



ST. MARGARET'S
ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

January – February 2022

Wishing All a Year of PEACE & LOVE in 2022!



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ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

47 Jordan Road
New Hartford, NY 13413

January & February 2022

On-Going Weekly Activities

Worship Services Wednesdays @ Noon

Zoom and In-Person Worship Services—All Welcome!

zoom.us ID: 842 3057 0175 Passcode: SMH

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 Members Welcome!

Conversations with Rev. Gillett

Second Wednesdays at 1:30 PM

Group discussions about Matters of Faith

What's Cooking with Irene

January 19th Monthly Dinner

Chicken Alfredo, Veggies, Salad, Bread, & Dessert

February 16th Monthly Dinner

Chicken & Biscuits, Veggies, Salad, & 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)

Today, the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival has picked up this unfinished work. From Alaska to Arkansas, the Bronx to the border, people are coming together to confront the interlocking evils of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism and the war economy, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism.

We understand that as a nation we are at a critical juncture — that we need a movement that will shift the moral narrative, impact policies and elections at every level of government, and build lasting power for poor and impacted people.

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We rise together because:

1. We rise to demand that the 140 million poor and low-income people in our nation — from every race, creed, color, sexuality and place — are no longer ignored, dismissed or pushed to the margins of our political and social agenda.
2. We rise not as left or right, Democrat or Republican, but as a moral fusion movement to build power, build moral activism, build voter participation, and we won't be silent any more!
3. We rise to change the moral narrative and demand that the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy/militarism and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism all be ended.
4. We rise to challenge the lie of scarcity in the midst of abundance.
5. We rise to lift the voices and faces of poor and low-income Americans and their moral allies with a new vision of love, justice, and truth for America that says poverty can be abolished and change can come.

If you believe it's time to rise, join us!

Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrate MLK Day January 17th, 2022 Act Always

“Darkness cannot drive our darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the
whole staircase.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

To read or re-read some of Dr. King’s speeches and learn more about the cause of Racial and Social Justice, please visit our library and browse our new section devoted to these topics.

The following is an excerpt from the Poor People’s Campaign, an ongoing effort to continue the work Rev. Dr. King called for before his untimely death. For more on this and how to get involved, visit: www.nysppc.org/

Poor People’s Campaign A National Call for Moral Revival

In 1968, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others called for a “revolution of values” in America. They sought to build a broad, fusion movement that could unite poor and impacted communities across the country. Their name was a direct cry from the underside of history: The Poor People’s Campaign.

All Are Welcome!

As I sit here writing to all of you, we’re in the second week of Advent and the House is changing from an Autumn look to a more Christmas look for those who are coming for parties and celebrations. I have so many blessings to share with you, and I dare not try to share them all as I will undoubtedly forget someone, so let me tell you a few of the most recent.

One of the Wednesdays in November we were able to have Reverend John LaVoe celebrate Holy Eucharist, and he was joined by three deacons! What a glorious celebration of faith and love it was!

A civic group heard of the need of hair products for some of the women and children at Emmaus House and they came bearing boxloads of them! That is love!

A friend of mine knows of the great work that our staff does at Emmaus House. Her temple adopted the House and during their recent Hanukkah celebrations congregants brought gifts for the children and food for the house. Just this morning I took receipt of a carload of the goodness. That is sharing God’s love!

Each Wednesday we gather together, pray, and celebrate Holy Eucharist. Oftentimes most of the guests then join in for lunch. It delights my heart and soul to listen to the group that has become a community of friends ask about one another, ensure that their needs are well met, and notice when someone isn’t there. Please come and join us, won’t you?

It was noticed that some of our guests were having a difficult time hearing due to background noise in the dining room. You know that when two or more are gathered...Our need only had to be mentioned, and God’s love prevailed. When you’re next in the dining room you’ll notice that our walls have been lovingly adorned with beautiful, handmade quilts. Thank you to our most generous artisans! That is love!

Thank you for loving your neighbor. Thank you for sharing God’s love. Thank you for being a part of our community. We love when you’re here and we miss you when you’re not. Come again soon!

With love and thanksgiving - Judy Reilly, Executive Director

Special Event

It Takes a Village: Monthly Discussions Over a Meal

You are cordially invited to join Rev. Elizabeth Gillett and Executive Director Judy Reilly for a faith based, community-building series. Each month we will select a religious work with a contemporary theme from which to begin a dialogue. Themes that will be covered include: Poverty, Income & Equality, Joy, Racism, Addiction, and more.

We'll gather each month – there are lunch sessions on the first Tuesday of the month; and there are dinner sessions on the fourth Thursday of the month. Each session will be limited to 12 people. We will gather, eat, discuss and build upon commonalities and Christian values.

We will literally and figuratively break bread by coming together for a meal and then conversation, and service as well. We'll build community together, pray for the needs that are brought forth, and have meaningful dialogue around each book that is featured throughout the year.

Opportunities for combined service projects will undoubtedly avail themselves throughout the year that will allow us to put our common values and faith into action.

Please join us for the first introductory session of this program:

- ◇ February 1st from Noon to 2:00 PM and includes lunch
(register by 1/15)
- ◇ February 24th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM and includes dinner
(register by 2/10)

This program is graciously provided through funding from the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York's ministry grant.

New Home Welcome Kits & Hygiene Packs Needed for Emmaus House

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

NEW HOME WELCOME KITS: Cleaning Supplies (Window, Kitchen, Bathroom, Floors, Furniture), 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, Bodywash and Soap

For more information call Christina Mason at (315) 797-3339

Thank you for your generosity!



**Sharing some photos from recent donations, tours, and events!
Thank You All!**

About St. Margaret's & Emmaus House

St. Margaret's Ecumenical & Retreat Center, is a peaceful place and safe haven for prayer, study, and spiritual refreshment in the heart of Central New York. Our ministry of hospitality includes retreats, quiet days, corporate groups, and peaceful respite for groups and individuals at any time of year.

Emmaus House, located in the City of Utica, is a 24/7 emergency shelter for women and children. Guests of the Emmaus House are not only provided room and board, but are also assisted with many basic needs. Guests of the House gain access via referral from the Department of Social Service.

Please check out our website at www.stmargarethouseeny.org and enter your email address in order to receive our monthly newsletter.

'Like' us on Facebook – there's always loads of great stuff going on!

Come for a tour or stop in and enjoy the house!

Consider donating to our needs.

Our Executive Director, Judith H. Reilly, would love to speak to you or your group about what we do and matching your passions with our needs. Give her a call! 315.724.2324.

To sign up to receive our newsletter electronically and view events:

- Visit www.stmargarethouseeny.org and enter your contact info, or
- Send an email to: info@stmargarethouseeny.org
- Events are also posted on our website calendar and Facebook



Special Events At St. Margaret's

Star of Bethlehem: Two-Part Series

Join Deacon Barb Groves as she facilitates a two-part study on the Star of Bethlehem, January 4th & 18th from 6:30-8:00 PM. We will show a BBC film on the science and research behind the Star of Bethlehem, followed by discussion. Please come both days!

Kick the Winter Blues—Films

Join us third Fridays for a film viewing, popcorn, and refreshments at St. Margaret's on January 21st at 1:30 PM and February 18th at 1:30.



Get to Know the Women of the Bible

Janet Stengel will be leading a class on the women of the bible on Wednesday, January 26th, from 1:30pm to 3pm. All are welcome to come at Noon or 12:30 PM for Eucharist and/or lunch beforehand.

To register for any of our events, please:

Call us at (315)724-2324, or

Email us at info@stmargarethouseeny.org

COVID Survivors Support Group

A counseling support group for individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and continue to struggle with long term effects after recovering. Please contact Jim Davis at Samaritan Counseling Center to register: (315) 724-5173 ext. 306. Mondays at St. Margaret's from 2 to 3 PM.

Awesome Wonder: The Gift of the Epiphany Season

I was just beginning to say the rosary, cross in hand: "I believe in God, the Creator Almighty, maker of heaven and earth ..." when that phrase suddenly hit me with such force that I stopped to consider what I had just prayed. *Maker of heaven and earth! Wow!* Maker of outer space, maker of black holes, planets, meteor showers, all the stars in the sky. Maker of oxygen, sunshine, green grass, and trees. Of oceans, rivers, and lakes. Of creatures great and small. Maker of *us! Wow!*

That phrase had slipped off my tongue, through my mind, so thoughtlessly so often. But now I can't repeat it without a sense of awe and wonder.

I think that the same phenomenon happens with "...and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord." We are so accustomed to those words, to the concept beneath them, that our minds flow over them like water gliding over stones. But stop to think about it: God, the Almighty, the Genesis of everything and everyone we know and love, became a limited, vulnerable human being so that we might know and love God, returning in our own flawed ways the love with which God made us and all creation. Again -- *Wow!* It really is too much for us to fully comprehend.

We are now in the season of Epiphany. Jesus has been born, the angels and shepherds have returned to their own domains, the Wise Men have come and returned home another way. But, as the Gospel of John reminds us, God's light, God's love, continues to shine in the darkness of our new year and **nothing** can overcome it.

Nothing! Because of our experience of God's presence with us in Jesus, our darkness is never total or complete.

In Epiphany we can celebrate with awe and wonder the fact that God/Jesus has been, or is being, born in us. As Richard Rohr states in his book, *Immortal Diamond: the Search for our True Self*, "...divine and thus

universal union [with God] is the core message and promise -- the whole goal and entire point of all religion."

He goes on to say: "*Place does not exist except in God. There is no time outside of God. God is the beauty in all beauty. Those who allow divine friendship enjoy divine friendship, and it is almost that simple. **You are that which you are looking for, and that is why you are looking for it.** God's life and love flow through you as soon as you are ready to allow it. That is the core meaning of faith -- to dare to trust that God could, will, and does have an eternal compassion toward you.*

If you are seeking the divine, you have already made contact with the divine in yourself.

Further on, Rohr states that this is possible because "**Jesus is the union between God and the human.**"

The enormity of this is more than we can comprehend. Our response can only be awe and wonder as we attempt to allow and trust in God's divine presence within us and in our lives. God's light shines in our darkness and nothing can overcome it.

the Rev. Elizabeth Gillett, Chaplain

