Guest Speakers, Eventswill Demand a Response

The next few weeks in the life of our congregation involve guest speakers plus events in Syracuse and elsewhere that call us to action now and in the future.

This Sunday, Oct. 21, Beth Broadway, executive director of InterFaith Works, will be our guest speaker during worship. Rev. French said this will be an occasion to affirm our commitment to interfaith dialogue and engagement and deepen our own Christian faith and belief. We are a partner congregation for InterFaith Works.

Also this Sunday, we will mark the one-year celebration of our becoming a Reconciling congregation.

Later in the day, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Henninger High School, the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) will hold its 2012 Public Action Assembly. The issue agenda for the session includes pre-kindergarten public education, food access, criminal justice and raising the state minimum wage.

UUMC is a founding member of ACTS, an organization whose members come from across the religious spectrum, all working together to improve the community.

On Sunday, Oct. 28, our guest speaker is Tiffany Rozelle, staff member at Visions for Change, who will be joined by UUMC member Nelson Price to focus on the spirituality of poverty and what it means for individuals and the church as a whole to put poverty elimination at the center of our life and work.

That same weekend, a team of seven to eight from UUMC will go to Columbus, Ohio, for a conference on multicultural, multiclass worship and ministry. (See page 2)

Nov. 4 we observe All-Saints Day.

Annual Thanksgiving Bag Project launches

Our annual Thanksgiving Bag Project is under way. Based on our numbers from 2011, we anticipate signing up 200+ families for 2012. With the continuing economic situation, we feel certain that there will be more requests than ever before.

As food prices have risen, we are expecting that this year the cost per family to provide food for a typical Thanksgiving meal will be about $25. This includes a small turkey.

As a united UUMC family, together we can help feed these...
Several years ago, a team of University Church leaders took part in a national training program called the Urban Academy. The Academy was designed to move churches toward “holy boldness” in mission and ministry. Each session of the two-year program featured outstanding speakers and leaders from around the country known for their innovative and effective ministry.

One of the more popular presenters was the Rev. John Edgar, a friend of mine from Columbus, Ohio, where he started something called the “Free Store” — similar to a Salvation Army store, full of used clothing and household goods, but with everything free for the taking.

Since we first heard the story of the Free Store, the Columbus ministry has grown to include a church, a housing ministry, a healthy living ministry, an after-school program, free music and art classes and community development.

It also includes a training center. In partnership with our denomination’s General Board of Global Ministries and the focus on ministry with the poor, the training center will be the site for a three-day conference at the end of this month on “Multicultural, Multiclass Worship and Ministry.”

Thanks to scholarship assistance from the General Board of Global Ministries, a team of seven to eight people from University Church will attend the conference.

The team includes Carol Boll, Craig French, Lyndsey Graves, Billy Kluttz, Ann Milner, Memory Mungure and Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay (with hope of adding one more person to the mix).

The team will leave Syracuse before sunrise on Saturday, Oct. 27, and return home close to midnight on Monday, Oct. 29, after a jam-packed schedule in Columbus.

Stated goals of the conference include:

- Use worship that is diverse and welcoming to strengthen the community
- Launch outreach programs that build on the assets of the people to improve low-income communities where they live
- Engage a base of partners that can support and sustain the ministries
- Maintain your spiritual center

Team members will participate in plenary sessions on “leading through change,” “living in a multicultural community” and “staying centered in the midst of chaos,” along with a variety of workshops:

- Outcomes, orientation and measurements of the heart and head
- Starting and running a free store
- Developing multicultural worship
- The “hidden rules”
- Health and nutrition

Additional sessions will focus on: community housing; community meals; community music & the arts; Free-store; Micro Business / Internships; H.E.A.L. (Healthy Eating And Living); Freedom Schools & after-school programs.

The University Church team intentionally includes a mix of persons representing both established and new leaders ...

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All of these ministry areas — and more — need to be involved, as we begin to plan for and take the next steps in becoming a truly multicultural and multiclass congregation, as well as a congregation committed to neighborhood and community development. Please keep the Columbus team in your prayers. We look forward to sharing our learnings and engaging the entire congregation in conversation when we return.

— Craig
Last Friday, I was in Fellowship Hall when a friend of the Friday Community came in. She was smiling as usual.

The week before she came in and told me her story about her attending classes to be trained as a nurse’s aide.

This friend generally came at least twice each month, once for her regular supply and the other she would come in and pull me aside and inform me that she needed more food. Generally she received it.

This week, however, she was not asking for food. She pulled me aside and pulled out her employment ID.

She smiled and said, “I passed my exam and I am employed.”

I celebrated with her as we high-fived each other.

This friend said, “It has been three years since I have not worked, and during that time I received food every time I needed it. I will return here in the future but only when I really need it.

“Thank you, Mr. Smythe, for your encouragement, and thanks to the congregation for the food.”

We hugged each other and talked about her job.

The Friday Community continues to support those who are seeking to educate themselves, and we hope the ideas we seek to implement of providing opportunities for education will be accepted by friends and relatives of the pantry.

**Thanksgiving**

It has been a few weeks since I was reminding us to think about Thanksgiving Bags for the pantry friends. It is now time for this plan to be implemented.

Joyce Flynn and her able committee will begin promoting it and will seek your support.

This year we hope to provide for 220 families and as such she will share with you the items that are needed.

We began registration of Friday Community friends last week, on Oct. 12, and will continue until Nov. 9.

We will receive items until Nov. 16, and bags will be packed on Sunday, Nov. 18.

On Monday, Nov. 19, the staff will receive and pack chickens, and distribution will happen on Tuesday, Nov. 20. The Friday of Thanksgiving week, there will be no Friday Community.

Let us hope that those who are able to offer a turkey or two will do so as well as any other item to help the friends make their Thanksgiving dinner a reality.

**Pecan Sales**

While we think of Thanksgiving Bags we need to begin talking about pecan sales. This is the major fundraising program for Outreach/Missions.

In 2011 our profit was $1,827, and 2012 it was $1,224. We hope with your help we will reach the $2,000 mark.

I hope that everyone who reads this article will consider purchasing a bag or two and if you know an organization or group who will allow us to promote and sell them, please let us know.

The person to contact is Johanna MacDonald via the church office.

**Educational Opportunities**

There is continued talk about the reading program and soon we hope you will hear more details.

May the joys of Thanksgiving be with you all year round and may you share these joys with those we know and those we do not know.

The NIV translation puts it this way in Luke 6:38: “Give and it shall be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured in your lap.”

Blessings.

— Rev. Joseph Smythe, Friday Community chaplain
On the first day after I arrived in Syracuse, before my other housemates arrived, I felt compelled to pray through that morning. As I walked around my new house and neighborhood talking to God before the bustle of other new arrivals began, an odd command emerged from that silence: *Listen to this place.*

I had not expected this; I thought I had come here to get things done. I didn’t even really know what the phrase was supposed to mean. Listen to the house? Listen to New York radio stations? I filed the thought under “things I might have imagined.”

Six weeks later, this half-forgotten episode has regained relevance to my life and my job here. With all the expectations and hopes I have for myself and Connections this year, it would be easy to charge ahead with programs, plans, ideas and activities.

My instinct says I need to accomplish something ASAP, to justify my place here to myself and others by producing evidence of great effort and great results.

But as I have had to embrace a learning role in these first few weeks, the “listen” message has been reinforced, and I have consistently been surprised and enlightened by others’ input, information and stories.

All the other food pantry volunteers have introduced me to the unique character and challenges of the East Side neighborhood. Students have told me their stories and helped me understand what they want and need, and what they have to give.

Church members have described the history, personality and priorities of University United Methodist; and several people from other perspectives have shared their experiences in ministry in Syracuse.

Meanwhile, I’ve been getting to know and building a community with my Grace House fellows.

Among all of these encounters, from formal meetings to casual conversations, I have been reminded that listening is hard work.

It requires attention and patience, two things for which the 21st century carries a great deficit, to even hear what someone has to say; but to really listen to the desires, needs, hopes and fears people share can take an enormous amount of energy.

It is easier to talk, plan, program and direct than it is to listen, because real listening requires giving up control.

It means waiting out all the details and rabbit trails of a story; it means reserving judgment and even response; it means silence; it means relationship, and all the mess and responsibility that can entail.

But it also means that the “real” work I do actually serves someone besides myself, actually connects with people where they are, actually meets the needs people have and not the ones I’ve imagined for them.

It can also be maddeningly slow, frustrating my solution- and activity-oriented mindset.

But I do not believe the church is here to do what is superficial, easy or fast.

Instead, I pack bags with a Friday Community member and I listen.

I ask a question at our new young adult small group and I listen.

I do dishes with a housemate and I listen.

I pick apples and I listen.

And, where I expected to hear useful information for my work, I also have the privilege of hearing people themselves.

I have loved getting to know the people I’ve talked with, and I intend to keep listening as a central task throughout the year.

— Lyndsey

Lyndsey is our mission intern by way of Grace House. She began her work in September and will be with us through July.
Rev. Smythe now pastor in Sodus

The Rev. Joseph Smythe, our Friday Community chaplain, was installed as the pastor of Sodus Church of God in Sodus the afternoon of Sunday, Aug. 5.

The Rev. Sammie L. Drayton, chair of the Credentials Committee, officiated at the service.

The speaker was the Rev. Dr. Tim Dwyer.

Creation Stewardship

A Climate For Change

We invite you to join members of UUMC and community congregations in exploring a faith-based response to global climate change.

The next study group time is Tuesday, Oct. 23, 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Chappell Room.

We will begin discussing the book, “A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions,” and prayerfully planning our studies.

Books are on order and will be available for $8 from Peter Swords.

Contact Stephanie Hitztaler at shitztaler@umich.edu or 440-3156, or Peter at pswords@ocmsinc.org or 479-5658, co-chairs of Creation Stewardship, to RSVP or if interested but unable to attend.

Green Homes for Cleaner Lakes

The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute’s Green Homes for Cleaner Lakes program will hold four workshops on the effects of everyday household products on our health and the environment.

The free workshops are 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays at the Syracuse Center of Excellence, 727 E. Washington St. in Room 203.

- Oct. 25: Safer Household Products. What do cookware, food storage containers, light bulbs and furniture have in common? All may affect your health and the environment.
- Nov. 1: Hazardous Waste @ Home. Learn how to store and dispose of hazardous waste found in your home.
- Nov. 8: Potential Dangers of Personal Care Products: What’s really in your deodorant or makeup?

Registration is required. Go to greenhomes@rit.edu or call 585-475-2512 to register.

Financial Update

It is hard to believe that we are more than three quarters of the way through 2012! How many days to Christmas? (68)

As of the end of September: Building, ministry and outreach income totaled $378,078 while expenses totaled $387,257. This has resulted in a loss of $9,180.

Thank you in advance for helping to bridge that gap.

Pledging Update

Total amount pledged for 2012: $204,360. Amount paid to date: $139,616. Pre-paid pledges: $14,500.

Calling All Committee Chairs!

It is budget time! Please submit your requests to your Governing Board representative by Nov. 30.

Remember that the upcoming stewardship campaign will help determine the budget guidelines for next year. Your pledge (and prayers) play a vital role in this process.

“SOS” Update

Approximately $40,000 is needed to upgrade our outdated sound system.

Current “Sounds of the Spirit” campaign balance is $28,257. Current expenses paid are $6,215. Total donations received are $34,472.

Checks should be made out to University UMC with a notation of “SOS.” Thanks to all who have contributed.

Rev. Joseph Smythe and Claudette Brown-Smythe at his installation service in August.

Guild and The Gambia

The next Guild meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 24, at Beth Drew’s home at 1:30 p.m. Beth will speak on her visit to The Gambia. All are welcome!
CONTINUED from Page 1
families in several ways:

♦ Adopt-a-Family: Take a name off the “Turkey Tree” in the front of the church and provide all the needed food (including a turkey) for the family. In addition you will be asked to write a brief Thanksgiving note or blessing to the family to include in their bag, and then make a point of praying specifically for that family on Thanksgiving.

♦ Donate money. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office. Please mark them “Thanksgiving Bag Project.”

♦ Donate food. (including frozen turkeys as we get closer to Thanksgiving)

♦ Bring paper, plastic or re-useable grocery bags

♦ Bags and food can be placed in the designated box at the Peale entrance. Please mark them “Thanksgiving Bag Project.”

♦ Encourage friends, neighbors and co-workers to also help in one of the ways listed above.

♦ Hands-on help on:
  Sunday, Nov. 18 after worship to help fill bags AND/OR
  Tuesday, Nov. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to noon for the bag distribution.

Our church congregation has been very generous in the past in sharing our bounty with our neighbors. Let’s once again make sure that the many needy people in our midst can enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving meal with their families.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Joyce Flynn, 673-2761.

Steve Bacon lines up cake mixes for Thanksgiving bags last year in Fellowship Hall.

Time to Order Holiday Pecans!
The annual pecan fundraiser that benefits our Food Pantry has begun.

Our supply of pecans will be available for sale after church Nov. 11.

Pre-orders may be made before and after church starting this Sunday, Oct. 21. Cashews and glazed pecans are new items available this year.

Items available:
12 oz. gift box-four-way assortment: $11
12 oz. roasted/salted cashews: $9
16 oz. extra-large pecan halves: $10
12 oz. chocolate-covered pecans: $8
10 oz. cinnamon-glazed pecans: $8
8 oz. glazed pecans: $7

Thank you in advance for your support of this important Food Pantry fundraiser.

Care and Share Request
The Care and Share Team is encouraging everyone to include in their prayers for a week the three or four people noted in the bulletin and Chimes. We all pray for persons with special needs, but God is present for all, so slowly we are naming each person who is a member or friend of UUMC.

If you don't know the person, please check the pictorial directory. God will know them and their name.

SpiritFilm
Our next SpiritFilm discussion is Saturday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m., 6305 Hamlet Crest off Randall Road across from Christian Brothers Academy. Our film is “Argo,” about the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis with a new twist. Ben Affleck is lead and director. Reviewers are saying it’s one of the best of the year.

We’ll be looking at relationships, spiritual values, faith dimensions. Informal conversation and desserts following. Come join us. RSVP if possible to nprice@twcny.rr.com, but as usual, come regardless.
THANKS

- Thanks to everyone who sent well wishes, from Betsy Wiggins
- My grateful thanks to all for the altar flowers, the phone calls, cards and messages sent my way. I feel truly blessed by you all and look forward to being back among you, from Rita Soufleris
- Little Oliver Onninen and his parents Stephanie Hitztaler and Jani Onninen, send a heartfelt thanks to our UUMC family for your outpouring of love and support following Oliver's birth Sept. 8. Thank you especially to all who brought us nourishing meals the first week we were home—they were truly a godsend! Oliver looks forward to meeting his church family
- Thanks for a day of wonderful relaxation with Chris in the peak of Adirondack colors, from Grandma Ann

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer
- Katie Flynn and her surgery this week
- Our friend, Eleanor Russell, who had surgery this week and is happy to be cancer-free
- Heavenly Father, replenish our homes a bountiful harvest, from Elise
- Hope the children grow up better and stronger; and I pray for my mom, from George McCarthy
- Young adults moving out on their own, from Jeanne
- Heavenly Father, guide my brother Russell in court for custody of his daughter Dominique
- The U.S. emancipation that began 150 years ago and carries over in many ongoing stories, with much healing work to be done in each of us, from Peter Swords
- For Katie Flynn this week
- Bishop Webb's installation service at Hendricks Chapel
- Prayers for the family of Lois Horn, who died this past week in South Carolina. Lois was a former member who will be remembered for her wonderful musical talent
- My son. Help him find his way back to you.
- Allen Karchner, who is in a coma at St. Joseph's Hospital, and his wife Mary; Dr. John Merola, who died yesterday, and his family
- Clarity, courage and strength
- Praise for Stephen Ministry and UUMC, Rev. French, his caring spirit and dedication. Thank you, God, for sending him my way.
- Rita Soufleris, as she recovers from surgery
- Help heal the sick and feed the poor and homeless, from Dakota
- Praise for a caring congregation in which we are feeling more and more comfortable and making us feel welcome, from Daphne and Dakota
- I hope everyone in the church has a great life...and I pray for my mom, from George
- A prayer for my friends in Phoenix, Ariz. Gordon is suffering with advanced Parkinson's and Shirley is stressed out with his care, from Ralph
- Remembering Dr. T.S. Szasz
- Concern for the children of Nigeria being poisoned by lead from unregulated gold mining
- World leaders in dealing with the situation in Syria
- My father, who doesn't know what to do. May God bless and guide him.
- Prayers and sympathy for the family and friends of Joan Bronman, mother-in-law, from Sue (Koten) Sofka
- Thanks for the beautiful fall leaves

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- Nov. 4: Don Betz Jr., Carol, Tom and Jonathan Boll
- Nov. 11: Brad and Judith Bowers, Brian Branch
- Nov. 18: Bruce, Deborah and Michael Borenstein
- Nov. 25: Caroline, Tajmier and Aiden Brackett and James Horan

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- Nov. 4: Syracuse Calvary, Kayti Dean, Roger Parker; Mt. Pleasant UMC, David Grey
- Nov. 11: New Haven UMC, Richard Barling
- Nov. 18: Parish UMC, Richard Barling; Syracuse Erwin First, Lauren Swanson
- Nov. 25: Syracuse Gethsemane, Judy Alderman, Penny Hart
Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Jo Ann Davis and Peter Mortenson and Beth Drew.

Flowers were given to Mattie Hightower, Amanda Mountain, Jill Sarkodie-Mensah, Elise Curry-Schemichen.

Flowers were delivered by Ed and Lee Potter and Marg McDivitt.

November birthdays

5 — Lynn Steenberg
6 — Monica Shworles
7 — Phyllis Wright
10 — Michael Grome
12 — Roxanne Sopchak
14 — Daniel Kirkley
15 — Jim Virgo
16 — Jenny Hicks, Brian Finlayson-Schueler
18 — Jerusha Morgan, Thomas Cook
20 — Connie Wilson
24 — Krystina Nilsson
25 — Roger MacDonald, Joe Tompkins
30 — Kate Fagut, Greg Allen, Mary Klepper

WEEK OF OCTOBER 21

Sunday the 21st
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up
6:30 p.m. Living with Dying
Wednesday the 24th
5 p.m. Outreach Committee
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Thursday the 25th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 26th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4

Sunday the 4th—All-Saints Day
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages 5 and up
10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion, Sunday School, ages 3-4
11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room
Monday the 5th
6:30 p.m. Living with Dying
Tuesday the 6th
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11:15 a.m. Staff meeting
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Thursday the 8th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 9th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

UUMC member Russ Young’s book, “Homeless American Veteran,” has been published and is available at amazon.com

New Website

Go to uumcsyracuse.org to see the new church website. There's a ton of info on the church, staff, photos of church events and a calendar that’s viewable by week, month and agenda. Please contact Tom Boll, uumctb@twcny.rr.com with questions or comments.

UUMC member Russ Young’s book, “Homeless American Veteran,” has been published and is available at amazon.com
We now have a sidewalk in front of the church! But you can’t walk on it just yet.
Tiffany Steinwert leads the pre-kindergarten Sunday School class.
The Community Garden, on a Friday morning with rain moving in, and before the recent killing frost.
Collards in the Community Garden.
Radishes from the Community Garden.
Children pick up cereal and other food donated to our pantry.