

ST. MARGARET'S

ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

July & August 2022





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On-Going Weekly Activities

Worship Services Wednesdays at Noon

Zoom and In-Person Worship Services - All Welcome!

Zoom.us ID: 842 3057 0175 Passcode: SMH

Wednesday Lunches at 12:30pm

Includes main + veggies, salad, bread, and dessert

Please make a reservation by the Friday before 315-724-2324

Suggested donation \$13 per person

On-Going Monthly Activities

Friends of Emmaus House Meetings

2nd Wednesdays at 10AM - St. Margaret's House

New Members Welcome!

Conversations with Rev. Gillett

2nd Wednesdays at 1:30pm

Group discussion about Matters of Faith

What's Cooking with Irene

**There is no monthly dinner in July to allow us to
prepare for St. Margaret's Day**

August 17th Monthly Dinner

Beef Burgundy over Wide Egg Noodles, Vegetable, Salad, Bread, and Dessert

**** Third Wednesdays at 5:00pm (take out) and 6:00pm (dine in) ****

Please make a reservation by the Friday before 315-724-2324

**** Suggested donation \$17 per person ****

All Welcome!

Recently I was reading my introduction from our May/June newsletter and I couldn't remember what the dark times that I was speaking about in it. As of late, it seems as if darkness is everywhere we look. Hatred, killings, war, pure ugliness. It's true, there is a great deal of hurt, despair, and evil, BUT there is faith, hope, and love. One of the nights I was watching our local news and then our world news and my heart was so saddened. I could feel myself shaken by the incredible pain and sadness. I did what I often do when I feel that way; gathered up my sneakers and went out for a run and prayed.

Prayed for answers and direction. Prayed for direction on what I am being called to do in situations such as these. What I heard is that I am called to be God's hands and feet. I am to respond when injustices are done; I am to be a light in the darkness. If I do these things, if I act in a way that serves the interests of all rather than only from a singular point of view/interest, we will heal. We will make progress.

As you read through our newsletter, please make plans to join us! Come for Holy Eucharist; come for a concert; take a trip to one of the holy shrines. Take time to come and simply be still.

I pray that you will find rest, peace, and nourishment here at St. Margaret's!

All the best,

Judy

Invitation to a Musicians' Guild

We would love to form a group of musicians who could periodically provide music for the Wednesday Eucharist and for special occasions in the Chapel. If you have musical ability and skills and would enjoy working with the Rev. Janet Stengel, who also is a musician, please contact Judy at St. Margaret's House.

Special Events

It Takes a Village - July 5th & August 2nd

You are cordially invited to join Rev. Elizabeth Gillett and Executive Director Judy Reilly for a faith-based, community-building series. Each month the group will select a religious work with a contemporary theme from which to begin a dialogue. Themes that will be covered include: poverty, income and equality, joy, racism, addiction, and more. Meets from noon to 2pm - lunch included. *This program is graciously provided through the funding from the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York's ministry grant.*

Potluck Party on the Patio - July 19th at 6-8 PM

Join us on July 19th from 6PM-8PM for an informal gathering with Sister Sarah, Sisters of St. Margaret. Sister Sarah will share what's happening in the lives of the Sisters, you'll all share favorite tales of days gone by, and find out what ministries are in need of support and prayer.

Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass - whatever you'd like to share - could be a dinner dish, appetizer, salad, dessert - your choice. We'd also ask that you consider making a financial gift to the ministries of the sisters. We'll have a basket for donations. Thank you for your generosity! Please RSVP by July 13th.

St. Margaret's Day - July 20th at 2 PM

On Tuesday, July 20th we will gather to celebrate St. Margaret's Day. It is our prayerful hope that you will join us and Sister Sarah on this special day. Please register by phone or email by July 15th.

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

3:00 PM Social gathering with refreshments

Clergy Retreats

We continue to have funds available for 3 day/2 night retreats for clergy throughout the diocese via a mission grant through the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York.

These gifted stays are available until they're all utilized. The hope is that they will bring a much-needed respite and refreshment to the clergy in the Diocese. May this time away refresh, rejuvenate, and be blessed. Call or email to book your retreat now.

Invitation to Undercover Sacristy "Rats"

Have you always dreamed of learning the secrets of the sacristy? Of pristine, starched fair linens; of the rich fabrics of the seasonal vestments, of the making of Holy Water and ashes for Ash Wednesday? Of setting up the altar for Communion, marking the Bible for readers, and preparing the altar book?

If you like detail, order, and feel called to learn the sacred under-pinnings of our Wednesday worship service, Chaplain Elizabeth Gillett needs your help for the times that a substitute priest may be celebrating the Eucharist.

She would like to form a small group of sacristans, of any gender -- not limited to women -- who could set up for a Wednesday worship service, and clean up afterwards, when needed.

The position comes with training and support until the new sacristan feels confident going it alone. People could also work in pairs.

If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth at St. Margaret's House on a Wednesday or leave a message with Adrienne, our Administrative Assistant.

THAT OUR JOY MAY BE COMPLETE

Having recently celebrated Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday, observances at the very heart of our Christian faith, we are reminded that Christianity is a joyful religion.

The essence of our faith is joy at being created in God's image and love, joy that we love God because God first loves us, and joy in the fruits of that Godly love: mercy, forgiveness, reconciliation, freedom, communion with God and with each other, and eternal life.

However, over the centuries, various groups of Christians have developed a major focus upon sin, upon the evils of human nature, and upon Hell as the ultimate punishment for that sin. Repentance, through the suffering sacrifice of Jesus upon the Cross, is an escape route from Hell, but only with constant vigilance and compliance with a rigid set of rules, regulations, and doctrines.

Obviously, sin is a reality with which all of us have to cope. Evil is a strong presence in our world, of which we are fully aware. We all need God's mercy, forgiveness, grace, and reconciliation in our lives. But because God is Love (1 John 4:17), because God's love is primary, we can rejoice that joy is an integral part of our relationship with God. This joy is part of God's gift of Himself to us, emanating from His own joy. It is only in the fullness of the presence of God in our lives that our joy is full.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is preparing the disciples for his bodily departure after his resurrection. He says to them, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." (John 15: 11)

God/Jesus wants our joy to be full, to be complete. We have so many reasons to be joyful and yet in our sort-of-post-COVID, warring, violent, discourteous, and increasingly impersonal society, how can we be joyful? That is a question which



the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama answer in their book, *The Book of Joy*.

Both men were Nobel Peace Prize laureates when they spent a week together in April of 2015. The Dalai Lama had survived the hardships of more than 50 years of exile, while Archbishop Tutu played a major role in abolishing the soul-crushing violence in Apartheid South Africa. Despite their hardships and challenges, they have been two of the most joyful people on the planet.

As described in their book, together they explored the nature of True Joy, and examined the Obstacles to Joy -- ranging from fear, stress, and anger to grief, Illness, and death. They then offer the Eight Pillars of Joy, which provide the foundation for living a joyful life. Throughout they share wisdom, stories, and science. They conclude with the daily Joy Practices in which their own emotional and spiritual lives are rooted.

Even if you have seen the video based upon *The Book of Joy*, I heartily recommend the book. It was published in 2016 and may now be in paperback. Having the book gives one the opportunity to savor and digest what the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu are saying. I have gone back to it many times to refresh my memory and to renew my practice of the Joy exercises at the end of the book.

Ultimately, joy is not something to learn, but something to live.

With best wishes for a joyful summer, and God Bless, Elizabeth+
(the Rev.) Elizabeth Gillett, Chaplain

People of Note at St. Margaret's

Artist, art educator, and friend of St. Margaret's, Sandra de Visser, is being honored by a retrospective exhibit of her 40+ years of work at Munson Williams Proctor Museum, opening on July 16th. Everyone is invited to learn more about this complex artist and to enjoy her unique creative gifts as they developed over the course of her long career.

Emmaus House

Thank you to all who donated necessities and niceties to the women and children staying at Emmaus House! New Home Welcome Kits and Hygiene Supplies always in need.

Many thanks, also, to everyone who purchased and sold tickets for our Friends of Emmaus House Spring Raffle. We raised \$796 to support Emmaus House through your efforts.

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 & guests. This is done through various donations, fundraisers, and our annual Open House. We typically meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month to determine the needs and find solutions to those needs. Upcoming meeting dates are July 13th and August 10th at 10am at St. Margaret's. New Members Welcome!

↗ Donation Drive for Hope House ↖

It Takes a Village members have taken on a new project to gather donations for Hope House. Needs include diapers (ten pounds and up), baby formula, toilet paper, toothbrushes / paste, shampoo and conditioner for all hair types and ethnicities, and coffee. Donations can be dropped off at St. Margaret's or directly at Hope House.

Summer Concert Series

**1st Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:30 PM
July, August, & September**

July 5th	Two Friends
Aug. 2nd	Floyd Community Band
Sept. 6th	Kevin Bailey

**End of Season Concert
Sept. 27th at 6:30pm - Wildflower**

Refreshments Provided
Please Bring Lawn Chairs - Picnic Blankets
* Rain or Shine *

In Case of Inclement Weather Events Will Be Held Inside

Donations Gladly Accepted to Support the Ministries of
St. Margaret's & Emmaus House

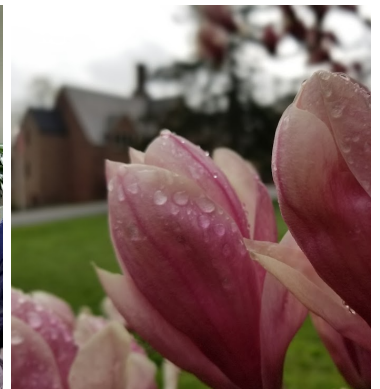
***These events have been supported by a grant from
Stewart's Shops Foundation. Thank you, Stewart's!***

Summer Tours of CNY Shrines

We are excited to offer group tours of local area holy places with a stop for lunch along the way. We will gather fourth Mondays at 10am, at St. Margaret's. We will be coordinating car pools - please let us know if you are willing to drive so we can ensure we have drivers. Call us to reserve your seat! Please plan to make a donation to the site visited and to the driver - perhaps \$5-\$10 for each.

July 25th	Rosa Mystica Foundation of America, Edmeston
Aug. 22nd	St. Kateri National Shrine & Museum, Fonda
Sept. 26th	Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville

St. Margarets, Friends, & Events!



Photos: Scrabble Day this May, It Takes a Village meeting and packing lunches, Sherry Anne starting our Summer Concert series, Norman Rockwell Presentation by MWPAI, spring magnolias, Staff birthdays, and Sisters of Saint Margaret.

CONTACT INFORMATION & EVENT RESERVATIONS:

Call: 315-724-2324

Email: info@stmargaretshouseny.org

Hiroshima Day - August 6th

Every August 6, "A-Bomb Day", the City of Hiroshima holds the Peace Memorial Ceremony to console the victims of the atomic bombs and to pray for the realization of lasting world peace. The ceremony is held in front of the Memorial Cenotaph in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.



Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE)

As an area destroyed by the first atomic bombing in human history and subsequently reconstructed from its ashes, Hiroshima has compiled a new plan outlining the roles that it should play in the nuclear weapons abolition process and worldwide reconstruction/peacebuilding efforts, for the realization of world peace.

To learn more about their efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and promote peace, visit:

<https://hiroshimaforpeace.com/en/effort/>

*In dark times it is so important to remember the strength and perseverance of people
- to include those most harshly impacted by violence - in the quest for peace.
May you find strength in the example of the people of Hiroshima.*



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