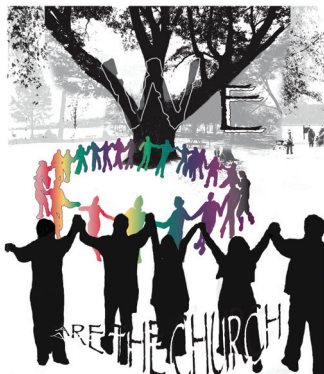


607-273-5800; [www.firstbaptistithaca.org](http://www.firstbaptistithaca.org); email: [fbithaca@gmail.com](mailto:fbithaca@gmail.com)

## Guatemalan Sanctuary Seeker Visits First Baptist by Bill Abeles



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On Oct 10th Drucila, the young woman from Guatemala in sanctuary at First Congregational Church, came to FBC to meet people and sell the crafts she has made to support her family back home. Drucila is grateful for the support given by local congregations in the Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance, and she enjoys putting faces to the names she has heard. Support provided by FBC and five other local congregations includes babysitting Drucila's 3-year-old daughter Jessie, driving Drucila and her family to appointments and activities, and weekly grocery shopping. Drucila attends Open Doors English (ODE) classes by Zoom and her English has improved so that she can easily hold a conversation. She is also taking classes to get her GED



Following worship on October 10th Drucila displayed her crafts for FBC congregants. Photo by Bill Abeles

through ODE. Drucila has been in sanctuary at FCC for over a year, but her legal case has recently changed so that she can now leave the church without fear of deportation. In the near future Drucila will be looking for employment and a place to live. She likes Ithaca and plans to remain here.

## Outreach Continues During Time of COVID Contributor: Bill Abeles

Even during the long months of the COVID pandemic FBC's outreach continued. Volunteers made lunches twice a month for the Friendship Center, staffed Kitchen Cupboard and have contributed hours to a myriad of other programs. Bill Abeles profiled the three below in which he is active.

### Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance (ISA):

The ISA is a group of 7 local congregations who support persons in sanctuary in Ithaca. Currently that is a young woman from Guatemala and her 3 year old daughter at First Congregational Church in Cayuga Heights. FBC is responsible for support for one week every 6 weeks, during which volunteers are asked to grocery shop or drive persons in sanctuary and their family. On-going support includes babysitting, driving, and fund-raising assistance. Contact Bill Fry or Bill Abeles.

### Cornell Farmworkers Program (CFP):

The CFP works to improve the living and

working conditions of farmworkers and their families in NYS. The Cornell Farmworker Program seeks recognition for farmworkers' contributions to society and their acceptance and full participation in local communities through a variety of activities. FBC has accepted responsibility for CFP's clothing drive, which is now located in the basement of the church. Volunteers will receive clothing donations, sort clothing, and prepare or deliver clothing to needed families. Contact Bill Abeles.

### Open Doors English (ODE):

ODE is a project of the Center for Transformative Action. It offers English classes at a reduced fee to any non-native English speaker over the age of 18. Although not an FBC project, they are located next door in the Presbyterian Church. Volunteers can serve as tutors, classroom assistants (currently on Zoom), or as regular conversation partners with one of the students. Contact Hilary Boyer at [hboyer.ode@gmail.com](mailto:hboyer.ode@gmail.com).



First Baptist Church in Ithaca is a nurturing and inclusive community. Guided by Jesus' Teachings, we strive for Social & Ecological Justice; and embrace the Baptist tradition of Bible, Soul, Church and Religious Freedoms.



October 24th, courtesy of Andrea Staffeld

## From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Dear Friends,

*What an autumn! It's been a mild, wet fall so far, but autumn is definitely here, and this past week the leaves have been reaching their peak in color. I love autumn. My favorite scripture for this time of year is Psalm 65, especially verses 11-13. "You crown the year with your bounty, your wagon tracks overflow with richness. The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy, the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy." What a beautiful praise of the bounty of God's creation! It's all around us. Don't miss it! Let's take time to see, to enjoy, and to be thankful!*



Reverend Debbie Bennett Reynolds

*As we continue to celebrate our 200th anniversary and hold our annual Stewardship emphasis in November, we are remembering the saints of this church, both living and dead, who have blessed our lives by their faithfulness and their giving to this church and our ministries. We really hope you will take a few minutes to think about who has been especially important to you and write a few sentences about them and share them with us. We want to have "stewardship testimonies" this year that focus on people – all the people who have made this church what it is today. Together, we will give thanks for our great communion of saints who have loved us, taught us, and now inspire us to move forward into our future of Faith, Justice, and Freedom!*

Love and blessings to you,

Debbie



September 26th, courtesy of Barb Fry



October 17th, courtesy of Andrea Staffeld

**Spectacular can only describe the breathtaking bouquets that our Flower Committee graces our sanctuary with each week.**

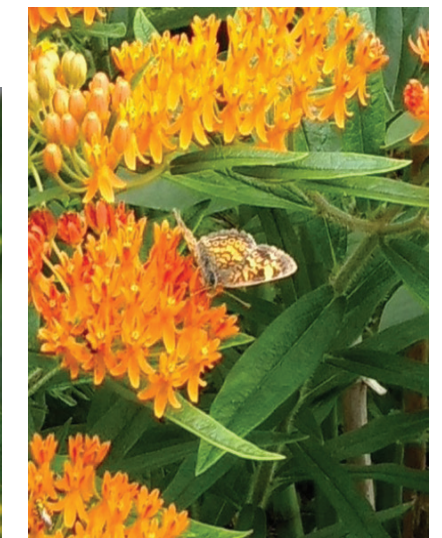
**Pictured are bouquets from the last month.**

**Thank you,  
Tina Hilsdorf,  
Mariana Morse  
Barb Fry  
Andrea Staffeld**



October 10th, courtesy of Andrea Staffeld

# Pollinator Garden Dedication October 17th Photos from Powerpoint created by Lisa Kilgore



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Brian Baker's ordination** is this Sunday, October 31st during our 10 am worship service. All are invited to share with Brian in this momentous occasion

**Small Practices - An Introduction to Spiritual Practice** October 28, 7PM Free On-Line Event offered by Finger Lakes Anam Cara: A Center for Spiritual Direction. This mini-retreat will be a helpful introduction for those wondering how to grow their spiritual life or who are curious about spiritual direction. The event is free - come help us celebrate. All are welcome. To register, please go to [https://uuma.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsd-eyorDgpGNZ5PMTFM1CpHg2L7\\_X9VKS\\_](https://uuma.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMsd-eyorDgpGNZ5PMTFM1CpHg2L7_X9VKS_)

**Faith! Freedom! Justice!** The Stewardship Committee needs your photos and your stories for our fall stewardship campaign. We will be celebrating 200 years of First Baptist saints and would like to honor the FBC people who have inspired us in the past, who inspire us now, and, who through their faith in God and their devotion to freedom and justice, will continue to inspire us in the future. Do you have a photo or an anecdote to share about one of our FBC saints? Please send by November 3 your photos and stories either to Andrea Mooney at [ajm31@cornell.edu](mailto:ajm31@cornell.edu) or to Shella at [fbithaca@gmail.com](mailto:fbithaca@gmail.com). Thanks so much for your help with our celebration.

**Extra Native Plants** from The FBC Garden Committee. The season is getting short and these lovely plants need to be either planted right away or overwintered at your place. Contact Louise at : [LFMudrak@twcny.rr.com](mailto:LFMudrak@twcny.rr.com)

**SHARE THE WARMTH:** Volunteers needed for annual Share the Warmth distribution of free winter outerwear (coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots etc.) at Catholic Charities, located at 324 West Buffalo Street in Ithaca, from November 8-12 and November 15-19. Friendly volunteers are needed to wait on customers, especially during morning shifts. Contact Michaela to sign-up at [Michaela.Cortright@dor.org](mailto:Michaela.Cortright@dor.org) or 607-272-5062. You'll find collection bins around the area in grocery and other stores to drop off your donations.

# Fall Work Day Proves Many Hands Make Light Work

by Anne Farrell

The church was buzzing with activity on our recent Fall Work Day. Thanks to twenty plus volunteers, we were able to accomplish all the tasks that had been identified as priorities, including cleaning the rooms in the basement that are often overlooked.

## Previous

A couple of weeks beforehand, Bill Abeles and the Farrells had cleaned out a hodgepodge of items stored in one of the basement rooms to convert it to a space for the Cornell Farmworker Program to sort and store the clothing it collects and distributes. During the work day, Bill and Ken Frost assembled new shelving units that will make it easy to keep donations organized and the room tidy. The shelves were purchased with FBC memorial funds.

## Marian Takes Prize

The prize for coming the farthest distance goes to Marian Coger who drove down from Rochester to volunteer. She, Tina Hilsdorf, and Josie Zanfordino teamed up to wash woodwork and windows, dust, sweep, and vacuum the Evans Room and basement classroom and multi-purpose room. Marian also assisted Myra Fincher in sorting a multitude of craft supplies that are now neatly stored in the basement cupboard. Tina took charge of clearing out the basement closet so that collapsed shelving could be repaired, and she oversaw sorting the contents.

## Curt Cleans Basement Piano

Curt Ufford thoroughly cleaned the piano in the basement. We were especially grateful for his knowledge as to how to take it apart and put it back together! It looks like new, and incredibly, it's not terribly out of tune.

## Multi-tasking

Marlene Sack, Bruce Chandler, Steve Farrell, and Rich Barron moved furniture from the basement to the second floor. Rich and Steve also loaded Rich's truck with items tagged to be donated and made a run to the Ithaca ReUse Center. Switching gears, Bruce painted chipped trim in the kitchen, and Mar-

lene vacuumed the community room radiators to make sure they will work efficiently as we enter the heating season. Amanda Ufford gave the janitor's sink a good scrub and

made a run to the store for parts needed to make repairs and to purchase a new kitchen clock—the old one died.

## Library Cleaned, Star Hung in Belltower & Outside Spruced Up

Barbara Fry gave the library/lounge much needed attention cleaning woodwork and windows, dusting, and vacuuming, and she also washed the window in the janitor's room. Dave Caughey took advantage of the mild weather to put the star on the tower, so we're ready for Advent. Bill Fry tackled outdoor tasks cleaning gutters and pruning and weeding along the east side of the building. Earlier in the week, Steve Hilsdorf had also worked on clearing downspouts of debris.

## Foosball Table Donation

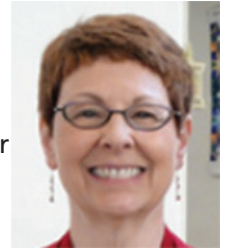
Much to our delight, and it will certainly delight our youth, Janet and Sophia Cotraccia and Greg Foster showed up to donate a mint condition foosball table to replace the worn-out air hockey table, which thankfully Tim Dean hauled away. Many thanks to Greg, Janet, and Sophia for their generosity.

## Lending Assistance

Throughout the morning, Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds and Anne Farrell circulated to lend a helping hand and make sure people had what they needed to finish their tasks. The work day wasn't all work. There was plenty of laughter and chatter over cups of coffee and donuts.

## Thanks

The Trustees want to thank everyone who turned out. The adage that many hands make light work was again proven to be true.



Anne Farrell

## Moderator's Musings by Margie Latham

### The Early Formation of The First Baptist Church in Ithaca

The election of the first trustees of our church occurred on the 25th of May 1827. Our church historian Linda Caughey provided me with a copy of a legal document which details this election and lists the names of our church's first trustees.



Margie Latham

Our church needed to incorporate according to the laws of New York State in order to purchase property and build its first "meeting house." Prior to building its first church structure, the members of our church met for worship in the Old Court House; this is the building located between our church building and the building of First Presbyterian Church.

The copy of the legal document describing our church's incorporation is difficult to read, as you can see from the copy included on the right. As best I can decipher it says:

*The First Baptist Church & Society in Ithaca Tompkins County & State of New York To whom it may concern: Whereas a Special Meeting of said Church and Society was held in the Court House in the Village of Ithaca agreeably to public notice on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1827 for the purpose of Electing Trustees agreeably to the provisions of an act of the Legislature of this State passed the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1813 for the incorporation of Religious Societies This is therefore to certify that at said meeting we the subscribers were duly nominated to Judge of the qualifications of Electors and to make returns of those who might be elected Wherefore it was found that the plurality of votes the nine following persons were chosen to serve as Trustees of the said Church and Society Viz.*

- David Woodcock Esq
- Jabez Howland
- William Mott 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Dr. G. W. Phillips
- Phineas Bennett
- Julius Ranney
- Jedediah Beebe
- Luther Gere Esq
- William P Burdick

who were therefore hereby declared to be invested with full power & lawful rights to take charge of all property and estate belonging to the above named Church and Society and to transact all affairs [?] to the [?] of the same. And further the above named persons together with their successors in office shall be known and distinguished by the name and title of "The Trustees of the First Baptist Church in Ithaca"

Given our hands and seals this first day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred & twenty seven State of New York

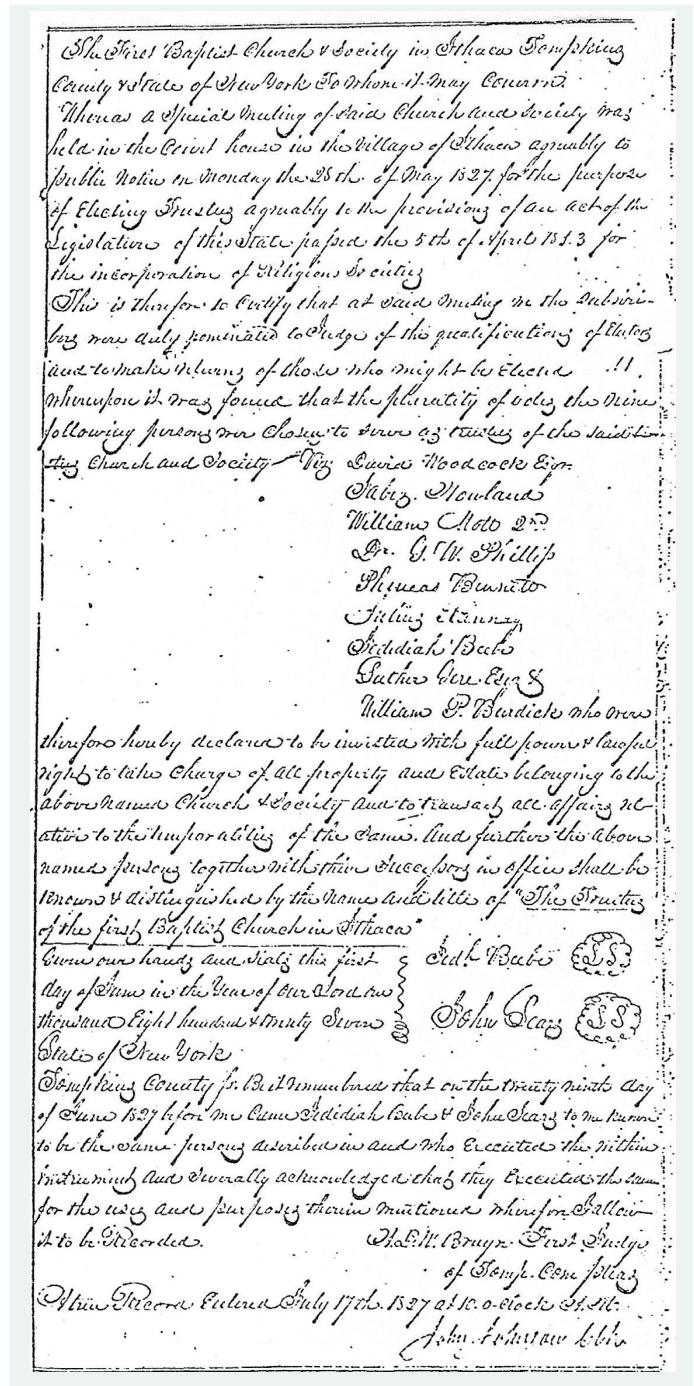
Jed. h Beebe  
John Sears

Tompkins County So: Be it remembered that on the twenty ninth day of June 1827 before me came Jedediah Beebe and John Sears to me known to be the same persons describe and who executed the within instruments and severally acknowledged that they execute the same for the uses and purposes therein mentioned wherefore I allow it to be Recorded.

A.D.W. Bruyn First Judge of Tomp. Coun [?]

[?] Record Entered July 17<sup>th</sup> 1827 at 10 o'clock A.M.

John [?]



## Pollinator Garden Dedication cont.



## In Memoriam - Rev. Dr. William Hugh Tucker

As posted on his Facebook page by his daughter Joanna Davis

*I'm Joanna Davis, Hugh's daughter, and I'm so sorry and sad to have to say he passed away yesterday October 19th. Below is the obituary he drafted when he learned he had cancer, prefaced by the thoughts I want to add:*

*Dad was an enthusiast. In his younger years, he loved skiing, camping, and sailing. Later, it was genealogy, travel and watching sports-- he was a particular fan of the Bills and the Michigan football teams.*

*He had the most amazing memory -- he could remember details of things that had happened fifty years ago like they happened yesterday.*

*His faith was driven by ideals of social justice, he was active in the civil rights movement and a highlight of his twenties was attending the 1963 March on Washington. His ministry, like him, was both positive and intellectual. He was a biblical scholar, and his sermons were always uplifting and interesting.*

*He lovingly and patiently took care of his mother and aunt at the end of their time, and he provided childcare to his grandchildren at the beginning of their lives.*

*He loved making connections with people -- whenever, wherever. Even during a short elevator ride or stressful chemo treatment, he reached out to those around him and shared parts of himself and learned their stories.*

*He fought hard over the last few years, and despite learning the cancer was back for the third time last February and couldn't be treated, he stayed positive the whole time. It was truly inspiring. I thought we were prepared for this, but we are still in shock that he won't be sitting in his chair, a football game in the background, talking about his latest zoom call with his church or minister friends. He will be so missed by his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and extended family.*



Rev. Dr. William Hugh Tucker

### Obituary

The Rev. Dr. William Hugh Tucker of West Linn, Oregon passed away on October 19, 2021, at his home in Linn, Oregon. He was born in Akron, Ohio on October 15, 1937, the son of Harold and Anestel (Turner) Tucker. He married the love of his life, Helen Lloyd Bowers, at All Saints Cathedral, Albany NY, on June 12, 1965. He earned his B.A. from Oberlin College, his M.Div. from Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School, and his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He served as the Protestant Campus Minister at Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY, and at Utah State University, Logan, Utah. He then served on the faculty of Idaho State University, Pocatello, and as Assistant Professor of Human Services at Elmira College, Elmira NY. Next, he served as interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Corning, NY and finished his career as pastor of the Campbell Erwin Baptist Church (aka Coopers Plains Baptist Church).

At the time of his death, he was a member of the First Baptist Church of Ithaca, NY. He leaves behind his wife, Helen Tucker, son Bruce Tucker and wife Diane, daughter Joanna Davis and husband Linn, grandchildren Erin Tucker, Bill Tucker, Rhys Davis, and Evan Davis.

There will be a graveside service and burial on Friday, October 29, at 2 pm at the Coopers Plains Cemetery with the Reverend Rich Rose officiating. Attendees are invited to come to Bruce Tucker's home to visit with the family following the service.

A memorial service is being planned at a later date to be held at First Baptist Church of Ithaca, which will be able to be attended remotely.



Please keep in your prayers:

- *The Tucker family*
- *John Gross*
- *Suzanne Kilgore*
- *Naomi Hollister*
- *Laurel Lawshae*
- *Pastor André Thera & family*
- *Ron Drummond*
- *Barbie Lister*
- *Cristian Pia-Miller*
- *Abraham Phelan*
- *Anthony Halman & family*

When it's over, I want to say: all my life I was a bride married to amazement.

MARY OLIVER

What we are, what we have, even our salvation, all is gift, all is grace, not to be achieved but to be received as a gift freely given.

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

We feel like separate water droplets but we are also ocean.

JANE HIRSHFIELD



Painting of Cockscomb (Celosia cristata) by Andrea Staffeld

### The Visitor - October, 2021

Editor, publisher: Susan Eymann  
Proofers: Judy Kennison, Tony Lister  
Contributors: Margie Latham, Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Bill Abeles, Anne Farrell

Photos: Tony Lister, Bill Abeles, David Caughey, Lisa Kilgore & the Pollinator Garden team.



Pollinator Garden: From left to right Alice Grow, Lisa Kilgore and Louise Mudrak work in the Pollinator Garden on October 1st.

Photo courtesy of Tony Lister

## Time and Talent Ministries (updated for 2021-2022)

### First Baptist Staff

Pastor: Rev. Debbie Bennett-Reynolds  
Secretary: Shella Chace  
Organist: Christopher Morgan Loy  
Choir Director: Belinda Adams  
Youth and Children's Ministries Coordinator: Laura Ward  
Nursery Caregiver: Carol Fleming  
Sunday School Aide: Sarah Zipfel  
Custodian: David Hopkins

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Moderator: Margie Latham  
Vice Moderator: Andrea Mooney  
Membership Clerk: Tina Hilsdorf  
Recording Clerks: Rich Barron/Susan Eymann  
Treasurer: David Caughey  
Assistant Treasurer: Bill Fry  
Financial Secretary: Marlene Sack

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\* Bill Fry (2024) Kris Scott (2022) Josie Zanfordino (2023) Elizabeth Pia-Miller (2024) Rich Barron (2022) Baruch Whitehead (2023) Steve Hilsdorf (2024) (David Caughey, ex officio).

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David Caughey, Chair, Treasurer; Assist. Treasurer Bill Fry; Finance Secretary/ Marlene Sack, plus 2 members at large

**Interior Decoration:** Barbara Fry, Julie Dean, Tina Hilsdorf, Bill Abeles, Anne Farrell, Andrea Staffeld, Susan Eymann

**Church Archivist:** Linda Caughey

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Two Delegates each for **Rochester Genesee Region & ABC-USA** Rich and Lil Barron, Co-chairs; Anne & Steve

Farrell, Bill Reynolds

**AWAB:** Josie Zanfordino, Shella Chace  
**Baptist Peace Fellowship:** Meg Gillard,

**Cornell Campus Ministry:** Brian Baker, Linda Nicholson, Anne Farrell

**Kitchen Cupboard:** Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath

**Tompkins County Workers Center:** Bill Abeles

**Sanctuary Alliance:** Leslie Schultz, Bill Abeles, Bill Fry

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Bill Fry, Linda Nicholson, Susan Eymann, Anne Farrell, Judy Kennison, Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

### Ministry Teams

#### Worship & Spiritual Life:

Barbara Fry, Amy Chaffee, Co-chairs; Biz Pia-Miller, Tony Lister, Kris Scott, Edie Reagan, Alice Grow, Regi Carpenter, Debbie Allen

#### Worship/Spiritual Life Subgroups

**Flower Committee:** Barbara Fry, Mariana Morse, Tina Hilsdorf, Andrea Staffeld

**Myra's Ministry:** Tina Hilsdorf, Lou Carlucci, Bill Reynolds

**Labyrinth:** Kris Scott, Liz Wilkinson  
**Sound/Audio Ministry:** David Caughey, Curt Ufford, Bill Fry, Bill Phelan

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**Christian Ed Teachers:** Baruch Whitehead, Lou Carlucci, Sarah Zipfel, Lil Barron

### Christian Concern

Steve Farrell, chair, Bill Phelan, Bill Abeles

### Christian Concern Subgroups

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### Hospitality Ministry:

Anne Farrell; chair; Shella Chace, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Adrienne McNair, Andrea Staffeld, Greta Cotraccia, Ella Dean, Bay Ward/Aittama, Alice Grow

**Communications Ministry:** Shella Chace (convener), David Caughey, Mark Lawrence, Craig Riecke, Susan Eymann, Amy Bean Stowell, Lisa Kilgore

### Green Team

Louise Mudrak, Lisa Kilgore (Co-conveners), Lynn Glase, Tony Lister, and others

### Ad Hoc Reopening Committee

Pastor DBR, David Caughey, Amy Bean Stowell, Barbara Pease, Barbara Fry.

### 200th Anniversary Committee

Rich Barron, Meg Gillard, Linda Caughey, Mark Lawrence, Sue Eymann, Pastor Debbie Bennett-Reynolds.