

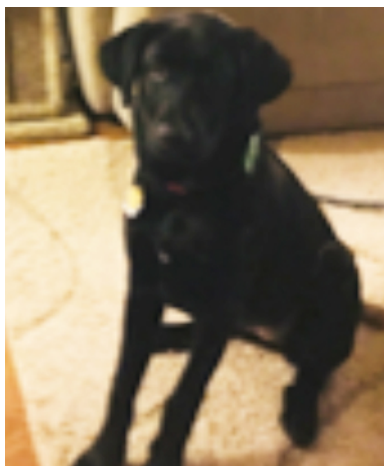


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## “... love one another...” John 13:34

One year ago my daughter, Crystal, adopted a lab-mix puppy. Roxie is an 85 pound bundle of sweetness. She’s friendly, protective, quick to learn and eager to please. She is playful, smart, loving, and great with children and other animals. In short, Roxie is everything you could want in “man’s (or woman’s!) best friend”—loyalty, companionship, and unconditional love. She even loves Crystal’s two cats who have made it very clear that they will tolerate their new “sister’s” presence, yet still harbor some resentment that Roxie has invaded their house. There’s just one problem. Roxie has a stubborn streak.



When Roxie doesn’t want to do something, she either sits like a rock and refuses to budge or runs the other way. Her stubbornness comes out most often in one of two ways: (1) refusing to get out of the car when arriving at a destination and (2) turning around and dragging my daughter back to the house when she is out for a walk. Why? Because she is scared. Roxie is a rescue dog. We don’t know what happened to her in the first few weeks of her young puppy life, but we do know that she gets frightened easily. Sometimes she’s afraid to get out of the car because she doesn’t know where she is. She is afraid of unfamiliar territory with its different sounds, smells and strange noises and people. When out for a walk, and she hears or sees something that frightens

her, she fearfully runs back to her home where she feels safe and secure. And so we have learned that sometimes her “stubborn” behavior is controlled more by fear than by a refusal to cooperate. Understanding this has taught all of us to treat Roxie’s “stubborn behavior” with kindness, gentleness, and patience to help her through her fears. Rather than yelling at her to get out of the car or forcing to go for a walk in the direction we want her to go, we need to speak with love and help her build trust that she’s ok. We want her to know that we will help her, keep her safe, and be with her.

All of this has made me think—how easy it is to judge what people do without knowing what is behind their actions. What may seem like stubbornness or disobedience could be a reaction to fear or some other hidden problem that we might never know or guess. The screaming child in the supermarket might be overtired or hungry. The mother who ignores the screaming may be overwhelmed, exhausted, or afraid that if she reacts at all it will be with inappropriate anger—or melt down into a puddle of tears. The sullen teenager may be depressed, or worried about a friend, the pressure of an upcoming exam, or his/her parent’s divorce. The angry, impatient, grumpy man or woman may be fearful of losing their job, their home, or a loved one, or perhaps their own recent cancer diagnosis. That person budging in front of you in line at the store or

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on the highway may be in a hurry for any number of reasons. Perhaps they are not as rude or selfish as they seem, but are reacting to a hidden, heavy burden.

There are many Bible verses that tell us not to judge other people on the surface of what we see. John 7:24 says *“do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.”* Only God knows the heart of each person and what burdens they may be dealing with in their lives. While it’s true that we are never to judge someone else’s salvation, there are times when we do need to judge people by calling them into account for their behavior. In these times, we can and should always treat people with the fruit of the Spirit—including love, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. The next time you are tempted to judge another person’s actions with anger or impatience, perhaps you might think of “stubborn” Roxie and the fear behind her behavior. Begin by praying for that person. If they are someone you know and love, you may even use the situation as an opportunity to listen, offer some help, and even share a reminder that God loves them. Let them know that the Lord is with them in whatever may be troubling them. And that you will be with them too.

In Christ,

—Rev. Del

*“My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”* Galatians 6: 1-2



## Church Picnic

**Sunday, July 14th**  
**from 3-8 PM**  
**at Ryder Park,**

adjacent to the Dewitt Town Hall on Butternut Drive. The Park is handicapped accessible, has convenient rest rooms and a playground for kids.

Please provide your own beverages and a dish to share with others. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. Hamburgers, hot dogs and ribs, as well as eating utensils will be provided. **We need to know by this Sunday, July 7th** how many people will be attending in order to purchase meat and supplies.

Come and enjoy a time of informal fellowship with your church family. Feel free to invite other family members and friends to worship and the picnic.



Joyce Lansing & family would like to thank everyone for the outpouring of prayers, well wishes, and gifts in remembrance of Gene’s life.

Following his injury a few years ago, Sunday worship and the time spent enjoying coffee and conversation with friends was an important highlight each week.

We are truly thankful for such a caring group of friends.

Peace be with you all,

—The Lansing Family

## Love made flesh

The whole concept of God taking human shape had never made much sense to me. That was because, I realized one wonderful day, it was so simple. For people with bodies, important things like love have to be embodied. That’s all. God had to be embodied, or else people with bodies would never in a trillion years understand about love.

—Jane Vonnegut Yarmolinsky

## Our approachable Lord

There is not a hint of one person who was afraid to draw near [Jesus]. There were those who mocked him. There were those who were envious of him. There were those who misunderstood him. There were those who revered him. But there was not one person who considered him too holy, too divine or too celestial to touch. There was not one person who was reluctant to approach him for fear of being rejected. Remember that.

—Max Lucado, *God Came Near*

## A guide for giving

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.

—C.S. Lewis





Close up the books. Turn out the light. Another year has come to an end. School is over for the year and it's summer vacation; time to relax and enjoy oneself.

Suffice it to say, and sadly, that that is the attitude of many school staff and students as June draws to a close. But I hope and pray that that is NOT the attitude of Christians everywhere. Summer's weather and more free time can lead to a time of great spiritual awakening and/or rekindling if we use it properly.

Ezekiel 37 is the story that fascinated many of us as kids and produced any number of songs for young camp attendees. 'Them dry bones' tells about how God can connect one bone to the next and create a whole group of humans. The special ingredient that needs to be added to these bones, is the breath of life sent by God. WE are a collection of bones and tissues and skin; but we become something more when God becomes our focus, our breath of life if you will.

This is not a part time deal however; one that we can do if its raining out and we don't have any other great plans at camp, or on the golf course, or boat etc... Being a Christian is a lifetime commitment; a calling to a new and glorious life. It does not take a summer vacation; it just gives us a chance to talk and share the good news and caring compassion that is a Christian's way of life with perhaps some new and different people. These might be the neighbors up at the camp or in the store on vacation, at the beach, in the club house, or wherever.

Yes, we might not be meeting for Christian Education on Sunday mornings at the church during the summer. But we are hopefully not forgetting that we are called as God puts life in our bodies and souls, to continue to grow and learn more about our faith. As we try to reach out to others and help them feel the spirit of God moving in their lives, we too can feel the spirit stirring in our bones as well. Just as Ezekiel prophesied!

Here's to hoping that the summer finds us growing in our knowledge and understanding of God's plans for us. Enjoy the journey, peace

—Dale H. Greabell for the Christian Education Dept.

# Puzzle!

Determine the letter patterns and fill in the blanks to complete Galatians 5:1, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

F	Q	L	V	C	R	O			
G	R	K	U	D	Q	P			
H	S	J	T	E	P	Q			
—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
I	O	B	H	A	L	P	Q	K	D
H	P	C	G	B	M	O	R	J	C
G	Q	D	F	C	N	N	S	I	B
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F	E	U	L	P	W	E	D	V	
E	F	T	K	Q	V	F	C	U	
D	G	S	J	R	U	G	B	T	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
P	B	Q	R	V	C	O	H	B	
Q	C	R	S	U	D	P	G	C	
R	D	S	T	T	E	Q	F	D	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Answer on calendar page.

## Self-fulfilling prophecies

"Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are," writes Amy Weatherly. "If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell them they are kind, they become kind."

Perhaps Jesus knows this when he tells his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth [and] the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). Clearly they haven't already mastered sharing Jesus' goodness with everyone! They are works in progress, as are we. But Jesus, teacher that he is, seems to set the bar high so his followers will strive to meet his expectations.

"You are Peter," Jesus tells Simon, "and on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). We can hear Weatherly: "If we tell them they're faithful, they become faithful." And when Jesus declares, "You are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31), we believe in our worth and live it out. We become what Jesus tells us we are.

—Heidi Mann



# This Month's Anniversaries & Birthdays

*In July*

1. Dick & Diana Law's anniversary
2. Diane GreenPope
4. Gladys Greabell,
6. Adam & Amy Hill's anniversary
8. Mary (Provo) LaVigne,  
Roxanne Rossi,  
Norine Stephan
11. Nathan Rossi
17. Charlie & Lisa Combs anniversary
18. Mallory (Green) Burnham
21. Dick Law
25. Cyndi Sweeney
26. Anita Law
27. Peggy Haynes
30. Shirley Ashworth



On Sunday, June 23rd, we recognized the following young people who recently completed a segment of their educational journey.

**Aleeyah Borasky**, granddaughter of Sue Borasky, was graduated from Cicero-North Syracuse High School. **Nikole Metz**, daughter of Donna Metz, was graduated with her Master's Degree in Human Rights from the University of Vienna in the fall of 2018, and **Caryn Salce**, granddaughter of Arlene Salce, was graduated from Nazareth College with a Masters Degree of Science in Occupational Therapy. She already landed a job in her specialty.

We wish them great success in all their future endeavors.

## Prayer and Personal Concerns



*In Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living*

Nancy Bregard – Morning Star Care Center - Oswego

Juanita Coleman – Elderwood – Diane Shafer's mother

*At Home*

Chuck Baker

Daniel Camp – friend of Christy Knowlton

Jean Troy & Debbie Kelly – Shancy Gorman's cousins

Betty Hickox – Lynn Jacques' mother

Chuck & Madeline Kieb – Horton family friends

Tim Krezmien – Nancy Miller's grandson

Mary Pat Lavigne – Chuck & Marsha Provo's daughter

Barbara Manley

Heather Miles – friend of the Provos

Mary Mol – Horton family friend

Christine Opera – Shancy Gorman's niece

John Novak

Mark Radley

Bob Stanton – Terri LaVergne's uncle

Shirley Venterea – Shancy Gorman's aunt

Judy Walters

*Serving in the Armed Forces:*

Tina Bearup - US Navy -Joan O'Donnell's niece

Bret Gratien - US Air Force – Dover AFB - grandson of  
Peggy & Ray Haynes

Jamie Jarmacz - US Air Force - Dick & Diana Law's son-in-law

Andrew Metz – California

Austin Miller – US Navy – Linda Graves grandson

Beth and Nate Roczen – US Army - Horton family friends

Eric Spero – US Navy

Ryan Shafer – Marines - Diane Shafer's great nephew

*Please notify the office of any changes so this list may be kept current.*



**Jacob Michael Lansing,**

Son of Brandon and

Erin Lansing,

Born August 11, 2018,  
was baptised on June 30th.



## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

**Parish Council met on June 11th.** The meeting was called to order by Anne Coughenour at 6:37pm.

**Present:** Rev. Debra Thomas, Anne Coughenour, Diane Bova, Dick Greabell, Donna Dow, Paul Spero, Sue Borasky, and Suzanne Green.

**Excused:** Chuck Provo, Chuck Lesser, Lynn Jacques, Roxanne Rossi

**Spiritual Study:** Led by Diane Bova

### Standard Motions:

- Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2019 meeting
- Communion was served on June 2nd, blessed by Rev. Deb Thomas
- Death/Funerals – none
- Baptisms –
  - Tentative – August 4th for Dahlia Blincoe.
- Membership matters – none
- Building requests –
  - 5/18 – Final meeting of the ESM Area Girl Scouts – to use the Fellowship Hall.

### Moved, Seconded, Approved

### Finance Report: Anne C:

- 1) Treasurer's report (provided in a separate report)
- 2) Received \$5 from Amazon Smile
- 3) Received \$1000 from the estate of Paul Harding

### Worship Committee: Lynn J:

- 1) Bookmarks to be distributed to men for Father's Day
- 2) 6/23 will be the last day for the choir (actually 6/30, as the choir sang for the baptism of Jacob M. Lansing)
- 3) 6/23 – Worship Committee meeting

### Christian Education: Suzanne G:

- 1) 6/16 – recognition of Sunday School teachers
- 2) 6/23 – Baccalaureate service

### Building & Grounds: Chuck P.

- 1) Dead trees by garage – Dick Law to meet with Chris Fairbanks to get estimates
- 2) Replacement of the downstairs phones – B.Jacques & P. Spero are investigating

### Mission, Outreach & Evangelism Committee: Diane B:

- 1) Received \$70 from the sale of poppies
- 2) Outreach at the Minoa Nursing Home on 6/16
- 3) Investigating providing school supplies

### Fellowship and Hospitality: Sue B:

- 1) Church picnic 7/14 from 4-8 at Ryder Park – Approved
- 2) Pork Dinner and Silent Auction 10/19 from 4-7 – Approved
- 3) Christmas Shoppe 12/7 – Approved

### Memorial Committee: Dick G:

- 1) Benches for the front of the church ready to be installed
- 2) Motion: Accept the donation from the family of Gene Lansing for the benches – Approved

**Membership Administration Committee: Anne C:**  
the 41 persons to be removed from the Inactive List was distributed

### Denominational Reps Reports: Lynn J and Roxanne R:

- 1) No representation at the Methodist Annual Conference
- 2) Presbytery – new position coming, Resource Presbyter (Karen Chamis)

### Pastor Report: Rev Deb T:

- 1) Study leave: preaching for moral imagination
  - a. Visioning
  - b. Investigating a new committee for Strategic Planning
  - c. Scarcity mindset vs abundance
- 2) Investigating children's choir or other methods for involvement of children.

### Other Business:

- Tech Team – in process
- Revised Building Use form/policy – no update
- Nursery list – Linda to publish
- Facebook update
- Discussed the unlocked back door, lock policy, and changing keys

Rev. Deb closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next meeting: July 16, 2019**

### Independence Day Prayer

Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that “this is our Father's world” and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, “O let [us] ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.” Amen. —Sandy Hyland

# July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (FH 'til 6)	3	4 Independence Day	5	6
7 Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship 3:00 PM Church Picnic	15	16 6:30 PM Parish Council (Lounge)	17	18	19	20
21 Worship 11:15 AM Sandwich Making 3:00 PM Mission Comm. @ Onondaga Center	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship	29	30	31	Answer: It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. (Galatians 5:1, NIV)		

## First United Church of East Syracuse Events



# PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4<sup>th</sup> craft.

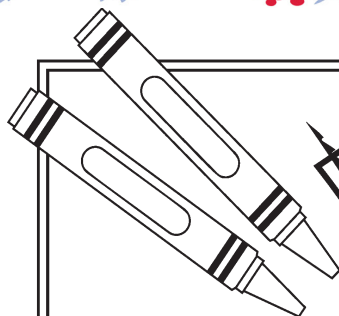
## What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



## What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!



# PUZZLE

## "IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

*Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.*

A=

E=

I=

O=

U=

k \_ p my \_ y \_ s  
 \_ lw \_ ys \_ n th \_ L \_ RD.  
 W \_ th h \_ m \_ t my  
 r \_ ght h \_ nd,  
 w \_ ll n \_ t b \_ sh \_ k \_ n.  
 Ps \_ lm 16:8, N \_ V

Answer: I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV



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*First United Church of East Syracuse  
823 Franklin Park Drive  
East Syracuse, New York 13057*

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**OPEN YOUR HEART AND HOME  
to a Christian exchange student from Spain  
for the coming 2019-2020 school year**

Volunteer host families (with or without children) as well as single parents are needed to provide food, a bed and a loving home for the coming school year, one or two semesters, starting in August.

EMF students have medical insurance, spending money for their personal expenses and expect to share their host family's daily life including household responsibilities.

They speak English, are well-screened and eager to experience life in America. Their stay here is sponsored and supervised by EMF (Educational Merit Foundation), a non-profit, educational exchange organization.

For more information on EMF students, please call Marie-Claude Dijoud now at 1-800-467-8363 or visit our web site at [www.emfusa.org](http://www.emfusa.org).

**Semester/Academic Year in the United States**

Foreign students ages 15 to 18 attend U.S. high schools for five to ten months starting in August for the fall semester/academic year and in January for the Spring semester. Students must demonstrate academic interest and a good command of the English language.

Students live with volunteer host families and attend local schools. Orientation is provided prior to departure from home country and after arrival in the United States. Students are supervised and monitored on a monthly basis by local community coordinators.

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