



Liverpool First United Methodist Church  
Summer 2019



## We Are the Church Stewardship Update

**Please remember to hand in pledge cards**

We are coming to the conclusion of our annual campaign. Please prayerfully consider your commitment of treasure, time, and talent over the next year. Your estimate of giving card can be mailed, dropped off at the church, or placed in the offering plate on Sunday. We hope to have them all by the first week in June. Thank you and God bless you all!

**Pastor Brian Homan will deliver two sermons in June. The first Sunday, June 2, and the the fourth Sunday, June 23.**

There will be special refreshments during Coffee Hour for his farewell and sending forth on June 23. A basket for cards, notes, and well wishes will be in Fellowship Hall during that time.



### UMW supports Advocacy Center

United Methodist Women's group members Donna Auyer, Jill Ertinger, and Linda Chambers dropped off a donation of diapers, baby wipes, children's clothes, and a monetary donation from the UMW recently. The women's group collected the donations from participants at their spring gathering.

### Saturday, June 1 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chicken BBQ 12 - 4 pm or sold out!

Full half-chicken dinner with baked beans, cole slaw, roll, cookie, & beverage if you eat under the tents.

Donation: \$11

### SPRC news & invitation to participate

*SPRC is publishing the following letter from the Conference Director of Connectional Ministries/Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Bill Gottschalk-Fielding. It is to inform you of the continuing transition process that we are all in the midst of and to invite you to participate. Two meetings will take place: on June 17 all members are invited to participate, including Administrative Council and SPRC, and on June 19 for members of the Administrative Council and SPRC. -- Ginny Tilden, Chair*

Dear Friends,

In a couple of months your congregation will undergo a very United Methodist experience: a pastoral transition. As a current pastor moves on and a new pastor comes on board, all sorts of emotions, questions, hopes, challenges and possibilities emerge. No doubt you have already begun to navigate this transition and have discovered the many resources already present within you and the congregation. But you are not expected to manage this alone. The Upper New York Conference is eager and able to walk alongside you in the days, weeks and months ahead. One of the key ways it will do this is through the "Pastoral Transition Process." Through this process, a congregation receiving a new pastoral appointment is assigned a pastoral transition consultant to guide and resource the pastors, church leaders and congregation members involved in the transition.

I am writing to let you know that the Rev. Bob Kolvik-Campbell has agreed to serve as your pastoral transition consultant during this time. He will schedule pastoral transition gatherings. The process is not lengthy or labor-intensive, but is designed to help pastors, leaders and congregations say "good-bye" in a healthy way and get off to a great start with a new relationship.

Praying God will continue to bless you as you undertake this journey!

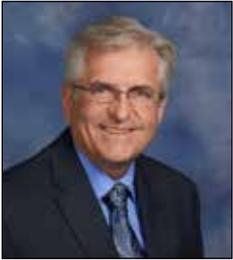
Grace and Peace,

Bill Gottschalk-Fielding,

Director of Connectional Ministries/Executive Assistant to the Bishop

# Pastor's Pen

Rev. Dr. Brian Homan



*Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:41-47, NIV*

This is the last article I shall write for the *All Of Us* church newsletter. As of June 30th I will no longer serve as your pastor. I welcome the Reverend Robert Vizthum to our area as your new pastor.

I have communicated with him on several occasions and met with him in April to review the ministry of the church. I enjoyed his personality, appreciate his faith journey, and am confident that I am leaving the church and the people that I love in good hands. My prayers shall always be with the church and for his successful ministry.

I must clarify my role as a retiring pastor. I will no longer be your pastor and shall not entertain ministry or conversation regarding the ministry of the Liverpool church. This is part of the covenant we make as ordained Elders of the church. Any communications or requests to participate must come through Pastor Vizthum. While I will not be your pastor I can still be your friend, but will not engage in communication regarding the work of the church.

As for Kathy and me and our family, we shall worship at another faith community in the area. My decision for taking early retirement was based upon my inability to continue with itinerancy, the commitment to be available for deployment anywhere the Bishop and Cabinet may send me to serve. We purchased a home in this area when we came to Liverpool, have our children nearby, and family needs require that I remain in the area. I offer special thanks to the members of this congregation that provided cards and words of comfort to me in the wake of my mother's recent death. Your compassion is particularly memorable. I especially thank the members of this congregation and that of Park Church in Pulaski who made the trek on April 28 to celebrate with us her life and ministry.

Though I may be retired from ministry with the United Methodist Church, my calling remains as long as I breathe, and I shall continue in active ministry. I am exploring various opportunities and shall invest myself in a ministry I helped create a decade ago with several other persons. You may notice I have begun to sign my daily studies *Selah* Ministries. *Selah* is a word found within the Psalms. Scholars are unsure of its precise meaning; it is often interpreted as an interlude or a pause for silent and personal reflection. For those involved with *Selah* Ministries we take it to mean a pause or a taking a breath from organized and formal religious practice.

Experts say we are living in a "Post-Christian Era" where religious concern and involvement has radically declined. Due to changes in our culture and conflicts within the church, the larger population has grown disinterested and even suspicious of organized religion. Several generations have passed which lack knowledge of religious practice and as a result have lost the vocabulary of faith and worship. Yet, both Pew and Barna Research groups indicate the majority of Americans are "spiritually interested" though religiously disconnected.

*Selah* Ministry attempts to connect to Believers who desire a deepening faith and Seekers who want something less institutionalized and more relational. I will work to expand the publishing ministry I started in 2009 and work with a team to create "House Churches" -- small groups of people who meet to worship, informal fellowship and who engage in a more intensive study of God's Word. They meet in homes, in private dining rooms of restaurants and hotels and other places. *Selah* Ministries endeavors to create these small groups, provide materials for study and train leaders. The reason I provided the quotation from the Book of Acts is that it provides the historic context of how the original church was founded. The early church did not have buildings, committees or ritual. These were developed over time, however with it; the church lost its vision and purpose. I invite you to read again this historic description to identify the qualities which distinguished the Followers of Jesus.

My hope is that as Liverpool participates in a formal revitalization process it recovers many of these qualities found in Acts 2. It is these which leaders of *Selah* Ministries wish to re-create to escape the politics and structure that has distracted the church from its vision of "Making Disciples for the Transformation of the World." The growth and vitality of the church continues in Asia, Africa and South America even as it is waning in America.

I do not know what God has planned for my or my family's future but remain confident that the same Lord who has provided in the past and present shall continue to lead us to green pastures and beside still waters. I covet your prayers for us as we continue in prayer for your future as a church.

## Calling all musicians!

Musicians are needed to lead our youth and praise band for the contemporary worship on Wednesday nights. Whether you play piano, guitar, percussion - anything!

Our youth praise band is small but mighty and just needs some adult musical leadership.

For information, contact director of music ministries, Nancy B. James at nbhdkidd@yahoo.com



## Snowbird Reception

June 4 at 6:30 pm

Anyone that traveled to a warmer climate this past winter - plus those who want to reconnect with them - are invited to gather for strawberries, cake, and conversation.

Call the church at 315-457-5180 or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Hosted by the Hospitality & Fellowship Committee.



## Please wear red for Pentecost on June 9

*Pentecost Sunday is June 9. We dress up for Christmas and we dress up for Easter. Let's honor Pentecost and dress up in something red for this third great festival of the church, and joyfully celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

### Liverpool First United Methodist Church

604 Oswego Street, Liverpool NY 13088 315-457-5180

Ministers.....	Every member of our congregation
Pastor.....	Brian Homan
Affiliate Pastors .....	Blessed Sikhosana, Candace Lawrence, Penny Hart
Pastor Emeritus.....	Milton T. Jefferson
Director of Family Ministries.....	Karen Gloyd
Director of Music Ministries .....	Nancy James
Organist.....	Bill Young
Administrative Assistant, <i>All of Us</i> Editor .....	Kate Smith
Office Operations Assistant .....	Elizabeth Mengel
Sexton .....	Michael Gloyd

## Notes from Nancy

Nancy B. James, Director of Music Ministries

Summer greetings everyone! We finally made it to the nicer weather – THANK YOU GOD!

While I'm in the grateful mode let me say my appreciation to Pastor Brian Homan and his years of service to our congregation. We wish you well, Brian, in your continued journey of faith and service to God. At the same time, prayers are being offered during this time of transition for Brian and his family, for our congregation here at LFUMC, and for our incoming Pastor Bob Vizthum as he transitions from his church in Pennsylvania to be here with us as our spiritual leader.



I also thank all of the wonderful musical groups here at LFUMC for the exceptionally high level of musical offerings that they have brought to our worship experiences over this past year. Blessings and thanks to the Chancel Choir, to Becky Dunstone and all of the Wesley Ringers, to Dan Williams and the Alleluia Choir, and most recently to Jamie Snyder and Zeke Gonzalez and the Spirit Singers. You are ALL such a blessing to this congregation.

Now I need to take this opportunity to address a few MUCH need housekeeping issues. The choir room often becomes a bit of a "dumping ground" for the church. I work hard every summer to clean and tidy up the room from debris, filing away all of the music, etc. So I'm asking now that as a church family we are respectful of the choir room space. Please do not leave bags of music there for me as I do not need them. Please do not leave cups and mugs and soda bottles there (especially on top of the instruments). If you bring it in – bring it out! Please do not use the pianos if your hands have just been touching food – wash them first. The keys can get very sticky and this is not good. If you use the space for ANY reason please do not move the chairs or instruments from their current positions. (I don't mean to sound like a whiner but I don't have the greatest back and it's not good for me to be moving chairs and instruments.) So I ask for your cooperation in helping to keep our choir and the wonderful space we have been blessed with in good working order!



24th annual

## Chicken BBQ Saturday, June 1

Cost is \$11 for a full meal.

**Limited quantity.  
Served 12 to 4 pm only.**



## **Delta Sonic Car Wash Coupons return June 2!**

Perfect for giving to the “Dad” of your choice or to keep your car looking good all summer.

**Buy ONE for \$5 and get a  
SECOND coupon FREE.  
Good toward any service  
at any Delta Sonic.**

Good at full face value for 2 months. Then \$2 off on each coupon for 2 more months.

**Limited supply,  
so get yours now.**

## **Retirement or Estate Planning?**

Are you planning for retirement, or thinking about your final plans? Our church has benefited greatly over the years from legacies left to us by members who have passed.

The Trustees administer a number of endowments, and the Memorials sub-committee plans for direct gifts from members' estates and giving. If you wonder how this is done, or have questions about estate planning or a gift, please speak to our pastor. He will help you with your thought process. When you are ready, he will put you in touch with Trustees and church members who can answer questions and help you plan for what you want done in your memory.

A recent example is the Scholarship Fund to fund post secondary education study by church members. This was the result of Sophie Graze's legacy. Though she herself had no children, Sophie wanted to help our young members. Church planners helped her carry out her wishes.

## *Outreach & Missions News*

*by Eric Holmes, Commission Chair*

As we enter the summer of 2019, we are planning for our 2020 Red Bird trip. For those who have traveled to the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky on previous trips, you understand how you can help people, how God allows you to reach inside yourself to find you doing things you thought you couldn't do, and how this one-week trip has an impact on your life. Just talk to Mike Nortman or Kay Phillips about their experiences. Do not say to yourself “What can I do at Red Bird?” There are so many ways for you to help at Red Bird. Give it some thought.

I believe this is how we should view Outreach at LFUMC. “Outreach is an activity of providing services to any populations who might not otherwise have access to those services. A key component of outreach is that the groups providing it are not stationary, but mobile; in other words they are meeting those in need of outreach services at the locations where those in need are.” Outreach should happen outside of LFUMC, outside the purple doors, beyond the church's property lines.

We continue to maintain a strong relationship with Brown Memorial UMC and are committed to providing a Sunday dinner at Brown on August 4, the plans being for a cookout (pray for nice weather). For some of those who come to dinner at Brown on Sundays, it is their best meal and maybe their only warm meal of the week. They express their gratitude in different ways, some subtle, but you can certainly feel their appreciation.

In addition to Red Bird and Brown Memorial, we are establishing a stronger relationship with the Upper New York Conference Mission Central HUB. Outreach and the LIFE youth have helped this year at the HUB. The HUB provides a central point for helping others primarily in central New York. There is opportunity for ALL to participate at the HUB. Many hands, and especially many Christian hands, make light work and help provide for the needs throughout our community. We also plan to help at the Samaritan Center. They feed many in need every day of the week and more than 300 people on Sundays.

We as Christians are called to help those who are in need of help. It's in our DNA. Whether we believe it or not, we all have the ability to help others. Special talents are not generally required. Those who participate in Outreach at Brown Memorial, with organizations like Beautiful Mess, Blessings in a Backpack, helping at the HUB, driving the bus for Lights on the Lake, and other programs, attest to the opportunities in front of us. The needs of the community are substantial.

I would like Liverpool First to be known for its Outreach efforts. I believe that the more we are viewed by others as a church that lends a helping hand, that gives of our time and efforts and that utilize whatever skills and talents we have, the better our community will be, the better the participants will be and the better our church will be. As part of the Futures Team, I am convinced that Outreach is tied to the future of this church. We are reaching out to each of you as a member of Christ's church to embrace reaching out others outside of this church, Christians and non-Christians. I think it would be what Jesus would want us to do.

# Senior Ministry News

by Sarah Bieling, Director

The LFUMC Senior Ministries Mission is to provide fun and fellowship for those in our congregation that are 55 years of age and older, as well as reaching out to our brothers and sisters in the community.

Our 2019 season began on Friday, April 26 at our fifth annual 50's dinner catered by the LFUMC Men's Club. There were 76 attending and all enjoyed the wonderful dinner of Hoffman hot dogs and coney's, salt potatoes, macaroni salad, beans, chips, beverage and ice cream floats or dishes of ice cream served for the first time family style. Our fantastic program "The Schubert Brothers" was presented by Gregg Tripoli, Executive Director of Onondaga Historical Association. Gregg is a knowledgeable and passionate speaker which kept the audience both quite and engaged.

Our trips book quickly so if there is something you would like to do, don't hesitate. Your check received is your reservation (much like booking through other venues). Make checks payable to LFUMC Senior Ministries and either drop off at the church or mail to Sarah Bieling (2 Cty Rte 10, Pennellville, NY 13132). The following information must be included with each check or it will not be accepted: phone number, what you are paying for, meal choice if required and who you would like to sit with or on the bus or at the theater.

## 2019 Schedule

**Wednesday, June 5** – 11:15am  
Lunch at Euclid Restaurant with



speaker from The Town of Clay – the church bus will shuttle folks 1 mile north to Schroepel Mansion for a tour, dessert and a guest speaker from The Town of Schroepel will speak. All reservations and check must be received by May 19.

**Sunday, June 23** – 4:15pm  
Dinner cruise on Skaneateles Lake. Your own transportation is required for this trip. \$60 per person. Please pick from one of the following: Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala or Vegetarian Lasagna.

**Friday, June 28** – 12:30pm  
Motor coach trip to Cortland Repertory "Legally Blonde the Musical" followed by dinner at The Sherman House. \$55 per person. Please pick from one of the following: Manicotti, Chicken Cordon Bleu or Baked Salmon.

**Saturday, July 13** – 7:15am  
Motor coach trip to Albany. We will tour the USS Slater followed by a luncheon buffet on Albany's Riverboat with an ice cream stop on the way home. \$60 per person.

**Wednesday, July 31** – 12:00pm

Motor coach trip to Auburn Merry Go Round Playhouse production of "Grand Hotel" followed by family style dinner at Lasca's. \$70 per person.

**Sunday, August 10** – 10:00am  
Motor coach trip to Auburn. Lunch buffet at Sunset Restaurant. Performance of "South Pacific" at Merry Go Round Playhouse. \$65 per person.

**Saturday, August 24** – 7:00am  
Motor coach trip to Cooperstown with a one hour long cruise on "The Glimmerglass Queen" followed by a lunch buffet at The Otesaga and shopping at Fly Creek. \$50 per person.

Details and flyers about all upcoming trips can be found in the Fellowship Hall in the three-ring binder on the Senior Ministries table or details and flyers can be mailed upon your request. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming trips!

# Goodbye reception for Pastor B

**Cards being accepted now to be presented  
at goodbye reception on June 23**

Anyone wishing to offer notes, gift cards, or other goodbye gifts may bring them to church on or before June 23 to be presented to Pastor Brian during the special coffee hour being planned in his honor that day.

One worship service will take place at 10 am that day (the start of the summer schedule), and the reception will follow at 11 am.

## June Worship Schedule

**June 2 9:30 & 11 am**

Pastor Brian Homan to preach

**June 9 9:30 & 11 am - Pentecost Sunday**

Pastor Candace Lawrence to preach

**June 16 9:30 & 11 am**

Pastor Blessed Sikhosana-Bird to preach

**June 23 10 am (Summer schedule begins)**

Pastor Brian Homan and SPRC to celebrate litany of farewell and sending forth. Reception in honor of Pastor Brian and his family to follow at 11 am

**June 30 10 am**

Judy Lieber-Butler to preach

## Ushers needed at June worship services

Volunteers are needed to usher during worship services throughout June. Please sign up on the sheet posted in Fellowship Hall, or contact Tom Pelkey for information.



## Summer BBQ News

The popular drive-through BBQs in summer are tentatively scheduled for Thursdays.

**July 18 and August 22  
are the probable dates.**

Volunteer sign-ups will soon be posted. The menu will be ala carte, meaning that you can purchase just chicken for \$6 or add on baked beans, cole slaw, or roll for 50 cents EACH.

*Reservations for chicken taken at the table in Fellowship Hall.*

**CHURCH**  
**picnic**

**July 14 at Clay Park**

**Watch the weekly bulletin for details**

## Woodworkers Needed

For some time, there has been an active group of men at our church who have taken on tasks involving woodworking. Some of the past projects include: rebuilding the bell gazebo that sits on the front lawn of the church on Oswego Street; building the "old rugged cross" that sits in the back yard; designing and building the communion table; building a storage rack for the brass pew-end candelabras; designing and building the railings adjacent to the pulpit and lectern; and making wooden toys that are sold as a fund raiser. Some members of the group with very good skills, and with the best equipped shops, have moved south, leaving us limited in capability. We've been asked to take on a project to enhance our sanctuary. If you have abilities in wood working, either as a professional or a hobby, and have access to good tools and equipment, please consider working with us. Contact Rich Ertinger for further information: (315-263-5672), [rertinge@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rertinge@twcny.rr.com)

## Preparing for a hot summer

The Trustees are adjusting the inside HVAC system to cope with an anticipated hot summer. We realize each person has their own preference for how cool it is inside. At the same time we are mindful of the church budget. Be prepared for a daily temperature in the building no cooler than 74 degrees. The ceiling fans in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are designed to keep the air moving and must be on at all times, so please adjust where you sit for events. As the summer plays out, there may need to be further adjusting.



**Summer Gardening Help Needed**  
**Helpers are needed to weed and water our garden and planters during the hot summer.**  
**You can leave your name with Kate in the office if interested in taking a turn.**

### Register for UMC summer camp

View programs of the Upper New York Camp & Retreat Ministries at [campsandretreats.org](http://campsandretreats.org) or call 1-855-414-6400.

### PEACE senior luncheon - Mondays at noon

For seniors age 60 and older. Call PEACE at 315-470-3331 to reserve a meal. Suggested contribution, \$3. Spouses & guests under age 60 welcome for suggested \$6.

### Blessings in a Backpack is collecting soup

Blessings in a Backpack is collecting chicken noodle and vegetable beef soups in ready-to-serve cans, any brand, during May. Liverpool BIB provides weekend food for qualifying students in Syracuse.

**Let us know if you need a meal:** If you are recovering from illness, surgery, or injury you may appreciate home-cooked meals. To receive meals from church volunteers, contact the church at 315-457-5180.

## PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING & LIFE COACHING

### Do you need Private & Confidential Sessions?

Are you struggling with a couple relationship, children's behavior, communication skills, anger, or spiritual inadequacy?

Work through difficult or emotionally challenging issues.

These problems can be significant disagreements with family members caused by lack of communication skills.

Counseling, or life coaching, can be a great way to rebuild better relations and mend the fences between you and loved ones.

We will teach you ways to keep the spark alive and your relationships healthy.

**Blessed Sikhosana, MA, MFT, CLCP**  
**315-863-1649**  
**[bsikosana@hotmail.com](mailto:bsikosana@hotmail.com)**

Liverpool First United Methodist Church  
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## Help provide a Caring Connection to members and friends

If you want personal care from the church, we need to know how we can help. There are several ways to communicate with us: use a **Care Card** found in the card slot on the back of the pew to inform us of your need. You can inform our pastor 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 during the service and deposit it in the collection plate when the ushers collect 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. No request or detail will be disseminated without permission.

The pastor is available for counseling and visitation but this must be requested. The pastor has certain homebound and institutionalized members he regularly contacts. Others have been assigned to

Congregational Caregiving Teams who visit and connect with others needing care and whose job it is to relay concerns to the pastor if they require his attention.

Caregivers connect with assigned members through phone calls and visits. They share a devotion, have 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 interested in this ministry, contact the office and let us know. A marvelous aspect to this ministry is the reward Caregivers receive from the relationship they form with the individuals they visit. This ministry is coordinated by Lorrie LaDuke.