



Contents

• Masks Now Optional	1
• In Memoriam: Hans Bump	1
• From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds	2,4
• Anam Care News	2
• Habitat for Humanity	3-4
• Thank you, thank you, thank you ...	4
• Jensen and Dean Scholarships Awarded Sept. 7th	5
• Mali Education Fund ...	5
• Glory to God Abounds...	6
• The Huguenot Cross	6
• Pollinator Garden Continues to Delight	7
• Keep in Your Prayers	8
• Time and Talent Ministries	8

*What does the Lord
require of you?*

*To do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with
your God.*

Micah 6:8

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.

Masks Now Optional

By Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

In accord with our Core Values, we are striving to be both nurturing and inclusive in our decisions about wearing masks. After input from the Reopening Committee and a congregational discussion on 9/11/22, the Cabinet has determined that we are ready for individual choices about masking.

People are free to mask – or not – during worship services and any in-person meetings and events at First Baptist Church. If you are not feeling well or if you may have been exposed to someone with COVID or COVID-like symptoms, we ask you please to participate in worship and church meetings via Zoom.

We have committed to hybrid worship services long-term and will make hybrid access available as needed for other meetings and events.

We welcome everyone. We trust each other to make good choices. We respect each other's choices and will take special care around those wearing masks.

As we have more regular in-person, indoor events with masks optional, we will still create ways to socialize that are low risk (outdoor activities, small groups committed to mask, and via Zoom) We will continue to monitor COVID conditions in our community and be prepared to adapt again if need be.

In Memoriam: Hans Bump

From Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

September 22, 2002

With sadness, I share that Hans Bump died early this morning. His brother and sister were holding his hands and his niece was close by. They had stopped all life support around 11 pm. His family did a wonderful job honoring his long fight to live and helping him let go. I left around midnight, confident his family was ready and at peace and knowing it could be many more hours.

I am very grateful I was able to be there for much of the time. I told Hans how much we all love and appreciate him! His sister and niece told me multiple times how much our church meant to him.

They will be in touch about their memorial plans for Hans sometime later. We will have a moment of silence to honor his passing on Sunday and can share Hans memories together.



Evan Wolfer goes to work at a Habitat for Humanity project with the FBC Youth Group on Sunday, Sept. 18th. More pictures on page 3 & 4. Photo by Laura Ward



Louise Mudrak (left) and Alice Grow plant native honey-suckle under the new trellis in the Pollinator Garden. More pictures on page 7.

Photo by Amanda Ufford

Finger Lakes Anam Cara News

by Debbie Allen

On Tuesday, November 15, from 7-8:30 PM, Finger Lakes Anam Cara will offer a time of spiritual exploration on Zoom called "Listening into the Season." Led by spiritual directors, Darcey, Debbie and Edie, this offering will be an opportunity for deep listening -- to the earth, to ourselves, to the spirit and to one another -- and the sharing of a practice to accompany us into the coming season. There is no fee for this event but participants are invited to make a free will offering as they feel moved.

Please register in advance: <https://uuma.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvceihp-jltEtTilgXOMoBJ80anftn-2vi>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing links.

The changing season is a great opportunity to begin traditional spiritual direction, meeting with one of our directors monthly over a length of time. The regular practice of meeting helps us notice the shape of our journey and the call of our spirits. But sometimes, in seasons of transition, a different rhythm might be helpful. If you would like to work with a director more frequently for a specific season, for example in preparation for winter or a season of transition and change in your own life, our directors are available for seasonal spiritual direction as well. Please reach out directly to Debbie, Edie, or Darcey to learn more about traditional or seasonal companionship.

Finger Lakes Anam Cara: A Center for Spiritual Direction

www.fingerlakesanamcara.com

edie.anamcara@gmail.com

darcey.anamcara@gmail.com

debbie.anamcara@gmail.com

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Dear Friends,

It is very good to be back with all of you after my summer sabbatical time! I am glad to be reconnecting and catching up on how you are. My summer was good. I had some restful times, some busy and full time with family, and some meaningful times of learning.

My restful times were at home. I enjoyed living into the Benedictine practice of ora et labora – worship and work. So, I tried not to be too goal-oriented. I would work on things for a while – and when I got hot and/or tired, I would stop, even though I wasn't finished, and rest and read. My flower beds and vegetable garden are much happier because I had time to spend on them, and I enjoyed my work without getting worn out by it. Bill and I hiked some new trails and explored country roads close to our new home. We learned where some of our nearby creeks run and how they connect, as we discovered they flow into the Susquehanna River which is part of the Chesapeake Watershed, even as Cayuga Inlet Creek, just over the hills nearby, flows into the Cayuga Lake Watershed. I also had great massages, but Tai Chi class is waiting until October for the right beginner class (on the advice of Adrienne McNair).

Our daughter, Anna, got here from Saudi Arabia and was here for a month. She got her new work visa processed, and her fiancé, Maroun, came for the last 9 days. They made it legal while they were here and are now officially married! We had a good time celebrating with them and a few family and friends. Anna's visits seem to always have intensity, but it was good! They still are trying to make plans for a religious wedding in Lebanon next year. While Anna was here, she and I visited her grandparents (Bill's parents) in Orlando, and in August I got to see family in NC.

As for my learning, I participated in a three-day retreat on The Enneagram and Christian Wisdom in the mountains of NC where we experienced body prayers and chant, walking the enneagram, and teaching times, as well sharing and silence in a wonderful community of 28 fellow seekers of wisdom.

I also was led to learn more about Haudenosaunee current conditions and history. I visited the Cayuga SHARE Farm near Union Springs, heard Sechem Sam George of the traditional Cayuga leaders speak, and visited Gonanadagan State Historic Site in Victor. Sam George, when asked about the rise in statements of acknowledgment of the land's indigenous history said the "statements are good, but they don't seem to want to talk about how we got where we are now." That challenged me, as someone who values history, to conduct some research. I learned some and want to learn more – especially about current realities.

Bill and I went together for two days to Chautauqua during a week entitled, The Wild: Reconnecting with Our Natural World. We heard four main lectures while there: "Among Public Lands: Fuel our Soul, Unlock our Curiosity, Connect us to Nature," by Sally Jewell, former U.S Secretary to the Interior 2013-2017, former CEO of REI, currently serving as professor to the Fritzky Chair in Leadership at the University of Washington's Foster School of Business that focuses on public, private and business partnerships of public lands and on getting children into the natural world. She started the program that gives all 4th graders a free pass to all national parks.

"Earth Law: Reconnecting with Nature for our Shared Sustainable Future," by Kelsey Leonard, assistant professor in the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, Ontario. Dr. Leonard is an advocate for giving legal rights to bodies of water as a way to protect them and allow them to flourish. She is an enrolled citizen of the Shinnecock Nation on Long Island, "currently within the state of New York." She is the first Native American woman to earn a science degree from Oxford University where she earned an MSc in water science, policy, and management from St. Cross College. She has an undergraduate degree in Sociology and Anthropology from Harvard University, JD from Duquesne University and PhD in Political Science from McMaster University.

Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan, Onondaga Nation, and a member of the Council of Chiefs of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy spoke about "Nature is in Charge of All Life." He is very impressive, deeply grounded and deeply concerned about the human crisis that has created our climate crisis. Lyons taught as a professor of American Studies at the University of Buffalo. At 92, he has been a life-long spokesperson for indigenous peoples and the urgent need for care of the earth. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including the Earth Day International Award of the



Rev. Debbie Bennett Reynolds

Continued on page 4

FBC Youth and Adults Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity

By Amanda Ufford

Ten people came out to work on the early construction of a new Habitat house in the White Hawk Eco-Village development in Danby on September 9. The sun blazed down on our volunteers putting up sheetrock around the basement walls while a backhoe dug footer holes at ground level above. Lots of mud.

Thanks so much to all who helped: Lisa Kilgore, Bill Abeles, Anne Farrell, Steve Farrell, Tina Hilsdorf, Steve

Hilsdorf, Sofia Trigueros Ufford, Emily Ufford, Edie Reagan and Amanda Ufford.

On September 18th the FBC Youth Group including Addy, Bay, Kai Aittama-Ward, mothers Amy Aittama and Laura Ward, siblings Larissa and Evan Wolfer and Nicco (James) Schultz, gathered to help with another Habitat for Humanity project.

Another picture is on the next page.



From left to right, Tina Hilsdorf, Edie Reagan and Anne Farrell



First Baptist Church Youth Group



Lisa Kilgore



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a global nonprofit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Habitat's vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Habitat works toward our vision by building strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. <http://www.habitat.org>

Save the Dates!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Nov. 12-13:
All-Church
Retreat at
Camp
Casawasco**



Communion table bouquet Sept 12th, courtesy of AndreaStafford

Thank you, thank you, thank you From Andrea Mooney, Vice Moderator

The generous spirit of this community was on display this summer as so many people stepped up to provide leadership and assistance during Pastor Debbie's sabbatical leave:

Tim Gaura, Debbie Allen, Brian Baker, Ossie-Heath Crump, Marian Coger, Linda Nicholson, Brian Henderson, Edie Reagan, Rich Barron, Alicia Dixon-Garrad, Margie Latham and Baruch Whitehead (who jumped in with very little notice) all led worship.

Regi Carpenter, Shella Chace, Marlene Sack, Judy Kennison, Andrea Mooney, Anne Farrell, Barb Fry and Tony Lister served as liturgists.

The Hospitality Team arranged a special reception for Rev. Henderson, even though ultimately he was not able to be with us in person.

The Worship Team arranged two beautiful outdoor services.

Debbie Allen led a team of Tim Dean, Tony Lister, Rich Barron and Edie Reagan who provided pastoral care.

David Caughey, Bill Fry and Bill Phelan made sure that the Zoom was working.

Christopher Morgan Loy, not only provided beautiful music as always, but jumped in and made music copies at the last minute.

Amanda Ufford stood by to make sure everything was as it was supposed to be.

Shella Chace held it all together.

The danger in this kind of thank you is that someone's name has been left off. If I have done so, I deeply apologize. Each and every person who attends First Baptist brings their own special gift, and I am grateful for everyone in this.



FBC adult volunteers work on wall boarding a basement of a new Habit of Humanity home.

From Your Pastor Debbie Bennett Reynolds continued.

United Nations and the Elder and Wiser Award of the Rosa Parks Institute for Human Rights. He was also an All-American lacrosse player who as goalie led Syracuse University to an undefeated season in 1957 and founded the Iroquois Nationals.

Last was Fred Bahnsen who spoke on "Soil and Sacrament - A Journey Among the Keepers of the Earth," Fred Bahnsen, is a writer, gardener and former director of Anathoth Community Garden and former head of the Food, Faith and Religious Leadership Initiative of Wake Forest Divinity School. He is the author of Soil and Sacrament: A Spiritual Memoir of Food and Faith.

I read less than I thought I might, because I found myself doing on-line research about indigenous Haudenosaunee history and reading more slowly and meditatively books like Robin Wall Kimmerer's Braiding Sweetgrass, Barbara Brown Taylor's The Luminous Web, and The Consolation of Physics: Why the Wonders of the Universe Can Make You Happy by Tim Radford.

I look forward to continuing to share from my experiences through preaching, adult education, and our all-church retreat November 12-13 at Casowasco. Please plan to attend if you can! Thank you so much for the gift of this time and thank you to all who made sure you at First Baptist had a good summer together!

*Love and Blessings,
Debbie*

Mali Education Fund

by Andrea Mooney

Each fall, we are asked to contribute to a fund for students in the country of Mali. Some newer members might wonder what this is all about. We are connected with the Evangelical Baptist Church of Bamako, Mali, through Bill and Maimouna Phelan, who attended that church when they lived in Mali. Pastor Andre Thera and his wife Mariam Keita were with us in Ithaca on two occasions as Mariam received treatment for - and fully recovered from - breast cancer. From Andre and Mariam, we have learned of the educational system in their country.

The situation in Mali is not good. There is much political upheaval as well as destruction by Islamic extremists. Public schools are erratic, with many teacher strikes. As a result, many children need to attend private schools in order to complete a full year of education. Thus, we are asked to assist with funds for a few children to be able to stay in school.

If you would like more information, speak with Bill or Maimouna, or with Tony Lister, Susan Eymann or Andrea Mooney, all of whom traveled to Mali and saw the situation first-hand. If you would like to contribute to the fund, just put "Mali Education Fund" in your check memo. Thanks for considering this.



When Jokebed Kieta was two months old, she came with her parents Andre and Mariam to Ithaca in 2006 for 10 months,

Dean & Jensen Scholarship Presentations Sept. 7th

by Debbie Allen (Rev. Kendrick Arthur Kemp) & Edie Reagan (Mamadou Mouctar Bah)

The Dean Scholarship is awarded annually to a student studying for the ministry or the mission field at an accredited seminary or school. First Baptist Church is pleased to award over \$1200 each for the Dean and the Jensen scholarships, thanks to generous contributions added to the scholarship funds.

Rev. Kendrick Arthur Kemp

This year, we are very happy to present the Dean Scholarship to Rev. Kendrick Arthur Kemp. We welcome him to our worship service this morning via zoom as he has already begun his classes in Boston.

Kendrick earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Syracuse University, a Master of Social Work degree from Binghamton University, and a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in 2016. He is currently beginning course work in the Advanced Master's Program at Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

Kendrick found his calling and crafted his own theological voice at the nexus between disability and Black Liberation Theology. While studying at Union Theological Seminary, he was mentored and supported by the founder of Black Liberation Theology, the late Dr. James Cone, and by Dr. Cornel West. He is a seasoned professional speaker who has been invited to speak in more than 30 speaking engagements over the past two years at organizations such as the American Academy of Religion, Black Lives Matter Ithaca, Rice University, Brown University, Union Theological Seminary, among many others. It is his hope that lives will be changed through the sharing of his personal story of finding faith at the center of his life, as a black man living with a disability.

Kendrick, it is an honor to present this scholarship to you. We look forward to hearing more about your studies and the work you are doing. We know that you will bless many people with your message. May God bless you in the years to come.

Mamadou Mouctar Bah

One afternoon during the spring of 2013, I heard a knock at my back door. When I opened the door, I beheld a beautiful 12-year-old boy, with a winning smile, a very polite demeanor, and the engaging personality of someone well beyond his years.

He introduced himself as Mamadou, and I learned that he had recently come to live with our dear friends and neighbors, the Phelan family.

Mamadou said that he knew that we had a dog, our yellow lab, Phoebe, and he wanted to let me know that, if I needed someone to walk her, he would be happy to do that.

I came away from that brief encounter, knowing that I had met a very special person, and one who, even at that young age, had quite an entrepreneurial spirit!

That young boy is now a senior at the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, part of the Business College at Cornell. This summer Mamadou worked as an intern for Citibank in San Francisco. And, just recently, he has accepted a job offer to work for them in NYC, beginning in August of 2023. His long term goals are mainly entrepreneurship related, with the goal of starting a successful business further down the line and investing in real estate, once he has the capital to do so.

The Christian B. Jensen Scholarship is awarded each year to a high school graduate to provide financial assistance in some form of higher education. On behalf of his First Baptist Church family, it is with great joy that I present this year's Christian B. Jensen Scholarship award to Mamadou Mouctar Bah.



Bill Phelan, Mamadou (center) and Maimouna Phelan

Glory to God Abounds

Huguenot Cross



The Huguenot cross is a Christian religious symbol originating in France and is one of the more recognizable and popular symbols of the French evangelical reformed faith. It is commonly found today as a piece of jewelry or engraved on buildings connected with the Reformed Church in France, of which it represents the official logo.

The symbolism of the Huguenot cross is particularly rich.

The cross as an eminent symbol of the Christian faith, represents not only the death of Christ but also victory over death and impiety. This is represented also in the Maltese cross. The boutoné, the eight Beati-tudes (Matthew 5:3-12) Between the arms of the cross is the stylized fleur-de-lys (on the French Coat of Arms), each having 3 petals; the total of twelve petals of the fleur-de-lys signify the twelve apostles. Between each fleur-de-lys and the arms of the Maltese cross with which it is joined, an open space in the form of a heart, the symbol of loyalty, suggests the seal of the French Reformer, John Calvin.

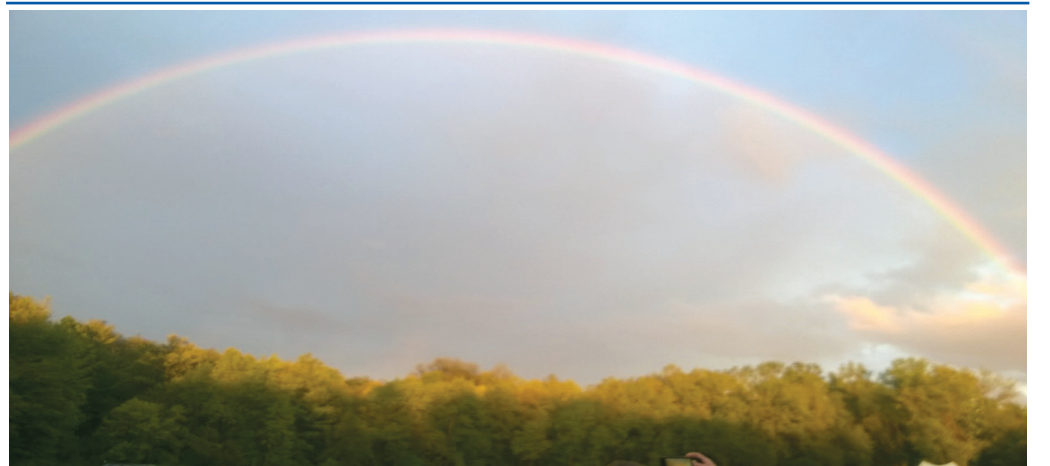
The pendant dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16). In times of persecution a pearl, symbolizing a teardrop, replaced the dove.

www.wikipedia.com

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Sunday School Sept. 18th: from left to right Sarah Zipfel, Lily and Elenna Adams, Sarah's nephew , Meg Gillard and Carol Fleming enjoy the Polinator Garden.
Photo by Judy Kennison



A spectacular rainbow after a sudden downpour Monday, September 19th.
Photo by Margo Sosa



On September 25th under blue skies laced with puffy white cumulus clouds, First Baptist worshipers gathered at Taughannock State Park for a memorable worship service. The service, created and led by Debbie Allen and Edie Reagan, focused on water. Folks spoke about their experiences with various bodies of water and brought water from their favorite places which was poured into a common vessel symbolic of our interconnectedness with all things. David Caughey and Tony Lister provided special music.



FBC Pollinator Garden Continues to Delight *Photos by Tony Lister , September 21h, 2022*

News from FBC Green Team: Our church is now an official Pollinator-Pathway Garden. Its fall newsletter, The Buzz is excellent and we highly recommend that you read it. Full of interesting things and wonderful pictures too and practical tips for fall garden maintenance.





Please keep in your prayers:

- Hans Bump's family
- Zetta Pederson
- John Gross
- Suzanne Kilgore
- Jan Butler's children
- Pastor André Thera & family
- Ron Drummond
- The Phelan family
- Anthony Halman & family
- Margie Latham and family

Love takes off the masks we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.

JAMES BALDWIN

To be astonished is one of the surest ways of not growing old too quickly.

SIDONIE-GABRIELLE COLETTE

Gratitude celebrates life with a joyful "yes" at every knot of the great network in which everything is connected to everything.

BR. DAVID STEINDL-RAST

It may be that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey.

WENDELL BERRY



August 7th Bouquet

The Visitor - September 2022

Editor/publisher: Susan Eymann
Proofers: Judy Kennison, Tony Lister
Contributors: Debbie Bennett Reynolds, Amanda Ufford, Edie Reagan, Debbie Allen, Andrea Mooney
Photos: Tony Lister, Judy Kennison, David Caughey, Amanda Ufford, Laura Ward, Bill Phelan



September 18th Communion Table Bouquet, Courtesy of Tina Hilsdorf

Time and Talent Ministries (updated June 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

Elected Leaders

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

Board of Trustees

Bill Fry chair (2024); Baruch Whitehead, (2023) Bill Phelan (2023); Josie Zanfordino secretary (2023); Elizabeth Pia-Miller (2024); Steve Hilsdorf (2024); Kris Scott (2025); Marlene Sack (2025); Carolyn Young (2025); (David Caughey, ex officio).

Trustees' Subgroups

Finance & Endowment
David Caughey, Chair, Bill Fry; Marlene Sack, Curt Ufford, Janet Cotraccia

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

Church Archivist: Linda Caughey

Affiliate Organizations

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

AWAB: Shella Chace

Baptist Peace Fellowship: Meg Gillard,
Cornell Campus Ministry: Linda Nicholson, Anne Farrell

Kitchen Cupboard: Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath

Tompkins County Workers Center: Bill Abeles

Sanctuary Alliance: Bill Abeles, Bill Fry

Pastoral Relations

Tony Lister, Regi Carpenter (2023); Mark Lawrence (2024), Amanda Ufford (2024); Judy Kennison (2025), Bronwyn Evans (2025)

Nominating Committee

Leslie Schultz, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Susan Eymann

Personnel Committee

Bruce Chandler (2023), * Lou Carlucci (2024), * Judy Kennison (2024)

Constitution/By-Law Committee

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, Tina Hilsdorf, Andrea Staffeld

Labyrinth: Kris Scott

Sound/Audio Ministry: David Caughey, Curt Ufford, Bill Fry, Bill Phelan

Education Children's and Youth:

Leslie Schultz, chair Carol Fleming,
Christian Ed Teachers: Baruch Whitehead, Lou Carlucci, Sarah Zipfel, Meg Gillard

Christian Concern

Baruch Whitehead chair; Bill Phelan, Bill Abeles, Amanda Ufford and others

Christian Concern Subgroups

Circle of Care: Coordinators: Linda Caughey chair, Amanda Ufford, Sue Hemsath

Hospitality Ministry:

Anne Farrell: chair; Shella Chace, Meg Gillard, Tina Hilsdorf, Adrienne McNair, Andrea Staffeld, Steve Farrell, 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.

Transitions

Beverly Schmidt has moved to Michigan to be closer to family. Her new address is: 2400 Somerset Blvd. #101, Troy, MI 48084, 607-280-1711 bschm51395@aol.com