

Faith Notes

Fly Creek and Schuyler Lake UMCs

November 2023

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1: 3 - 6

Greetings, Friends

By now many of you, if not all of you, know that I will be leaving the Fly Creek and Schuyler Lake churches in 2024, and a new pastor will be appointed to serve starting on July 1 of next year. I am so very appreciative of all the love and support you have shown to me since I made this announcement. As I said from the pulpit and in my email, I am so thankful that you have walked with me through this season of my life.

As we enter into the Advent Season, with its worship theme of *The Gift of Being Present*, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the ways you have been present to me and with me across the years.

In the days to come I will continue to walk beside you all and help you get ready for who and what is next to come. We will continue to work on our ministry plans. We will talk about ways to welcome someone new. We will rejoice together, grieve together, and pray together. And we will celebrate the presence of God in our midst even as we prepare to take leave of one another.

God Bless You All! May God's presence be the greatest gift in your life this season, and beyond!

-Pastor Sharon

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Dates to remember (save this page)

Quilters meet every Tuesday 10 – 3.

Fly Creek Area Historical Society meetings at the church this winter:

November 15, January 24, February 28, and March 27 all starting at 6pm.

Drum Circle meets every third Saturday at 3pm.

Church Events

Nov 25 at 7pm - Coffee House at Schuyler Lake UMC

Dec 2 at 7pm – Bruce Andrews concert at Fly Creek UMC

Dec 9 at 6:30pm – Community Potluck Dinner at Fly Creek UMC

Dec 23 at 7pm – Coffee House at Schuyler Lake UMC

Christmas Eve

9am service at West Exeter UMC

5pm at Schuler Lake UMC (no 8:45 am service)

7:30pm at Fly Creek UMC (no 10am service)

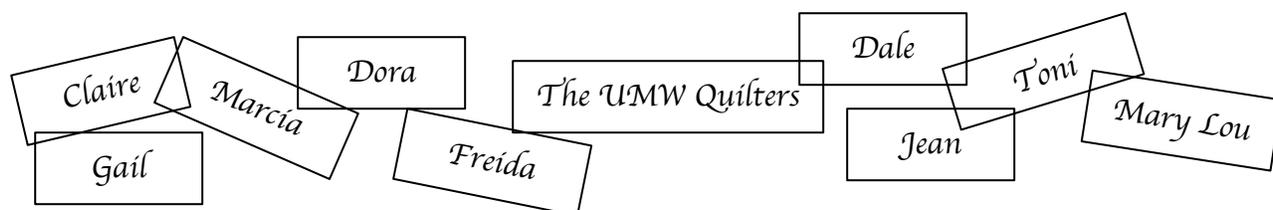
United Methodist Women (UMW) at Fly Creek

The UMW Quilters held another successful quilt show in September. This year's show was dedicated to Wilma Dodge, a longtime member of the quilt group who passed away in May 2023.

Many folks visited the church to see all the quilts we had made over the last year plus a display of other quilters' collections or new creations they had made. We do, indeed, "Drape the Pews" and use every inch of wall space!

Thanks to the generosity of those attending we were able to send \$150 to the Schuyler Lake Food Cupboard. We sold several lap quilts, received bids on the quilts we offered as silent auction items, and we have made a monetary donation to the church to help with the heating costs for the Tuesdays we spend cutting, creating, and having a good time. We always welcome anyone who might want to join us.

We have been sorting our quilts (we made over 100 this year) and getting them ready to distribute to different organizations. We already have given 10 children's quilts to Dr. Chris for Bassett Hospital. If anyone knows of a person, a shut-in, or someone going through a difficult time who might enjoy receiving one of our comfort quilts, please let Pastor Sharon or one of us know. Thank you!



From the Pastor Parish Relations Committee

It's been more than ten years since we've been through the process of having a new pastor appointed to our churches. In those years the Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) has been active with our pastor, helping set priorities for ministry, giving feedback on worship and programs, working with the pastor to provide for time away, and keeping our church profiles up to date.

The church profile is a document the bishop and district superintendent refer to when making appointments. It reflects how the church views itself: its worship life, its studies and programs, its history in the community, its external focus through mission and ministry, what it values in a pastor, and its current and historic financial outlook. All this information helps the cabinet make an informed decision about appointing the next pastor with the right gifts, skills, and graces to meet the church's needs.

Prior to Pastor Sharon's announcement that she will be leaving us in 2024, we met with the District Superintendent, Bob Kolvik-Campbell. He has assured us that he will do his very best to find the right match for our needs, and he is holding us in prayer through this season. He has promised to be available to us any time we have questions or concerns.

As you have questions, concerns, or thoughts about the process, please feel free to reach out to any of us. We are here to help!

Anna Buell, chair

Sarah Gibbons

Bill Schaeffer

Ron Sarles

Sue Winne

Deb Brienza

Meg Kiernan

Harriett Geywits

Jan Jock

Julie Huntsman

Upper New York Annual Conference News

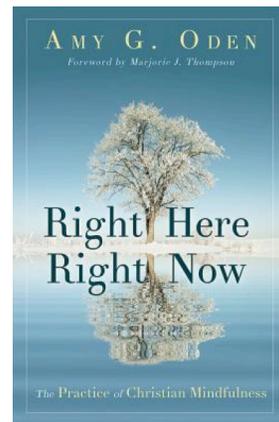
At Annual Conference in June, our Bishop Héctor Burgos announced a small but significant change in the way we identify ourselves. We are now the United Methodists of Upper New York, which emphasizes a focus on the people more than on the structure of the organization. It's a reflection of our new bishop's intentionality. Ministry is not about supporting an organization: ministry is about building relationships that care for people.

One of the teaching sessions at Annual Conference was provided by Rev. Trey Wince of Ministry Architects. His hour long talk focused a technique churches could use to align their program offerings with their vision of how they bring God's love to the community. A group of interested people at Fly Creek UMC has spent some time this fall using information from his talk to develop a plan for the church. Details forthcoming in the next newsletter – stay tuned!



Our Advent worship series, *The Gift of Being Present*, begins on November 26th (right after Thanksgiving). We'll be looking at scripture from Mark's and Luke's Gospel accounts as we explore what it means to be present in the world *right now* and embody Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and Light.

Amy Oden's book *Right Here, Right Now*, will form the basis of our Monday night study for the four weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Worship Series author Marcia McFee will be sharing interviews with Amy to help launch our discussion each week. Our Monday night study starts at 7pm each week on zoom and we'd love to have you join us!



There's also a journal you can download, print, and use in this season if you'd like to practice being present on your own. You will see it in an email as Advent begins, and you will find on our website: flycreekumc.org



Again this year Fly Creek church will be a collection point for gifts for newborns at the Birthing Center at Bassett. Dr. Chris has provided a list of the most common, basic needs. If you feel led to do so, please bring your gifts to church anytime between now and Christmas. These are the most needed items:

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| <i>Diapers</i> | <i>Formula (i.e. Enfamil, Similac)</i> |
| <i>Wipes</i> | <i>Digital thermometers</i> |
| <i>Cotton t-shirts & onesies</i> | <i>Diaper rash cream with zinc oxide (i.e. Desitin)</i> |
| <i>Moisturizing lotions (i.e. Aquaphor, Eucerine, Hydrophor)</i> | |

DID YOU KNOW...

You can listen to the Sunday message every week even if you can't make it to church? Check out Fly Creek UMC's website at <http://flycreekumc.org>



News from Schuyler Lake UMC

The SLUMC Coffee House (& open mic) will celebrate its 8th anniversary in December of this year, and shows no sign of slowing down. The October 28, 2023 event was representative of the range of talents, genres, and surprises that even semi-regular attendees have come to expect, including a Hindi-language spiritual sung *a capella* by a British-Canadian-New Jerseyan first-time attendee. The SLUMC Coffee House is held the 4th Saturday of each month from 7 PM to 9 PM in downtown Schuyler Lake. Performers and audience members of all genres and talents are welcome. Free, but donations welcome!

Another in our series of pancake breakfasts was held on November 4 at the Pantry building one block over from the church at 1427 CO HWY 22, just up from the SL Fire Department headquarters. A soup & chili event is planned for January 14, 2024 from 11am till 2pm.

New signage at both the church and the Pantry provide the most visible evidence of the SLUMC's ongoing renovation and renewal efforts. The new church sign was made possible by a generous donor. Both financial and moral support for our attempts to further renovate the Pantry building as a community center are gratefully received. The SLUMC sees this effort as part of a larger, longer term leadership initiative to revitalize the community in the absence of such leadership from municipal officials.





Dear friends and members of the Fly Creek community,

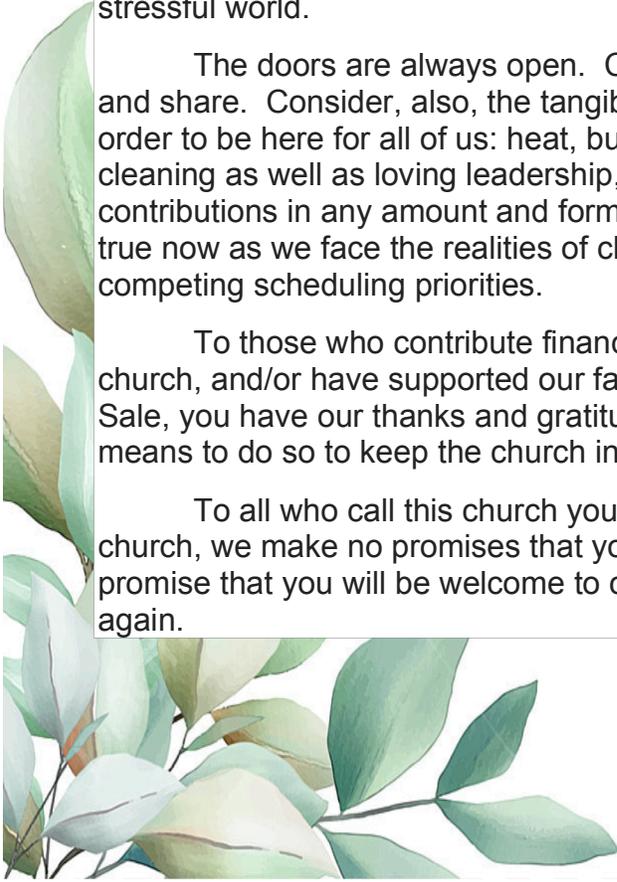
We live in a wonderful, troubled and very complex world. The benefits of where we live are many: here, it is beautiful and people are friendly. Sometimes it feels good to be sheltered. We feel comfortable in Fly Creek.

Fly Creek United Methodist Church is many things to us. There is fellowship in many forms. The church welcomes quilters, a drumming group, community suppers, and meetings for a variety of groups. It is often seen as a center of activities in this hamlet. And the church is home to a congregation, a group of people of all ages and from a variety of walks of life who share a touchpoint. For us, the church is a source of peace in this busy world. We can sing, and reflect and share our burdens. The church can be a shared cup of coffee. It can be a joyous or quiet time of fellowship. It can be a time for checking and affirming that inner moral compass as we move into the bigger, complex, often stressful world.

The doors are always open. Consider joining us to sing, reflect and share. Consider, also, the tangible things that the church needs in order to be here for all of us: heat, building maintenance and regular cleaning as well as loving leadership, and remember that your contributions in any amount and form are appreciated. This is even more true now as we face the realities of changing economics, attendance and competing scheduling priorities.

To those who contribute financially on a regular basis to the church, and/or have supported our fall fundraiser the Bakeless Bake Sale, you have our thanks and gratitude. We encourage anyone with the means to do so to keep the church in mind in your year-end giving.

To all who call this church your home, or who are seeking a home church, we make no promises that you will find inner peace. We will promise that you will be welcome to come and go and, hopefully, come again.



Peace be with you,
Celeste and Chris

FLY CREEK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOMINATIONS AND CONTINUING APPOINTMENTS for 2024

Administrative Board Chair	Bill Schaeffer (25)
Lay Leader	Sarah Gibbons (25)
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Sarah Gibbons (25)
Church Treasurer	Dan Crowell (25)
Finance Secretary	Celeste Johns (25)
Ad Board Recording Secretary.	Paula Schaeffer (25)
Membership Secretary	Freida Snyder
Hospitality	Elizabeth Dunn
Historian	Freida Snyder

Pastor is ex-officio a member of every committee

<u>Pastor-Parish Relations Committee</u>	<u>Lay Leadership Committee (Nominating)</u>
Anna Buell (SL) (chair)	Sharon Rankins-Burd, chair
Sarah Gibbons (FCLayLdr)	Julie Huntsman (25)
Sue Winne (SL) (25)	Chuck Newman (26)
Harriett Geywits (SL) (24)	Bev Hargrove (26)
Bill Schaeffer (26)	Sarah Gibbons (Lay Leader)
Ron Sarles (25)	<u>Education Committee</u>
Julie Huntsman (25)	Chris Kjolhede
Meg Kiernan (25)	
Deb Brienza (24)	

<u>Church Trustees (includes parsonage)</u>	<u>Finance Committee</u>
Tom Huntsman (25)	Dan Crowell, chair (Treas.)
Mike Hodgman (25)	Sharon Rankins-Burd
Tim Gill (25)	Celeste Johns (Financial Sec)
Ron Sarles (25)	Sarah Gibbons (Lay Leader)
Kim Stockwell (24)	One Trustee Representative
Sarah Gibbons (Lay Ldr)	
Meg Kiernan (24)	
Glen Miller (24)	

<u>Worship Committee</u>	<u>Nurture/Outreach Task Force</u> (special projects only)
Sharon Rankins-Burd	
Patty Gracey (puppets)	
Debby Ballard (communion)	<u>Safe Sanctuaries Committee:</u>
Mandy Robinson (communion)	Policy and Documents kept by
Chris Kjolhede (choir)	Administrative Board
Paula Schaeffer (organist)	

*Thanks to the following individuals who have completed their terms of service:
Jan Jock (PPRC);*

SCHUYLER LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LEADERSHIP FOR THE YEAR 2024

Admin. Board Council Chair	Harriett Geywits
Lay Servants	Anna Buell Sue Winne Sandra Tollerton
Lay Leader / Lay Member Annual Conference	
Treasurer Recording (Financial Secretaries)	Sue Winne Sandra Tollerton
Accounts Payable (Treasurer)	Harriett Geywits
Board of Trustees:	Tim Peters (2025) Sandra Tollerton (2026) Harriett Geywits (2024) Sue Winne (2025)
Chair: Finance Committee	Harriett Geywits
Safe Sanctuaries Coordinator	Sandra Tollerton
Social Justice Coordinator	Timothy Peters
Camping & Retreat Ministries	Sandra Tollerton
Missions Chair	Anna Buell
Recording Secretary	Sandra Tollerton
Church Historian	Sue Winne
Communion Steward	Sandra Tollerton
S/PPRC	Anna Buell Sue Winne (2025) Harriett Geywits (2024)