



ST. MARGARET'S
ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

47 Jordan Road
New Hartford, NY 13413



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November—December 2021



November & December 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

Second Wednesdays at 10:00 AM @ SMH

New friends are always welcome to join the group!

Conversations with Rev. Gillett

Second Wednesdays at 1:30 PM

Group Discussion about Matters of Faith

Evening Prayer Service with Rev. Gillett

Third Wednesdays at 5:00 PM

SMH Monthly Dinners

Third Wednesdays at 5pm (take out) and 5:30pm (dine in)

Menus and Information on inside of Back Page

What's Cooking with Irene

November 17th Monthly Dinner

Mushroom Stew over Ziti, Italian Bread, Salad, & Dessert

December 15th Monthly Dinner

Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, & Dessert

Please call ahead to make a reservation—suggested donation \$15

Third Wednesdays at 5:00 PM (take out) and 5:30 PM (dine in)

St. Margaret's Will Be Closed

November 24th—27th

December 24th— January 2nd



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Though our paths will be hopefully crossing many times between now and then, know that we will be thinking of you and wishing you and yours a peace-filled new year with promising expectations!

Thank You!

To everyone who has visited us, prayed with us, enjoyed with us, and given a donation of their time, goods, money, and talents! Here are a few photos from recent events—enjoy:



Photos: *top row*, Summer Jam Concert at St. Margaret's with Sherry Anne & Donna Mucks; *second row*, Cheryl Logan and her bible study group from the Bessie Hicks Community Center, Holy Eucharist mass with Rev. Elizabeth Gillett; *right*, Blessing of the Animals with Rev. Gillett and Deacon Jean Skinner.



Special Events

Borne Up by Angels: Hope in a Time of Plague

Are you feeling worn down by the COVID pandemic with which we have been living for almost two years? Questioning how we respond as people of faith? Wondering how to find hope in the bleakness?

St. Margaret's chaplain, the Rev. Elizabeth Gillett, is offering a **quiet day** in which she will address these questions. Using Holy Scripture, from both the Old and New Testaments and the wisdom of contemporary saints such as Richard Rohr and Thomas Merton, she will share the good news of the Christian perspective of love, courage, and hope.

Thursday, November 11th, from 9AM - 3PM, worship and lunch included. Recommended donation of \$15.00.

The Leaves Are Falling—And Autumn Is Calling!

Come enjoy a crisp glass of cider, or a hot cup of coffee/tea, a nice Fall dessert, and conversation with one another.

Though there is no cost for this event, friends are asked to bring an item or two that can be used for Christmas stocking fillers for the women and children of Emmaus House. Suggested items might include: lip balm, nail polish, coloring books/crayons, colored pencils, adult coloring books, socks, slipper socks, winter hats or mittens/gloves, word search puzzle books, or the like.

Tuesday, November 23rd from 2 PM until 3:30 PM

For these and all other events, please register by calling us at (315) 724-2324 or emailing info@stmargarethouseny.org

Special Events

The Joy of Christmas—Music of the Season

Come and enjoy music and song from friends of St. Margaret's House! After the music we'll gather for rich conversation and seasonal refreshment.

Donations gladly accepted for the ministries of the house.

Thursday, December 9th, from 2 PM until 3:30 PM

On-Going and New Groups

Grief Support Group

A facilitated group to support anyone experiencing loss.

Continues to meet second Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 PM

COVID Survivors Support Group

A group counseling support group for individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and continue to struggle with the long term effects after recovering. Please contact Jim Davis at Samaritan Counseling Center to register: (315) 724-5173 ext. 306.

Meets Mondays from 2 PM to 3 PM starting December 6th

Worship Services Zoom Link

Wednesdays at 12:00 PM

www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 842 3057 0175

Passcode: SMH

Book Nook with Librarian Diane

"Fully Humanly Alive—A New Life Through a New Vision"

John Powell S. J.

In this book the author continues to speak out on the challenge facing today's Church, and includes 16 new essays on women's role in the Church, social ministry, justice, peace, spirituality, and activism. We must remember size is no measure of the vibrancy of the ministry. Religious life is called to be a leaven in the world, not a labor force. From Librarian Diane: Where do you fit? Who are you?

"Gifts of Grace"

Mary R. Schramm

This is a book about discovering and using our gifts. It comes from the author's struggle with discerning God's will for her life. The author here shares with many groups the gospel message that each of us is chosen to be a special member of the body of Christ. It is the author's hope and prayer that as you read her book you will blossom in Christ and share with others in your church and around your community.

An excerpt about finding and using your gifts from

"The Little Drummer Boy"

Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give the King, pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum
Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum
On my drum?

A Christmas Story: Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register. **4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. **8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." **15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



All Are Welcome!

Can it even be that I'm writing a note for the November/December newsletter already? Where has our time gone? Maybe you'd benefit from a few hours of quiet before what often becomes a very busy season. Please come to St. Margaret's and sit, explore, read, pray – just be. I hope that I'll see you at one of our upcoming programs. There are a variety of opportunities to gather together, but far enough and with appropriate protocols to continue to build our community. Looking forward to seeing you!

Wishing you peace and health today and always!

Sincerely,

Judith H. Reilly
Executive Director

A Good Prayer for Advent

THE PRAYER OF ST. RICHARD

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits which you have given me,
For all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother,
May I know you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
And follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

St. Richard was Bishop of Chichester, England, 1245-1253

ADVENT: An Opportunity for Transformation

As I think ahead to Advent -- which feels odd on October 5th! -- it seems to me that it is a liminal time of year. As Robert Radke notes in his column in the Fall issue of the Episcopal Relief and Development newsletter, *liminal* comes from the Latin word for "threshold." Liminal times are "in-between" times, transitional times, and by their very nature, ambiguous. For this reason, they often are times that challenge us, making us uncomfortable and possibly anxious.

But, as Robert Radke states, these times are when transformation can take place, an opening in our lives when we have let go of the past and are reaching toward the future, without fully knowing what the future holds. He says, "There will be no sudden moment when the path ahead is brightly lit and clearly marked." In liminal times, we act on our faith. Examples include new recruits undergoing boot camp, the nine months of pregnancy, major bereavement or major illness, and the effects of other life-changing events.

Luminal times may even be painful, but they also are holy and creative. Their being transitory gives us the flexibility for new opportunities to emerge and to let go of old burdens and habits.

It seems to me that the season of Advent, which begins on Sunday, November 28th, is just such a time. We have let go of an old church year and now, beginning a new one, are looking forward to both Jesus' birth and His Second Coming. It is a time of anticipation and waiting, a time of hope. Spiritually, it is a time of introspection and reflection, becoming aware of inner obstacles to Jesus' birth and coming again within us. It is a time to respond to

God's calling us to deeper relationship.

John the Baptist sets the tone, summoning us to self-examination to "make straight the way of the Lord," not only in our own lives but also to **be** that straight way in the lives of others.

I know that making the time for self-examination and reflection in the weeks leading up to Christmas is a challenge. I also know that most of us manage to accomplish that which we genuinely wish to achieve. If you are able to manage a bit more than a daily fifteen minutes locked in the bathroom with inserted ear plugs, St. Margaret's is here to support you.

We offer literal peace and quiet in our comfy library and sitting rooms, in the chapel, and outside on our woodsy grounds. If you need physical and spiritual nourishment, you are welcome at our Wednesday noon Eucharist, followed by a delicious lunch. I also am available for spiritual support, while this issue of the newsletter describes other opportunities for insight and growth. We also follow COVID-prevention protocols throughout the buildings and that receiving Communion is as sanitary as we can make it.

Whatever may be effective for you, we hope that as we live into this liminal and holy time, you may be blessed with whatever you need to grow more deeply in your relationship with God, with yourself, and with your neighbors in need.

With best wishes for a fruitful Advent and a joyful Christmas,

Elizabeth+

(the Rev. Elizabeth Gillett, Chaplain)

Many thanks to Robert Radke, whose column I have both quoted and paraphrased in places.