



Brewerton U.M.C.  
5395 Orangeport Road  
P.O. Box 879  
Brewerton, NY 13029  
Phone: 315-668-3999

Address Service Requested



www.brewertonumc.com  
Pastor : Jack Keating  
pastorjack@brewertonumc.com  
Phone: 315-668-3999

*"Connecting people with Jesus and walking the path of real life faith"*

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 am  
A nursery is provided  
Children's Sunday School during services  
Coffee & Fellowship Follows Worship Service



# JUNE 2016

## WALK With Me, Daddy

By Faith Book

WALK alongside me, Daddy  
and hold my little hand  
I have so many things to learn  
that I don't yet understand  
Teach me things to keep me safe  
from dangers every day.  
Show me how to do my best  
at home, at school at play

Every child needs a gentle hand  
to guide them as they grow.  
So walk alongside me, Daddy.  
We have a long way to go.



Brewerton United Methodist Church Calendar

Sunday, June 5th:
10:00 am - Worship Service

Friday, June 10th:
12:00 pm - UMW Picnic @ Marion Ford's home

Sunday, June 12th:
10:00 am - Worship Service

Tuesday, June 14th: Flag Day

Wednesday, June 15th:
1:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Red Cross Bloodmobile

Sunday, June 19th: Fathers Day
10:00 am - Pastor Jack's last Worship Service for us.

Monday, June 20th:
7:15 pm - Admin Council meeting - meet & greet new Pastor

Tuesday, June 21st:
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm - Meet and Greet with Pastor Justin

Wednesday, June 22nd:
12:00 pm - Happy Day's Senior Luncheon

Sunday, June 26th:
10:00 am - Worship Service

\*\* Please note that the July/August newsletter is 1 (one) newsletter !!!
Please consider this in planning any event you want posted in the newsletter for the summer months.
Thanks.
The Editor

Regular PoLM Facility Events

- Adult Bible Study: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1pm -2pm
Mission Circle: 2nd Thursday- 1 pm !
Easter Morning Clothing Closet:
Wednesdays - 6pm -8pm
Thursdays - 10:30am - 12:00pm
Saturdays - 10:00am - 1:00pm
AA "Forever Young": Wednesdays 6:00pm - 8:00pm
AA "Life Changing": Fridays 6:00pm - 8:00pm
New World Ministry:
Saturday: 9:00 am - 11:30 am - Tutoring
Sunday: 2 pm (Worship)
Karenni Ministry:
Sunday: 10:00am - (Worship)
Monday: 4:30pm - 6:00pm - Youth/Children Ministry
Mattydale History Group:
2nd Monday 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Regular BUMC Facility Events

- Food Pantry: Tuesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm
Thursdays 4:30pm - 6:30pm
ZUMBA: Mondays 9:00 am - Zumba Gold Chair
10:00 am - Line Dancing
6:00 pm - Zumba/Zumba Toning
7:00 pm - Strength Class
Wednesday 6:00 pm - Zumba toning
7:00 pm - Strength
Thursdays 9:00 am - Zumba Gold Chair
Yoga with Linda: Tuesdays 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Twilight Stitchers: 2nd & 4th Mondays 6:00pm - 9:00pm
Choir Rehearsals: Thursdays 6:00pm - 6:45pm
Resistance Training: Mondays 7:00pm - 7:30pm

The July/August 2016 Newsletter deadline is, Monday, June 20th.
If you have any problems making the deadline, or have additions or corrections for the newsletter, please contact me in church or by phone at 695-3114, or by e-mail: kpeckham7123@windstream.net
Thank You. Kathy Peckham

## NOTES FROM THE PATH OF LIFE

By Peg Leonard

“Warriors and statesmen try to improve the world by striving for noble causes; but we can make our own corner of it a better place simply by being kind to each other.” (Simple Wisdom)

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. On June 7, the class will be discussing Day 3 of Lesson 3, “It is written”. (When God asks for your attention, He doesn’t want you to send a substitute; He wants you.) On June 21, the class will discuss Day 4 of Lesson 3, “The helper will teach you everything”. (Will I learn what God intends? If I listen, I will.) Come join in the lively discussion!

### THE MISSION CIRCLE

The Mission Circle meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Each month the women of the Mission Circle have a program that encourages spiritual growth and fellowship. On June 9 the women will have an indoor picnic.

### EASTER MORNING CLOTHING CLOSET

The Clothing Closet continues to be a place where women, men & children come to find clothing, books, toys, linens, & household items. The clothing closet is open Wednesday 6-8 pm; Thursday 10:30 am- 12:30 pm; Saturday 10 am- 1 pm. Donations can be brought to Brewerton UMC or the Path of Life Mission Center (PoLM). Right now the Clothing Closet is low on household items – Sheets, towels, dishes, etc and children’s toy. Thanks for all of your donations!

### COMMUNITY DINNER

The Community Dinner is on the last Thursday of each month at the Path of Life Mission Center, 4:30 – 6:00 pm. The Easter Morning Clothing Closet is open during the meal. Thanks to the partnership of PoLM/Brewerton UMC & Cicero UMC we continue to feed & chat with anyone who comes to eat. The meal is also supported by the free will donations made by the attendees. **THE JUNE 30<sup>th</sup> MEAL WILL BE A PICNIC** – Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads of all kinds and great desserts! Come join in the delicious meal!



## PASTOR’S PONDERINGS

Is it possible that five years have gone by this fast? It seems like just yesterday I was having my first cup of coffee with SPRC Chair, Craig Allen in Panera and discussing the start of my ministry here in Brewerton. Craig and Tammy and Becky and I talked about the exciting new start that night and now five years has been accomplished. We are a much different church now then we were back then! God’s Spirit is alive and well here in Brewerton! The “saints” are doing great work and lives are touched here daily as we spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world. Kids are loved and cared for, the hungry are fed, and new Christians have a place to worship the God we share. What an exciting time this has been. Thanks for your part in making it so.

As I finish my time here I came across this great article by Rev. Joe Iovino at UMC.org.

### **How Does our Congregation Say Goodbye and Welcome a new Pastor?** **SAYING GOODBYE**

**PRAY.** Pray for the current pastor, the new pastor and the entire congregation.  
**GIVE A PERSONAL GIFT.** Consider a gift of a picture or craft that signifies a time you have shared together.

**ATTEND THE FAREWELL.** Eat, laugh, cry, celebrate and tell stories with the congregation.

**SAY A PERSONAL GOODBYE.** Write a note of appreciation for your time together.

### **THE “IN BETWEEN” TIME**

**HELP GET READY.** Invest in the successful ministry of your new pastor.

**LEARN ABOUT THE INCOMING PASTOR.** Read the profile of your new pastor (Pastor Justin’s letter is in this edition of the newsletter) and his family.

### **SAYING HELLO**

**GO TO CHURCH THAT FIRST SUNDAY.** Support your new pastor right from the start.

**GIVE A GOOD GIFT.** A gift card to your favorite restaurant, business or local home store will help the pastor get familiar with the community.

**GIVE SPACE.** Allow the pastor to get settled. Choose another time to drop by for a visit.

**TAKE THE INIATIVE.** Attend a meet and greet, join the pastor’s Bible study or invite the pastor to coffee.

**RESIST QUICK JUDGMENTS.** Extend grace. Get to know this pastor so you can serve together.

**EXPECT THE BEST.** Ask what you can Invest in this new season of ministry.

In short, I pray that Pastor Justin has a great ministry here among you, just as I have been blessed to be serving with you all! Until we meet again!

*Pastor Jack Keating*



*A Message From  
Your Editor*

The older I get, the faster time seems to go by. I'm looking at June already and wondering where has the time gone. It's not just the last six months, but a lifetime as well. This June my father will be 85 years old. He is the last of 11 children born to my grandparents. He has children, grand children, great grand children, and a great - great grandchild. Thankfully he is still quite active around the house and yard, in church, the legion, and the grange. He still worries about me and my sister and how we are getting by in life.

Today I look at him with his now white hair, weathered face, hands not as steady, a little hunch over when he walks, hearing aids, and reading glasses, and I wonder what happened to that tall standing, dark haired, steady hand, highly active, man I used to see. I can't help in remembering the many days he got up at 4:00am and worked in a factory all day, and then on the farm when he got home, stopping only for meals, and to finally sit in his chair around 8pm, then to bed by 9pm. And even with all that, he still had time for the family. Holidays, summer picnics, whatever, we still did things as a family. Family was important to him and it still is.

Yes, he's older now, but I will always see him young and strong. Like the days we broke a mule to the buggy - not easily I may add as I can still see the time the mule dragged him through the garden, dad yelling "WHOE, WHOE, \*\*&%#@\* - I SAID WHOE!!" (Dad did let loose of the reins.) Afterwards, the mule ran around and turned over with the buggy on the lawn. Dad's real strength came out, he didn't yell at the mule, or hit him, but rather he talked softly, had me hold the bridle while him and mom got the mule free of the traces. The lesson wasn't over, for the mule or me. Dad had me lead the mule by the barn where dad and I removed the harness then, let the mule drink a little and we brushed him down and walked him a bit, all the while talking to the mule. The bigger lesson, yup everything went wild for a moment, but calmness returned, no one was hurt, smile, make friends and move on. This holds true in many of life's situations.

And yes, there have been times when dad and I went against each other but, we got by them all. We still sometimes disagree but, get over it. And I think about how he is older, and so am I and we both learned of life and its ups and downs. And one lesson I learned was how lucky I was to have had a loving dad and I tell him so occasionally, like Fathers Day. Thank You Dad, for just being you.

*Kathy Peckham.*



## MINISTRY OF PRAYER



### PRAYER CHAIN

When you need God's care and help, please let our new prayer chain join with you and pray with you.

Simply call: Tammy Allen at 506-3066  
Pastor Jack 935-7659



### DAILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Teach us to serve you by serving others, to pray for each other and help each other to be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to eternal life.

In Jesus name, I pray.

Amen

(Pat Roundy)



### BOTTLES AND CANS



Put your collection of bottles and cans to good use by taking them to the Lucky Seven Collection shop by the Fulton Bank on Bartell Rd. Be sure to have them listed in their book for the Brewerton United Methodist Church account. OR - bring them to the red bin in the coat closet by the back door and I'll take them in. Funds collected go to the shared ministry fund of our church.

Thank you, Ed Roundy



**Thanks for supporting out Shared Ministry Account**

# New - Easy Tithe

## What is it??????????

Have you noticed a new link on the Church website? Brewerton UMC is participating in a new option for financial giving. You can now make an Offering to the Brewerton Church and any of its Funds (Pantry, Capital, Trustees, etc.) through an online site called Easy Tithe. You can set up your offering to be split into the funds that you select and to be completed automatically as a recurring item, if you choose. Your pledged amount arrives at the same time even if you are not able to be at church. You can use a debit card or a credit card. We would you prefer you not to go into debt to give an offering, but if you pay off your bills every month this is an option. Some credit cards offer cash back bonuses. You can even download the mobile app on your smart Phone to send your offering electronically while you are in church.

## How????

Go to the Brewerton UMC Home page, click on the link on the right hand side of the screen titled "Easy Tithe for BUMC". Follow the directions to set up your account and you will be ready to start giving using Easy Title. You will notice there is a spot at the bottom of the giving screen that allows you to pay the processing fees for this service. If you want to cover the associated fees just check the box. (On a \$10 offering it is \$.60, on \$100 offering it is \$3.30 and so on.) If you want to use your phone download the app and go from there.

You also have access to reports of your offerings. All offerings will also be put into the church tracking system so we can print your giving statement at the year end.

If you have any questions please contact any of the Finance committee and they can answer them for you.

## And!!!

Aside from this new service and the traditional method of putting the money in the plate, most banks offer bill pay in which you have them send the offering directly to the church. This also can be set up to be recurring with your offering arriving at church on a scheduled date, whether you are in attendance or not. There is no charge to the church for this and most banks offer it as a free service to the account holder.



## WOMENS' NEWS



The United Methodist Women will meet on Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> at noon at the home of Marian Ford for our annual picnic. She resides at 5803 Albert Road in Brewerton. Please bring a dish to pass and a friend . All ladies of the church are invited to attend. Ladies of the Second Friday luncheon will be joining us also. No meetings in July or August.

A special thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraisers this season.

Our unit received a Five star award and a Mission Today award at the Spring district Meeting held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Liverpool Methodist Church. This is a testament to the good work that we are accomplishing.

Watch for a program on Gateway Longview in the fall. Andra Moran spoke of the program "Fresh Starts: Reaching out to our Youth" one of the programs which helps youngsters who will age out of the foster program and need help to establish a place to live on their own. Our unit made and decorated cards to give to them as they move into their own apartments.

Have a safe and healthy summer. See you at the picnic, or in September.

God be with you.

Prepared by Pat Roundy



## EVANGELISM TEAM SCHEDULE FOR JUNE 2016

June: 5 Marilyn  
12 Marion  
19 Joe  
26 Joan

Hi folks! Here is the current schedule for the Evangelism Committee visitations! Pastor Jack Keating is also a member of our committee. The church telephone # is 668 3999 and Pastor Keating's Cell 935 7659. Our mission is important! Next mtg. ?

## Introducing ... Rev. Justin M. Hood

Dear Friends and Members of the Brewerton United Methodist Church, It is with humility and with great joy that I take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as your pastor this coming July. My first trip to Brewerton, meeting with the dedicated folks of your Staff-Parish Relations Committee has me very hopeful for our time together. Additionally, I feel that I know so much about you already (and look forward to learning more!) but you probably don't know much about me yet.

As a way of introduction, let me share with you a bit about my journey: I was born and raised in Sidney, New York and attended Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York where I studied History, Religious Studies and Music. During my undergraduate studies, I worked closely with the United Methodist Church, serving as a voting delegate to the Upper New York Annual Conference, as well as various missional efforts such as UMCOR, Habitat for Humanity and served as a youth counselor. I also met my partner, Emma who will be joining me in moving to the Brewerton area and has accepted a position as a High School Mathematics teacher at Jordan-Elbridge High School.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I attended the Boston University School of Theology. During my first two years in Boston, I served as the Christian Education Director at an Episcopal Church in Newton, Massachusetts. During my tenure there, I worked closely with the various committees of the church and reconstructed their youth program to serve a larger amount of students and to better integrate the youth into the general congregation's body and the church's various committees.

This year, I have served as the Pastor of the Mount Upton, Unadilla Center and Sand Hill United Methodist Church communities while completing the final year of my seminary education. I have worked towards building a youth group in these churches for the first time in over 25 years. We have increased our youth attendance in the church from an average of 2 or 3 young people in my first month to a current number of 10 or more on most Sunday mornings. Additionally, I have led Bible studies on the History and Theology of the United Methodist Church, the Gospel of John and new approaches and understandings of Advent. We actively responded to hunger issues by providing a community food pantry that reaches dozens of families each week.

I am eager for the opportunity God has blessed me with to share in ministry with you. I believe that together we can open ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit so we may know God's will and follow with generous hearts. I look forward to meeting you all and learning the wonders of your life and faith stories. In the weeks ahead, I welcome hearing your wisdom, insights and concerns.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Justin M. Hood  
(607)437-2208  
Pastorjustinhood@gmail.com

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY JUNE!!

Garrett Pitre	June 1st
Joe Pitre	June 2nd
Nicole Lavonier	June 3rd
Pat Bender	June 6th
Grace Heath	June 9th
Jackie Blasier	June 10th
Beth Magill	June 13th
Jeanne McChesney	June 14th
Linda O'Conner	June 18th
Howard Will	June 20th
Chuck Wescott	June 23rd
Terry Jakubowski	June 24th
David Will	June 25th
Don Bender	June 26th
Bruce Smith	June 26th
Norma Coble	June 27th
A. Scott Whittaker	June 30th

Birthstone = Pearl

Birth Flower = Rose

Zodiac: Gemini = May 21 - June 20

Cancer = June 21 - July 22

## *A Special Message*

New members to our church family, Dale & Joanie Hartzell, would like to share some moving words of comfort that were part of the services for a much loved family member who passed recently.

### *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found that peace at the close of the day  
If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life has been full, I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times,  
A loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He set me free!*

## FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TEAM



On behalf of the Capital Campaign Team, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude for the congregation's generous commitment to the 2016 "Together as One" fundraising effort. We received campaign pledges totaling more than \$41,000. Of that, more than \$7,000 was designated to the Capital Improvements Fund while another \$10,000 was pledged to the Mortgage Principal Fund. The remainder, more than \$23,000, was pledged to the area of greatest need. We are also happy to tell you that we now anticipate adding the proceeds of the upcoming sale of the Mattydale parsonage, in the amount of \$67,000, to the Capital Improvements Fund, which will further help secure our church's financial future. Each individual commitment to "Together as One" sincerely made a difference toward our goal!

In June, those who pledged will receive a letter from Financial Secretary Mona Burns, detailing your commitment. With this letter will be special green envelopes we would appreciate your utilizing for your donations to the capital campaign. This will greatly assist our money counters, to keep these funds separate from our regular weekly offering. We will also offer an electronic option to fulfill your pledge, through the "Easy Tithe" system, which will be available at our website, [brewertonumc.com](http://brewertonumc.com). As we have said, this campaign has a two-year fulfillment period, so we hope to have all pledged monies collected from all donors by June 30, 2018.

If you have not yet pledged to the campaign, there's still time to do so. We will gladly accept any new pledges at any time over the coming months. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex or from any member of the Capital Campaign Team. Just drop it in a Sunday offering plate, hand it to a member of the committee, or mail it in.

Through our congregation's generosity, we have truly proven that we are Together as One!

Thank you!

Ron Lombard,

on behalf of the Capital Campaign Committee:

Pastor Jack Keating

Jennifer Anderson

Joe Haller

Deb Lombard

Craig Allen

Mona Burns

Peg Leonard

Ron Lombard

Tammy Allen

Lois Groginski

Marion Lindsley

Randy Ward

## FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The first half of 2016 has been a very busy one for the Administrative Council. I wanted to provide you with this update on our activities to date:

**Mattydale Parsonage.** As many of you are aware, we acted on a recommendation from the Trustees to sell the Mattydale Parsonage. Two separate Charge Conferences unanimously approved that action. The sale is in progress and is expected to net \$67,000, which will be placed in the BUMC Capital Improvements Fund.

**Path of Life Mission Center.** The Conference has reconfirmed our clear ownership of the PoLM building and has told us as the owners we have sole control over the future of that facility. As you know, there are important missions that take place there, including the Easter Morning Clothing Closet, the monthly Mattydale Community Dinners, AA groups, Bible Studies, etc. In addition, PoLM continues to provide worship and office space for two separate United Methodist New Faith Communities: "New World," which is made up of Sudanese refugees; and "Good News and New Hope," which is a larger congregation of Southeast Asian Karenni immigrants. The two NFCs are very interested in keeping their space in the building and continuing to grow their faith communities. We are very interested in maintaining the missions taking place there that we sponsor. We are now involved in meetings aimed at reaching an agreement whereby the NFCs will support the continued operation and operating costs of the facility. We will keep you posted on the progress of those talks.

**Child Care Program.** We are working closely with the Child Care Board and BCCC Director Beth Chiasson as they continue their efforts to build the enrollment, the fiscal security, and the overall success of that important mission of our church. They have been doing a great job in that regard and we appreciate their hard work.

**Pastoral Transition.** The leadership is working closely with Rachel Windover and the SPRC as they plan for our upcoming transition of pastors.

## HAPPY DAYS SENIOR LUNCHEON

Adults 55 and over are invited to the luncheons.  
Sponsored jointly by: the Brewerton United Methodist Church  
and the Divine Mercy Parish

### JUNE

**LUNCHEON:** Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at noon

**WHERE:** Brewerton United Methodist Church  
5395 Orangeport Road  
Brewerton, NY 13029

**MENU:** Chicken Barbecue, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Rolls, and Sundae

**PROGRAM:** John Wolford enjoys entertaining in adult homes and nursing homes. He plays the guitar and harmonica and has written many of the songs he sings.



He writes songs that are about events that have impacted his life and many of our lives, and believes music is therapeutic and healing.

**Suggested donation: \$6.00**  
(for the June - BBQ Luncheon and future luncheons)

### BBQ TICKETS:

If there are any unsold tickets from the May Luncheon, those tickets will be available on Wednesday.

**All of the Chicken BBQ Tickets have been sold.**

**NO MORE CHICKIE!**

*Please, if unable to attend the BBQ Luncheon, consider giving your ticket to a friend.*

**Remember, to bring:**

- Box top education coupons for Heartspring.
- Soda can pull-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

**NEXT LUNCHEON - July 27, 2016**



**The Administrative Council meets** regularly the third Tuesday of every other month, at 7:00pm. The next scheduled meeting is July 19. Any special meetings are announced in the weekly bulletin. All church members are always invited to attend these meetings and to offer your input and advice. We thank you for your support!

Ron Lombard,	Administrative Council Chair
Connie Chantry,	Vice-Chair
Lois Groginski,	Secretary
Tammy Allen,	Treasurer and Lay Leader
Mona Burns,	Financial Secretary
Becca Wallon,	Lay Member to Annual Conference
Deb Lombard,	Food Pantry Coordinator
Beth Chiasson,	Child Care Director
Elaine Bisbee,	Child Care Board Co-Chair
Chelsea Allen,	Child Care Board Co-Chair
Craig Allen,	Trustees Chair
Rachel Windover,	SPRC Chair
Beth Magill,	UMW President
Pastor Jack Keating	

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### **Also From the Food Pantry - - -**

#### **Food Sense June Menu – Important Dates!**

The June Food Sense Menu has been posted on the Pantry Bulletin Board in the hallway. The deadline for order/payment is Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> by NOON, please. Orders will be available for pickup at the pantry on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. The program is open to anyone. Cash or EBT (SNAP) is accepted as payment. See Deb Lombard or call the pantry at 676-5528 for more information or to place an order.



**Mondays**

**10am**

**A Brewerton UMC Fitness 4**

**Missions Class**

**\$5 Donation**

## “June Food For Thought from the Food Pantry”

<b>Monthly Statistics:</b>	<b>April 2016</b>
	<b>(8 Days)</b>
<b>Families/Households Served:</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Total Meals:</b>	<b>3,390</b>
<b># Ind. x 3 meals/day x 5 days</b>	<b>226 x 3 x 5</b>
<b># Children: (Ages 0 -17)</b>	<b>74</b>
<b># Adults: (Ages 18 - 64)</b>	<b>133</b>
<b># Seniors: (Ages 65+)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total Individuals:</b>	<b>226</b>

**New Families/Households Seeking Assistance: 2**

### **Networking Opportunities at the Food Bank Annual Conference**

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from our pantry joined pantry & soup kitchen volunteers from 13 counties around Upstate New York at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Partner Agency & Community Awareness Day. The Food Bank of Central New York hosted the event for the first time at the SRC Arena on the Onondaga Community College (OCC) Campus. The growing popularity of the event over the years made it necessary to move to a larger venue! This year's theme was “Collaboration in Your Community.” Keynote Speaker Richard Ball, Commissioner of New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, gave an inspirational message addressing the value and importance of agriculture in our communities as we work together to confront food insecurity. Commissioner Ball shared his unique perspective as the owner and operator of Schoharie Valley Farms in Schoharie NY where he plants and harvests a wide range of vegetable crops, small fruits and greenhouse crops on his 200 acre farm. He is putting his life experiences on the farm to good use as he “connects the dots” to: “Grow Upstate,” “Seek Food Justice” for all and bring life to “Food Deserts” in his work on the Anti-hunger Task Force & the Upstate/Downstate Summits. His work extends to food safety, product labeling, and climatechange, education, best practices and the marketplace. He is committed to tackling the issues that most directly impact our communities’ ability to provide healthy food options and education to our neighbors in need.

Conference participants were engaged in various workshops throughout the day, with topics ranging from collaborating with colleges and universities, engaging with elected officials, to child hunger in CNY, food safety and new dietary guidelines. It was a great networking opportunity for all in attendance.

## **Looking Ahead to Summer in the Pantry...**

As we begin a new month, we look forward to another busy summer in the food pantry. We typically see an increase in the number of families who will seek food assistance from us due in part to the fact that their children will no longer be receiving free or reduced priced breakfasts and lunches from school; making it even more challenging. Thanks to the continued support of so many, our pantry will be there to assist them. In addition, we look forward to welcoming back our youth pantry staff of Middle and High School students who will be learning important life lessons in kindness & caring while earning valuable community service hours. Our pantry clients will be given an opportunity to grow their own tomatoes through the Food Bank’s annual “Garden in a Bucket” program. As you begin planting your vegetable gardens, we’d love to feature your home grown produce in our pantry “farmer’s market!!”

### **“Stamp Out Hunger” –**

#### **Brewerton Mail Carriers Make a Special Delivery!**

On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Brewerton/Cicero Mail Carriers not only delivered the mail – they also delivered hope to those in need. The Postal Service’s annual “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive was a HUGE success thanks to our generous neighbors. The Brewerton mail carriers made it their mission to see that everything they collected was donated directly to our food pantry. As I arrived at the Cicero Post Office, I saw volunteers from the two Cicero food pantries filling their cars from a large cage containing numerous totes & bags. I filled my truck with the contents of a similar size cage and then a second cage was rolled out! I was overwhelmed to say the least! We received non-perishable food and non-food items from TWO 8-foot cages filled to the brim with dozens of totes & bags. Every square inch of my Tahoe was filled to capacity and our pantry shelves beyond capacity! Eight boxes of overstocked items are stacked on two carts waiting for room on the shelves! What a sight to see! Our pantry is extremely blessed and forever grateful to live in a community that is so strongly committed to helping those in need.

Thank you all for your continued support of our food pantry mission. TOGETHER-- we are ALL making a HUGE difference in the lives of many! We wish you all a wonderful Summer.

Submitted by: Deb Lombard, Pantry Coordinator