

THE CHIMES

Oct. 11, 2017

**Next Chimes
deadline:
November 1**

Inside this issue:

From Our Pastor: Called to action and love by God	2
Birthdays	2
Outreach: Echoes of early Christianity	3
Thanksgiving Bag Project gets going	3
People/Prayers	4-5
Altar Flowers	5
Finance Corner/ Flood Buckets	6
4-Week Schedule	6

**Church Fair after
worship Oct. 15:
Learn ways to get
involved at UUMC.**

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.

Alicia Wood, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor

Pledge revenue soars past 2016 total; tenant loss will severely test us in '18

The Trustees/Finance Committee will begin work shortly on the budget for 2018.

First, some good news. Pledge revenue is almost at the total amount received in 2016 with one quarter to go.

With the loss of rental income from the Conference and Bishop's office relocation, it will help mitigate the need to rely on prior year surpluses and invested operating reserve income to meet our 2017 needs.

However, with the loss of revenue from rental of the second and

third floors, we will need the congregation to step up again.

Projections we have made for 2018 will stretch us to the limit.

There are many positive things happening at UUMC, and your continued support can make us meet our obligations in the coming year.

The stewardship drive has begun, and a new goal has been set. Let us all do all we can to make it a reality.

—Vito Scicioli, chair,
Board of Trustees

See story, Page 5, on stewardship giving, pledge goals for 2018.

New music director teaches in ESM district

Aimee deBerjeois (de-BUR-jess) is our new music director, succeeding Martha Sutter. Aimee's first Sunday was Oct. 1.

Growing up she went to Allen Road Elementary in the North Syracuse School District before moving to Liverpool for middle and high school.

After graduating from Liverpool High School, she went to Ithaca College for her undergraduate work where she was a piano and voice major and earned her degree in music education. She received her master's from Le Moyne College.

Aimee's taught music at Pine Grove Middle School in the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District for 18 years. She is the adviser to



Aimee deBerjeois

the Drama Club and directs two shows each school year, one in the fall and one in the spring, and is responsible for everything – vocal coaching, directing, blocking of scenes, production – except the choreography and sound system.

Her music career began in high school when she was the accompanist to the choir at St. Margaret's Church in Mattydale. She and a girlfriend eventually became responsible for selecting and planning the music for the weekend Masses and acting as cantors.

She's been married to her husband, Michael, for 14 years, and they have two children, son, Evan, 12, and daughter Emma, 10. Mi-

See **THIS**, Page 2

God created us for action and love in these trying times



Alicia Wood

Greetings!

I come to you wondering what is going on in our country. Another week and another mass shooting.

I'm not sure how to wrap my brain around the loss of life and the fear that come in the days and months after such an unexpected act of hate.

I just can't accept that this is our "new normal." I cannot accept this is the best we can do.

As Christians, what would Jesus want us to do? Jesus is our Prince of Peace. How can we be peace-filled? How can we be an example of peace?

Jesus is our master teacher. He continues to try to teach us to love our neighbor. How are we loving others as ourselves?

We were not designed for fear but for love. God created us to be loved and to love one another. As our country spirals in chaos let us remain with our eyes laser focused on Jesus and Jesus' teachings.

This may play out for us through prayer. It may include making calls to our government representatives on local, state and federal levels.

This may play out for us in writing resolutions to present at our next Annual Conference so that our church may take a stand on gun violence.

This may play out for us by speaking only with love when we interact with others.

However this plays out, stay focused on peace and love.

Sometimes it's hard to remain hopeful. Yet, hope may be all we have, to stay focused on

the good in the world, the good in humanity.

"And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14 NIV)

We were made for a time such as this. We have voices in our democracy and in our church. We were made to share love. To stand firm for justice. To strive for peace not only in our city, church or country but in our world.

As I lament, I stay in the hope that through God's love for us, humanity will not let hate have the last word. We were made for a time such as this. Let us not forget what, when and why we were created ... for love in action.

Love and Peace to you,
— *Pastor Alicia*

This has been a spiritual experience at 'exactly the correct time' for her

CONTINUED from Page 1

chael is a math teacher at Pine Grove. They live in the ESM district in the Britton Knolls neighborhood of East Syracuse and attend Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cicero.

Aimee's the oldest of four in her family, with two sisters and a brother. Her parents, Marilyn and Harry Davis, just moved right next door to her.

When she has time to herself, she takes a walk, plays the piano or reads romance novels. Nicholas Sparks is a favorite author. She had been taking a kickboxing class but has had to put that on hold for now.

Aimee's had a couple of weeks at UUMC and

first impressions have been positive.

"I'm already enjoying the choir," she said. "We have some laughs, but they come to work. So it's productive. ... They're a great group. They're a very talented group, and they're a nice, kind group of people."

And the timing is just right.

"This has already been a spiritual experience for me that I feel came at exactly the correct time for me," she said. "I look forward to growing here at UUMC. ... This church is a special place. I felt it the first Sunday I visited in August. I look forward to worship and praise with the choir and congregation."

November birthdays

- 5 — Lynn Steenberg, Ed Tillapaugh
- 6 — Monica Shworles
- 7 — Phyllis Wright
- 10 — Michael Grome

- 14 — Daniel Kirkley
- 15 — Jim Virgo
- 16 — Jenny Hicks, Brian Finlayson-Schueler
- 19 — Robin Best, Connie Wilson

- 24 — Krystina Nilsson
- 25 — Roger MacDonald
- 30 — Kate Lytle, Greg Allen, Mary Klepper

Current issues, situations echo early Western Christianity



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

My older daughter, Aydan, is participating in a medieval history class at Syracuse University.

She shared one of her readings with me, her words at the top of the page: “I think you’ll like this — it reminds me of the work you do.”

The article is titled “Memory of the Dead in Early Christianity.” The text is *Ransom of the Soul. After-life and Wealth in Early Western Christianity* (2015) by Peter Brown.

The book, which occurs around the fall of Rome, explores the shift in thinking about the fate of a soul. The author describes how this change in thought transformed the Church’s relationship with its community, its money and set the stage for Christian domination of medieval society in Europe.

Early Christian ideals held that the living and the dead were equally sinful. They needed each other in order to achieve redemption and reach heaven. Superior demonstrations of devotion by the living would decide one’s destiny of heaven or hell upon death or even save one’s deceased ancestor.

In these early years of Christianity this often looked like giving alms, food or lodging shared with the poor, sick or weak. Attention to home, farm, craft, the earth and

community consumed a life.

In the Third Century, money began to play a role in these practices. Wealthy Christians took more elaborate steps to protect their souls and the souls of their loved ones in the afterlife. The securing of privileged burial sites and lavish financial donations to churches governed the worth of their faith. During this time attention turned away from neighbors.

By the Seventh Century, Europe was studded with richly endowed churches, temples, monasteries and funerary chapels displaying glass, marble, gold, gems and tapestries. These displays demonstrated the belief that extravagant religious sites equal extravagant devotion.

This display of opulence was thought to guarantee one’s personal redemption after death.

The article goes on to discuss the endless debates about money’s proper use within the Christian church. Debates that resonated through centuries kept alive the question of how heaven and earth could be joined by great displays and great finances. However, what happens to the poor, the sick, the not working? What was their fate?

The lower class Europeans were some of the last to convert to Christianity. Holding tightly to their Pagan beliefs, they saw this earthly religion provide a sensible, tangible and accessible way to worship.

People had faith in gods and

spirits who brought the seasons, the harvest, sickness and health, love or war. As a whole, people held a predictable place within a Pagan community.

Worth and destiny were not decided by your burial site, how much fear or money you gave the priest or how much attention you gave the Bible, the words or songs within.

As someone who loves history, who quests and converses about history often, it seems that the root of this article paints moments that haven’t changed so much. There are people who have or have not. There are still the poor, sick and weak who need attention. We have communities that are loosely defined or transient.

Accommodating all within UUMC is always at the front of our minds. In 2017 we grapple with issues of safety, necessary support and hospitality.

Questions such as what needs to be in place for us all to feel safe, welcome, at peace? How do we rejoice together so all feel celebrated? How do we meet the needs of our congregation, our neighbors and our building that will link us together in a working, thriving community?

As history shows us, we will evolve. We will continue to reflect on, support and respect all who visit UUMC.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Time to gear up for Thanksgiving Bag Project: Bring in food, supplies and money

With the holiday just six weeks away, it’s not too early to start thinking about our Thanksgiving Bag Project. We encourage everyone to begin bringing in non-perishable foods, supplies and money for this effort.

These items are particularly

needed: canned vegetables (no salt added), canned yams, canned gravy, cake mixes, reusable bags, canned fruit, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned frosting and paper and plastic bags.

For monetary donations, write “Thanksgiving Bags” on the enve-

lope if cash and on the memo line if a check, and place in the offering plate. You’ll hear more information on other ways to help in the weeks ahead. Contact Joyce Flynn, Thanksgiving Bags coordinator, at 315-673-2761, if you have questions.

People and Prayers

CONTINUING PRAYERS

- **Erika: Barb and Bob Weaver, Maria Storto and family;** for our church
- **Bob & Barb: Alayah Green and family, Carus Olcott Jr., Mary and Carus Olcott Sr.**
- **Sue Bates: My family and my health**
- **Jackie Sadowski: Fern Townley** fighting cancer.
- **Sharon Smith:** Please pray for my friend **Linda** and her family.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service: **Matt Fischer**

Sunday, September 24

- **Stephanie Hitzler:** For all those who have been affected by the recent natural disasters. Prayers for a vision of large-scale transition to renewable energy. I pray for hope for a brighter future for all of our children.
- **Cynthia Steinem:** Dear God, Help us to move each other hearts to volunteer- especially for the church breakfast so we can finish in time for church.
- **Olesea Cojohari:** Praying for my family.
- **Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Patti Walker, Annette Reed,** The family of **Gloria Goodison, Billy and Rosie** safe travels, and **Barbie.**
- **Rebecca Frass:** For positive test results of stage 4 cancer and to all living with the disease.
- **Sandy Weah:** For people in Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico, who got hit with the hurricanes.

- **Jeanne:** My niece who is pregnant and is having major medical issues.
- **Mike Rodda:** Former members of the James Street United Methodist Church
- **Rosemary DeHoog:** For my cousin **Sandy Johnson Wolffis** and family who died yesterday in Michigan.
- **Mamie:** Praise the Lord and place the sunshine smile on the face of broken hearts today.
- **Kathy:** Prayers for overcoming the pain that has settled in my heart. Continued prayers for **Jamie**
- **Ellen Bacon:** For the family of **Nancy Ilse Burger**, who died Sept. 15.
- As I start a new job this week
- Please, God, help us to rent the second and third floors of our building to the perfect tenant immediately.
- **Gail Tyndall:** Lee's great-grand-baby, who has numerous health issues. **Maria**, who is having problems with her vision.
- **Jim:** Prayers for the **Mukasa family's** mother. **Yalala's** mom died Monday evening.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: I am pleading with you for peace and focus of a more perfect union of America.
- **Peter:** For Congress and the budget, so we can all have good health coverage and not pay for more weapons.
- All our condolences and sympathy to **Yalala** and the family of **Bruno Mukasa.**
- **John Hunt:** For my sister **Pat** and her husband, **John.** Peace and comfort as they both deal

with terminal illness.

- **Eva Cooper** hurt her back at work.
- **William:** Help the needy.

Sunday, October 1

- **William:** Forgive everybody's sins.
- **Stephen:** Prayers that Puerto Rico, Florida, Texas, Louisiana get the recovery efforts they need.
- **Jayne Humbert:** Dear Lord, please help us rent the second and third floors of our building to the perfect tenant immediately.
- **Vern:** Peace on earth and good will to all Gods' people.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: I praise you for taking action for healing, after disaster struck in Puerto Rico.
- **Sherri Cullen: Billy and Mike Howard, Kathy Dewey, Annette Reed,** The family of **Gloria Goodison, and Patty Walker.**
- **Peter:** For the opportunity to get to know people who speak languages other than English, and to learn from one another.
- **Olesea Cojohari:** Praying for my sister **Crestina** and her health.
- **Nelson:** for my grandson **Kurt** and his bride, **Michelle**, who were married Friday.

Sunday, October 8

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: I praise you for a peaceful and quiet home.
- **Peter:** Joy for the Nobel Peace Prize, honoring generations of work and courageous leaders of 122 nations, all saying no
See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

- to nuclear weapons.
- **Jim:** Healing prayers for my mom.
- **Barbara Gilbraith: Marilyn Krackhardt**, who has terminal cancer.
- **Mandalay Bay.**
- **Shirley and Harry Miller:** Prayers for the families and friends of those who lost their lives in Las Vegas. Prayers also for those recovering.
- Prayers for the people of Cuba who can no longer join their families in the U.S.
- **Kathy:** Prayers for all those who have suffered a loss of a loved one due to the storms and shootings.

- **Barb Cargo:** Prayers for my sister, **Anne**, who needs back surgery. As well as my two friends **Clair Wilson, Clare Fortunato.**

THANKS AND PRAISE Sunday, October 8

- **William:** Thank you, God, for your answers.

RESEARCH

- **Nneka Eke**, an SU grad student pursuing a doctorate in political science at the Maxwell School who has attended UUMC and is part of the Connections group, is conducting research this semester in Nigeria on gender and oil in the Niger Delta.



Devine Cooper earned his certificate as a Certified Nurse Assistant and was first in his class. He works overnights at The Fahey and attends OCC.

Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting will be 1:30 p.m. Oct. 25.

Author Sally Wilbur will present "My Journey from Constantinople to Fayetteville, NY."

Rita Soufleris is the hostess at 5195 Pointe East Drive, Jamesville. Members should call if they cannot attend. Visitors coming should also call, 315-299-7702.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By Jerry and Barb Cargo in loving memory of their parents, Jerry's two brothers and friends.

By Ralph Best in memory of his mother, Elizabeth Best, and his wife, Elizabeth Best.

By Marg McDivitt in appreciation of our church family.

Flowers were given to Valerie Young, Chris Cresswell, John Hunt, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler, Amy deBerjeois and Nelson Price.

Flowers were delivered by Margo Koten, Lee Potter and Barb Cargo.

Stewardship goal: 5.6% giving increase

The church has gained momentum this year, growing in both Sunday attendance and membership with an additional 15 pledges for 2017.

Pledge donations reached \$215,000 in much-needed funding as we lost the Upper New York Conference as our main rental tenant.

These funds provide for our ministry, missions and outreach programs.

Our Sunday School, food pantry, Bible study, our worship program and many more are supported by your donations.

So are programs and ministries outside the local church, from flood buckets to the United Methodist Committee on Relief's work in many countries.

Your pledges provide the mechanism for the church to plan and execute these pro-

grams.

In the next three Sundays, in our worship theme "Feeding God's People: Body, Mind, Spirit," we will continue our look at the ways God provides for us and how we can support God's love by Feeding God's People through our mission.

As we continue to look for new tenants, our donations are critical to our ministry.

This year's stewardship campaign has set goals to increase the number of pledges by 10 and total giving by 5.6 percent to \$227,000.

We ask that you consider what God has given you and what you can give to God's ministry at UUMC.

— *Mark Fullerton, co-chair*
Stewardship Campaign

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2017 total pledges:	\$192,352
Paid to date:	\$174,333
Non-pledge contr.:	\$22,980
Prepaid 2017 pledges:	\$28,366
Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund	
Donations received	\$79,519
Expenses paid	\$75,901
Current balance	\$3,618

Flood buckets

We completed 22 flood buckets and collected \$1,155 more for the United Methodist Committee on Relief.



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

1085 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210
 Phone: 315-475-7277 Fax: 315-475-8995
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WEEK OF OCTOBER 15

Sunday the 15th

9 a.m. Bagels, coffee, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
9:45 a.m. Song & Prayer, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities
11:45 a.m. Church Fair, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday the 17th
5:30 p.m. Outreach Committee
Wednesday the 18th
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 19th
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 20th
10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 22

Sunday the 22nd

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
9:45 a.m. Song & Prayer, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education

for adults with disabilities

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Wednesday the 25th
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 26th
5:30 p.m. Church & Society
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 27th
10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 29

Sunday the 29th

9 a.m. Bagels, coffee, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
9:45 a.m. Song & Prayer, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Wednesday the 1st
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 2nd
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 3rd
10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5

Sunday the 5th

9 a.m. Bagels, coffee, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
9:45 a.m. Song & Prayer, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship. Pastor Wood. Communion
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Wednesday the 8th
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 9th
6:30 p.m. Church Conference at Bellevue Heights UMC
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 10th
10 a.m. Friday Community

All-Saints Sunday (Nov. 5)

To remember a loved one who died since All-Saints Day 2016, contact the church.

Church Conference

Our conference this year is 6:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at Bellevue Heights UMC, 2112 S. Geddes St.

Assembling 22 flood buckets for UMCOR to use for disaster relief Oct. 1, 2017 (11 photos)





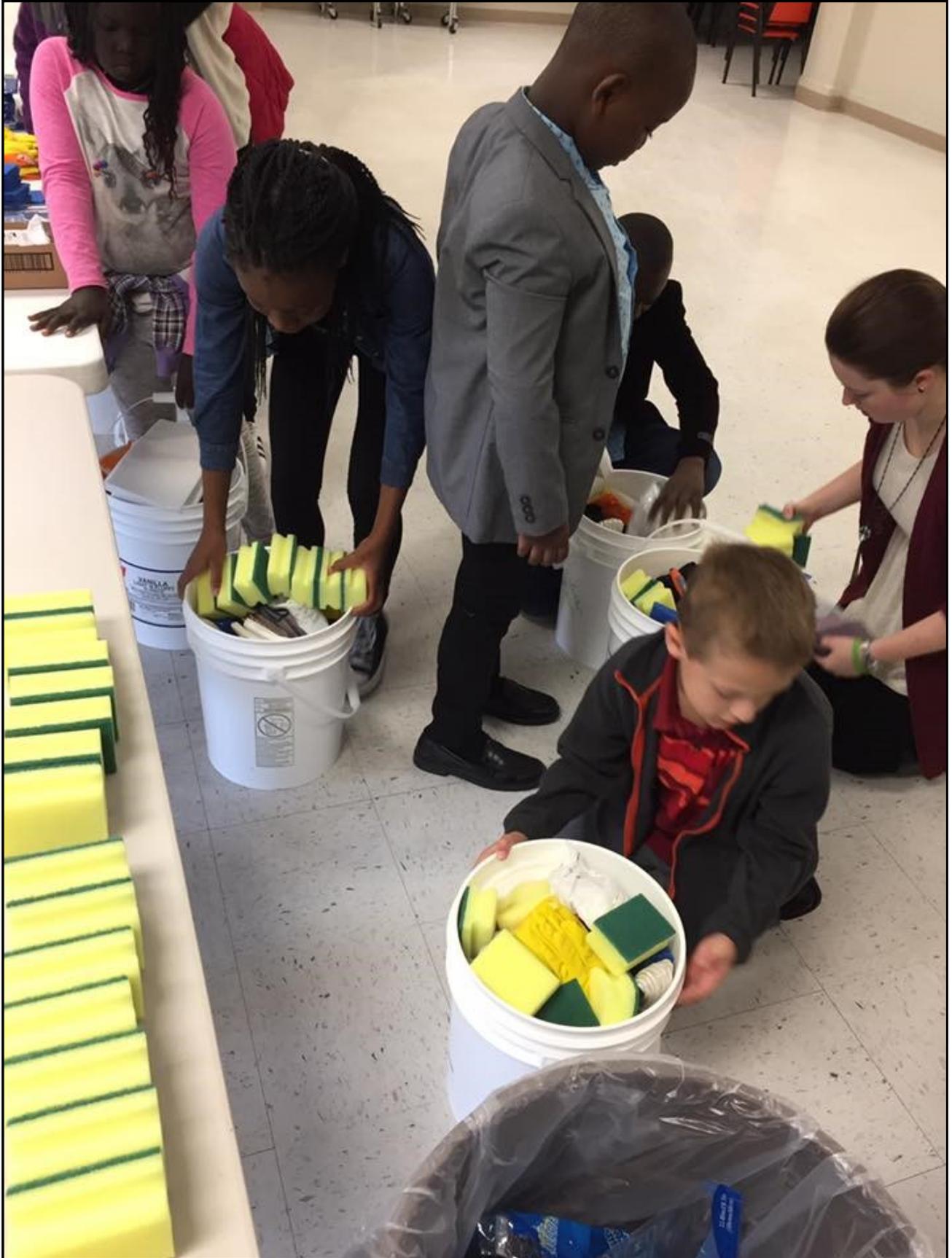




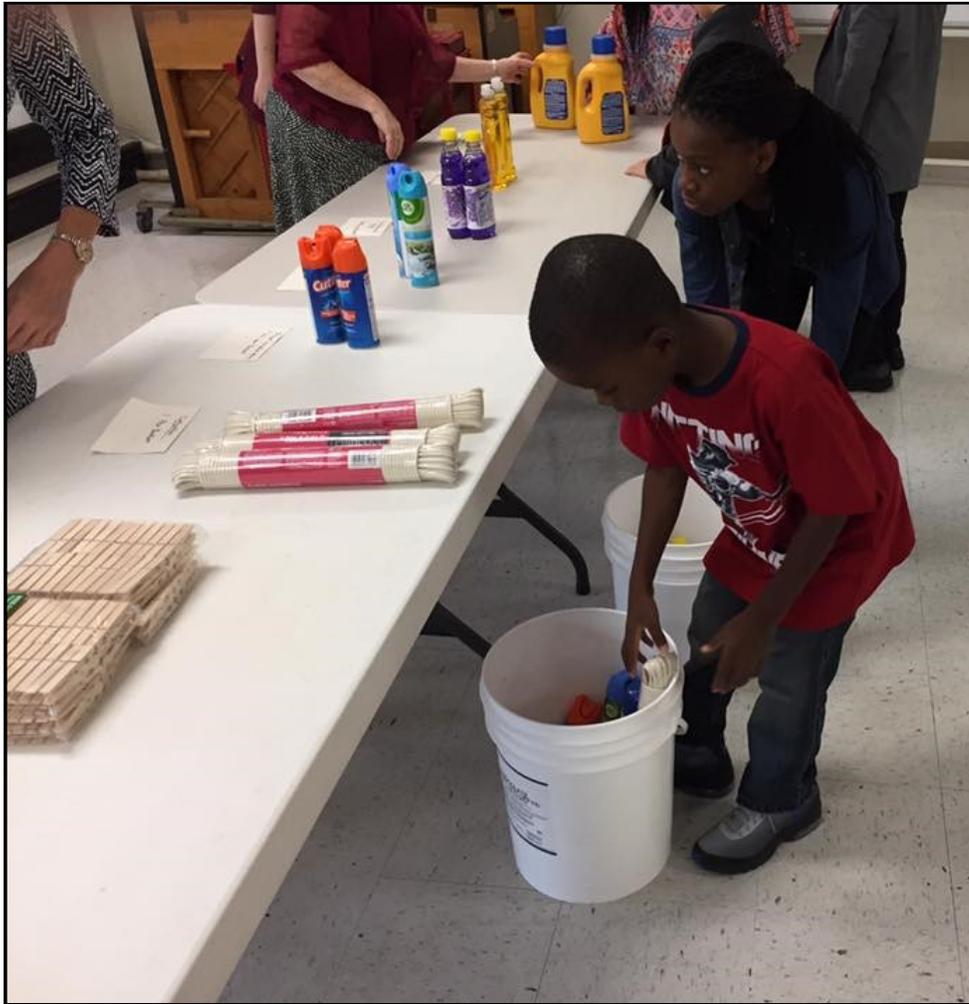
















Pastor Alicia uses blocks (that all fall when one falls) to show how when one person in the church and community hurts--or celebrates, all are touched and can respond.

Connections ice cream social
Sept. 3, 2017
(5 photos from Barbara Fought)









