



Liverpool First United Methodist Church
Summer 2018



The LFUMC Bell Choir and the Liverpool Community Chorus will perform together on June 9 at 7:30 pm and June 10 at 3 pm. Both concerts take place at Liverpool High School.

Church Conference is June 11 at 7 pm

All church members are welcome to participate in a church-wide meeting on Monday, June 11 at 7 pm. Those who are members may vote; all persons have a voice. At these Conference meetings we set the budget and elect

leaders. Ministries will provide a report of their activities and plans and we celebrate who we are and our ministry in the Liverpool community. Join us to enjoy food and fellowship, to learn about the church, and to shape our destiny.

Church seeks part-time youth director

We have been blessed with \$25,000 to hire a part-time Director of Youth Ministries. The position is slated to begin this fall with the opening of school. We thank God and the family who made this generous opportunity

possible. The SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) is working on a job description, which will be made available soon to interested candidates. Watch for the announcement and for persons you might invite to serve.

Welcome, Pastor Blessed

Pastor Blessed Sikhosana has joined our ministry team as a certified and licensed family therapist. She will work out of the church to provide counseling service on a sliding scale of income and ability to pay. Appointments can be made with her by calling the church office. Business cards

are available from the office or the Welcome Center.

Pastor Blessed will coordinate our Congregational Caregiving ministry as well as provide three workshops on Mental Health Issues hosted by the church and open to the congregation and the community.

It's barbecue time at LFUMC!

Join us in the church back yard for these fundraisers. Please help the Dinner/Fundraising Committee by attending and possibly volunteering. Profits fund the ministries and programming of our church. Sign up sheets are posted in Fellowship Hall.



Saturday, June 2
22nd Annual full BBQ
Eat-in or take-out
Noon - 6 pm or sold out \$11

Thursday, July 19
Drive-thru take-out BBQ
\$6 chicken with 50 cent sides
3 - 6 pm or sold out

Thursday, August 16
Drive-thru take-out BBQ
\$6 chicken with 50 cent sides
3 - 6 pm or sold out

Summer Worship hours begin June 17



Beginning on June 17, we will offer one worship service for the summer beginning at 10 am.

At 9:30 am, Bethany and Daniel Murphy will lead a pre-service time of praise and prayer. The music will be light contemporary Christian. Those who would like to help lead this praise time by singing or playing an instrument are invited to contact Bethany by calling the church at 315-457-5180 or by email at singingangels6@aol.com. The praise time will end just before the start of the prelude with prayer for personal needs and for the service that is about to start.

The 8:15 am service will be discontinued as of June 10. Pastor Brian Homan will lead the con-

cluding contemplative worship with Holy Communion on Sunday, June 3.

The Monday afternoon study, *Through the Bible*, will continue through the summer, meeting at 1 pm following the senior luncheon.

The Wednesday 7 pm study, however, will become a mid-week worship service. If you can't attend on Sundays during the summer, join us Wednesdays. It is informal and includes the singing of contemporary worship songs and traditional hymns. Pastor Homan will teach on the published passage for the day in our Daily Reading Schedule. The Wednesday evening *Fling* will begin on June 13.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!

VBS for children currently attending Kindergarten - 6th grade



JULY 9th - 13th

6:00 - 8:30pm

Dinner served at 5:30pm

Sport choices this year are:

Karate - Soccer - Basketball - Cheer

To sign up, call the church at 457-5180 or

Pick up an application at the information table downstairs

Pastor's Pen by Rev. Dr. Brian Homan



Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of

John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" - Acts 12:11-14

Peter had been locked behind bars because of his preaching of Jesus Christ. This was not the first time Peter and other disciples had been harassed and jailed, but his release was a first. Persecution had escalated and some, like James, the brother of John, had been put to death. In this instance an angel appeared, miraculously opened the door, and led Peter out.

Why God released Peter but allowed James to be killed we do not know. We can only assume God still had a purpose for Peter to fulfill while James a purpose to be found in his death. Ours is not to know the particulars of God's will; God remains God. The role of the follower of Christ is to search for the revealing of God's will in every circumstance in order to accept and participate in it. Where the purpose is not disclosed we are entrusted with continuance in faith and obedience to what has been revealed for us to do.

What I focus on is what followed after Peter's release. He went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark who later appears as a companion of Paul and then Peter. It was there that the disciples were meeting in prayer because of the situation and particularly Peter's safety. Mary must have been a fairly well to do woman because she had a servant girl named Rhoda who went to open the door to leave the others undisturbed in prayer. I find great humor in this story as upon opening the door Rhoda could not believe what she saw – Peter, unexpectedly outside the door. She then slammed the door shut leaving Peter outside while she ran to tell the others. Peter had to knock again in order to gain entrance.

While the entry of Peter is humorous the caution was appropriate. Severe instances of persecution had developed and as they had hid themselves after Jesus' crucifixion the disciples once again resorted behind closed and locked doors to worship and pray and ventured out to endanger themselves in witness. The privilege of worship and witness has been protected and safe for those of us in the West. We have enjoyed unbridled freedom unlike our brothers and sisters in other places of the world. This may be changing as now we adapt to living in what we are told has become a "post Christian" world. Our culture is growing increasingly critical of Christian and religion and along with it freedom to worship publically and witness is being restricted.

How far this will go can only be guessed, but for certain the culture has become more hostile to-

wards the values of Christ. Along with this we see a general deterioration of tolerance and civility. Relationships have increasingly grown dysfunctional; mental illness and sociopathic behavior more evident and incidence of violence becoming more the norm. What has infected our culture has knocked on the door of the church. There have been shootings and arson of churches. It has become challenging to have free access to church facilities as was once enjoyed.

On April 25, the police informed us that an intruder had interrupted the worship services of two local churches and asked us to be on heightened alert. In both instances the person disrupted prayer and incited fear, but no violence was inflicted. We can be grateful for this but it does not mean that the individual may not escalate his actions. As pastor I was forced to heighten our security measures already in place. I apologize if these measures made participants uncomfortable, but the safety of the congregation and especially our children weighs heavy upon my heart as I accept the responsibility entrusted by God to me.

We are told we should remain diligent. I thank those members who watched our entrances and welcomed those who came to worship. Your service and sacrifice of the opportunity to worship is greatly appreciated. A task force of leaders has been formed to define greater measures of security for the church and we should expect certain changes in the future. Until procedures are revised you can expect that doors will be locked at all times and will only be opened by a Greeter. They shall be monitored during events. For the present, the front purple doors will remain solely for egress because we cannot see through them. Those entering from the street should use the glass doors by the front office.

While we take measures to protect our church family and those who use our facilities we continue in worship, prayer and witness. The community needs the message of Christ as much, if not more, than any time before. The support of ministry and mission by your presence, time, gifts and service is greatly needed. We must counter the evils of our day with faith and faithfulness. Perhaps this is the answer to the question of why God allows such things to happen – we grow complacent in our ease and in times of challenge we awaken to our need to witness faith and represent the cause of Christ in our community.

The people in Mary's house prayed in the security of her home, but they ventured outside to work and witness, even suffer and die for the truth.

Their compassion and faithfulness changed the world for the better, as can we ourselves. Let us then open our doors to all who seek God and open them again to engage the world outside them with certainty that God goes with us.

Church Family News

Thank you

Thank you, to my church family for your concerns, prayers and cards during my illness. It warms my heart to know that I am a member of such a caring family. - Loretta Knobel

In memory

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Marjorie Agresti, upon the passing of her husband of 72 years, Louis Joseph "Chuck" Agresti, on March 5. Sympathy is also extended to Alice Bowman upon the April 26 passing of her husband, Herman "Bow" Bowman III.

Welcome new members to our family!

On May 20 we welcomed new members into the church family.

They include Iris and Ryan Thurston with their son, August Ryker, who was baptized during our 9:30 a.m. service on May 6. Keieth Hughes transfers to us from the Ogden-Hillcrest UM Church in Binghamton. Bernard Bird and Pastor Blessed Sikhosana, who will be married on June 10 during our 11 a.m. service, also join with us. We welcome also Jean Mumford and Sharon O'Connor.



Blessed U. Sikhosana, Pastor
MA, MSc, MFT, EMIR, CAS, CLCP

Pastoral Counselor & Certified Life Coach
**Specialty: Youth/Couples/Family/Elderly/
Trauma/Grief/Divorce/Addiction**

Alumni: Syracuse University 2012/2017

Email: bsikosana@hotmail.com

Cell: (315) 863-1649

Liverpool First United Methodist Church
604 Oswego Street, Liverpool NY 13088 315-457-5180

- Ministers..... Every member of our congregation
- Pastor..... Brian Homan
- Pastor Emeritus..... Milton T. Jefferson
- Director of Family Ministries..... Karen Gloyd
- Director of Music Ministries..... Nancy James
- Organist..... Bill Young
- Administrative Assistant, *All of Us* Editor..... Kate Smith
- Office Operations Assistant..... Elizabeth Mengel
- Sexton..... Michael Gloyd



Andrew VanMarter



Mark VanMarter

Congratulations, graduates!

Brothers Andrew and Mark VanMarter both graduated from college on May 12. They are the sons of Rob and Erin VanMarter and the grandsons of Al and Barb Halstead.

Andrew graduated from Albany College of Pharmacy with a Pharm D, Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

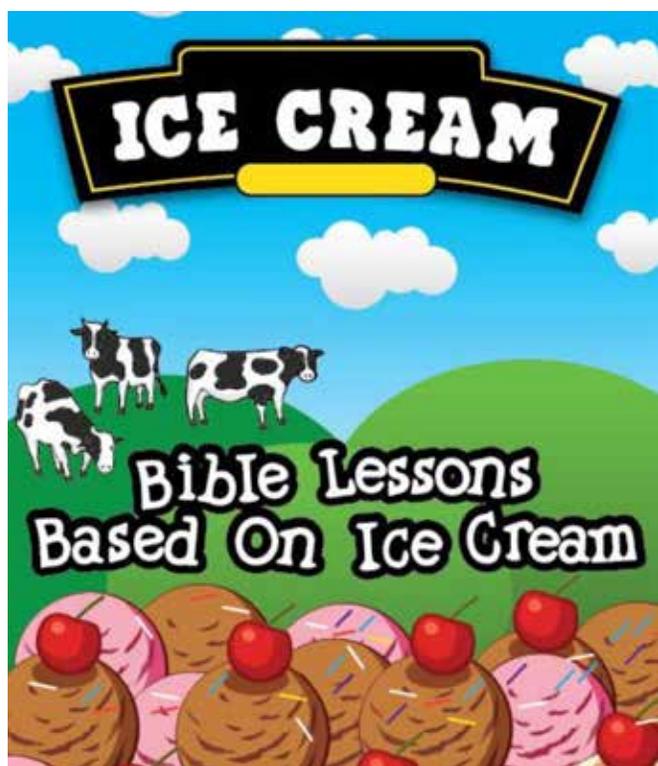
Mark graduated Cum Laude from St. John Fisher College,

where he majored in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. He will attend the University Of Buffalo Dental School in the fall. During his college career he achieved National Champion in long jump for Division 3 Men's Track and Field.

Andrew and Mark are grateful for the support of their church family and the Sophie Graze Scholarship Fund!

June & July

Kindergarten – 6th grade
Sundays downstairs at 9:30am



And YES! There will be ice cream!

“Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

Psalm 34:8

WE need YOU!



THEY need YOU!

JULY 9th -12th

LFUMC VBS SUMMER FAMILY OUTREACH

Help reach the families in our community

Be the difference - Make a difference - Change a life

To volunteer call 315-457-5180 ask for Karen Gloyd

Hazel Street Mission House suggestions welcomed as renovation plans continue

Little has happened at the Hazel Street House, the little brick house located behind the church just off the parking lot. Over a year ago a demolition permit was secured and volunteers began demolition of the interior. Architectural plans were drawn for the renovation of the house for use in ministry, however, work has come to a standstill as estimates for construction costs were obtained. These were needed before we could begin the process of writing grant applications to secure the \$115,000 estimated to fund the renovation. Now the estimate has been secured, Brian Crispin and Pastor Homan will review these with the Trustees to determine what work can be done in-house by volunteers and Volunteers In Mission Teams which we hope will dramatically reduce the cost.

One other piece needs to be in place before we can proceed and

that is to narrow down the vision for use of the mission house. Suggestions have been to house mission teams from other churches who come to Liverpool to work at the Mission Center at the Conference facilities located on Henry Clay Blvd. Others have suggested the house could be used to house Christian refugees fleeing persecution who we might sponsor.

Still others may be to provide housing for a youth pastor or a thrift store to meet the needs of the community for fellowship and access to low cost household goods. How the building will eventually be used is not as important as it being used for ministry. If you would like to serve on a steering committee for the planning of the use for the property, please speak to Brian Crispin or Pastor Homan. We will be providing opportunity to entertain suggestions and concerns of the congregation.

Senior Ministry News
by Sarah Bielíng, Director



Scenes
from some
of our
spring
events!



Hope School Beit-jala in Bethlehem, where Kay Phillips will volunteer this autumn.

Support mission work in Bethlehem

by Kay Phillips

Many of you know that Naomi Cannon and I had the joy of spending 10 days in the Holy Land in January. Naomi shared that when she was debating about going on the trip, she heard God ask her “where is your faith?” We had our faith strengthened and increased by seeing the places that Christ was born, lived, was baptized, healed and was crucified. One of the places that we visited in Bethlehem is the Hope School Beit-jala.

As we listened to how they work with the homeless and poorest of poor children, I felt my heart being touched. When I asked the woman who gave us the tour of the school about volunteering there, my friend Sharon Bassett knew I was speaking about myself.

On the way home from Tel Aviv to JFK, I had the privilege to sit with a woman from Oxford NY. She too had a vision of volunteering at the school. I am sure

that it was God, and not Delta Airlines, that sat us with each other. My prayer is that you will do your own research on this school, see that it is my faith calling me to volunteer there for a month this fall. I pray that in your spirit you feel the hope I have for this school and the students there. I ask for your prayers and any other support you may give me to see this vision made into a reality. If you just want to support the school, they have wonderful and inexpensive gifts made from olive wood that helps the families of the students.

Update: Applications from Kay Phillips and Jean Curtis have been accepted. They will work in the school kitchen, teach new students how to speak English, and on weekends spend time with the homeless children who stay at the school. They will be there for 30 days in September and October.

Prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated.

Help feed Teen MOPS and their leaders

Help provide meals for Teen MOPS (mothers of preschoolers) meetings. This faith-based organization of about 25 people welcomes young mothers for fellowship and support. Meals may be provided ready-to-serve or as simple-to-prepare ingredients. Restaurant and grocery store gift cards are also gratefully accepted. Cook on your own or together with friends and fellow church members.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall. For information contact Kay Phillips or Kate Smith at 315-457-5180.

Teen MOPS 2018-19 school year meeting dates: September 11 & 25; October 9 & 23; November 13 & 27; December 11; January 8 & 22; February 12 & 26; March 12 & 26; April 9 & 23; and May 14.



Join us to celebrate love!

On Sunday, June 10, Pastor Blessed Sikhosanna and Bernie Bird shall be joined in marriage during the 11:00 worship service. We will be welcoming many members of their families and friends who will join us for the celebration from Africa and Canada. They invite their church family to join in their celebration and we will offer the opportunity for couples to renew their marriage vows during both services on June 10th. So be prepared should you like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Pastor Blessed has worshiped with us for the past eleven years, but originates from Zimbabwe

were she was in fact a princess of the Zulu tribe. Groups within the church might be interested in inviting Blessed to provide a program on varying issues of interest. Whether it is her heritage and customs of the Christian community in Africa, or issues of domestic violence, or Christian refugee resettlement from persecution, Pastor Blessed offers us an expanded vision of our world.

For the fellowship hour at the services of June 10, Pastor Blessed and Bernie will provide refreshments that represent her African heritage. Watch for details as we approach June 10.

Help us connect with lost members

The Membership Committee is working to update our membership list. The committee has been searching for members and now asks for the congregation's help. We have supplied a list of members that we have not been able to reach. If you know them, please call the church office at 315-457-5180 or email Elizabeth (elizabeth.mengel@liverpoolfirstumc.org) with updates, or ask them to contact the church. We thank you for your help!

The list of names is continually changing – please check the binder in Fellowship Hall on Sundays or stop into the office during the week if you would like to help.

Notes from Nancy

Nancy B. James, Director of Music Ministries

It may have felt like spring would never come and it certainly was long in getting here, but nonetheless, the warmer weather is here and with it our spirits are uplifted. I hope that with that feeling your spirits are uplifted each Sunday when our choirs bring you the Word of God through their music. It is our mission to praise God, worship God, and uplift your spirit when we sing and play the bells, and it is our joy and privilege to do so.



All of the musical groups of this church (Chancel Choir, Wesley Bell Ringers, Alleluia Choir and Spirit Singers) give of their time and talents tirelessly and do so with love and joy in their hearts. Friendships are made, memories are made, and fellowship flows at each and every meeting. If you have any interest in being a part of any of these groups please feel free to contact me through the church office or my email. If you have concerns or something holding you back from joining let's discuss it. If you heard my Music Mission Moment in service on April 29th then you know there are NO excuses for not joining and sharing in this wonderful ministry. If you don't join because you don't read music then let me remind you that this summer I will again offer the course "CHURCH MUSIC 101", a short two night course on the basics of reading musical notation which will help you. This course will be offered on two consecutive Thursday evenings, July 12 & 19 from 6 to 7:30 pm with a short fellowship time following each class. There will be sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall in the near future. Please sign up and let me know if you have questions.

Before we break from rehearsals for the summer I would just like to thank ALL of our wonderful musical groups and extend a special thanks to their leaders, Becky Dunstone, Alison Mapes and Dan Williams, for their time and energy in bringing such beautiful music to our worship experience. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Have a great summer everyone!

Spirit Singers - A fond farewell

It is with great sadness that we say farewell to the Spirit Singers Director Alison Mapes. Alison has been directing the youth of our church in the Spirit Singers, in song and dance for the last three years and has been such a wonderful addition to our musical staff. She brought life, energy, creativity and a true love of our Lord into every rehearsal and performance with our children. Alison will be greatly missed and we wish her and her family peace and love as they move ahead in their spiritual journey. Blessings to you all!

SPIRIT SINGERS will need a new director for this Fall. If anyone has an interest in this position, please contact Director of Music Ministries, Nancy B. James at nbhdkidd@yahoo.com or 315-256-7509.

Summer Gardening Help Needed

Helpers are needed to weed and water our garden and planters during the summer. Please leave your name with Kate or Elizabeth in the office if interested in taking a turn.

Call 315-457-5180 for information

Become a Congregational Caregiver

Pastor Homan is available for counseling and visitation but this must be requested. Pastor has certain homebound and institutionalized members he regularly contacts. Others have been assigned to CONGREGATIONAL CARE-GIVING TEAMS who will visit and connect with others needing care and whose job it is to relate any concerns to the pastor requiring his attention.

Caregivers connect with assigned members through phone

calls and visits. They share a devotion, have pleasant conversation, pray for and with persons and may serve Holy Communion to the people they visit. Caregivers receive training and are charged with keeping the confidence of those persons whom they service.

We need persons who desire to serve as Congregational Caregivers. If you are intrigued by our description of this ministry, please contact the office and let us know

of your interest. The marvelous aspect to this personal ministry is the reward Caregivers receive themselves from the relationship they form with the individuals they supposed care for.

Training is facilitated by a team of pastors affiliated with our church's ministry. Pastor Candace Lawrence, Pastor Blessed Sikhosanna, Pastor Penny Hart work with Pastor Homan to design and offer this training.



Beginning on June 17, we will offer one worship service for the summer beginning at 10 am.

At 9:30 am, Bethany and Daniel Murphy will lead a pre-service time of praise and prayer.



Help make a caring connection

If you want some personal care from the church we need to know how we can help you. There are several ways to communicate with us. Use our CARE CARD found in the card slot on the back of the pew to inform us of your need. You can simple inform our pastors and prayer team of a personal concern for prayer or a concern for someone else you desire prayer for. You can mark your request as confidential or public so we know best how to treat your request.

It is on these cards that you can also request a home visit or phone call from the pastor. Complete a

card sometime during the service and deposit it in the collection plate when the ushers collect our tithes and offerings.

If you are not in worship yet have a request for prayer or visit you may call the office at 315-457-5180 and Kate or Elizabeth can complete a Care Card for you. It is essential that should you desire a hospital visit to please to inform us through the CARE CARD or calling the office to inform us of the hospital and details you wish us to know of the reason.

Should you know of a neighbor

or another member who has been hospitalized it is essential you inform us because HIPPA laws prevent our access to this information. We depend on you to help us care for yourself and others. However, during a medical or other crisis those involved are often too involved in the immediate problem to even think about contacting the church. Our care for others needs depends upon your care for them. Please only provide us with the details we need to know and no request or detail will be disseminated without permission.



Be a circuitrider!

It is getting nice out and time to walk or bike. Circuitriders is a recreational ministry. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning JUNE 12, Pastor Homan will be gathering interested bike riders to ride and pray together. On Tuesdays we will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Parking lot of Onondaga Park to begin a FAMILY RIDE along the along the lake. Families can walk or ride. Bikers can ride the east side or join pastor for the ride on both sides of the lake.

On Thursdays, we enjoy a more challenging RECREATIONAL RIDE starting from the parking lot of Believer's Chapel in Cicero located off of Thompson and Northern Blvd. Those days we will ride 30-35 miles along some beautiful country roads or along the shores of Oneida Lake. We will also plan some recreational rides on Sunday afternoons. Contact Pastor B if you'd like to join the fun in the sun.

Are you aware?

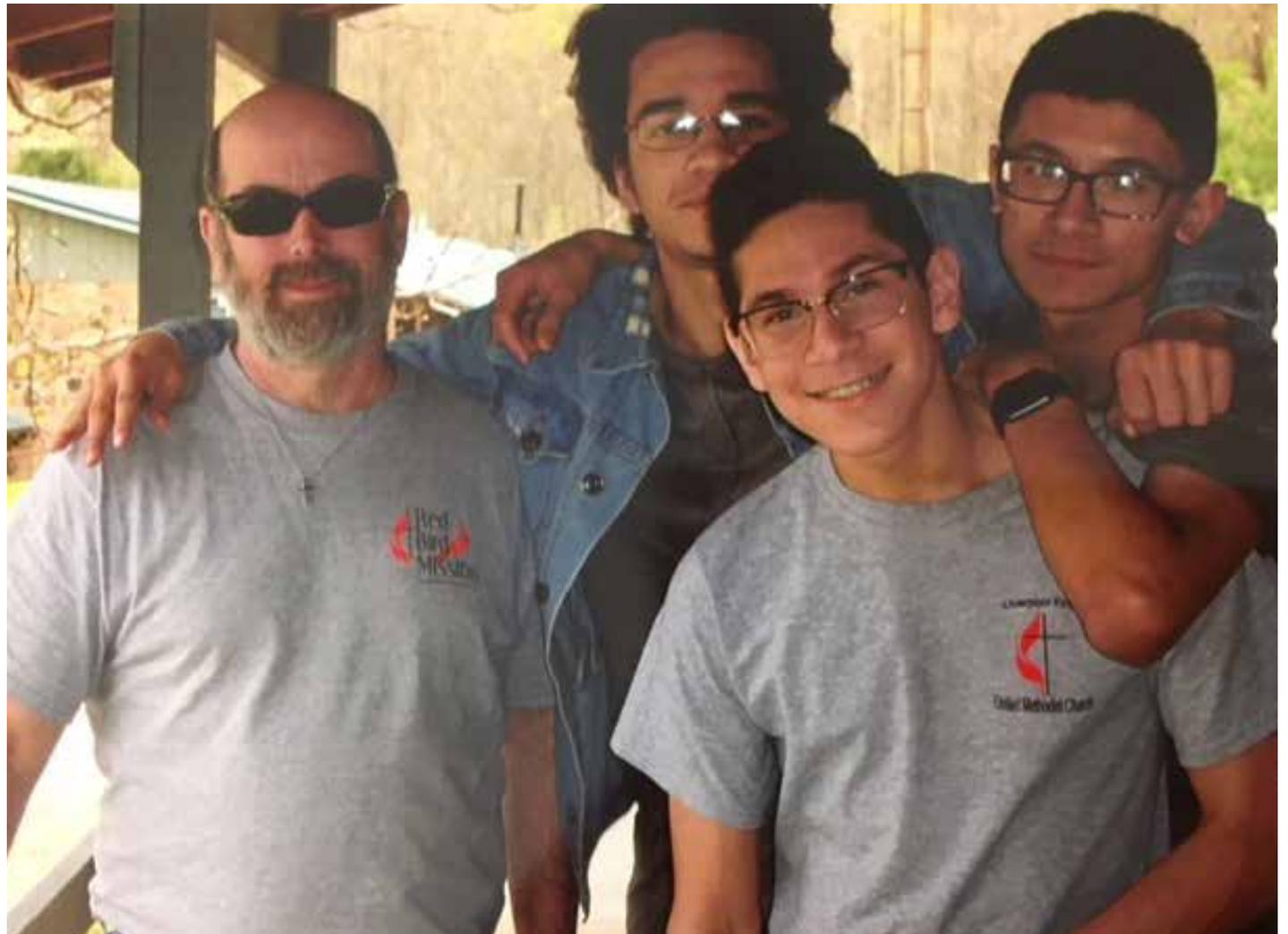
by Loretta Knobel

During the June 2017 Upper NY annual conference, Resolution #2017.5 was presented and supported by the conference attendees. The title of it, Speaking out for compassion, Transforming the context of hate in the United States.

That appears a difficult to be a difficult goal to achieve. But if you think about the impact we, as a church could have if each individual becomes more aware of and acts on subjects that create hate. For example, speak out when you hear disparaging stereotype jokes based on differences. Do not engage in these comments yourself, respecting others regardless of their differences, even if you disagree with them. Be more aware of cyber bullying and the need to end it.

One method would be to use language of responsibility and healing rather than blame and punishment. Another avenue suggested by conference is to create an opportunity to hear from excluded groups about the reality of and impact of hate, partnering with them to create action related to that meeting.

We have a safe sanctuary program in effect in our church. Being more aware and preventing the hateful statements and gestures would enhance the safety and friendly atmosphere that we strive for. Can we count on you to assist in reaching this goal?



Liverpool volunteers share God's love during mission trip to Kentucky

by Kay Phillips

On Saturday, April 21, 14 people started a journey to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Some knew each other well, some knew each other a little and some had never met before. All were known and loved by God and He had plans that would change their lives forever. We were one of about seven groups from different churches in different states. Every group took turns doing morning and evening devotions as well as the dishes and floors every night.

The teens were in charge of preparing the base for a cold storage bin that will hold fresh vegeta-

bles from people's gardens to sell at farmer's market on Saturdays. Even with working in the mud, and helping move 204 35-pound boxes of food in the rain, they never complained, they never said they would not do what was asked of them. They even told the director on Friday that they wanted to work until they were finished with their job. Of course, one afternoon the director started a mud fight with them. Remember, God does have a sense of humor. He loves to watch people enjoying working as his body and having fun while doing it.

The house that was worked on needed a new back door, new windows, a deck and new paint. Even in the rain and the mud, the job was completed. The homeowner was so happy and appreciative.

On Wednesday the volunteers toured the mission school. Every day they have chapel and devotions. The children get up in each grade level and repeat the week's scripture. The singing is wonderful. You can hear the angels singing with them.

Thank you for allowing us to go, show God's love and to be stretched and grown in our faith.

Join us this summer for informal worship with praise and scripture. Wednesdays at 7 pm beginning June 13

