



VOL. XLIII NO. 6

JUNE 2019

On my study leave in May I attended *The Festival of Homiletics*, an ecumenical preaching conference held annually and attended by over 1600 pastors and lay people. Their website describes its purpose in this way, “(the Festival) . . . brings together a wide variety of outstanding preachers and professors of homiletics to inspire a discourse about preaching, worship, and culture. Our goal is to engage theologically the practices of preaching and worship, as well as issues related to congregations in the 21st century.”

The Festival did not disappoint! Worship was both inspiring and spiritually nurturing with joyful music and liturgy. Lectures and workshops were both educational and practical. AND I was able to learn from some of the biggest names in theological circles, all of whom are ordained as pastors in various denominations, and many of whom are professors in leading seminaries, authors, social justice activists, and leaders seeking to enact culturally relevant change in the name of Christ. These included Bishop Will Willimon (UMC), Rev. Dr. Anna Carter Florence (PCUSA), Rev. Dr. William J. Barber (Disciples of Christ), Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson (Lutheran), Rev. Dr. Cynthia Hale (Disciples of Christ) and many more.

This year’s conference was held in Minneapolis, and was my first time visiting this beautiful city. As an added bonus, I was able to reconnect with a friend who lives there as well as old pastor friends attending the conference who now live in other areas of the country. We enjoyed evening meals together while discussing the events and learnings of the day.

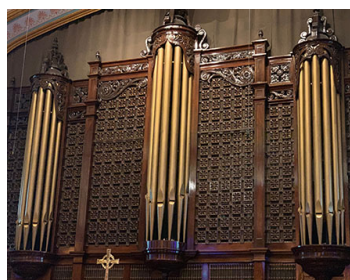
The Festival theme focused on preaching with “moral imagination”—inspiring congregations to envision how they might better live as Christ’s Church working for God’s kingdom on earth. I hope to use what I learned in the coming months and pray God will bless our congregation in living as God’s people here in our own little corner of the world.

Blessings,

—Rev. Deb



Central Lutheran Church



Westminster Presbyterian Church



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For those who have been vacationing or hiding under a rock, winter is gone; to be replaced by the soggiest spring I can remember. It started raining a while back and it just seems to have never stopped. You get up its raining, lunch or drive home, and yup it is still raining. Try to mow the lawn, too wet. Want to play golf because now you're retired and you can, HA, it laughs and keeps on raining.

Now most of us who have been in central New York for awhile know that this area leads the league in gray skies. Yet it seems that many of us get so accustomed to the dreary occasions that we barely change our behaviors; mow-golf-wear our white clothes all when we can; no big deal. it saves us having to wash our cars or fill our pools or water the gardens, etc....Jaded blaze stoic or crazy, you choose the term that fits best and move on to the next challenge.

All of this is by way of saying that few of us go out and celebrate the rain, welcome the storms or cheer as our children know how to do. Rain = fun!! They say.

In India they do much of this type of behavior to welcome the arrival of the monsoons, the seasonal storms that provide life during the dry times. In this story is a lesson of import for us. As I have mentioned in the recent past columns, I have been slogging my way through the old testament prophets: Isaiah, then Jeremiah, and now on to Ezekiel.

These 3 books seem to resemble the weather in their moods and gray portent. In them one can find constant denouncing of the abominable behavior of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Over and over again, God sends his prophets to the people to warn them of the upcoming famine, pestilence and invasions. Just like we are with the weather, they became inured to these visions and forecasts. The people slogged along until they indeed were overwhelmed with obstacles and debacles. We slog along too with our weather and grouse and grumble about living here.

But what if we welcomed the rain as God's blessing and a sign of the way we are treating our habitat. I don't know if it is official 'global warming' but

it is certainly much different than when I was growing up. Maybe our God loves us enough to send us a warning that we need to pay attention to - for our own benefit. What is with all the rain?

This also plays along with our attitude in general. Do we ever stop or stop often enough to recognize the incredible depth and number of wonders we receive each and every day. Our health, what ever we have, our family and friends, no matter how much they might exasperate us. Fresh veggies (nurtured by rain and warm weather!!), very few tidal waves in our area, no tornado alley as the midwest has had to endure, ... the list goes on and on. Do we praise God's gifts, or are we too wrapped up in miserableness?

It rains on us; both for the good and for the warning. Maybe we need to focus on the good and heed the warning while we still have time. 'Ezekiel' will run out soon and who knows what other great tricks God has in store for us. But like the parable of the watchers during the night, will we be caught unawares or will we be the wise ones, extolling our God and his grace? May God bless our visions as he did Ezekiel's. And may we have a wonderful summer as well.

June junkets

- 2 - communion
- 9 - last regular class
- 16 - Christian Education picnic and congregational ice cream social
- 23 - baccalaureate Sunday - let us know of any graduates in the FUCOES family

Peace,

—Dale H. Greabell for the Christian Education Dept.

What rain reveals



Unless you're a pluviophile (someone who loves rain), a stretch of sunshine-free days can seem drab and dreary. To make South Korea's long monsoon season more colorful, art students created murals on some Seoul sidewalks with hydrochromic paint. It's invisible on dry surfaces, but as soon as water hits, vibrant images appear. Rain transforms gray pavement into bright scenes of fish, whales and turtles.

Life's storms, whether literal or figurative, can dampen our enthusiasm and even challenge our faith. Yet adversity often reveals God's true colors — and ours. No matter what clouds pass overhead, God remains perfect, loving and steadfast. And by praising God "rain or shine," we, as his artwork, reveal that our Creator and his every brushstroke are trustworthy.

Newsletter



PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met on May 7th.

Anne Coughenour led a Spiritual Study on butterflies and change, then opened the meeting with prayer.

Standard Motions:

- Approval of Minutes from March 12 and 30, 2019
- Communion was served on April 7th and May 5th, blessed by Lynn Jacques
- Death/Funerals – Walter Eugene Lansing D.O.D. April 20 2019
- We have a baptism request for Jacob Michael Lansing, born 8-11-18. Parents are Erin and Brandon Lansing. Baptism is to be Sunday, June 30.
- Transfer Walter E. Lansing from the Active Roll to the Deceased Roll
- Transfer Ethel P. Somers to Lake Gibson UMC in Lakeland, FL
- A small group from Presbytery requested use of a small room with a table for a meeting on April 8 from 5:30-8:30 PM. The Staff Room or Deb's office will be sufficient.
- Linda Tarolli has requested use of Fellowship Hall for the Scrapbook Club on Saturday, May 4th from 8am-5pm. Linda Horton approved the request.

Moved: S.Borasky, Second: C.Lesser, Approved

A motion was made and approved for the Finance Committee to purchase two additional headsets for use with the hearing aid loop.

Fellowship and Hospitality (Sue B) Committee presented the following motions, all of which were approved:

- 1) The small freezer from Meals-on-Wheels is to be sold with the money to go to Buildings & Grounds
- 2) Church picnic 7/14 from 4-8 at Ryder Park
- 3) Pork Dinner and Silent Auction 10/19 from 4-7
- 4) Christmas Shoppe 12/7

Memorial Committee: Dick G:

- 1) Benches for the front of the church ordered
- 2) Inventory chairs and tables for the Fellowship Hall
- 3) Investigate hymn boards and replacing the outside signboard

Membership Administration Committee: Anne C: The Committee presents the following motion: Remove the 41 persons on the Inactive List – Approved

Anne C: Received a "Thank you" from the Samaritan Center for the leftover corned beef

Pastor's Report: Rev. Deb T:

- 1) Gene Lansing services at Collamer Cemetary
- 2) Study leave 5/13-5/27

Other Business:

- Tech Team – in process
 - Revised Building Use form/policy – no update
 - Membership update results – done
 - Need to update and publish list of people with completed background check for the nursery
 - A motion was made: Appoint Gladys Greabell as the Editor of the church Facebook page – Approved
- Rev. Deb closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting: June 11, 2019

Puzzle!

Write the names of the parents of these biblical children.
For help, look up the verses in an NIV Bible.

Joash (2 Kings 11:2)	A	_____
Obed (Matthew 1:5)	B	_____
Joseph (Genesis 35:22-24)	C	_____
John the disciple (Matthew 4:21)	D	_____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	E	_____
	F	_____
Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:3, 6)	G	_____
Jezreel (Hosea 1:2-4)	H	_____
Esau (Genesis 25:28)	I	_____
David (1 Samuel 16:19)	J	_____
Jacob (Genesis 25:28)	K	_____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	L	_____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	M	_____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	N	_____
Jesse (Matthew 1:5)	O	_____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	P	_____
	Q	_____
Joseph (Genesis 35:23-24)	R	_____
Isaac (Genesis 21:3)	S	_____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	T	_____
Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)	U	_____
Solomon (1 Kings 2:1)	V	_____
	W	_____
	X	_____
Jesus (Matthew 1:18)	Y	_____
Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1)	Z	_____

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This Month's Anniversaries & Birthdays

In June

1. Janet & John Stooks' anniversary
2. Karen Gustafson,
Sophia Oliver
8. Doug & Joanne Eddy's anniversary
9. Jim & Rebekah Harding's anniversary
13. Jessica Harper
14. Earl Lowe,
Eric Paul Spero
16. Karen & Ed Dunn's anniversary
17. Bonnie Clappin
18. Bonnie Abend
19. Alex Schuss
20. Connor Clappin,
Douglas Lansing,
Janet Stooks,
John & Karen Novak's anniversary
21. Paul Schneible
22. Thomas Joseph Schneible,
Paul & Sara Schneible's anniversary
23. Sara Schneible
24. Dale Greabell,
Tina Holburn Thomas
25. Nathaniel Richard Carney,
Wendy Horton
27. Dale & Lori Greabell's anniversary
28. Richard Ernst,
Shancy Gorman
29. Lucas Ruszczyk
30. Rob English
Tina Lowe

Special dates

- Pentecost, June 9, 2019
- Flag Day, June 14, 2019
- Trinity Sunday, June 16, 2019
- Father's Day, June 16, 2019
- First day of summer, June 21, 2019

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

Linda Horton

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

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

Ryan Shafer – Marines - Diane Shafer's great nephew

Eric Spero – US Navy

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



**Bottles
for the
Budget,
Cans
for the
Church**

Please bring only clean
and rinsed out New York State
deposit bottles and cans to
church each Sunday and place in
the receptacles downstairs near
Fellowship Hall.

Proceeds raised will go to
our building fund.

Raised to date this year: \$35.95.



Church Picnic

There will be a church picnic following worship on Sunday, July 14th at Ryder Park. Ryder Park is a 12-acre park located adjacent to the DeWitt Town Hall on Butternut Drive. The park features the James L. Guyette Arboretum, butterfly garden, bicycle and exercise trail, canoe launch into Butternut Creek, fishing pond, picnic areas, grills, playground, tot swings, picnic shelter and a pavilion with restrooms.

Please provide your main food item and beverage, as well as a dish to share with those who attend, and place settings to eat off and with.

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.

If you have questions, please see Sue Borasky and/or Gladys Greabell.

Talk is cheap

Too many of us have a Christian vocabulary rather than a Christian experience. We think we are doing our duty when we're only talking about it.

—Charles F. Banning

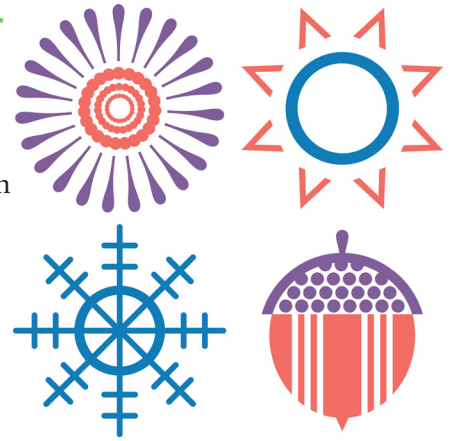


You are invited to join the group that is making prayer shawls. When completed, they are blessed and made available to those who would benefit by having a comforting shawl to surround them during a time of illness, stress or loss, etc.

For more information, please contact Norine Stephan at 315.437.8581.

Perfect order

By the time the summer solstice occurs, it feels as if the season has been in full swing for weeks. It's bittersweet that just when summer officially starts, the length of daylight begins decreasing. Before we're ready to let go of the season, summer marches toward fall, and then winter with the year's shortest day.



Yet that is our Creator's plan: "You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter" (Psalm 74:17, ESV). God fashioned the world to be beautiful, good and perfectly symmetrical. With concise order, he ordained seasons, rhythms, orbits and natural boundaries. As God's beloved children, we're blessed to enjoy the intricacies and patterns of this magnificent universe.

—MaryAnn Sundby



Tithe.ly

To download our free church app, search for "Church App Tithe.ly" on your phone app store or google play. Click on the blue icon, download, and search for "First United Church of East Syracuse." Open the app. Allow notifications to receive emergency cancellation notices or other important announcements.

Make a Difference While You Shop!

Switch from Amazon to AmazonSmile and support our church. Simply go to www.amazon.com, choose First United Church of East Syracuse as the organization you wish to support, then start shopping.

Amazon will send a percentage of each purchase to our church!

"Do" diligence

Against the backdrop of people who avoid work, cut corners and do half-hearted jobs, a diligent [person] stands out. Practicing diligence is an excellent way to stand out for Christ at home, in the workplace and even at church. Today, complete each one of your tasks, however big or small, with diligence.

—David Jeremiah

June 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 <i>7th Sunday of Easter</i> 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.	3	4	5	6 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH)	7	8
9 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.	10	11 6:30 PM Parish Council (Lounge)	12	13 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH)	14 Flag Day	15
16 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed. 11:15 AM Sandwich Making 3:00 PM Mission Comm. @ Onondaga Center	17	18 5:00 PM Daisy Scouts Ceremony (til 8)	19	20 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH)	21	22 10:00 AM CNYGS (Lounge 'til noon)
23 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship	24	25	26	27 5:30 PM Girl Scouts (FH)	28	29
30 <i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> Worship	Answers: Ahaziah, Boaz, Jacob, Zebedee, Zechariah, Gomer, Hosea, Isaac, Jesse, Rebekah, Elkanah, Moses, Hannah, Obed, Zipporah, Rachel, Sarah, Elizabeth, Saul, David, Mary, Amoz					

First United Church of East Syracuse Events



GIVE A HELPING HAND



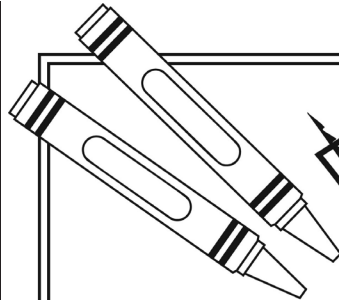
Make this craft to show appreciation for your dad or another special man.

What you need:

- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Adult garden gloves
- Garden gloves that fit you
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Paint your right palm and press it on the back of the right adult glove. Lift to reveal your handprint. Repeat with your left hand and the left glove.
2. If you have younger siblings, layer their handprint(s) on top with a different color.
3. Write your name(s) and the date.
4. Repeat steps 1 through 3 on your gloves.
5. Present the gift. Offer to use your gloves to give a helping hand with chores!

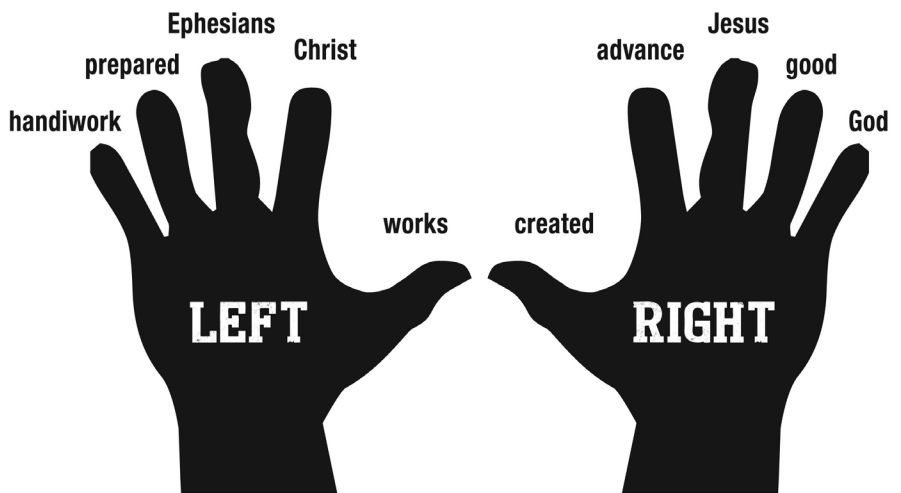


PUZZLE

Handiwork to do good works

God has a special plan and purpose for each of us.

Directions: Use the finger-position clues under the blanks below to complete Ephesians 2:10, NIV.



For we are God's _____, _____ in
L pinky R thumb
 _____ to do _____,
L pointer R middle R ring L thumb
 which _____ in _____
R pinky L ring R pointer
 for us to do. _____ 2:10, NIV
L middle

Answer: handiwork, created, Christ, Jesus, good, works, God, prepared, advance, Ephesians

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

Swaddled in God's law of love

The
Newsletter
Newsletter

Pastor John Edgerton tells of swaddling his 2-week-old baby to help her feel secure. She loved being wrapped tightly in a soft blanket and would lie quietly — until she managed to work a tiny arm loose. Then she'd scream until someone rewrapped her.

Edgerton likens that behavior to his own connection with God's law, given so people can live in peace. "I know that I'm supposed to do the right thing, but I'm always wiggling out of it," he writes. "And very quickly my life falls into a state of disarray."

We've all experienced this. We know we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, yet we often ignore their needs. Jesus says to love our enemies, but we wiggle around it: "That's too naïve for this day and age." But then relationships crumble, life feels crazy and we recognize that, in large part, we've done it to ourselves. Over and over, we wiggle out of the soft swaddle of God's law of love, only to flail. Thankfully, like a loving parent, God wraps us up anew, holds us close and saves us from ourselves — again.

Reasons to rejoice

Proverbs 11:10 (NIV) says, "When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices." The Hebrew word for righteous, notes Timothy Keller, indicates people who, because they believe in God, "disadvantage themselves to advantage those around them." In other words, people living righteously "will be such a benefit to the public good of the whole city that the entire populace will exult."

Keller then asks: "Are you the kind of person, and is your church the kind of church, about which others in your community might say, 'I don't share their beliefs, but I shudder to think about what this city would be like without them?'"
