

First Congregational Church of Greene, New York
United Church of Christ - Founded 1811

The Congregation

The Congregation is published monthly, except July and August, which are combined.

Volume LXII

November 2009

Number 52

Spirituality: The center of our daily life is to continuously improve our relationship with Christ and all God's Creation.

Compassion: Actions that welcome and accept all people and help them experience the good feeling of God's unconditional love.



Integrity: With honesty and respect we support everyone's freedom to develop their Relationship with God.

Belonging: In sharing and celebrating life, we support our commitment to all others to nurture a family relationship of belonging.

Daylight Savings Ends November 1st - clocks back 1 hour

Stewardship Sunday, November 8th

Open Door Kitchen, Fri., 11/13/09 @ 5:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Dinner

Confirmation Class, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17, 11/24 @ 6:00 p.m.

Men's Fellowship, Tues., 11/24/09 @ 7:00 p.m.

December Newsletter Deadline, Mon., 11/16/09

The Congregation is published monthly, except for July and August, which are combined.

OFFICE TELEPHONE: 607-656-4923 E-mail address: UCCGREENE@juno.com Pastor's Study: 607-656-7449

Website Address: <http://www.uccgreene.org>

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. - **Worship Every Sunday at 9:55 a.m.**

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC
28 N. CHENANGO STREET
GREENE, NY 13778**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 204
GREENE, NY 13778**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor: Rev. Curtis Whitman

Moderator: Art DeJager

Board of Deacons: Mary Gell & Donna Possemato

Board of Property: George Marr

Board of Christian Ed.: Laurel Acunto

Secretary/ Newsletter Coordinator: Linda Teter

Organist/Choir Director Claudia Kachmarik

Custodian: Wayne Hartley

Newsletter Volunteer: Jean Compeau

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:55 a.m. All Saints Day Communion Families in Need Collection Youth Group 5:00 p.m. Greene Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>2 Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>3 UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m. Executive Council 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>4 WIC 8:30-4:30 Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5 Care Team 9:00 a.m. Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:55 a.m. Stewardship Sunday Greene Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>9 Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Deacons 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10 Book Discussion "The Red Tent" 10:00 a.m. UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Property Board 7:00 p.m. Music Ministry 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>11 Veteran's Day Choir 7:00 p.m.</p> 	<p>12 ABC Support Group 10:00 a.m. Grief and Loss Support Group 10:00 a.m. Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>13 Open Door Kitchen 5:30 p.m. (Thanksgiving Dinner)</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:55 a.m. Youth Group 5:00 p.m. Greene Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>16 Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. DECEMBER NEWS-LETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>17 UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>18 Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Joyful Ringers 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:55 a.m. Greene Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>23 Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Decorating Sanctuary and Social Hall for Christmas 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>24 UCC Chimers 4:50 p.m. Confirmation Class 6:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>25 Girl Scouts 5:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26 Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)</p> 	<p>27 Cub Scouts Ten Commandment Hike/Luncheon 10-2</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:55 a.m. Food Pantry Collection Blood Pressure Screening Greene Chamber Singers 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p>30 Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m.</p>					

Minister's Musings

Everyone knows that this is the month during which we celebrate Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time of good eating, family gatherings, and a sense of love for people everywhere. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year I would like us to think about two questions: Are we being thankful by giving God glory for his grace and mercy throughout our life? Or are we thankful for our ability to get what we want in life?

The apostle Paul shares some words in the book of Romans concerning God's greatness, and our thankfulness for His merciful ways:

"O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are God's judgments and how inscrutable God's ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord,
Or who has been God's counselor?

Or who has given a gift to God that God might be repaid?"

For from God and through God and to God are all things. To God be glory forever. (Romans 11:34-36)

According to Paul, our response to God's presence in our lives is certainly worth more than just mentioning a thank you at a holiday meal or just dedicating one day to give God thanks. Can we ever repay God for all God does in our lives? Paul says that we cannot. However, we can commit our entire life to God as we respond to God's blessings: A life of worship, a life of love, a life of stewardship, and a life of thanksgiving.

I like to think that our response of thanksgiving to God should be as Helen Steiner Rice wrote in her poem, "Thank You, God for Everything":

Thank you, God, for everything – the big things
and the small
For "every good gift comes from God" – the
given of them all –
And all too often we accept without any thanks
or praise
The gifts God sends as blessings each day in
many ways –

First, thank you for the little things that often
come our way,
The things we take for granted, but don't
mention when we pray,
Then, thank you for the "miracles" we are much
too blind to see,
And give us new awareness of our many gifts
from Thee
And help us to remember that the Key to Life
and Living
Is to make each prayer a Prayer of Thanks and
every day Thanksgiving.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Curtis



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council will meet on the following date: November 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

The Executive Council is seeking individuals to help plan our church's 200th anniversary. If you are interested, please let Art DeJager know at 656-7818.

**DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Monday, November 16th.**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Ana Acunto
- 3 Don Simmonds
Matthew DeJager
Elissa Beth Case
- 4 Wayne Basa
- 5 Janie Fitzgerald
- 6 Taylor Sherwood
- 11 Paula Basa
Paula Barnum
Patty Izard
Caden Izard
- 14 Vickie Arrow
- 21 Autumn Meister
- 25 Wayne Hartley
- 29 Nancy Sloan



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Cliff & Peg Thomas
- 2 Jessie & Kent Garringer
- 3 John & Phyllis Auwarter
- 9 Bruce & Louisa Ketcham
- 29 Jack & Dianne Breck

(Please contact the Church Office at 656-4923 with any changes or additions.)



FOOD PANTRY

A collection is held the last Sunday of every month for the Food Pantry. Boxes are provided in the Narthex and the Social Hall. Please help support those less fortunate. Boxes are always available if you forget to bring in your items on the last Sunday.

CLOTHING BANK

If you have clothes you no longer need or no longer fit, there is a Clothing Bank in the village. It is located above the village office. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to Noon every Tuesday and Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Saturday. Items are free and they will accept gently used clothing, shoes, boots, coats, etc.



COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

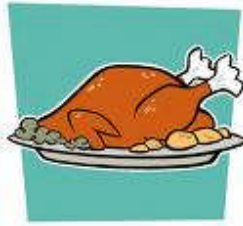
Executive Council - Art DeJager, 656-7818
Board of Property - George Marr, 656-9452
Deacons - Mary Gell, Co chair, 656-5185
- Donna Possemato, Co chair, 656-7964
Board of Education - Laurel Acunto, 656-9094
Music Ministry - Amy Root, 656-8990
Mission Comm. - Carol DeJager, 656-7818
Women's Fellowship - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647
Head Usher - Russ Haberl, 656-9092
Altar Flowers - Margaret Bryant, 656-8201
Prayer Chain - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647
Care Team - Peg French, 204-0079
Parish Nurse - Sharon Fowler, 656-9647



Don't forget...Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1st. Set your clocks back an hour.

GREENE OPEN DOOR SOUP KITCHEN

Please join us for our traditional Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, November 13th. We will be preparing turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, rolls and pumpkin dessert. Dinner will be at 5:30. If you can help during the day, we get started at 9:00 a.m. Spread the word! Can't you smell the turkey cooking already?



FAMILIES IN NEED

On the first Sunday of every month the Mission Committee collects 5 items for families in need; Toothpaste 5 oz., Bath Soap 4.5 oz., Shampoo 15 oz., Dish Soap 12.6 oz., and individually wrapped bathroom tissue. Boxes are provided in the Social Hall and Narthex. Thanks for your help in supporting this project.

UCC of Greene	
Budget	
As of 10/31/09	
Income	\$106728.28
Expenses	<u>\$120062.17</u>
Net	(\$13333.89)

Please note that our Congregation is depleting investments in order to cash flow negative balances.

DEACON'S DOINGS

There will be a Healing Service on October 25th at First Congregational Church.

All Saints Service will be on November 1st at the First Congregational Church.

Sunday School is collecting items for Christmas shoe boxes to give to those who will not receive anything or little for Christmas. Anyone who wants to donate can bring items to Sunday School Classes. Junior Class is praying for the critically ill children.

We are looking for anyone who has old stories and pictures to share about our church.

Advent Prayer Services will be held on Wednesday nights during the Advent Season in the Chapel at 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

The Pastor's Recognition Luncheon was held on October 18th with plenty of food for all. Thank you Curtis for all your support and your caring ways.

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him.

Nahum 1:7

God Bless You All
Pat Ford, Deacon's Secretary



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Our congratulations are extended to John and Mary Ludolph on the birth of their son, Sherman Schultz Ludolph. Sherman was born on Sunday, October 18, 2009 at Chenango Memorial Hospital in Norwich. Congratulations again to the Ludolph family!



COFFEE HOUR

This is a schedule for the next month. If you can't participate on a Sunday for which you are scheduled, please call a friend and ask them to switch with you.

If you're not on the list, and would like to help with coffee hour, please call Paula at 656-9258. Coffee hour is just a nice time to socialize with each other. If you have coffee and punch, that's good enough. Please don't feel the need to spend a lot of money or time baking for Sunday. If you want to bring a package of cookies from the dollar store or a bag of pretzels, that's fine. There are no rules and we need to make it cost effective for everyone. Just enjoy.

Nov.1 Bob and Nancy Root/Amy Root/Katha Root

Nov.8 Kent and Jessie Garringer/Kay Doak

Nov.15 George and Peg Marr/Chet and Adrienne Silvernail

Nov.22 Pumpkin Pie Sunday (Deacons)

Nov.29 John and Ellie Rugg/Jim and Cindy Gagnon

Thank you all very much for all you do.
Paula Basa



The Oct., Nov., and Dec. issue of THESE DAYS are available in the Narthex and Social Hall. Pick up your copy next time you are at church.

Grief and Loss Support Group to be offered in Greene

Brenda Birdsall, bereavement coordinator from Hospice of Chenango County will be facilitating a monthly support group to those in the community who are coping with the loss of a loved one. This group is open to all community individuals (no prior connection to Hospice is required.) This support group will be held the second Thursday morning of each month from 10-11:30 a.m.; it will meet in the First Congregational Church's library and the next meeting will be on 12th. Please contact Brenda Birdsall at 334-3556 for any questions.



In the Mailbox:

Dear Church Family,

We are settled in our new home in Arizona. Our spare room is waiting for your visit. We are close to many points of interest and the weather is great. Our new address is 26936 N. 52nd Glen, Phoenix, AZ 85083, phone: 623-236-9204, e-mail:

carolduntley@yahoo.com.

Thank you all for your prayers and many kindnesses. Greene and the UCC will always be home.

Love to all,

Doug and Carol Ann Duntley

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The UCCNY Women's planning committee met this past weekend in Syracuse, and after about 10 hours of intensive discussion, reading of your evaluations, brainstorming, and prayer we have decided on the theme "Building the Beloved Community...A Future of Hope."

The Rev. Dr. Joan Campbell has agreed to join us once again as our keynote speaker.

Our mission project this year will be Church World Service Hygiene Kits.

Now is the time to ask your church folks to start collecting the items you will need to complete the kits.

We are asking that the kits be brought fully complete with the \$2.00 per kit shipping fee Church World Services requires.

Below you will find the instructions for completing a kit.

Please, please follow these so we do not have kits we cannot send. Please do not bring extra items that you have left over.

Save them for future kits or donate them to your local food pantries to hand out.

One HAND towel measuring approximately 16" x 28". (no fingertip or bath towels)

One washcloth

One wide-toothed comb

One nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)

One bar of soap (bath size bar in wrapper)

One toothbrush (in original packaging)

Six Band-Aids

Please DO NOT add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Toothpaste that has an extended expiration date will be added to the Hygiene Kit just prior to shipment. **Seal all items in a ONE-GALLON plastic bag with a zipper closure.** If you wish to place the band aids in a snack-size zip plastic bag that would be acceptable.

Please give your donation to Donna Moorhead, Ruth Bennett or Sharon Fowler.



The ladies will meet in the Chapel on Tuesday 11-10-09 at 10:00 a.m. for a book discussion. The title of the book is "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant, and it is available at Moore Memorial Library. The discussion will be lead by Heather Huff-McCloud--from the library staff--so read the book and plan to attend.

This book was on the best seller list from the New York Times and is a novel based on Dinah, daughter of Leah and Jacob, from the Old Testament book of Genesis.

This is new idea of meeting style for our group and we hoping for good attendance and a lively discussion. Join us--there will be coffee and good chatter!

- Sharon Fowler

CELEBRATION SUNDAY November 8, 2009

On Sunday, November 8, 2009, our church members and friends will joyfully present their faith promises for the work of the church for 2010. This is possible for us because God has blessed us all in ways both great and small.

Stewardship letters were mailed out the week of October 19, 2009 explaining the goals of our stewardship committee for the church year 2010. It will take the combined faithful effort of all of us to achieve these goals. In reaching these goals we will be able to continue to be a church reaching out to the community of Greene, our church will continue to place mission work as one of our primary callings by God, and we can continue to be a source of inspiration and hope for community groups that use our facility. These are but a few ways that God's love is expressed through the Faith Promise cards that are returned and our faithful commitment to the stewardship of God's church



PROPERTY BOARD

Fall marches on and the Property Board members continue to work on our assortment of projects. Fred Kroncke, Charlie Hurtgam and Art DeJager are still planning a clean up session for the old barn site to remove debris, improving the looks and safety of the area. As you have read in previous issues, some ongoing projects are requiring “cash” solutions and due to budget constraints, we are still exploring alternative DIY alternative options. We have not forgotten them.

One large expense area we have been researching is that of Church insurance, seeing what’s available and how it compares to our current policies and costs. Apparently the current legal climate has resulted in insurance companies requiring more and more measures from their clients to control and reduce claims. Two thirds of the cost of current policies is for the liability portion of the insurance. It appears that companies are now generally requiring clients to have written policies in place for potential sexual molestation issues, proof of insurance from formal organizations utilizing Church facilities, increased use of “liability waivers” by special activity participants , “up close and personal” checks of drivers /personal vehicles being used for Church business, and the list goes on and on. Each item is aimed at reducing the chances that a Church would be held financially liable in the event of problems. We currently don’t have some of these measures in place or fully utilized. Since insurance costs reflect the perceived risk, a Church’s individual situation may result in higher premiums or companies just refusing to consider you for insurance coverage at all. The research process has been an education and we will be interested to see what our new premium prices and requested quotes look like for this fall.

We appreciate your continued help in keeping Church temperatures in moderate ranges, shutting off lights when you leave an area, and making sure doors are closed and locked if you are the last one out of the building. Almost all the outside doors have push bar locks, with hex keys attached. If the door bar has been pushed in and secured with the hex key

in the unlocked position, please just turn the hex key and release the bar to the “out” position. This should lock the door. If a regular key has been used to unlock the door, it must also be used to relock it. It will not automatically relock by itself. All these measures will continue to help us control our costs and provide security for our many Church activities and programs.

Enjoy the rest of your fall!

Ruth Bennett



Have Faith! God Does Answer Prayers

Just over nine weeks ago, Frank began another journey following a very serious surgery. After the first 6 weeks of struggling to get back on his feet literally, he found out that food does taste good again and snacks are even better. He continues to enjoy eating and is able to get around easier as his strength improves. All this happened because of your prayers, cards, calls, visits, food and support from our church family. We thank you for being there for him once again. You are all a true blessing from God to our family. Thank you, God!

Frank, Donna, Kevin and Beth Moorhead



MISSION COMMITTEE

October 6th Meeting

*Present: Pastor Curtis, Carol DeJager, Ellie Rugg,
Lois Brown, Donna Moorhead, Nancy Haberl*

Opened with a prayer, discussed the Treasurer's Report and correspondence received. We received notification from Amy Gregory that she will need to postpone her appearance at our church on October 30th to discuss Bosnia to a later date due to illness in her family.

The committee ordered 6 smaller "God Is Still Speaking" signs with stands to be placed in areas around the church instead of the larger 8' x 4' banner; if this does not meet our needs we will further consider getting the larger banner.

Carol handed out 100 of the Christmas Angels for the members to cut out and get ready for the Angel Tree to be set up on November 29th and delivery of the gifts to be delivered on December 19th.

Our members will be having a Food Drive for the Food Pantry starting on November 1st and ending on November 22nd. Boxes with food listings will be placed at the front and back doors of the Sanctuary. Two suggested food items will be listed for each of the four weeks but any of the foods listed can be donated. There is further information listed in the newsletter. We will also be collecting the Thank You Boxes on Nov. 22nd, Pumpkin Pie Sunday.

Members also made suggestions of people to be considered to fill Ellie Rugg's slot in the committee—she will be leaving next year after serving 4 years on our committee and we deeply appreciate her dedication to our mission work.

The committee will meet informally to get ready for the Christmas activities date to be set later.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Nancy Haberl, Secretary



FOOD DRIVE

Suggested Items:

Nov. 1st: Stuffing Mix/Canned Pie Filling
Nov. 8th: Sweet or Reg.
Potatoes/Canned Vegetables
Nov. 15th: Pasta/Canned Fruit
Nov. 22nd: Peanut Butter/Jello-Pudding
Mixes

List of all Food Pantry Items needed found on collection boxes in church.



Christmas is Coming Soon!

Which means it is once again time to think of decorating our church for Advent and Christmas festivities.

Please come and help with wreaths, bows and garlands on **Monday, Nov. 23rd at 6:30 p.m.**

Decorating just before Thanksgiving makes it possible to have the church ready for the First Sunday in Advent, Nov. 29th.

Hope to see you there!



**Rev. Steven Simpson Installed as
Pastor of St. Paul's, UCC
Amityville, PA**

The Rev. Steven Simpson was installed as pastor and teacher of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Amityville, Pennsylvania, by the Reading Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ on Sunday, October 11. Preaching at the service was the Rev. James Latimer, pastor of Community UCC, St. Lawrence, PA and formerly pastor of Point Place UCC in Toledo, OH. Rev. Latimer's text was Ephesians 6:10-18 - a text that teaches Christians to put on the full armor of God as they engage in spiritual battle. Drawing on his knowledge of Pastor Steven (the two served churches in Northwest Ohio and participated in the Ohio Conference UCC's Flight School program together) and of his knowledge of St. Paul's UCC (which is located approximately five miles east of Community UCC), Latimer shared how he could see why God would have drawn Pastor Steven and St. Paul's together to share in ministry.

After the prayer of installation, Conference Minister the Rev. Dr. Russell Mitman shared greetings from the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference UCC. Additionally, six lay and clergy leaders presented Pastor Steven with symbolic gifts representing the armor of God: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of preparedness to share the Gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. St. Paul's adult choir sang two anthems under the direction of St. Paul's Minister of Music, Martha Sitler. The youth praise band also led the congregation in singing a hymn written by Pastor Steven: "Every Gift," based on James 1:17. Following the worship service, members of St. Paul's and the Reading Association UCC joined Pastor Steven's friends and family visiting from four states for a dessert reception in St. Paul's Family Life and Mission Center.

Located 15 miles east of Reading and 60 miles northwest of Philadelphia, St. Paul's UCC was established as a Reformed Church in Pennsylvania "Dutch" country in 1753. It became a member of the United Church of

Christ in 1957. Steven was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1990 and has served UCC churches in California, Hawaii, New York, and Ohio. He and Shannon were married in 2003.

St. Paul's UCC, Amityville, PA
<http://stpaulsuccamity.org/>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Sunday School News

During the months of October and November, we will be collecting items to fill 2 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Please have your child bring in one item for a boy or girl ages 5-9 that can fit in a shoebox. Some suggestions are: *Small stuffed animal, small dolls, socks, t-shirt, coloring books, markers, lollipops, hard candy (no chocolate), toothbrush, etc.*

Please, nothing that can melt and no liquids. Be creative, there are many small items and toys that will fit in a shoebox. This is one of our mission projects. If you would like more information please go to www.samaritanspurse.org or Google "Operation Christmas Child".



Just a reminder...

Since the monthly newsletter is no longer mailed, please remember that if you change your address to call the church office at 656-4923. We need to keep our records up to date for other mailings and the church directory. THANKS!

