

THE CHIMES

January 7, 2015

**Next Chimes
deadline:
January 28**

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Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is Feb. 18 this year.

Articles for *The Chimes* must be submitted by noon on the deadline day and can be sent to: uumctb@twcny.rr.com or put in Box No. 12 in the church office.

Rev. Craig French, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor

New Year brings more chances to learn, sing, worship and celebrate

With the new year, new opportunities are here.

This past Sunday saw the congregation, in a service of commitment, write down and offer up commitments for the coming year. They will be printed in future Chimes.

As part of our observance of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, on Sunday, Jan. 18, we will combine worship with Fellowship AME, which meets in Fellowship Hall each Sunday.

That afternoon is the 30th annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Syracuse University at the Carrier Dome. Doors open at 4 p.m., and dinner is served at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Contact the church office if you

are interested in attending. The keynote speaker is Michele Norris, National Public Radio special correspondent and creator of the Race Card Project.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, a Service of Christian Unity will be held at 3 p.m. at Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church, 2112 S. Geddes St. It will include Communion, special music and readings from members and clergy of our Syracuse city congregations. In event of bad weather, it will be held Feb. 8.

Elisa Sciscioli and Honey Child Soul Quintet were scheduled to return in January but will be back at a later date to be worked out.

Darlene Clarke: Friday Community coordinator

Darlene Clarke is our new Friday Community coordinator, succeeding Deb Virgo.

Darlene is a native of the nation of Jamaica, where she lived until coming to Syracuse at age 14.

She graduated from Nottingham High School, where she was in singing groups and was a self-described "theater geek," involved in plays and musicals.

After high school, she attended Syracuse University and graduated



Darlene Clarke

last year with a degree in social work. She had thoughts of being a math teacher and a psychologist but settled on social work through her work with Say Yes to Education and Literacy Corps helping children improve reading skills and an internship with the Syracuse Housing Authority.

Darlene has worked in the Skills 4 Success program of Catholic Charities and currently works part time on the night shift for Community Options providing direct care.

Darlene has one brother and four sisters and has extended family
See **MOVIES**, Page 2

Let it go: Nourish the soul with fresh, not stale ‘food’



Rev. French

I love Christmas cookies. All kinds of Christmas cookies. Homemade ones. Ones from friends and cookie exchanges. Ones that

come from bakeries and church cookie sales.

But by this point in the season, I’ve had enough. They’re not all gone yet, but I’m ready — more than ready — to be done with them. I’ve grown tired of them — all of them — even my favorites. Not to mention they’re getting stale. Even good things ... even the best things ... don’t last forever.

As I moved around from church to church this fall, one of the questions I’ve been asking myself is if what we’ve been doing as churches ... the good things we’ve been doing in worship, Christian education, fellowship, caring for ourselves, caring for our “neighbors” and the community as a whole ... have grown stale.

Not wrong. Not bad. Just stale. Lacking freshness and vitality, not to mention the sense of excitement and curiosity, plus passion and energy, that comes with something new.

Doing something just because it’s new and different isn’t the answer, of course. But I know that plate of outdated and stale

cookies is trying to tell me something.

Santa brought one too many gifts to our house this year — a portable karaoke machine, featuring the music from “Frozen.”

As if I hadn’t already heard enough of “Let It Go” from my granddaughters, now I get to listen to them belt it out with microphone and amplifier. (“Priceless” is not the adjective I’d choose.)

Still, “Let It Go” may be a powerful anthem for us right now, as a call — to all of the churches — to identify and let go of any and all activities and ministries that have passed their prime, grown stale and lost their appeal.

As well-deserved as much of the fuss and bother around the new citywide venture may be for all its vagueness and deficiencies, I wonder if the right word for it isn’t “failure” but “fallow.”

An in-between time. A time of transition from what was to what will be. A time of resting and waiting for the unknown that is to come and that has not yet taken shape.

To the naked eye, fallow seasons are lifeless and useless, because almost all the work is invisible, below the surface, where it can’t be seen or measured or quantified.

A favorite hymn describes it this way: *“In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits*

to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”

What’s so in the world of nature and what may be true, with God’s help, in the life of our congregations, is also true for each one of us personally.

We need “fallow” times in our lives, times when we deliberately slow down and give ourselves over to the unseen work — the holy work — of restoring and replenishing the underlying infrastructure of life: the soul.

Without that care, we will become less and less fruitful, less and less productive, less and less creative — no matter how hard we work.

With that in mind, Barbara Fought has invited us to consider many different ways to feed our souls and what the church can do to encourage us in those efforts.

Truthfully, that’s important at every stage of life, but it’s especially urgent in this fallow or transitional time.

If we intend to continue our mission of “feeding God’s people — body, mind and soul,” we can only do so by making sure our own souls are fed and nurtured first, with fresh — not stale — food.

And that begins by acknowledging that we really don’t have all the answers ... that we’re hungry too.

— Craig

Movies, drawing and painting are interests; people give her energy

CONTINUED from Page 1 in the Syracuse area.

She loves to watch movies,

especially comedies, romance, action and science fiction. She also loves to draw and paint.

Working with people “gives me energy, gives me joy,” she said.

First impressions: UUMC is a family that serves others



Darlene Clarke

It is with great joy that I express my sincere gratitude to the University United Methodist Church Food Pantry.

I am grateful for the opportunity to learn, grow and meet a diverse pool of people.

I have experienced a great deal about the family here at University United Methodist Church. It is a family here!

My first impression and thoughts of the food pantry were filled with nothing but these words: organized, structured, warmth, friendly, respectable, safe, welcoming and support.

I have felt nothing but support from my superiors and also my volunteers.

This pantry represents so much and has offered the community not only their hands but their caring hearts. The staff and volunteers here see to it that not

one person leaves empty handed.

Again, "we take care of each other" is the message they have portrayed to me.

I thought to myself, "This is exactly where I want to be and where I would like to grow."

Through this experience and welcoming interaction, I can claim University United Methodist Food Pantry as my own.

The pantry days that I have been here have been an amazing experience thus far. These experiences have challenged and pushed me in many ways.

I have learned and improved what it means to be patient when the day is going fast.

I had to apply trust and faith in the volunteers I work with to deliver on their tasks.

This allows me to stretch my leadership and attention to other tasks. In addition, doing this gave me the skill of multitasking in ways that are new to me.

I enjoy the times that I spend on the floor with my pantry

volunteers and meeting different guests from the community.

It is always a joy to serve and give back. It is always encouraging to see Scriptures come to life in an establishment such as the UUMC Food Pantry, where those in need are helped and supported.

I am also impressed and encouraged by the Community/Church Breakfast that University United Methodist Church holds every second and fourth Sunday of the month.

I was privileged to serve this past fourth Sunday. I was extremely happy to see so many faces from the community come out for such a beautiful gathering.

I am grateful for this need being met in this community. I am particularly excited for the next church breakfast and to help out.

— Darlene Clarke
Friday Community Coordinator

Somali family receives UUMC holiday gifts

University Church provided holiday gifts for the Shenyals Rufai Family, whose members have recently arrived in Syracuse from Somalia.

This is a project from the Center for New Americans for families without sponsors.

Gifts for Halima, 6, Khadija, 3, and their parents were provided by funds from Diane Tarbell, Ann Milner and other UUMC members.

The family was delighted

with our visit and that UUMC shared the spirit of Christmas with them.

City churches' carolers bring cheer to Loretto

On Dec. 14, 18 wonderful, jolly singers from the Syracuse UM Churches went Christmas caroling at Loretto Cunningham Nursing Home.

Sleigh bells, talking birds (at nursing home), smiles and singing were all present.

The residents enjoyed our time with them, and some sang along with us. What a wonderful

ministry to all.

Thank you to those who participated!

Youth group thanks SWUM store donors

A big thank you from the United Methodist Churches Youth Group to all those at Bellevue Heights UMC and St. Paul's UMC who made monetary donations for the SWUM Christmas Store at Brown Memorial UMC.

The youth were excited to be able to go shopping at the mall with the generous donations of approximately \$300.

People/Prayer Connection

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer**
Sundays, Dec. 28 and Jan. 4
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, Guide me to join others to feast for humanity today!
- **Gary:** Pray for the world!
- **Jeanne F-S:** Prayers for comfort for Dad, who has pancreatic cancer, and Mom as she cares for him and finds caring helpers. May they continue to communicate compassionately with each other.
- **John & Carrie:** That our daughter **Stephanie** can come to grow from her mourning.
- **Linda:** To trust Almighty God with where he is leading me.
- **Peter:** For our cousin **Rebecca Moore-Leibowitz**, who just delivered her third child and has health needs of her own. For peace, health & safety in the life of every child and for a change in government policies away from war.
- **Rebekah:** My grandfather, who has lymphoma and is going through chemotherapy.
- **Robert:** Acceptance of changes and compassion.
- **Robert S.:** Better understanding of my world and my neighbors in it.
- **Russ:** Please give blessings and prayers for my niece **Amy**, who is going through medical issues. Pray for my sister **Penny**, my sister **Tina**, my brother **Clifford**, my daughters **Jamie** and **Emily**
- **Charles'** healing and recovery from heart surgery
- Special prayers for **Nancy Hough** as she recovers from a

bad fall;

- I pray for God to join me and my children and help me on my way
 - For my children as they make their way in adulthood
 - Thank you, God, for time on earth with family and friends
 - I'm so happy God brought me here to show me the light
 - The disabled
 - Those living with depression
 - People who have had to live beyond their homes
 - All those who are lonely, and feeling lost, that they will find caring support and sense of hope
 - The family of **Mario Cuomo** – with gratitude for his life, faith, service, ideals & oratory
 - World peace!
- ### Sunday, Dec. 21
- **Choir:** A joy that **Katie** is with us to play "On This Day" on the bells!
 - **Chuck:** Pray for peace in the world
 - **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I thank you for the answers about my instant anger to solve my own problems.
 - **Linda:** Pray that my boyfriend, **Terry**, will arrive by Christmas.
 - **Peter:** The hope and compassion behind the health commissioner's decision to ban hydro fracking in New York. Hallelujah!
 - **Jordan**, who was sworn into the Air Force Thursday.
 - Praise God for the wonderful music in our congregation! **Martha, Dennis, Danny**, the choir, the bells and orchestra ... We are so blessed!

- Thank you, God, for loving us all: Help us to do the same as best we can.
- For the gift of life and health
Sunday, Dec. 14
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I plead to you to navigate my anger to create my better solutions.
- **Grady:** We pray for a world with no guns.
- **Jeanne F-S:** My dad, who is in the hospital
- **Linda:** Pray for my friend **Terry** to be released from jail today.
- **Peter:** The joy we can share with all people, especially kids. And for the generosity that helps us to forgive and be forgiven for our mistakes.
- **Robert:** May God show me the path to a better life. Let me accept the change.
- **Russ:** My daughter **Jamie** as she recovers from gall bladder surgery. And for my sister **Penny**. For all the people in California who lost their homes due to mudslides. Please pray for our military who cannot be with their loved ones during Christmas.
- Prayers for good health for **Jerry Cargo, Larry Myers, Dean and Nelson**.
- Prayers for Legal Advocacy for the disabled
- Dear Lord, please welcome **Shannon Watson** to heaven. Bring peace and comfort to my brother and nephews as they try to cope.
- I have been sober for 16 years! Thanks to God and this church.
- Dear God, hold us each in the
See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

Altar Guild offers thanks to holiday helpers

Members of the Altar Guild want to thank volunteers who decorated the church for Christmas services, arranged poinsettias in the sanctuary, delivered poinsettias or baked goods to homebound members and others associated with the congregation, and/or removed decorations after the holiday celebrations.

These include: Steve Bacon and Bette Helwig, Tom and Carol Boll, Brad and Judith Bowers, Jerry and Barbara Cargo, Starke Donnally, Jeff Foley, Rebekah Grella, Ernie and Bobbie Hemphill, Jayne Humbert, Don and Margo Kotten, Jo-Ann May, Marg McDivitt, Dean Moyer, Barbara Nunn, Ed and Lee Potter, Nelson Price, Matt Rokahr, Robert Simmons and Deb Virgo.

Those receiving either the

poinsettia or the baked goods were: Sue Bambacht, Thomas Christoff, the family of Shenyalo Rufai (Somalian refugees), Katie Flynn, Bernie Hinds, Nancy Hough, Ruth Houser, Mary Klepper, Dorothy Logan, Frances Long, the Rev. and Mrs. Donald Megnin, Larry Myers, Carol Moyer, Arlene Musilli, Edie Nunn, Martha and William Potter, Don Steenberg, Diane Tarbell, Genn Thuma, Anneke Vasquez, Jim and Betsy Wiggins, Ben Wiles Jr., Mary Wilson and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

This year, Vito and Janet Sciscioli, along with Mike Fay and Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay, received flowers as a thank you for their contributions to University Church.

February birthdays

2 – Bette Helwig
4 – Henry Steinwert-Arrowood
6 – Gwen Sacia
7 – Mellamby Duru
8 – Tom Boll
9 – Starke Donnally
12 – Abraham Lincoln
16 – Robert Morris Jr.
19 – Jan Garman
20 – Aidan Brackett
21 – Taylor Bacon
22 – George Washington
23 – Roseanne Samuel
25 – Elise Curry-Schemichen
29 – Michael Messina-Yauchzy

If birthdays are missing or incorrect, please notify Tom Boll at uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

White poinsettias

The white poinsettias are given by the Altar Guild in memory and honor of UUMC loved ones.

People/Prayer Connection

CONTINUED from Page 4
hollow of your hand.

- We remember today as a country to proclaim black lives matter and protest injustice of police violence.
- Please remember the families in Newtown. Encourage us to prioritize peace over profit.
- Saddened to learn that a local religious leader has been accused of abusing children.

Sunday, Dec. 7

- **Joyce:** For Linda, who had a serious fall, but who we are happy to see is back with us today,
- **Russ:** Prayers for Pearl Harbor veterans and those that lost their lives. Prayers for my sister **Penny** and my daughter **Jamie**.

- Pray that we meet new people and encourage them to worship regularly in our church.
- I'm graduating college! Prayers for the next chapter in life – also means this is my last day in choir at UUMC.
- University students taking exams that they will have peace and calm minds during the stress of exams.
- All who are "older." We need all the help we can get.
- **Jamie Masterpole**, recovering from bone marrow transplant and a broken ankle.
- For **Sherry**.
- Employment for me. Pray to overcome despair and depression.

THANKS:

- **Stephanie, Jani, Oliver and**

- **Baby Vera** want to say a BIG thank you to everyone who provided us with delicious meals after the birth of Vera. We appreciate your help and thoughtfulness so much!
- **Carol Boll:** Thanks so much for the lovely flowers and gorgeous Christmas poinsettia given to my parents, Howard and Frances Long, in recent weeks. While the move from Pennsylvania and my mother's subsequent health issues have been stressful, they – and I – deeply appreciate knowing that our wonderful church family welcomes them and holds them in prayer. I am so grateful for all your support and care.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges: \$230,877
Paid to date: \$219,575
Non-pledge contr.: \$23,280

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$74,519
Expenses paid \$71,427
Current balance \$3,092

Stewardship Campaign Update

Although not all pledges have been turned in, it appears that the UUMC 2014 Stewardship Campaign was successful and will provide sufficient funds for the 2015 budget.

It is hoped that all pledges will be turned in by Jan. 15 and that final computations and the budget can be completed very soon.

Much appreciation goes to the many UUMC members and friends who continued or raised pledges and to the four new individuals or families who pledged for the first time this year.

If you wish to pledge for 2015 and have not done so, cards can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please send the information to or call staff member Rachel Kgama or Beth Drew at 492-9123.

Thank you to Nelson Price, Lynn Steenberg, Craig French and Rachel Kgama, who all contributed to the success of the campaign.

—Beth Drew

Guild Meeting

The next Guild meeting is 1:30 p.m. Jan. 28 at Barbara Car-go's. Bobbie Hemphill is co-hostess. The program is "Travels with Ed and Lee Potter" on their recent trip to Morocco.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF JANUARY 11

Sunday the 11th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French, preacher
11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs
Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:15 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
Monday the 12th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 14th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 15th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 16th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JANUARY 18

Sunday the 18th
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship, Craig French preacher
11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs
Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:15 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 21st
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 22nd
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 23rd

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JANUARY 25

Sunday the 25th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Caroline Simmons, preacher
Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:15 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
Monday the 26th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 28th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 29th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 30th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 1

Sunday the 1st

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French, preacher, Communion
11:15 a.m., Sunday School, adults with special needs
Noon Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:15 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 4th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 5th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 6th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2014 (17 photos)



































Confirmation

Dec. 14, 2014 (1 photo)



Allison, Ben, Diamond, Jonathan and Jereline become adult member of the church.

Neighborhood Christmas Dinner

Dec. 22, 2014 (11 photos)



Reception in The Gathering Room before the dinner.





















Community/Church Breakfast

Dec. 28, 2014 (4 photos)









Jan. 4, 2015 Service
(4 photos)









White poinsettias provided by the Altar Guild..