funds to support local missions including:

Bethany House, Habitat for Humanity, NEST, Regional Food Bank, Joseph's House, Unity House, Troy Larger Parish Food Pantry and seasonal assistance as needed.

The Deacons 2009 budget includes income of \$6,000. We budget \$2,000 from our Endowment Fund and \$4,000 from the Congregation's Deacon Offering Envelopes. We have received \$1600 at this time which is far below the \$4,000 budget. Since our donations are significantly below our budget this year, it appears that we will have to reduce our Local Mission support.

We pray you might consider contributing \$2 or \$5 each week for the next 12 weeks or perhaps make a one time larger donation to help us make our Mission Income Goal. You can see that your Deacons contributions touch so many of those in need within our community.

Now that you know . . . Will you lend a hand?

Presbyterian Rainbow cordially invites you to

MARRIAGE: Sharing God's Gift Equitably in the Church ~ An Act of Pastoral Ministry

A time of conversation and discernment led by the Reverend Don Stroud

Sunday, October 18, 2009

4:00 - 6:00 pm

First United Presbyterian Church of Troy 1915 Fifth Avenue, Troy

(Downtown, between Fulton and Grand Streets)

This event will focus on a marriage overture to amend the PC (USA)'s Directory For Worship and will feature a presentation by Don Stroud followed by an opportunity for questions and conversation. Light refreshments will be served.

Don Stroud formerly served as a pastor in Albany Presbytery and currently serves as Minister of Outreach and Reconciliation for the Baltimore region of *That All May Freely Serve*, one of several national organizations working for full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the PC (USA).

For more information, or to register, call or email Judy Moyer, 283-7663 or Moyer. Judith@gmail.com

The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 13.

Inn From The Cold

Joseph's House & Shelter, Inc.

Overnight Shelter Volunteer: Program Description

Joseph's House & Shelter and a collaboration of Troy Churches are planning to reopen its seasonal overflow shelter this fall. Last year our shelter program (called *Inn from the Cold*) utilized staff from Joseph's House and matched them with trained volunteers from local congregations. The overnight shelter was located at various downtown churches throughout the fall and winter months (November through April).

The goal of this seasonal shelter has been to provide safe overnight accommodations for up to ten single homeless men who had been staying at Joseph's House emergency shelter on Ferry Street, but who need to extend their stay until they could secure housing. Due to overwhelming demand for shelter beds during the cold months of November through April, Joseph's House decided to expand the number of homeless shelter beds in Troy to better serve the growing number of chronically homeless persons with disabilities living on the streets of Troy.

Guests at the *Inn from the Cold* receive the same daytime services as guests staying at Joseph's House year-round shelter at 74 Ferry Street except they sleep at another location overnight and return to the main shelter after they wake up in the morning.

This church / shelter collaboration has already resulted in positive outcomes. In the six month period of the *Inn from the Cold*, our agency sheltered 37 chronically homeless men who were living on the streets of Troy, compared to 17 for the same period the prior year. Most importantly, we didn't need to attend a single funeral for persons who died on the streets from hypothermia or other weather related illnesses. (It has been several years since this has been the case.)

106 volunteers were trained and provided shelter hospitality at the *Inn from the Cold* this year.

The budget for the *Inn from the Cold* during its first year was \$26,000. This included one-time purchasing of equipment (roll-away beds, etc.) We project this year's budget will be around \$20,000 (primarily for salary of one full time staff position). Of course we appreciate any help you can give to aid us in this effort.

Churches (& 1 not-for-profit) which lent their space to our effort include:

Christ Church United Methodist
First United Presbyterian Church of Troy
Saint John's Episcopal Church

Saint Anthony of Padua Church
The Roarke Center
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

Mission Opportunities

Holiday Pajama Drive

The Deacons are collecting pajamas for the Joseph's House Holiday Party.

Sizes Needed

newborn to size 12 youth

Please bring your donations to the church by

December 6th



The Queer Youth Chorus

The chorus will serve Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth and their allies.

We are looking for excited, committed adult volunteers to help empower its members and community through education, mentorship, leadership and music!

To apply call Curran Saile at 462-6138 or email <u>csaile@cdglcc.org</u>.

Coffee for the Troops

In response to a letter from the First Congregational Church of Wallingford, Connecticut, the Session is inviting members and friends of First United to support an outreach project to troops serving in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait. In partnership with a number of other congregations, we have the opportunity to supply Fair Trade coffee to coffee houses that have been set up by military chaplains, offering places for military personnel "to socialize, receive emotional and spiritual support, and be in a relaxed atmosphere after the tension of being on duty...." Look for the display next to the coffee urn in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings at refreshment time and make your contribution to this unique and important way of supporting our troops.

First United's Annual Craft Fair will be held November 14 & 15 in Fellowship Hall

Martha Juenger needs your help, please Volunteer . . .

to help with one or all of these very important tasks. Publicity, set-up before, sales and food help during, pack-up and money counting after.

We will need about 14 people to make this work smoothly.

Thank you so much. ~ Martha

Upcoming TAUM Dates You Won't Want to Miss:

Sunday, November 1

Festival of Music and Chocolate

more information will follow later

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

for the wonderful support given for our "Fall Homecoming Food Fair" on Sunday, September 27. The fabulous tasty foods and drinks, as well as the delicious baked items, were greatly appreciated by all. It was great to see so many stay to eat good food and enjoy time together after worship. As a result of so many efforts, we are pleased to tell you that because of your support, we raised almost \$300 which is being donated to the Troy Larger Parish Food Pantry.

Thank you one and all!

~ Faith Education Committee

The Troy Irish Genealogy Society Takes A Look At First United, Oakwood & Cornerstone

This past year, the Troy Irish Genealogy Society (TIGS) has been recording the names on memorial windows and plaques in *ALL* of the churches in Troy. They are important pieces of church history, and will now be preserved.

So far, ten have been completed, and are up on the society website. I worked on our three Presbyterian Churches ~ First United, Oakwood, and Cornerstone, plus a few others.

Take a look, and see if you recognize anyone!

The website is:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nytigs/ ChurchMemorials.htm

~ Rebecca Rector



When someone has an event here at First United and uses any type of linens . . .

Please take the linens home to launder and then return them to their original living space in a timely manner so others may use them for the next event.

Thank you so very much!

Friends On The Move

Joyce Colwill
Delmar Place
Room #202
467 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, New York 12054

Lindsay Harran-Lewis 35 Eighteenth Street, Apt. #1-B Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104

Heinrich Medicus 2218 Burdett Avenue, Apt. #109 Troy, 12180 Phone number: 833,7436

Savaria, Courtney & John*
Elaine and John
18 Lansing Avenue, Troy 12180
Phone number: 326.5986

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

October 2009

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Don't Forget! Day Light Savings Ends November 1st 1 Office Open 11:30 to 6:30 7 to 8:30 Chancel Choir						
4 World Communion 10:00 Worship / Communion 11:00 Birthdays 11:30 Faith Ed TAUM Empty Bowls NA Group	5 Monday Morning Counting	Roxbury Farm 7:15 Faith Ed 3 to 5 Children's	7 4:30 Worship Team Mtg	8 Office Open 11:30 to 6:30 7 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	9	AA Group
10:00 Worship 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed Children's Choir Field Trip NA Group	12 Office Closed Observance of Columbus Day	Farm 3 to 5 Children's Choir 6:30 Music Sub Com. 7:30 Music Day Camp	1:00 Inn from the Cold Steering Comm. 3:00 Staff Mtg	15 Office Open 11:30 to 6:30 4:00 FaFinStew 7 to 8:30 Chancel	16	AA Group 10 to 2 Labyrinth 12:00 Peace Rally in Albany
18 Children's Choir Sings 10:00 Worship / Bread for the World 11:00 Refreshments 11:30 Faith Ed 12:30 Deacons NA Group	Monday Morning Counting 5:45 NEST Benefit Team Mtg	20 Roxbury Farm 3 to 5 Children's Choir	2:00 Eddy Service / Communion	22 Office Open 11:30 to 6:30 7 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	23	24 AA Group 12 to 3 Fall Festival RPI
26 Reformation Sunday 10:00 Worship 11:00 Refreshments Congregational Mtg 11:30 Faith Ed NA Group	26 Monday Morning Counting	Parm S:30 MLMT Mtg 3 to 5 Children's Choir	28 11:30 Unbinding The Gospel Group 3:00 Staff Mtg	29 Office Open 11:30 to 6:30 7 to 8:30 Chancel Choir	Troy Night Out Scary Music Concert 6:00	AA Group Halloween

September Birthdays

8 Zack Glennie

Dele Loucks-Best Aubrey Loucks-Best

11 Don Drew

12 Bane Thach

14 Shirley Hinkamp

15 David Lanoue

17 Maggie Glennie

22 Jeffrey Harrington

23 Robert Parslow

29 Jim Parmelee

Cara Rogers

30 David Hamlin

October Birthdays

3 Zack Shuster

6 Alexandra Lusak

8 Helene Shea

11 Pat Rudebush

Alyson Turner

16 Peter Hamlin

Mary Elyce Turner

26 Alzadie Turner

30 Greg Duggan

A very happy birthday to you all.

Prayers of the People

Prayers of Comfort

... for Keren and Maury Castro, Keren's grandmother, brother, father and the extended family upon the death of Keren's grandfather September 27.

Prayers of Joy

... for Bonnie Kerr's brother, Carey, who was married October 3.

... with and for the Revs. Donna Elia and Beth Illingworth who celebrated their 20th ordination anniversary on September 10.



... with Pat Carlson that her granddaughter Kayla Carlson Bratton placed first in a diving competition at her high school in Stamford, Connecticut.

Healing Prayers

... Marsha Cutting, who badly injured her back in a fall at work September 19

... for Claudia Schwendeman, as she recuperates from surgery on September 28

... for housekeeping staff member Lynne Stevens, who had surgery October 5

... for Jan Harris, retired Christian educator who assisted us with preparation for the new workshop rotation model. Jan is recovering from a painful case of shingles that affected her eye and ear.

Continuing Prayers of Support and Care

... for Robin Wheeler, Bonnie McCaig, and Don Newell

... for Karen Harpe, Fran Oakes, and Iliana

... for Bob Kerr, Bonnie, Rachel, and Kylie

... for Dana Crobok, Gavin, and Breanne

... for John Eadie and Betsy Belle Eadie

Prayers for God's world...

... all who are unemployed, underemployed; for low wage workers, and for employers and public officials who make labor policy

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors:



Where People with Differences Unite in Christ

First United Presbyterian Church 1915 Fifth Avenue Troy, New York 12180 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

In this issue:

October Worship & Adult Education Special Event ~ October 18 Very Scary organ Music ~ October 30

and more . . .

First United Presbyterian Church Officers for 2009

The Session

Moderator - The Reverend Alexandra Lusak

Class of 2009: Don Drew, Trudi Wybourn, Bonnie McCaig Class of 2010: Karen Harpe, Peggy Savchik,

Robin Wheeler

Class of 2011: Don Bowes, Debbie Brown, Jim Corsaro, Sue Steele.

Youth Elder: Patience Zewou

The Board of Deacons

Class 2009: Shirley Bowes, Bonnie Kerr, Courtney Savaria,

Peggy Drew

Class of 2010: Betsy Belle Eadie, Kathleen Roe, Dan Rogers,

Shirley Street

Class of 2011: Martha Juenger, Don Lutz, Marsha Mintz-Botsford, Pat Rudebush Youth Deacon: Zoe Krumanocker **Vision** Newsletter is published 11 times a year by

First United Presbyterian Church, Troy, New York

Member of the Troy Larger Parish

Alexandra S. Lusak
Maury A. Castro
Carlie D'Annunzio
Joani Jameson
Lynne Stevens

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Minister of Music
Financial Analyst
Administrative Assistant
Housekeeper

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