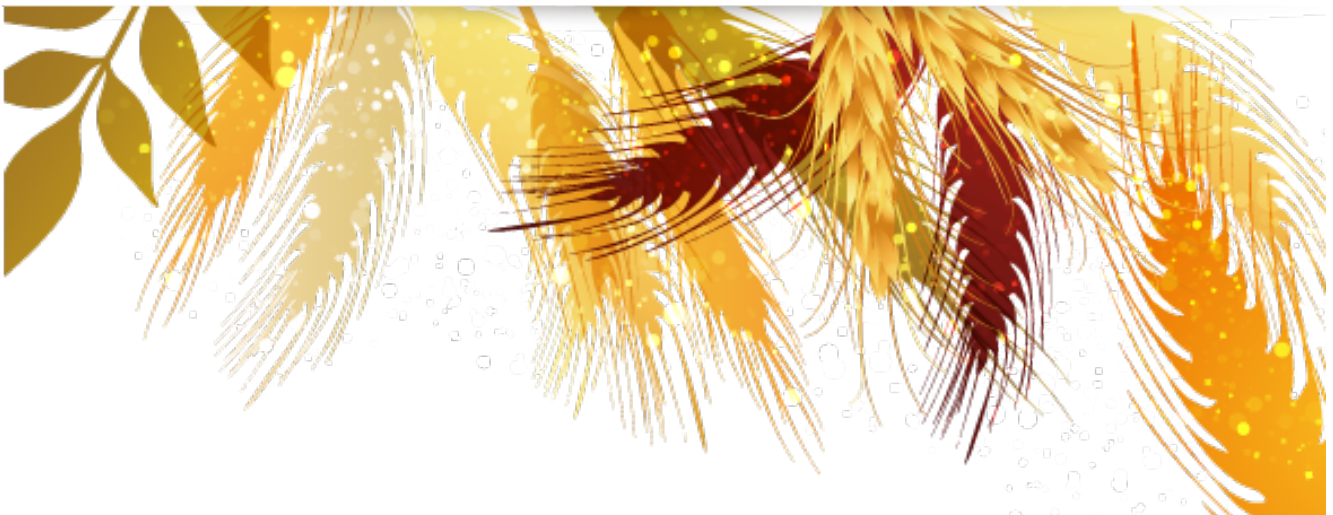


ST. MARGARET'S

ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER



September & October 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

*** 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 ***

September 21st Monthly Dinner

Stuffed Zucchini Boats, Salad, Roll, and Dessert

October 19th Monthly Dinner

Lasagna, Tossed Salad, Bread, and Dessert



All Welcome!

Recently, a group of the *It Takes a Village* members spent some time packing up dinners and delivered them to one of the local churches in Utica. We arrived around 3:00PM in the afternoon and called for a volunteer to come and assist us in getting them inside. The fellow came along rather quickly and had a cart to put all of our very heavy bags of meals on.

We then went ahead bringing them to the door, but in our efforts the wheels fell off! Seriously, three of the four wheels popped off. There we were, cart loaded to the brim, very lopsided with one wheel to go on. The volunteer, Cheryl, and I tried to steady it. I was pretty worried as my wrist is still not the strongest and I didn't want to see all of our meals topple to the ground. Just then a fellow came out of the church and he quickly asked if he could help. Yes, please, grab on. Then a passerby came through looking at us and wondering if she could help. Yes, of course, please!

See, here's the thing about this. We each brought what we could bring: We showed up with 48 meals – me a little dejected that we counted wrong somewhere and only made 48, not 50. The volunteer brought the cart. He thought he had a sturdy cart, but as it turns out, the wheels were a little past their prime. The two folks that came to our rescue were hungry, most needy, and have had better days, and they had hearts and souls that were charitable and loving. They saw a need and they gave without hesitation.

This is just a tiny snapshot of a few moments of one day. Any one of us could have ignored the situation. We didn't need to pack meals and bring them. The volunteer could have been busy with his own needs and stayed home that day. The two folks that came to our rescue could have been absorbed in their own worries and kept right on going – but they didn't. We didn't.

Our little group won't solve the hunger issue in our area. Does that mean that we shouldn't do something/anything? Take a few moments each day to stop, pray, and listen to what you are called to, and how you can make a difference in the world around you.

Looking forward to seeing you here at St. Margaret's sometime soon!

All the best,

Judy

Judith H. Reilly, Executive Director

Special Events

It Takes a Village - September 6th & October 4th

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 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. The group 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.*

Mary Magdalene Study - September 20th & 27th, and October 4th

Join Deacon Barbara Groves for a study and discussion group around the life and times of Mary Magdalene. The group will meet at St. Margaret's from 2pm to 3:30pm on Tuesdays, to include September 20th & 27th, and October 4th. Please call to register.

PSALMS AND THEIR PSUBTLE PSECRETS - September 28th

Ever wonder why so many great historic names in religious history praised the Psalms in superlative terms while you only find certain lines important, as you read them? They seem simple enough. You know how to read other parts of the Bible – why do Psalms pseem pso pstubburn?

Consider taking part in a conversation about the Psalms on Wednesday, September 28th at 1:30pm, approached largely by the questions, frustrations and experiences you and others bring with you, and orchestrated under the guidance of the Reverend John LaVoe. Additional sessions based on needs and interests of the group.

Psalm 131 (BCP translation)

O LORD, I am not proud;* I have no haughty looks.

I do not occupy myself with great matters,* or with things that are too hard for me.

But I still my soul and make it quiet,

like a child upon its mother's breast;*

my soul is quieted within me.

O Israel, wait upon the LORD,* from this time forth forevermore.

Celebrating the Love of St. Francis, Blessing of the Animals - October 4th at 6pm

Please join us at St. Margaret's to have your pets, or a picture of your pets, blessed in a show of appreciation and thanksgiving for the bond of people and animals. We will also welcome donations of toiletries, food, and pet food for the animal shelters and needy in our community. *Pets must be leashed or in a carrier.*

A Different St. Francis Celebration this Year

Traditionally, October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis, is celebrated with a blessing of animals, in remembrance of St. Francis' extraordinary rapport with God's Creation. However, Francis' primary and life-long concern was with poverty and the poor. Perhaps this year, in addition to blessing animals, we could perform some kind of blessing for those in need.

We could collect goods for a food pantry or make a meal for a feeding program, financially support a housing program, or donate to a local school's support of students in need through the school nurse. What other programs for children in our communities could use a helping hand or a donation of some sort?

This St. Francis Day, let's bless God's people in need, as well as God's animals, all of whom are a beloved part of God's good Creation. Elizabeth Gillett+

Grief Group - September 13th & October 11th

St. Margaret's continues to host a facilitated grief group to support anyone experiencing loss - new members are welcome to join. The group meets monthly on second Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm. *Please call if you have any questions.*

Work Day - October 25th at 9am

Please join us the morning of October 25th to help prepare the grounds of St. Margaret's for the fall and winter. *Lunch provided.*

Tools For Working Through Holiday Grief - Nov. 10th

The holidays are challenging times for individuals grieving the loss of loved ones. This workshop is designed to provide hope, support, comfort, and tools to help those working through holiday grief. Dave Roberts, MSW, LMSW, will be facilitating the workshop with guest panelists, to be held at St. Margaret's on November 10th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. *Please register by November 4th. Donations graciously accepted.*

DOING MORE THROUGH US THAN WE CAN HOPE OR IMAGINE

Reflecting upon the concept of "home," quotations drift into my mind: *There's no place like home, home is where the heart is, home sweet home, and home is where I hang*

my hat."

So what does the concept of "home" mean to us? *Ideally*, please note the emphasis, home is both a place and a state of being in which we belong, in which we feel welcome, and where we feel safe and comfortable. Home is where we can be ourselves without any pretense or self-consciousness. Where we feel accepted and supported just as we are. Home is a place of refuge and respite, and also where we can heal and grow. Home is where our needs are recognized and met, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Home is where we are loved and where we love others -- our first and abiding experience of community. Home is a major reference point in our sense of stability, a solid anchor in the turbulence and challenges of our daily lives.

People who lack housing lack these necessities and important qualities of being. This is especially devastating for children.

Try to imagine ourselves without a home, wandering around an area during the day and sleeping in public at night. Imagine how vulnerable we would feel, not only to the weather, but also to hunger, humiliation, and human predators. This could be exacerbated by a history of abandonment, abuse, drug addiction, alcoholism, or mental illness, or a combination of those elements.

Of course, not all unhoused people are on the streets. Some double up with relatives or friends, "couch surf," or live out of their cars. I once knew a family who was living under the picnic tables in a local state park.

As Christians trying to live our faith, we are called to respond to our sisters and brothers who do not have homes and who lack the benefits of housing. We recall that Jesus himself was born homeless, and then became a refugee in Egypt. Later, as an itinerant preacher, teacher, and healer, he lamented that "Birds have their nests and foxes their dens, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25: 31-40, in his parable of the sheep and the goats, that "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." When we respond to the needs and conditions of those without homes, we are responding to Jesus himself.

Homelessness is such a major and complex social problem throughout our nation that it is tempting to wonder how we can possibly make a difference. But we can, especially when we work together. As the author of Ephesians affirms: "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. . . ."

A group at St. Margaret's House, known as the It Takes a Village group, meets once a month to study Christian social activists such as the renowned minister William Sloan Coffin, and Jim Wallis, the founder of the fifty-year-old Sojourners Community in Washington, D.C., and then to put their Christian beliefs into action. To date, the group

has made meals for the Community Refrigerator at Hope House and for the guests at the Morrow Center of the Plymouth-Bethesda-Cornerstone Church in Utica's Oneida Square. It Takes a Village is also exploring the condition of homelessness in the Utica/Mohawk Valley region to discover unmet needs that we may effectively meet.

It Takes a Village is an ecumenical group; people of all faith backgrounds and spirituality are welcome to join the group on the first Tuesday of the month, from noon - 2PM, with a delicious lunch included. Please contact St. Margaret's at 315-724-2324 if you would like to check us out, so that our chef has a head count for lunch.

St. Margaret's Corporation administers a refuge for homeless women and mothers with children at Emmaus House, in downtown Utica. It is one of only two such resources in the entire Mohawk Valley area, providing vital services for mothers and their young ones. For more information about how you can support Emmaus House, please telephone Shelter Manager Teresa Carnwright, at 315-797-3339.

Also, please pray for all those without homes, especially children, as well as for those who minister to their needs. As the Rev. Susan Fortunato wrote in an article entitled "Blessing the Homeless," in the March issue of The Living Church:

*These people (those who are unhoused) are hungry for their experience to be named and blessed, for their (deceased) friends to be remembered by name, for someone to see them and to recognize them as holy. . . . As we continue to struggle with the pandemic, remember that it is always the poorest in our society who suffer the most. Men and women who find themselves without homes this year need most what [we] are able to give: **the ministry of presence and the recognition that every person is made in the image of God.**"*

Amen to that!

With best wishes for grateful hearts in action this Fall,

Elizabeth+

(The Rev.) Elizabeth Gillett, Chaplain

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 are always in need. *Donations may be brought to St. Margaret's or directly to Emmaus House. Thank you for your kindness.*

Friends of Emmaus House

Friends of Emmaus House is a group of volunteers who



Serving Women &

provide 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 September 14th and October 12th 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.

Altar Flower Donations in the Memory of Loved Ones & Prayer Requests

If you would like to donate altar flowers in the memory of your loved ones, please contact St. Margaret's by phone or email to make arrangements. Flowers are obtained through local florists and the average cost is \$30.00. We will make an acknowledgement of your loved one during the service.

Summer Concert Series

Please join us for our final concerts of the season as we wrap up summer!

Sept. 6th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm - Kevin Bailey

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

Refreshments Provided

Please Bring Lawn Chairs - Picnic Blankets

* Rain or Shine * - Events to be held inside in case of inclement weather

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

Please join us for our final summer tour. We will gather at St. Margaret's at 10am and carpool from there. Please let us know if you are willing to drive so we can ensure that we have drivers. Please plan to make a donation to the site visited and to the driver - perhaps \$5-\$10 for each.

Sept. 26th Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville

Please dress conservatively - women are asked to wear dresses/skirts, with shoulders and heads covered

Save the Dates

Harvest Luncheon for Clergy - November 15th

Please join us for an ecumenical Thanksgiving service followed by a delicious and homemade turkey luncheon. *Donations graciously accepted. Please call or email to register by November 7th. Limited to 25 people.*

Advent Retreat - December 4th and 5th

Please consider joining us for a two-day advent retreat beginning December 4th at 3pm and concluding December 5th at 3pm. Meals included. Commuter rate \$45 or stay overnight for \$100. Confidential scholarships available for those who would like to attend but are not in a position to cover the cost personally.

St. Margarets, Friends, & Events!





Photos: Tour of St. Marianne Cope Shrine & Museum, Volunteer Installation of Remembrance Garden, Celebrating the Marriages of Chaplain Elizabeth Gillett and Rev. John LaVoe & Kris Worden and Amanda Nortz, Visiting with Sr. Sarah of the Society of St. Margaret and St. Margaret's Day, Vicki Stockton, and Floyd Community Band.

CONTACT INFORMATION & EVENT RESERVATIONS:

Call: 315-724-2324

Email: info@stmargaretshouseny.org

Our 140th Labor Day - September 5th, 2022

The Very First Labor Day September 5th, 1882

“If you could create a holiday, what would it be called? What date would you choose for your holiday? Peter J. McGuire, a carpenter and labor union leader, was the person who came up with the idea for Labor Day. He thought American workers should be honored with their own day. He proposed his idea to New York's Central Labor Union early in 1882, and they thought the holiday was a good idea, too. With four long months between Independence Day and Thanksgiving, Peter suggested a month halfway in between. But what date should they choose?



Photo left: A Labor Day Parade in Buffalo, New York in 1900;



Photo right: Miners with their children at a Labor Day celebration in Silverton, Colorado, 1940.

Labor Day was held on a September 5, 1882, in New York City. The day was celebrated with a picnic, concert and speeches. Ten thousand workers marched in a parade from City Hall to Union Square.

The very first
T u e s d a y ,

Soon after that first celebration, the holiday was moved to the first Monday in September, the day we still honor. Congress passed legislation making Labor Day a national holiday in 1894. Labor Day is not just a day to celebrate the accomplishments of workers; for some people, it is also a day to talk about their concerns and to discuss ways to get better working conditions and salaries. How do you celebrate the last holiday of the summer?”

Learn more about the long history of social justice in America at: [https://
www.americaslibrary.gov/](https://www.americaslibrary.gov/)



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