

Steering Committee 2018-2019

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Rev. Jason Fulkerson

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Sr. Ann Christi Brink

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Rev. Diana Fletcher
Shirley Readdean

Rev. Phillip N. Grigsby
Executive Director



THANKS FOR JOINING US!

We have had a blast at this years fundraising events!

Thank you for joining us this summer & fall!

Help Out Hang Out - Great Flats Brewing Company joined with SiCM in August to provide a FREE Brewery tour and an opportunity to network. There were beer tastings of their in house, award winning beers, and appetizers. Participants helped support our food programs including our Food Pantry and Summer Meals program for children bringing a health product or canned food item needed at the pantry. We received over \$200 in donations and 100 lbs. of donated food and health products (20% health; 80% food donations). Also, thank you to for the letters written to congress urging them to protect the SNAP (food stamps) program to ensure food security.



The Open Door
Bookstore & Gift Gallery
128 Jay Street • Schenectady, NY 12305 • (518) 346-2719

Thank You to the Open Door Book Store - We've received financial support as well as over 2 boxes full of new books for kids in Schenectady County, which were distributed at the Summer Meals program.

Thank You to all of those who attended, were an honorary committee member or sponsored our annual fall events including the **Golf Classic with Knights of Columbus** at the **Edison Club**, the **Harvest for the Pantry** at **First Reformed Church of Scotia** and the **Concert of Thanksgiving** at **First Reformed Church of Schenectady**. Watch for results details in future correspondence.

Summer Meals Success!

Thank you to our summer lunch staff and volunteers! If you were one of our staff or volunteers this summer then you know just how busy the summer meals program can be.

This summer we contended with heat, downpours, scheduling and location changes. You stuck with us every day. Why? Because hunger doesn't stop if there are flash floods or scorching heat.

Were you a volunteer and want to send us some of the photos you snapped of the summer lunch program this year? You can share them with us by attaching them in an email and send it over to summerlunch@sicm.us! *Continued on page 3.*

How many meals did we serve?

It All Adds Up

9,764 Breakfasts

43,398 Lunches

53,162 Total Meals



Schenectady Community Ministries

1055 Wendell Ave.
Sch'dy, NY 12308
Tel: 518.374.2683
Fax: 518.382.1871
information@sicm.us
www.sicm.us

Schenectady Community Ministries (SiCM) celebrates the partnership of 53 member congregations "relating the resources of the congregations to the needs of the community." The SiCM newsletters, financial and program information are available from SiCM at 1055 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308

SiCM's finances are audited annually by an independent auditing firm. 990 Form available by request.

Phone: 518.374.2683

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Email address: information@sicm.us

Website address is: www.sicm.us

SCHENECTADY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

1055 Wendell Avenue,
Schenectady, NY 12308
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Website: www.sicm.us

The Assembly of SiCM includes one clergy and two lay delegates from member congregations: Alplaus UMC, Altamont Reformed, Bellevue Reformed, Bethel AME, Burnt Hills UMC, Carman UMC, Christ Church Episcopal, Church of St. Adalbert, Duryee Memorial AME Zion, Eastern Parkway UMC, Emmanuel Baptist—Friedens UCC, Faith UMC, First Baptist, First Reformed, Sch'dy, First Reformed, Scotia, First UMC, Friendship Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holy Name of Jesus PNC, Immaculate Conception, Immanuel Lutheran, Lishakill Reformed Church, Lynnwood Reformed, Parsons Memorial-COGIC, Messiah Lutheran, Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist, Niskayuna Reformed, Our Lady of Grace, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Refreshing Spring, Rotterdam UMC, St. Anthony's, St. George's Episcopal, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph's, Sch'dy, St. Joseph's, Scotia, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Scotia UMC, Society of Friends (Quakers), Stanford UMC, State Street Presbyterian, Tabernacle Baptist, Trinity Presbyterian, Trinity Reformed Church, Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady, Zion Lutheran



Ministry Notes

Let Us Give Thanks

In this Season of Thanksgiving, we give thanks for many things in this shared ministry, but let me highlight some:

-The 50th Anniversary Gala. We can't give thanks enough for all who took part, supported it, and made this celebration happen so well! We hear regularly from those who were there (and those who wish they had gone, sorry the next 50th is awhile away...)

-For Time Away and Return. As you may know I was fortunate to be able to take some time away this summer beyond the usual vacation period. It was not a sabbatical; for many years I have not taken the more usual continuing education time that many pastors utilize. It was more of a mini-retreat and time away to reflect. SiCM has and is going through various transitions, as our communities are in transition. I am very thankful for those who made this possible, staff and Steering Members that pitched in. It was a time of reflection and I am glad to be back. As you see from the rest of this newsletter, it was a busy and productive time at SiCM. We continued important ministries and added new dimensions.

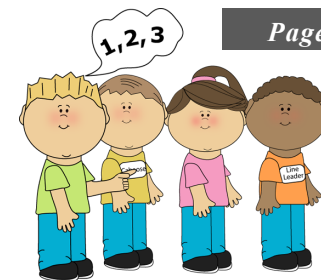
-For Those Who Have Gone Before Us. We truly stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us in this community. I was honored to provide leadership in the service for Ralph F Boyd, Sr who lived to age 99 and passed this fall. He and Catherine have been the pillars of First Baptist Church; he initiated the Schenectady NAACP; without him there would be no Baptist Health Systems, and much more. We found a picture when he took part in the CROP Walk – I believe he was at least 90 and walked it all! The phrase we shared was the Scripture: "He has fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith." So many came forward to share a story about how he had encouraged them. We give thanks that we can stand upon the shoulders of those such as Ralph who have gone before us, and in a very real way, encourage us still.

-For Living Hope. As some know, in my prior life I served as Executive Director of Christian Community Action in New Haven, CT. It is a parallel ministry to SiCM, coming out the same ferment of the 1960's, the same response to Vatican II, and often critical events. In New Haven, it was a fire that left 50 families homeless in the Hill (really!) neighborhood. So CCA does emergency and transitional housing. Here it was the death of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. that was that catalyst for action. CCA celebrated a 50th anniversary as we did here. They chose a project to invite 50 faith leaders to reflect in a short essay on the theme of "hope"; the book is called Living Hope. Since we live in more challenging times, reflecting on hope is critical. I was honored and thankful to be one of the 50 and to return to New Haven in the late spring to share, reflect, and move ahead. If you would like to see more, I am glad to share it with you.

With Thanksgiving,

Rev. Phil Grigsby

The Summer Numbers Are In!



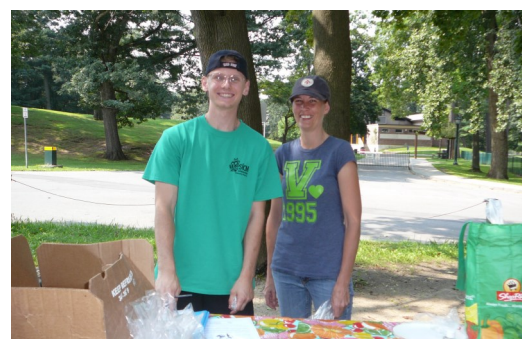
This summer we partnered with many different groups in the area to have lunch sites all over Schenectady County. Organizations like **Quest**, **Safe House**, and our very own **Food Pantry (all new sites)** on Albany Street helped grow our summer meals sites to more locations. This helped kids throughout Schenectady County have access to healthy meals all summer long!

What does that mean for summer meals?

For starters, it means that we had a grand total of 19 fixed meals sites and 11 mobile meals sites. Rain or shine, our crew of 41 summer meals employees were there to serve youths all throughout the county.



Did you know? We could not have served so many of these kids without our **volunteers**. We have over 1,200 summer lunch volunteers, many of which return every year!



Were there summer meals
in your neighborhood?

Zip Codes	# of sites
12309	1
12308	8
12307	5
12306	1
12305	5
12304	5
12303	4
12302	1

A Happy Harvest



On Sunday, October 28th we celebrated our 11th annual Harvest for the Pantry at the First Reformed Church of Scotia. The smell of delicious food filled the room as guests were served the harvest and vegetarian meals. With many fun activities including the Can Can Can-Do Sculpture Competition, there truly was something for everyone.



State Senator James Tedisco with Executive Director Rev. Phil Grigsby

Some very special guests joined us at the First Reformed Church of Scotia. State Senator James Tedisco and United States Congressman Paul Tonko had a few words of support and took many photos at the Harvest for the Pantry as well.

It is important to support food programs because federal assistance is vulnerable at this time. It always is as we see food stamp programs like SNAP continually being cut so hungry people continue to struggle with food insecurity. With your help we can address issues of food insecurity in Schenectady.



Congressman Paul Tonko with James Tedisco and Shirley Readdean



Chef Steve Greeley made an incredible batch of short ribs and baked chicken for the harvest meal. A veggie stack of portabella mushroom, summer squash and zucchini satisfied hungry vegetarians. Both meals were accompanied with an autumn hash made with rutabaga, onion and potato. Thank you Chef Steve! And thanks to the First Reformed Church of Scotia for letting us prepare the harvest meals in their beautiful commercial kitchen.

We had over 20 great baskets of Pick-a-Prizes! We also had silent auction packages and a 50/50 split. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Pick-a-Prize and Silent Auction. There were many great gifts to choose from and it all went to a great cause.



First Reformed Church of Schenectady's Turkey Sculpture

This year we held our first annual Can Can Can-Do Sculpture Competition and it was quite a sight! The First Reformed Church of Schenectady competed against The First Reformed Church of Scotia to create a structure consisting of canned items to be donated to the pantry. It was a tight race, but only one group could win. The winner won the competition by only two votes!

The winner and receiver of the coveted Golden Can Award was The First Reformed Church of Schenectady with their festive Turkey! Thank you to both groups for their participation and creativity!



The Covered Golden Can



First Reformed Church of Scotia's Castle Sculpture




Chinira Lovick serving guests of the Harvest



SiCM Staff

Thank you again to everyone who attended our Harvest for the Pantry fundraiser. Thank you to our sponsors, including The Law Firm of Alex Dell, A Modern Muse Photography, Congressman Paul Tonko and St. Joseph's Place. Thanks to our Honorary Committee members, everyone who donated, volunteered and helped staff this wonderful event. Thanks again to the First Reformed Church of Scotia for hosting our 11th annual Harvest for the Pantry. We hope to see you all next year!



Schenectady Community Ministries

December Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

St. George's Episcopal Church, Schenectady

30 N. Ferry St., Schenectady 12305

(Parking on church lot off of Green Street)

Gather @ 6:00 p.m. for a Potluck Dinner

A-L: Main Dish M-Z: Vegetable/Salad

Gather in the church's Great Hall

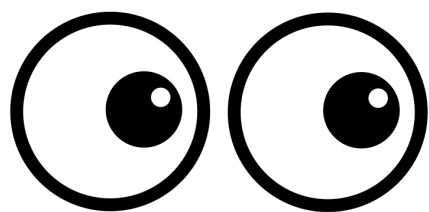
Host Church will provide place settings, desert and beverage

Program includes SiCM Community Service Awards

Guests are welcome!

Questions? Call: 374-2683





What Do You See?

You might have seen a few changes around here. That's because we have a brand new logo and name!

What does it mean to you?

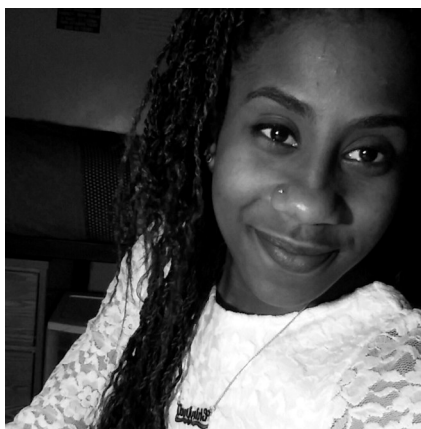
Some have said they have seen a sun and a heart with a fork and spoon. Other have seen a flower and plates with a fork and a spoon. Here is what we shared with you in March:

Rev. Dustin Wright, Vice President stated at the unveiling, "Reflecting our call to bring new life to our community both within and beyond our city limits, while still doing business as SiCM, we'll now be known as **Schenectady Community Ministries**. Our new logo reflects this focus. You'll notice a heart takes the place of the cross ... a person with outstretched arms takes the place of the "I" [in SiCM]... building community means serving, working with and reaching out to neighbors of all walks of life. ... shoots of new leaves and sunshine ... inspired by our community garden ministry. We believe building community means working with our clients to cultivate new skills."

Now what do you see?

New Additions to SiCM Staff

Chinira Lovick is our new Vista worker. She is in the AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program, through Siena College. VISTAs help to eradicate poverty by providing a year of service to a non-profit organization. VISTA



members serve as a catalyst for change, living and working alongside community members to meet our nation's most pressing challenges and advance local solutions. Originally from Baldwin, Long Island, she is currently doing her service year here at SiCM in the development department. She works with Laurie on events, communication, database system assessment, and media. She is excited for the opportunity to be here and make a difference in the community. Thank you, Chinira, for joining SiCM!



Mark J. DeSanctis is our new Business Manager at SiCM. He has a twenty (20) year background in non for profit organizations, most recently with the Schenectady and Albany Jewish Community Centers. He works part time, however, his office is always open. He received a B.S. in Accounting at CUNY at Herbert H. Lehman College, is a graduate of Bronx High School of Science and was Honorably Discharged from the USMC. We are happy to have you here at SiCM, Mark!



This summer we noticed that many of the kids who came to our summer meal sites were accompanied by grandparents. We decided to say a special Thank You to our local grandparents by hosting a free lunch and outdoor festival sponsored by CDPHP for them at the Food Pantry! A lot of fun was had at **Grandparent's Day!** About 100 kids and adults came to stop by the pantry for a healthy meal and a chance to win a lot of prizes!

Each child's eyes lit up with anticipation when a new number was called for the

Pick-A-Prize event. "I won, I won!" exclaimed an excited little boy who had his eyes set on a new bike helmet that was brightly lit up in the hot sun amongst the other prizes. He immediately put the helmet on and wore it for the rest of the event.



The **Open Door Book Store** and **Friends of the Library** donated two full boxes of brand new books so that every child who

came for a free summer lunch also got a brand new book to bring home! Cornell Cooperative Extension was also there to exercise with kids and teach them about nutrition. Thanks to The Open Door, CDPHP and Cornell Cooperative Extension to help make this great event such a success.



We said **Thank You** to all the volunteers and staff that make the summer meals program run so smoothly at our **Volunteer & Staff Thank You Brunch**. Last August over 100 staff and volunteers dropped by for a delicious breakfast at St. Stephens at The Plaza in Schenectady.

Summer Meals Program Director & Volunteer Coordinator, Jo-Anne Voris Rafalik, thanked each of the volunteers and staff for doing such a great job. We also heard from Fr. James McDonald, Rev. Peter JB Carman, Randy McGough,

followed by Shelly Ford and Don Wheeler who spoke of the impact of the SiCM Food Pantry and future volunteer opportunities there.



In May we hosted our annual Schenectady **CROP Walk (community witness to end hunger)** at Emmanuel Friedens Church.



In memory of past CROP walker Ralph Boyd, Sr with Catherine Boyd

This year's walk celebrated the 38th Anniversary of CROP Walks in our community. Sponsored by SiCM & Church World Service, the walk is a celebration for families and neighbors to walk together to fight hunger in our wider world and locally. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. 25% of funds go to local food pantries, Community Crisis Network, and Catholic Charities Senior Meals.

Join us next year as we host the CROP Walk on May 5, 2019! Details to follow.

Schenectady Community Ministries

1055 Wendell Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12308-2807

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SAVE THE DATES:

December 4, 2018 Assembly Holiday Dinner

March 3, 2019 Empty Bowls

See website for details: www.sicm.us

Like + follow us: [@sicm2](https://www.facebook.com/sicm2) [@SICM_NY](https://twitter.com/SICM_NY) [@sicm_ny](https://www.instagram.com/sicm_ny)



The Last Word

by Rev. Peter Carman, President

As we embark upon the fall 2018 season, your new president is getting baptized by repeated immersion in the many activities of Schenectady Community Ministries. Our new name, prominently featuring the word Community, is well-chosen! In addition to programmatic emphases in the Schenectady community, we function as a community for congregations and parishes

which, despite varied histories and theologies, all share an abiding passion for the health and well-being of our community.

SICM is about both service and advocacy. At our most recent monthly assembly we heard up-to-date reports on this summer's Summer Meals program and Pantry activity. We were able to engage in very productive conversation with CDTA representatives about the changing needs of residents for public transportation, as well as hear from the League of Women voters about the latest efforts to encourage voter turnout, especially among city residents. Another assembly earlier this year helped us reflect on concerns for immigrants. These are examples of the very specific and real engagement we all need to be having, as people of faith, with our wider community.

I encourage you to show up and invite others to these regular monthly assemblies, or one of the many excellent fund-raising events coming up! If you aren't sure when or where, don't be shy, SICM staff welcome your questions! And if you are thinking about volunteering but aren't sure where or how—take the first step. Pick up the phone or hit send on an email.

In the end SICM is not simply a social service institution, it is an alliance and living movement. SICM is an agent of healing and change, as much through the initiative and engagement of individuals and parishes—you and me—as it is through any program or committee.

The Expansion of SiCM Food Program Hours



This Fall - New Day

Now Open Third Saturday of Each Month: 9AM-Noon

Volunteer Opportunities Available

For More Information:

Shelly Ford, Director of Food Program

Sford@sicm.us

Phone 518.346.4445

Services at the Food Pantry Include:

- Bags of nutritious groceries available to residents in Schenectady County.
- Open year-round Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays.
- Call for eligibility requirements.
- Van rides home are available to guests upon request.
- Mass distribution of groceries is the last Thursday of each month.

Come visit us!

839 Albany Street, Schenectady, NY 12307