

ST. MARGARET'S
ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

September - December
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 2:00 to 5:00 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

Tea Time 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 at St. Margaret's

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 Tuesdays | Dine In at 5 PM & Take Out at 6:00 PM *please note day/time changes

Meals served with main, sides, salad, and dessert - Suggested Donation \$17

Please make your reservation by the preceding Wednesday.

September 17th London Broil & Salt Potatoes

October 15th Creamy Lemon Thyme Chicken with Mashed Potatoes

November 19th Lasagna

For more information or to register for any event, please call or email:

315-724-2324 | info@stmargaretshouseny.org

All Welcome!

As I sit writing this piece for our newsletter, I begin my 7th year with St. Margaret's Corporation. It's quite a blessing to come to work each day knowing that we, and I, make a difference in the lives of those around us.

In my office I have a picture with the words from Matthew 5:14 Be the Light. That hangs there to remind me of my purpose in life; to bring the light of Christ into the world through my words and actions; through the way in which our guests and staff are interacted with here at St. Margaret's and Emmaus House. It's also what I've been called to do out in the bigger world outside our doors.

We've made a lot of improvements at St. Margaret's; some you'll notice, and some you won't. We're always striving to keep both houses – St. Margaret's and Emmaus House – as beautiful as we're capable of to ensure that your visits are the best. With that said, there are always areas that get short shrift as you might expect. Weeding and tending our gardens and making our gift shop visually attractive are some of those areas. If one of these is something that is a passion of yours, please reach out to me, I'd love to speak with you about heading up a volunteer crew.

I truly cannot believe that it's already halfway through the summer; I suppose that's a reminder to all of us to live this day to the fullest. This one, the one right now. Not yesterday, not tomorrow, just be in this moment now.

I'm looking forward to sharing a cup of coffee or a cold glass of tea on the patio with you soon. Come, don't be a stranger!

Wishing you the best, today and always!

Judy



Celtic Spirituality Collection at St. Margaret's

It would be hard to have known Rev. Elizabeth Gillett without knowing of her love of reading. Elizabeth loved a good book and when she found one that she enjoyed, and/or learned from, it was her desire to share it with those around her. One of her final gifts through her estate to St. Margaret's Ecumenical & Retreat Center was the donation of her Celtic spirituality collection, which can be found on our living room bookshelves. We are very appreciative of the collection not only for what it is, but also for the ties that continue to bind us together. Thank you for your continued generosity, Elizabeth.

On-Going & Special Events

Please call 315-724-2324 or email info@stmargarets houseny.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. 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!*

Tea Time with Reverend Jean Skinner | 1st Wednesdays at 1:30 PM

Join Rev. Deacon Jean Skinner for afternoons of conversation about faith. 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.

Emmaus House Fundraiser: Friends Helping Friends | Available Now

Stop by St. Margaret's to pick up your Boscov's 25% off coupon with a \$5 donation that helps support Emmaus House, our emergency shelter for women and children. The coupon is good on October 22nd from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM.



Work Day: Inside | September 9th from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

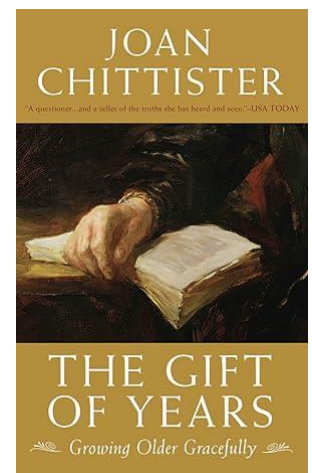
We will be working on cleaning window screens and the insides of the windows. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by September 6th.

Sacred Site Tours | September 17th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

This year's last tour will visit Gethsemane in Sherrill and St. John's of Oneida, to learn more about these holy places and their stained glass windows. We will meet at St. Margaret's at 9 AM and carpool to our destinations, returning around 3 PM. We will also have a lunch stop at an area restaurant along the way. Please call or email to register and indicate if you are willing to drive or need a ride.

Joan Chittister Sessions | Weekly on September 23rd, 30th, October 7th, and 14th at 2 PM

Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves will facilitate an exploration of *The Gift of Years: Growing Old Gracefully* by Joan Chittister. In this work, Chittister looks at 40 aspects of aging and offers a way to see the blessing in each of them, rather than concentrating only on the burdens. Copies of the book will be available at St. Margaret's for \$15 (limited quantity) or can be purchased at your preferred book store. Please register by September 16th. (*Updated from print version.*)



Sew Day at St. Margaret's | October 28th from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Please come and share a joyful day of community sewing at St. Margaret's. We will be making bags for the women at Emmaus House for their personal care products. This project is beginner friendly as Debbie Skinner will walk you through the step by step. All that is needed is a sewing machine in good working order and basic sewing supplies. Everything needed for the bag will be included in a kit. Please register by October 18th to ensure that everyone will receive a kit and instructions. Lunch will be provided.



All Saints Day | November 1st from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

We're called to be saints, and on November 1st at 2:00PM you can join in on some fun to celebrate our favorite saints! Reverend Carol Jubenville will discuss the history of All Saints' Day and in particular, how we can live saintly lives.

Participants will come representing a saint of their choosing. You might choose to dress up as your favorite saint, or you could bring an item/items that depicts the saint, and then will share a little bit about your chosen saint with the group. By the end of our time together, we'll have learned about many saints, their strengths, and their traits that we too can emulate.

We'll enjoy some heavenly refreshments and laughs together. Please register by Friday, October 25th.

Advent Quiet Day: A Quiet Day for a Quieter Soul | December 2nd from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Advent: that period of restful and thoughtful preparations for the Silent Night of Angelic Peace and Joy, right? (You're kidding, aren't you?) If any mindfulness happens in Advent it's because you planned it; you pushed aside intrusions, and you determined to make it happen. Make it happen!

One opportunity is planned for Monday, December 2nd, when a Quiet Day focused on "A Celtic Advent" invites you into a day of prayer and God's close presence in the beauty of holiness at St Margaret's House in New Hartford.

Father John LaVoe will guide the day through three brief times of prayer, plus three reflections on Celtic ways of living, praying, and seeing the world. Private time for individuals to meditate, read, journal, or walk the grounds (some have been known to nap) will recur through the day, and coffee, lunch, refreshments and spiritual direction time will be available.

Gathering time, lunchtime, and departure time will allow for conversations. Minimal registration for the event and food is set at \$25 per person, and scholarships are also available as needed.

Please register by November 25th. Dress is informal and halos are not mandatory. Make it happen; nobody can but you!

Safe Church Training with Rev. Deacon Lynne Walton | December 7th from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

St. Margaret's will again be hosting a Safe Church Training with Rev. Deacon Lynne Walton. Please call or email to register yourself or organization to attend. Drinks will be provided. Please bring a snack to share.

The Joy of Christmas: Music of the Season | December 9th from 2:00 to 3:30 PM

Come and enjoy music and songs by friends of St. Margaret's House from 2:00pm to 3:30pm! Seasonal refreshments and time for wonderful conversations included. *Donations gladly accepted for our Chapel Flower Fund.*



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!*

St. Margaret's will be closed from December 24th through January 1st. Best wishes for a joyful Christmas and peace filled New Year.

For more information or to register for any event, please call or email:
315-724-2324 | info@stmargaretshouseny.org

Finding Hope After Loss Retreat

The holidays can be extremely challenging for grieving individuals. St. Margaret's Ecumenical and Retreat Center is hosting *Finding Hope After Loss: Transcending Challenges of Grief* from Friday December 13th to Sunday the 15th. There will be nine workshops offered throughout the weekend addressing topics such as: understanding the grief process, how to find peace by creating continued bonds with our loved ones, losses not due to death, and holiday grief. Participants will also be introduced to coping techniques such as meditation and mindfulness as well as how music and aromatherapy can provide comfort during grief.

In addition to workshops, participants will have the opportunity for informal gathering time, chair massages and other activities during the course of the weekend. Registration is limited to 30 people, so it is advisable to reserve your spot as soon as you know that you want to attend. Check-in will be on Friday December 13th and the retreat will end on Sunday at noon. Full retreat schedules will be provided at check in. The cost for the retreat is \$50 per person.

Please fill out the bottom portion of this announcement and mail this with your check or money order of \$50 payable to St. Margaret's on or before December 5th. If there are further questions, please contact St. Margaret's. This retreat is sponsored through the generosity of St. Joseph's Pastoral Care and St. Margaret's Corporation of Utica.

St. Margaret's Ecumenical and Retreat Center
47 Jordan Rd.
New Hartford, NY 13413

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Will you be staying overnight, if so when (check all that apply):

Friday Saturday Sunday

Will you be staying for meals, if so when (check all that apply):

Friday: Dinner

Saturday: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Sunday: Breakfast

Please note any dietary restrictions: _____

St. Margaret's, Friends, & Events!



Photos: Sacred Sites Tour, Wayside Cross, Peace Path, Kilt Kamp, Wednesday Service, Work Day, Rev. Jean Skinner, Floyd Community Band, and Father John LaVoe

CONTACT INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS:

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

Emmaus House

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

Friends of Emmaus House Join our 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.



Serving Women & Children
Since 1983

Monetary Donations: Donations can be mailed to St. Margaret's or made through our website: www.stmargaretshouseny.org. St. Margaret's is a 501c3 and all donations to St. Margaret's or Emmaus House are tax deductible.

Donations in Kind: Emmaus House graciously accepts donations to include new home supplies, hygiene supplies, clothing, towels, shower shoes, slippers, laundry baskets, and pajamas for all ages/genders. Donations may be dropped off at St. Margaret's. Please call or email if you have questions.

Holiday Support at Emmaus House

If you would like to help support events for the women and children at Emmaus House, 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!*

Thanksgiving Dinner: food items, please drop off donations by November 22nd

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day: food items, stockings/stocking stuffers for all ages, please drop off donations by December 20th

↔ **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.

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



ST. MARGARET'S
ECUMENICAL & RETREAT CENTER

47 Jordan Rd - New Hartford NY - 13413