

The Messenger 3.0

The Newsletter of the Centerville/Saugerties Churches

February 2025

Dear Beloved Church Family,

How have you all been? I hope you're staying warm and healthy during these chilly days. It seems like winter is throwing a bit of a tantrum before finally stepping aside for spring—maybe it just doesn't want to be forgotten! As we wrap up this season, I pray that you all remain well and keep warm.

This January has been especially meaningful for me. After seven years in the U.S., I finally received my green card! And the best part? I get to celebrate this milestone with all of you. I'm so grateful for your love and encouragement. Because of you, I'm growing little by little as a pastor and—dare I say it?—becoming more American each day (in a good way, of course!).

Sometimes, I wonder where I would be if you hadn't embraced me as your pastor. Thanks to you, I've been given new experiences, new opportunities, and a deep sense of gratitude.

There are so many people around us who need the same helping hand, the same encouragement, and the same second chance that I once received. Especially during these cold months, countless people are struggling and in need of support. My hope is that our church will continue to be a community that reaches out to those in need—not just as we are now, but even more so, sharing love and hope with as many people as possible.

Jesus said, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me." That verse has been on my heart. Just as we've done before, may we keep growing into a church that overflows with love. I have received so much from all of you—so much love, so many lessons. I am deeply grateful, and I promise to do my best moving forward.

**With love and gratitude,
[Jay Yoon]**





United Women in Faith Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 18**, at 5:30 for the meal and 6:30 for the program. The program for February asks the question, "How have scriptures and songs informed your faith?" The focus is on how you have received your faith. All women of the church are invited to attend, and are encouraged to bring a friend. We will also discuss ways we can help the church during the following year. The meal is covered dish, so please bring something.




Sunday School

We have been alternating lead teachers in Sunday School. Joan Robinson is the lead teacher for February. Pam Maines will be the lead teacher for March. The children hear a message from Pastor Jay each Sunday during the service and then participate in a lesson in the Sunday School room. They also do a craft related to the lesson and sign and play games.



Bible Study

On Thursday mornings Pastor Jay leads a Bible study from 10 - 11:30 in the lounge. We are currently studying the book of 1st John. There is a video that goes along with the topic of the day. We always have a good discussion about the topics. It is held in the lounge. All members of the church are welcomed to join the group.




The Saugerties Area Council of Churches

The next meeting of SACC will be at our church on February 24 at 6:30 in the lounge. If you would like to be informed on what they are doing, please come. The Well is doing well since it moved to Main Street. Our church works there every sixth Saturday, but they are always looking for more help. The Food Pantry is very busy and is always looking for help. It is open Tuesday evenings from 7-8. The Council tries to help individuals in need and provides special programs during the year, like Vacation Bible School.



ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for the altar, please sign up at least a week in advance in the red binder on the radiator in the Narthex. You may wish to honor or remember a loved one with flowers, or just beautify the altar. Please contact Laurie at Judy's Florist 845-246-5515 about a week ahead of time to make your selection and arrange for payment. If you would like the information in the announcements of the bulletin, let Diane McDowell know at 845-246-4888 or saugcatlvr@aol.com.



The Next Rummage Sale

Since Saugerties schools are off on Friday, March 21 we will use that Friday and Saturday (March 21 and 22) for our next rummage sale. We will be able to set up on Thursday in the Fellowship Hall after Mother Goose is done, and then clean up on Saturday after the sale. Being inside, we won't have to worry about the weather! Now is the time to clean out the closet and other spaces and donate unwanted items to the Church. These donations can be put in the basement on the pallets. No large furniture or clothing, please! (Clothing can be donated to The Well).



WEDNESDAY COFFEE AND PRAYERS TO GO

The Catskill Hudson District will be offering live scripture and prayers each Wednesday morning on Zoom from 6:30-6:45 a.m. during Lent. The dates are: March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9. You are welcome to join in and listen, or add your prayer concerns by typing them in the 'chat' on Zoom. This is a great way to start your Wednesday mornings during Lent!



CRAFT GROUP

The Saugerties UMC Craft Group will be meeting the first and third Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The items that we make are sold in November at the Holiday Craft Fair. Everyone is welcome to join us. You don't need any special skills, and new ideas are always welcome! We meet in the Old Kitchen, so enter on the Post Street side of the Church. Contact Cece, Aleda, or Diane if you have questions.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Hudson Valley Cooperative Parish is sponsoring a unique opportunity for Ash Wednesday, March 5. Groups of volunteers from our Parish will be at several public outdoor locations in the area to distribute ashes and 'goodie bags'. The 'goodie bags' will contain an explanation of the ashes, a prayer, a magnet, and information about the churches in our parish including the worship service times and upcoming Easter activities.

At this time, the locations selected are as follows:

Stewarts / Post Office area in Port Ewen 8:15-9:15 a.m.

St. James UMC sidewalk in Kingston 9:30-11:00 a.m.

LGBTQ Community Center area in Kingston 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

New Paltz library area 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SUNY New Paltz campus Christian Center

Clinton Avenue UMC in Kingston

The plan is to have volunteer teams of 4 people minimum at each site. If you would like to get involved in this unique opportunity, contact Diane McDowell for more information.



CHOIR CHILI SALE

The annual Choir Chili Sale is coming up on Saturday, February 22. For only \$9 a quart you can get some delicious chili to warm you up on these cold winter days! A limited quantity of cornbread is also available for \$2. To order, fill out the form below and put it in the offering plate on Sunday or give it to a choir member. You can also place an order by calling Aleda Stamboulian at 845-246-5120. Please indicate if you will pick up at the Church on Saturday (Feb. 22) between 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., or Sunday (Feb. 23) after church.

Name:

Phone Number:

Pick-up day:

Number of quarts of chili at \$9 each:

Cornbread:

Total order amount:



Help Wanted

Lectors - in some denominations they are called “readers.” In other churches they are called Liturgists. In all churches they are an important part of the mornings worship. We have enjoyed the service of our lectors for many years. It is a very pleasant way to assist the pastor in spreading the Good News Of Christ. The position has a rich history, and some interesting functions. If you’re interested in becoming a lector, or just want to know more, great! Please see Al or Diane McDowell.

Lay Servants - Are you interested in learning more about our Methodist roots, our interesting history and our evolution and growth into a vibrant and relevant faith community? Do you feel the call to do more than just sit in a pew every week, a call serve both God and community? A 6 week basic Lay Servant course could help you discern your call to serve in today’s church. If you’re willing to serve, think about taking the basic course. If you have an interest, please talk to Joan Robinson, Karen Reynolds or Diane or Al McDowell.

Ushers - You can never have too many ushers, right? Or is it not enough ushers? It seems like it might be another small, unnoticed, thankless kind of job in the church, but it isn’t. It might be one of the more important Sunday morning worship leadership roles in our church. Greeters and ushers are

frequently among the first to be noticed when guests enter for worship. “You never get a 2nd chance to make a first impression.” The usher is a font of information on the church and the service. Many times the usher is the first person someone will ask a question - “Where is _____?” You fill in the blank. The ushers alone can make a guest feel welcomed or ignored and unwelcome. We would love to have you consider being an usher. Everyone is welcome. Please see Al McDowell if you are interested.



Easter Party



What: Games, crafts, stories and snacks celebrating the Easter Story

When: Saturday, April 5th

1:00-3:00

Where: Saugerties United Methodist Church

Who: All children accompanied by an adult are welcome.



Going forward, I would like to devote a section of the Messenger to a Classified Ads section. For sale, wanted, free, swap, help wanted, etc. If you would like to submit an ad, email or text is

probably best, but a written request will be fine. Send those requests to:

Al McDowell

Text - 845-430-2746

Email - ajbirdboy@aol.com

