News From the Moderator

Friends of EFC,

My sincerest apologies for missing my monthly envoy report in June. As many of you know, I am a teacher and the end of the school year is a busy time. I appreciate your patience.

The work continues for our Federated Council and the rest of our congregation during this time of exciting transition. Questions and conversations have arisen through this transition for us to ponder and discuss. I know that you, as our congregation, have many questions about this journey as well. I hope that you feel comfortable with sharing your questions with the leadership of our church. I cannot promise we will have all the answers to the questions, but I believe our journey is just as important as our destination.

*In terms of our pastoral transition, the Federated Council and Transition Team attended a ¨Good to Great¨ Leadership Retreat led by Dr. K. We were led in conversation about what our *top* goal should be. One of our top goals that surfaced is to grow our church and its members. Dr. K offered his experience and ideas for us to personalize to our church. We will be meeting extra during the summer to plan some of these ideas out. Be on the lookout for some exciting events. This transition has also allowed us all to start brainstorming new ideas and I hope you will bring these ideas to our Federated Council so that we can help bring them to life.*

Our transition team will be spending the summer reviewing our federated document and putting together our search committee. Then, we will be outlining the steps needed to find a settled minister.

We continue to revise our health and safety procedures based on the advice from state and national experts as well as our individual church needs. Please touch base with the Trustees or Council if you have questions or concerns. If you ever feel uncomfortable in our worship space or are feeling unwell, please remember that we have made it a priority to continue sharing our message on zoom and Facebook.

Some final reminders; everyone is invited to sit in on council meetings. Our next Federated Council meeting is Sunday, July 25th shortly after worship, in-person and on zoom. If you´re interested in serving on the nominating committee, please reach out to any member of the Council.

Thank you again for your patience. Always feel free to reach out to me with questions and concerns.

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Community News

2021 Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) Summer Lunch Program Grab and Go: Schenectady Community Ministries embarks on its **27th year** of serving free summer meals for children, age 18 and under. The meals program serves free breakfast and lunch at mobile sites throughout the community. And it is entirely *Grab and Go* (started July 6 through August 31). Last year, SiCM served over 58,600 meals to children in our community.

Emmanuel Friedens is doing well with our commitment to assist with the summer meals program. However, we still need the following:

- volunteers to pack lunches at the SiCM site-839 Albany Street (in their new kitchen) **the week of August 16-20** in the morning, daily from 8 -11 am, or any part of that time. **** W**e need 2 people to pack on the following days: August 17, 19 and 20.**

Masks, hairnets or hats, and plastic gloves will be required.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call the church office. Maria will be coordinating the volunteer schedule. To volunteer, you must first complete this year's summer meals training, either by watching the YOUTUBE video or receiving a paper copy of the presentation (which Maria will provide). Also, you must complete the Summer Program Volunteer Intake form. Check out the SiCM site for more information: **https://www.sicm.us/what-we-do/summer-meals/.** Thank you.

Thank You

From the Dignity for All Scholarship Award Recipients

Emma Palmatier, BH-BL High School: *I would like to thank all of you in the congregation for such an amazing award. I am so thankful to be presented with this opportunity and feel so honored to have been chosen. I plan to continue my work to help those within the LGBTQ+ community however I can. I am glad to have attended PRIDE Sunday. I felt so welcome and it was amazing to see all the work that you do. Thank you again.*

Catherine Lasek, Niskayuna High School: *I would just like to extend my gratitude for naming me the award winner, as well as giving me the $500 scholarship. It means a lot to me that I was considered for it. Thank you so much!*