

## DEDICATION

The Memorial Garden was dedicated on August 25, 2013 with the following words:

- ❖ *We declare in the name of God the Creator, Jesus Christ the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit the Sustainer, that this Memorial Garden is set aside for a Holy purpose. May all who enter here find God's peace and rest.*
- ❖ *We dedicate this garden for the comfort of all who mourn, that they may find comfort in God's promises at the time of a death.*
- ❖ *We dedicate this garden as a place of refuge and peace, that those who seek solace and comfort may find them in the running water and the beautiful flora.*
- ❖ *We dedicate this garden in recognition of God's work in Creation, that all believers, and seekers might be united in awe of God's artistic flair.*
- ❖ *We dedicate this garden in recognition of Christ's place in our community; past, present and future, that through faith in action all might be inspired to having goodwill and unconditional love for humanity.*
- ❖ *We dedicate this garden in gratitude for the labors of all who dreamed and worked for this sacred and hallow place on our church grounds, for Katrina, Ingrid, Bernie, Linda, Charity, Jim, Erik, Ruth, Paul, Heather, Sarah, Andy....*
- ❖ *We dedicate this garden in the hope that its beauty will comfort us and be a witness to the heritage and faith that is ours. May this garden say, "Come," to all who seek sanctuary.*
- ❖ *May it be a place where the gift of laughter will rise above troubles, where treasured stories will be shared to make us wiser, where the pain of loss will be embraced with arms of hope and trust.*
- ❖ *May it support each of us, as God's creatures, to comfort and to help others, as those who have gone before us, have comforted and helped us. Amen.*

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*  
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THE MEMORIAL GARDEN  
KEENE VALLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
POB 27  
KEENE VALLEY, NY 12943

# The Memorial Garden

Keene Valley Congregational Church  
1791 NYS Route 73  
Keene Valley, New York



The Memorial Garden is located directly behind the church in the alcove between the Sanctuary and the Nursery. This garden is an area of beauty and tranquility; a sacred place of peace and serenity. It was created as a dignified and mindful place to memorialize the members and the friends of Keene Valley Congregational Church, and as a quiet place for individuals to go for meditation and prayer.

## History

During the early 1900's a flower garden was established behind the church and there was no path from what is now the church parking lot over to the ADK Nature Conservancy.

In the late 1920's The Rev. Walter Lowrie, great uncle of Andrew Derr, gave the church the Italian Dolomite wayside shrine.

In 2012-2013, as the result of growing interest, a task force was gathered and The Memorial Garden was created.

Bernard Webb drew up plans for the garden; Heather Coffin of East Branch Organics oversaw the plantings and path work; Erik Jacobson of SpringHouse Design/Build hung the lattice work and rebuilt the stone walls, Linda Coe found and arranged for the installation of the fountain, Paul Martin provided the electrical work, and Charity and Jim Marlatt, along with other members of the Washbond family, donated the bench. Andrew Derr oversaw the refurbishment of the shrine facing the garden. Ingrid Carman, Ruth Kuhfahl, Sarah Prince and others have overseen the trimming, weeding and general care of this space.



## Memorial and Honoring Stones



One hundred fifty granite stones from a local quarry will be placed in the garden and arranged in a pattern to be chosen by the Task Force. These stones may be purchased and engraved with the name and date of a person you would like to remember or honor. We encourage donations in the range of \$100 - \$250 . All funds will go to the perpetual care of the garden.



## Committal

The Memorial Garden is designed to receive a small portion of the sifted ashes of a loved one. It is our policy that ashes will be laid to rest with dignity and respect in the presence of one of our clergy. The entire garden is designed as a memorial and is not suitable for individual mementoes and markers. This is in keeping with the motto of the United Church of Christ, "That they may all be one". Names of persons whose ashes are placed in the garden will be recorded in the Memorial Book in the Van Santvoord Room.

## Eligibility

Interment in the Memorial Garden is available to members of KVCC and their loved ones and families. The eligibility of others will be determined at the discretion of the Minister or Church Council. Any interment of ashes must be scheduled through the church office whether done with a minister or privately by family or friends



## Stewardship and Maintenance

The Congregation is committed to perpetual care and maintenance of the Memorial Garden. Memorial gifts may be made in the name of a loved one to support this commitment and will be recorded in the Memorial Garden Book in the Van Santvoord Room.



## The Memorial Garden Task Force

The Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner, Chair

Ingrid Carman

Linda Coe

Charity Marlatt

Jim Marlatt

Bernard Webb

Milton Dudley (ex-officio)