

CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 17, at the church. A pavilion was not available in the town parks this year. Look for details to be announced soon.

OUR GRADUATES

Jack Einstein and Jarrod Pierson will be graduating from high school this month. Jack will be continuing his education at Seton Hall in New Jersey. Jarrod will be continuing his education at one of the New York State community colleges.

CARE CORNER

Please pray for continued opportunities to invite people to faith and new people to fellowship in the church.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/1 Amy (Houghton) & Sean
6/1 Elaine Cornelius
6/8 Brian & Tracy Freer
6/9 Marilyn Houghton
6/11 Jarrod Pierson
6/22 Ken Church
6/26 Lou Lourinia
6/26 Brent Durante
6/27 David & Carolyn Hoag



At our annual meeting in January, I said we needed to keep moving forward with the work God is calling us to do always being Biblical, Simple, and Relevant. Let's consider this month, what it means to be Simple.

One of the issues many churches face these days is loss of focus on the mission of the Church. When this happens, congregational activities and priorities become disjointed. Absent a unifying objective, all ideas, activities, and undertakings have equal merit. Churches that do not know where they need to go and why - do not go anywhere. This is why developing a church profile with clear objectives is so important. The profile should ensure members, friends, and visitors alike understand our missional objectives. While we will soon complete the work on the profile, we will need to make sure our plans going forward are simple. In broad terms, we must keep our efforts easily understood as furthering the goal of making our church a Christ centered, community serving, body of believers. Doing so is Biblical and necessary.

The Christian life is not intended to be complicated. When Jesus sent out his disciples he told them not to take any purses, bags, or sandals. All the baggage of life that weighs down others was to be left behind. Jesus told his disciples to greet those in their homes with these words, "Peace be to this house." Ponder for a few minutes how simple Jesus made our mission – and then let's keep it that way.

Peace,

Pastor George

SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS FOR JUNE

	<p>Monday, June 6 at 6:00 pm – We will serve a community meal and distribute personal care items at Troy Area United Ministries.</p>
	<p>Sunday, June 12 – The youth of our church will lead the worship service.</p>
	<p>Monday, June 13 – We will serve a meal at the backstretch of the Saratoga Racetrack and Pastor George will lead a brief worship service.</p>
	<p>Wednesday, June 16 – St. Sophia's Greek Orthodox Church will host an interfaith conference. Pastor George will be one of the speakers.</p>
	<p>Saturday, June 18 – The youth of the church will be going to Great Escape for Christian Family Day.</p>

ALTERNATIVE MODELS FOR DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR MISSION

The American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) is receiving applications for financial grants from any ABC church interested in creating and implementing an alternative model for developing leaders for local missions. Pastor George, in concert with several members of the church, will be submitting an application for a grant. ABGMS will award grants to selected churches in September 2016. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

PERSONAL CARE MINISTRIES – GRANT APPLICATION

The American Baptist Churches offers grant funds through the Matthew 25 program for local churches with missions focused on addressing poverty. Pastor George will be submitting a grant request for our personal care ministries program. Any additional funds received through this grant would help the church expand its outreach. The grant process is very competitive. Awards will be announced in October 2016.

GREAT ESCAPE – GLORY DAY 2016

On Saturday, June 18, Six Flags Great Escape will host Glory Day, a Christian Family Day. The rides and waterpark will be open. Christian bands will be playing throughout the day. Pastor George will be organizing our youth to attend that day. Adult volunteers are welcome as well as financial donations to help with the cost of tickets, parking, and food.

CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GREATER ALBANY

Latham area members of the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Albany will begin using the LCBC building for Bible study on Friday evenings (6:30 pm to 10:00 pm). The group met in their homes but grew too large for any home to accommodate all the members. This is a great opportunity for LCBC to develop relationships with other CABA churches and our Christian neighbors.