



ST. MARGARET'S
ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

May - August 2024



Ongoing Events At A Glance

Weekly Activities

Worship Services Wednesdays at Noon

Zoom and In-Person Worship Services - All Welcome!
Please contact St. Margaret's for the information to join by Zoom

Wednesday Lunches at 12:30 PM

Includes main, sides, salad, and dessert
Please make a reservation by the Friday before - Suggested donation \$13 per person

Volunteer: It Takes a Village | Tuesdays from 2-5 PM

Call or email St. Margaret's to sign-up to assist for one or more Tuesdays
at St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Church

Monthly Activities

Conversations and Cool Drinks on the Patio with Rev. Jean Skinner

1st Wednesdays at 1:30 PM - Discussions of faith

Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Friends of Emmaus House Meetings

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

Conversations with Father John

2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 PM - Discussions of faith

Scrabble Day

4th Wednesdays at 9:15 AM at St. Margaret's

Monthly Dinners

3rd Wednesdays - Take Out at 5:30 PM and Dine In at 6 PM
Meals served with main, sides, salad, and dessert - Suggested Donation \$17
Please make your reservation by the preceding Friday.

May 15th London Broil

No monthly dinners over the summer; we will resume them in September.

All are welcome! For more information or to register for any event, please call or email St. Margaret's: 315-724-2324 or info@stmargarethouseeny.org

All Welcome!

By the time that we all receive this edition of the newsletter, we will be experiencing new growth of trees and flowers, and signs of new life will be popping all around us. Ahhh, spring! Don't you just love the newness and hope that it brings? Of course, it also brings some ugliness with the mud and debris that needs to be cleaned up but I suppose what we see is up to us. What we focus on oftentimes becomes our reality.

In this newsletter, you'll find all of the usual activities and events you've become accustomed to seeing, and you'll also find many new events that I hope that you'll attend.

This summer our Sacred Site Tours will focus on the beauty of stained glass windows throughout the area. Please join us on one, or all, of them! Likewise, you'll see that I'm offering a series of The Peace Project; maybe you'll come and take that journey with me. Father John is offering a class/workshop that I expect will be very popular, not only with our St. Margaret's population, but also with many of the churches throughout our area. Please share this and all of our programming with those whom you think would like to participate.

For several years, we've wanted to put in a labyrinth outdoors, but we've not wanted to give up space on our beautiful lawn. Recently we found a space that will be just perfect for it! It's close to the house and it won't interfere with the mowing, etc. If you want to be a part of its creation, please join us on May 13th for the work day.

And back by popular demand will be our Summer Concert, but it won't be a series, it'll be one big concert. We want a big audience for the musicians, so please tell all of your friends and family to come and join us! I'm pleased to say that the concert is sponsored by the Stewart's Holiday Match program.

Please take time to review the newsletter, sign up for lots of events, and come and enjoy St. Margaret's throughout the spring and summer with us. One of my favorite things to do is to gather my computer and the phone, and head out to the patio with a big glass of water or iced tea. Come and enjoy! I hope to see you soon!

Wishing you God's peace,

Judy



On-Going & Special Events

Please call (315) 724-2324 or email info@stmargaretshouseny.org to learn more about any of our events and to register. Events are free unless a cost is indicated, donations are graciously accepted.

It Takes A Village | Tuesdays from 2:00 to 5:00 PM

Our social action-oriented initiative volunteers at the St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Church on Tuesdays. Please contact us if you would like to sign-up. If you would like to assist, but are unable to help on Tuesdays, perhaps consider donating toiletries, reusable bags, or shelf stable foods (canned vegetables, coffee/filters, peanut butter, jam and jelly, canned fruits and meats, mayonnaise, pasta, and the like). Gift cards to Aldi's or BJ's are also appreciated. *Thank you for your generosity and to the Episcopal Diocese of Central NY for supporting this program!*

Conversation and Cool Drinks on the Patio | 1st Wednesdays of May, June, July, and August at 1:30 PM

Join Rev. Deacon Jean Skinner for afternoons of conversation about faith on our patio overlooking the grounds. Please consider bringing a few cans of food for our food pantry as a donation.

Grief Support Group | 2nd Tuesdays at 6:30 PM

St. Margaret's continues to host a peer facilitated grief support group for anyone experiencing loss - new members are welcome to join. The group meets monthly on second Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Conversations with Father John LaVoe | 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 PM

Join us for conversations about matters of faith on 2nd Wednesdays with Father John LaVoe.

Scrabble Days | 4th Wednesdays at 9:15 AM

Join our Scrabble group for monthly mornings of fun, coffee, and conversation.

Sacred Site Tours | May - September 2024

We are excited to bring back our popular group tours of local area holy places this summer. This year's tours will highlight stained glass windows. We will meet at St. Margaret's at 9 AM and carpool to our destinations, returning to St. Margaret's around 3 PM. We will also have a lunch stop at area restaurants along the way. Please call or email to register and indicate if you are willing to drive or need a ride.

May 21st - Utica

June 18th - Syracuse

July 23rd - Skaneateles/Auburn

August 20th - New Hartford

September 17th - Oneida/Sherrill

Work Day: Labyrinth Construction | May 13th ALL DAY

Join us on May 13th to help clear space for and construct a labyrinth on the grounds of St. Margaret's, depending on the weather. Community members are welcome to come for part or all of the time as they are able. A simple lunch will be provided to all of our volunteers - please RSVP by May 6th. Many thanks!

Scripture Reading Workshop with Father John | May 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 1:30 to 3:00 PM

God talks THAT way?! -- Really, really, really HEARING scripture! Whether you read from the lectern in church, or run for the nearest coffee hour if asked to read, you could, conceivably, benefit from HEARING scripture better (even when you're the one reading it). Admit it - sometimes you don't hear choirs of angels, violin ensembles, and gentle saints inviting you into the heavenly enlightenment you hoped for when you picked up your bible. Sometimes you lay it down reverently and gently, with a puzzled and spontaneous utterance of, "HUH?"

St. Margaret's Ecumenical & Retreat Center offers a chance to zip past whatever inhibitions, fears, and doubts keep you from leaping to the lectern to be the first in contention to stand up and proclaim God's Word to the choir! Or the world. Or just yourself. YOU choose the audience. But the reader is YOU, and Father John LaVoe is eager to work with you and all who wish to take part in three Wednesday

afternoon sessions while you increase your ability to read, hear, and feel the Bible's message without the hesitations, uncertainties, or reluctance you might have had in your youth.

Flair, pizzazz and verve (or even expressiveness, vividness, and MEANING) are not guaranteed, but you could be surprised at how much richer, deeper, and significant WHAT you read can become. You may even have a sudden urge to read publicly at your church – but that's entirely up to you and probably your pastor too. No hostages will be taken; the sessions are free; and it is strictly "BYOB" (Bring Your Own Bible).

The Peace Project | Weekly May 30th to June 27th from 1:30 to 3 PM

Join us for a 30-day experiment in practicing thankfulness, kindness, and mercy. Participants will travel these 30 days with Executive Director Judith Reilly as they all work through the book by Kay Willis Wyma, *The Peace Project: A 30-Day Experiment*. Please buy and bring the book with you to the first session.

Quiet Day with Mother Teresa | June 10th from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Join us for a quiet day of prayer and learning with Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves who will facilitate an exploration of the spiritual revelations of Mother Teresa, and her life as an anchoress. The cost will be \$15 per person and includes lunch.

Emmaus House Open House | June 14th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Join us for Emmaus House's annual Open House, located at 1215 Kemble Street in Utica. Learn more about the house and its mission. There will be a raffle basket fundraiser as well.

Art Workshop with Kathy Peters | June 18th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Join us for an evening of fun, laughter, and a unique art project that will be perfectly you! No need to have artistic "talent" (although we'll prove it's been there all along). You only need to bring a favorite line from a poem, a special scripture verse, or a famous quote that speaks to you. We'll guide you through the rest. Cost is \$15 pp and includes art supplies; limit of 20 people.

Summertime Food Drive | June 26th ALL DAY

St. Margaret's will be hosting a special food drive on June 26th from 8 AM to 4 PM. Donated food goods will help stock the St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Church which supports community members who are food insecure. *Boxes for food collection will be out throughout the month of June at St. Margaret's if another date better suits your schedule. Thank you!*

The Sound of Freedom Film Screening and Discussion | July 16th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Join us for a screening of *The Sound of Freedom* at 10:00 AM followed by lunch and a panel discussion of the topics it explores. Cost is \$20 including lunch.

St. Margaret's Day Celebrated | July 17th at 12:00 PM

Please join us for Eucharist service, lunch, and gathering to honor St. Margaret. Please register by July 10th. Cost is \$13 and includes lunch.

Summer Concert | August 1st at 7:00 PM

Join us for an evening of entertainment with the Floyd Community Instrumental Ensemble. Ice cream and refreshments provided. Thank you to Stewart's for donating funds enabling us to provide this program for free to the public. *The rain date for the concert is August 6th at 7 PM.*

Safe Church Training with Rev. Deacon Lynne Walton | June 15th, August 24th, and December 7th from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

St. Margaret's will be hosting Safe Church Trainings with Rev. Deacon Lynne Walton. Please call or email to register yourself or organization to attend one of the training days and times. Drinks will be provided. Please bring snacks to share.

Please call (315) 724-2324 or email info@stmargaretshouseny.org to learn more about any of our events and to register. Events are free unless a cost is indicated, donations are graciously accepted.

St. Margaret's, Friends, & Events!



Photos: Around St. Margaret's, Coloring and Conversation with Rev. Deacon Jean Skinner, Walking the Labyrinth, Music and Services at St. Margaret's Chapel, Food Donations for St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Church, and Conversations with Father John LaVoe.

Emmaus House

Thank you to all who donate necessities and niceties to the women and children staying at Emmaus House!

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

New Members Welcome!



Serving Women & Children
Since 1983

Monetary Donations: Donations can be mailed to St. Margaret's or made through our website: www.stmargaretshouseny.org. All checks should be made out to "St. Margaret's." Please write "Emmaus House" in the "for" line if you would like your donation to go to Emmaus House. All donations are tax-deductible.

Donations in Kind: Emmaus House graciously accepts donations in kind to include New Home Welcome Kits and Hygiene Supplies, clothing, household goods, towels, shower shoes, slippers, laundry baskets, and underwear and pajamas for all ages/genders. Donations, new and gently used, may be dropped off at St. Margaret's. Please call or email if you have questions.



↔ Community Donation & Volunteer Opportunities ↔

Shelf Stable Goods for Grace Church Food Pantry: St. Margaret's is accepting shelf stable goods (pasta, rice, canned goods, peanut butter, etc.) for the Grace Church Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off at St. Margaret's.

Donations for Hope House: Needs include diapers (ten pounds and up), baby formula, toilet paper, toothbrushes & paste, shampoo & conditioner for all hair types, and coffee. Donations can be dropped off at St. Margaret's or directly at Hope House.



Helping Hands at St. Margaret's

If you would like to volunteer at St. Margaret's, we are in need of assistance with projects in our library and gardens, as well as volunteers to assist with events and our Altar Society to assist with our weekly Holy Eucharist, held Wednesdays at noon. Please call or email for more information and to get involved. *Thank you!*



Holiday Support at Emmaus House

If you would like to help support events for the women and children at Emmaus House, here is a list of upcoming needs: cookies, cakes, drinks, decorations, and party goods. Donations can be dropped off at St. Margaret's or Emmaus House. Gift cards for area grocery stores will also be graciously accepted. *Thank you!*

Emmaus House Open House, June 14th (please drop off donations by June 10th)

Emmaus House Picnic, August 8th (please drop off donations by August 6th)



Spiritual Wellness | Exciting times for 2024!

Is your church, team, or organization looking for a way to grow spiritually throughout the year? We have a program for YOU! Take a look at www.thejourneyvideo.com. "The Journey: Shepherding God's People" is a video/spiritual formation study series that is fully funded through the generosity of St. Joseph's Pastoral Care, Inc. Our goal is to offer the gift of ecumenical ministry to churches and organizations who value spiritual wellness through means of grace, hope and the reassurance of God's love for all people. Please contact St. Margaret's for more information or to schedule a presentation by one of our presenters, or visit: <https://www.thejourneyvideo.com/contact-us/>

Personal & Group Retreats at St Margaret's

St. Margaret's has meeting spaces for group meetings and overnight retreats. We also welcome members of the community to come and stay at St. Margaret's for personal retreats. Those staying at St. Margaret's have use of the house, library, and chapel during their stay. There are many quiet sitting areas for relaxation and contemplation. We have a lovely path to the Wayside Cross on our grounds. Personal retreats are unguided and offer guests a chance to unwind and reconnect with themselves.

Guest rooms are \$55 per night and include overnight accommodation and use of the house and the guest kitchenette, which has a refrigerator, microwave, toaster, and instant hot water for tea and coffee. Groups of five or more can also have meals included for a total cost of \$85 per night per person.

If you would like to plan a meeting or retreat, please contact us for additional information and scheduling.



Photos: St. Margaret's Chapel, Living Room, Library, and Grounds.

CONTACT INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS:

Phone: 315-724-2324 | Email: info@stmargarethouseeny.org



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47 Jordan Rd - New Hartford NY - 13413