



July 2021
&
August 2021

ST. MARGARET'S ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

47 Jordan Road New Hartford, NY 13413

Come Celebrate St. Margaret's Day With Us!

On Tuesday, July 20th we will gather to celebrate St. Margaret's Day. It is our prayerful hope that one or two of the Sisters of St. Margaret will be joining us here on that day as well. If the weather cooperates, we will be outside, if not, we will enjoy an indoor celebration. In all cases, for planning and COVID-19 safety, we ask that you call and register for the event no later than July 15th.

2:00 PM Holy Eucharist & special St. Margaret's Day celebration

3:00 PM Social gathering at a safe distance with refreshments

All are Welcome!!

We are continuing to open our doors up more & more every month! Individuals and groups are welcome to contact us about using our space for day and overnight stays and retreats. We will be hosting in-person monthly dinners in July and August and we will continue to have take out dinners available as well.

Covid-19 & social distancing practices are being updated as appropriate.

We continue, as always, to keep everyone's health and safety in mind.

More in July @ SMH

July 6th—Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser for SMH & EH

New Hartford Texas Roadhouse will donate up to 20% of your purchase to St. Margaret's House and Emmaus House. Just bring along your voucher and enjoy a night out! Vouchers can be found on our website calendar and Facebook page—or stop by SMH.

July 8th Sexual Harassment Prevention Training @ 2:30 PM

The training will be facilitated by Mark Betley, Executive Director of the Centre for Theocentric Leadership & Learning, LLC, and Rev. Rebecca Mentzer, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Depew, Amherst Lutheran Church, and Hagar's Kin, a ministry intended to care for adults who have been sexually hurt by their relationship to the church.

Over the last 10 years, Mark and Rebecca have worked together to support congregations in their healing from adult sexual misconduct. Over the last two years they have offered Sexual Harassment Prevention Training throughout Upstate New York.

Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided, as well as a dinner following the training (\$25 per person). Limited seating. Registration and payment are due by June 24th. To register, please call (315) 724-2324 or email info@stmargarethouseny.org.

Learning to Knit in the Round with Double Pointed Needles (DPNs)

July 9th & 16th from 10:00 AM to Noon *with* Joanne Brown

If you have ever wanted to make a pair of cute socks for yourself or a loved one, here is your opportunity to learn some basic tips and tricks about knitting in the round using DPNs. The first meeting will focus on getting started and getting comfortable using DPNs; the second one will focus on answering your questions and discussing what you need to make an actual pair of socks.

I have been knitting off and on for 51 years. A college friend of my oldest sister taught me to knit; after that I learned on my own using books. When I was in college all of my roommates had beautiful sweaters; I didn't have the money to buy the fancy sweaters but what I did have was the ability to knit my own. My roommates actually ended up being jealous of my fisherman knit sweaters and my hand knit socks! I have continued to make socks, sweaters, and shawls; I have even test-knitted for some of the designers on Ravelry. *(continue page 5)*

July & August 2021

On-Going Weekly Activities

Worship Services Wednesdays @ Noon

Zoom and In-Person Worship Services—All Welcome!

Wednesday Lunches @ 12:30 PM

Suggested donation \$10 per person

On-Going Monthly Activities

Friends of Emmaus House Meetings

July 14th and August 11th—Second Wednesdays at 10:00 AM @ SMH

See page –6– for more information

Conversations with Rev. Gillett

July 14th and August 11th—Second Wednesdays at 1:30 PM

Group Discussion about Matters of Faith—See page 5 for more information

Evening Prayer Service with Rev. Gillett

July 21st and August 18th—Third Wednesdays at 5:00 PM

The prayer service will continue each month, prior to our monthly dinner.

—SMH Monthly Dinners —

July 21st and August 18th—Third Wednesdays—Menus on Back Page

Limited seating for in-person dining—Please call or email ahead

Suggested donation \$15 per person

*** Take Out time will be 5pm & Dine In time will begin at 5:30pm ***

Online Calendar of Events: <https://www.stmargarets houseny.org/events>

PLUMBING THE PSALMS IN PRAYER

One of the unexpected gifts of the pandemic for me has been a renewed appreciation of the depth and richness of that treasure in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, the Psalms. (Also in the Hebrew Scriptures of the Bible and, of course, available on-line.)

It began with Psalm 91, which was perfect for the pandemic. I prayed it and visualized it every day for its assurance and strength. I changed the "he" pronouns to "she" and let it soak into my subconscious. "He shall deliver you. . . from the deadly pestilence. . . " (verse 3), "Because (s)he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver (her). . ." (verse 14). I believed it and it gave me courage and hope.

Psalm 62 has long been a favorite: "For God alone, my soul in silence waits; from Him comes my salvation." But during the pandemic, Psalm 63 was more urgent and emphatic, more "muscular." I gravitated to verse 8: "My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast." What a comforting thought as I fell asleep at night and in times of doubt and uncertainty.

I also turned to Psalm 23, to a verse that I had previously rather thoughtlessly passed over: "He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for His Name's sake." Wow! God is guiding me along right pathways, not for my sake but for God's sake! How significant and meaningful is that?!

And then there is Psalm 139, another long-time favorite ever since I began to realize that I was possessed by a vocation, some 40 years ago, and was afraid of it. But it is a heartening psalm for all of us as we grapple with living our faith. "Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ... Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also."

The Psalms as a whole range in emotion from rage and a desire for vengeance, to blessing, praise, and thanksgiving, and everything in between. Like the Hebrew Scriptures, they are unabashedly honest about the human condition and frailty. We are free to use them as we wish, but I try to use them to reinforce Jesus' precepts.

When praying the Psalms, I do some editing. I really value Psalm 63, but I don't want to pray "Let (my enemies) fall upon the edge of the sword, and let them be food for jackals." Or, in another psalm, "dash their hairy scalps against a stone." Talk about a dissonance with Jesus saying, "Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you"!

As the pandemic seems to be waning, I am continuing to incorporate psalms into my

spiritual practice. They add richness and depth to my prayer; they impart comfort and strength, and, as the prayer of people from thousands of years ago and a different culture, give me an expanded perspective on the vast love and ever-present vitality of God.

- LOOKING AHEAD TO JULY AND AUGUST -

Our **weekly Wednesday Eucharist** at noon will continue throughout the summer, followed by a delicious lunch and fellowship, for those who wish to stay. We continue to follow the current pandemic precautions as we do so.

Our **monthly Conversations** after lunch also will be on July 14th and August 11th. These Conversations are a time when anyone may raise an issue or question of faith for consideration by the group. We always enjoy a lively and engaging interchange during these discussions, which are within a framework of collegiality. Anyone is welcome to come just for the Conversation at 1:30PM, although many enjoy coming for the Eucharist at noon and sharing lunch beforehand.

Judy Reilly, St. Margaret's executive director, and I have deliberately decided not to schedule a lot of events for July and August. We wish to invite you to join us then for **rest and re-creation** in our cool stone buildings and/or outside in our beautiful grounds.

You are welcome to come for the day or a portion of a day, or for overnight or even several days. Come to nourish your soul: lie in the shade of a tree and watch the clouds drift overhead. Listen to the rustle of leaves and the bird song. Soak up the silence, read, pray, daydream, walk or stroll. Even take a nap! Company and conversation also are available if you wish. St. Margaret's is here for you with comfort and quiet. Welcome!

With best wishes for a refreshing and growthful summer,

Rev. Elizabeth Gillett, Chaplain

Learning to Knit in the Round with DPNs *(continued from page 3)*

Date and Time:	July 9th & 16th from 10:00 AM to Noon
What To Bring:	Set of 4 or 5 bamboo double pointed needles - size 6 (bamboo will help keep your stitches on the needles) Some worsted or DK yarn
Cost:	\$10.00 (\$5 per session, two sessions)
Register:	(315) 724-2324 or info@stmargarethouseny.org

Friends of Emmaus House

Friends of Emmaus House is a group of volunteers who provide additional support to help meet the needs of the house and guests. This is done through various donations, fundraisers, and our annual Open House. We typically meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month to determine the needs and find solutions to those needs.

If you would like to volunteer, get involved, or donate—please call:

Emmaus House (315) 797-3339.

New Home Welcome Kits & Hygiene Packs Needed

We are collecting donations to support the families at Emmaus House, to include:

New Home Welcome Kits:

- * Cleaning Supplies
- * Toilet Paper and Paper Towels
- * Rags and Wash Cloths
- * Scrub Pads
- * Toilet Brush and Cleaner
- * Mop and Bucket
- * Broom and Dust Pan

Hygiene Packs:

- * Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- * Shampoo and Conditioner
- * Brushes and Combs
- * Razors
- * Lotion
- * Deodorant
- * Body Wash and Soap

Thank you for your generosity, now and always!

Book Nook with Librarian Diane

“The Pummeled Heart: Finding Peace through Pain”

by Antoinette Bosco

The author’s review: To mature is to bring one’s powers to realization. It doesn’t take a genius to figure out that if everything in life were easy, then we’d never get to find if we had powers, or learn how to use them, or feel the joy that comes when one becomes internally empowered. In addition, if we never got uncomfortable, we’d probably never ask for God’s help, etc. Setbacks, problems, and hurts may be the dark side of the divine plan, but they are an essential challenge, maybe the only one that can get us moving out of the comfort zone that keeps us immature!

Librarian Diane: “Life gets tough and sometimes it’s hard to believe there’s a light at the end of the tunnel. But you’ve got to have faith that it must be there. And sometimes, the only thing to do is SMILE.”

“SAINTS AND SNOBS”

By Marion Leach Jacobsen

The author’s review: Jesus said, “Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples,” *John 13:35*. Many are finding that acceptance and love are often lacking in the personal relationships in the Church. As friendships fire only their first or second stages and then level out : as people abandon the church because they feel unwanted : as insecure Christians hide behind class distinctions or their own masks, the cause of Christ is crippled.

Librarian Diane: This famine of love among Christians needs to come to a halt. We all need to bond together and help to heal our local and hurting communities. Re-read *John 13:35*:

“Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”



Worship Services Zoom Link
St. Margaret's Ecumenical & Retreat Center
Wednesdays at 12:00 PM

www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 897 6691 5653

Passcode: SMH

+1-646-876-9923 US (New York)

Passcode: 752403

Grounds Clean-Up Day @ St. Margaret's House

Join us for property beautification such as garden work, trail clearing, and weeding.

Tuesday, August 17th from 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Bring Work Gloves

Please RSVP by Friday, August 13th

—What's Cooking with Irene—

JULY 21st

Pork Tenderloins – Mashed Potatoes – Veggie – Salad – Dessert

AUGUST 18th

Grilled Chicken – Baked Beans – Corn on the Cob – Salad – Dessert

Like us on Facebook!

