

THE CHIMES

Oct. 29, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
November 12**

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Order pecans, cashews and walnuts for the holidays, beginning after church Nov. 2.

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*

Church and Charge Conference meetings coming in November

A congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, Nov. 16, in the Pettengill Center to bring the congregation up to date on recent developments in both our church and the citywide group of churches, as well as what we anticipate for the future.

It also is an opportunity for you to get answers to questions and concerns you have. Please submit those to the church office by Nov. 9.

Lunch will be provided, but please bring a dessert to share.

Once again this year, UUMC is part of a regional Charge Conference.

It will be Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Bellevue Heights UMC, 2112 S. Geddes St., Syracuse.

Other congregations participating include Bellevue Heights, Brown Memorial, Gethsemane, James Street, Erwin First, Hope Korean, Rockefeller, St. Paul's, New World Ministries and Solvay.

The session is specifically for members of our Governing Board, along with clergy who've designated UUMC as their "charge conference."

These are the persons who will be eligible to vote, as determined by the district superintendent, according to Church rules.

At the same time, it's an open meeting, so all church members and friends are welcome to attend. All items of business will be featured at the Nov. 16 church meeting.

November's the month for stewardship at UUMC

November will be Stewardship Month at UUMC.

This important part of our church year will begin Nov. 2 and will culminate on Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 23.

During this season of harvest and thankfulness it is appropriate to pause and think about how we as individuals or families can support the church financially.

2014 was a year that brought a number of changes to the Syracuse city churches.

2015 will be a year of being creative and connective. It is important

to note, though, that each church is running its own stewardship program, and whatever money is pledged will be used in the church to which it was committed.

There will be many opportunities in November to learn more about stewardship.

Please join others in worship, prayer, the church-wide luncheon Nov. 16 and the gathering of pledges Nov. 23.

Remember, too, that Thanksgiving bags will be filled as a sign of giving and care after the service on the 23rd and distributed Nov. 25.

Clear thinking needed for Dad and at city UM churches



Rev. French

For much of the last month, my father has been in and out of the hospital, dealing with a couple of major health concerns.

In between hospital stays, he has sojourned at two different rehab centers, trying to regain his health and strength, in order to be able to return home.

One problem led to another, then another and then another, with no end in sight.

As he grew weaker, my siblings and I joined our stepmother in growing increasingly concerned.

At the age of 87, we know (and he knows) that his best years are behind him and that, no matter what the doctors do, he'll never again be what he used to be.

Still, we're not ready to give up on him or assume that his demise is nigh.

I can't help but think about the similarity between what's going on with my dad and what's going on with our city churches. The parallels are impossible to miss.

Like my dad, our churches face a multiplicity of problems and complications: declining attendance, diminished finances, aging members and buildings, loss of leaders, lack of youth and young adults.

All by themselves, we might be able to do something about any one of these realities.

But as one piles up on top of another, the situation grows

much more difficult, complex and dire.

Which "symptom" do we address first (when they're all interwoven, interrelated, interconnected)?

Do we start with the most serious one, the one that poses the gravest overall threat? Do we start with something less severe, in order to stabilize and simplify



Craig and his dad, Vern, atop Mount Washington in New Hampshire this past summer.

the situation, before moving on to the fundamental underlying condition(s)?

What's the minimum level that must be maintained, no matter what ... the critical threshold that cannot be crossed ... the point beyond which even extraordinary or heroic measures will no longer help?

As is the case for my 87-year-old father, all the king's horses and all the king's men can do nothing to restore the youthful vigor, strength and vitality we remember (and still envision).

For that, we — and all our churches — will need something more, something like the full heart transplant Katie Flynn received six months ago.

Even then, Katie would be the first to tell us that that's only the beginning. There's a lot more still to be done — conditioning, exercise, learning new ways to live (do's and don'ts to go along with and make the most of a new heart).

Doing all this requires both strength and determination, capacity and willpower. One without the other is useless.

Jesus said in an entirely different context, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (It's probably telling that Jesus uttered these words on the eve of his death — an absolutely necessary precursor to resurrection.)

For both University Church and the other city churches, it's clear to me that the spirit is (mostly) willing

to see our churches thrive. It's equally clear that the flesh is weak — weaker than many of us want to admit, weaker than we may be able to do anything about, weaker than will allow us to turn our resolve — hopes — prayers into action ... at least on our own.

And there's the rub: recognizing what we can — and should — do to revitalize the life and ministry of University Church ... while simultaneously recognizing what we can do better and quicker together with other city churches, organizations and institutions ... what we have to contribute and what they have to contribute.

So pray for my father? Yes.

See **LIFE'S**, Page 6

Plenty of good news at pantry; just a little bit of bad



Deb Virgo

What do you want the first ... the good news or the bad news?

I heard this from one of my kids this morning.

Uh oh, I

think. Which news do you typically want to hear first? This morning I picked the good news. (Both turned out to be minor; about cat hair all over his dress pants.)

But isn't it interesting to see if we want the good news first as a buffer, or the bad news to get it over with.

So here's the good news. It was a busy pantry day at our Friday Community, but a good kind of busy.

I was running a little late, but several volunteers had begun to set things up.

Jeff had the coffee table set

up, Mary was setting up the clothes closet and Ira, Terry and Roger were getting the pantry room set up and ready to go. Robert was laying out the registration table materials.

Then after a while Dick showed up to work in the pantry. And Nelson, Val and Jim showed up to escort people through. And Julius came to sit by the door and greet people.

And Rebekah and Paris came; Paris split her time between registration and clothes. Rebekah helped where needed; she is new and learning all the positions here (quickly I might add). She and Robert took sign-ups for Thanksgiving bags.

Sue joined up to escort people. And Betty stopped in to help a bit. She is a longtime volunteer who had to take a break. She had some time to give us today before heading up to volunteer with Hospice. Margo joined us at her

position at the volunteer table.

As things slowed down later in the morning a couple of us prepared snacks for Bible Study.

Pastor Craig has been leading a group that meets after pantry closes. We have been scrounging the pantry for a simple lunch that is beautifully prepared and served.

Today the group was diverse: about 50 percent black and 50 percent white; about 50 percent male and 50 percent female; but 100 percent "over 40." And the conversation was wonderful.

That was the good news.

The bad news? Well, all of a sudden the lock to the food pantry won't turn.

Doesn't seem so bad after hearing all the good news, does it?

— Deb Virgo

Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

Syracuse UM Youth Group Schedule

Here's the schedule of upcoming activities for the citywide United Methodist Youth Group:

Nov. 2: Food Drive 1-3 p.m. Meet at St Paul's to pick up food.

Nov. 9: Ice skating at Shove Park in Camillus, 2-4 p.m. Meet at Bellevue Heights UMC. Cost: \$3 ice fee. \$3 skate rental. Youth Funds Available

Nov. 16: Serving at the Rescue Mission 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (need group of 8); making ziti and bread at Bellevue UMC and serving it at the Oxford Inn 4:30-6:30 p.m. (all others)

Nov. 23: Van Duyn Nursing Home Escort Ministry 1-3 p.m. Meet at Van Duyn. We help bring residents of Van Duyn to their church service and bring them back to their rooms at the end of the service.

Nov. 30: No meeting. Happy Thanksgiving.
See **YOUTH GROUP**, Page 4

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

- by Beth Drew in memory of Allan Drew, Donald McTarnaghan, Ann Freeman and Ruth Drew
- by a long-term member of UUMC for everyone to enjoy on this beautiful fall day (Oct. 19)
- by Barb and Jerry Cargo in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crossman and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Cargo.

Flowers were given to Rev. Steve Heiss, Bernie Hinds, Ginny Dewey, Martha Sutter, Jim and Betsy Wiggins and Carol Boll's parents, Howard and Frances Long.

Flowers were delivered by Barbara Nunn and Carol and Tom Boll.

Here's what's happening at Syracuse city UM churches

Men: Oct 15, 17 men gathered at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Fairmount Wegmans. Dr. Cynthia Morrow, former Onondaga County health commissioner, presented a very informative and timely talk on public health.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 7 a.m. at Fairmount Wegmans. Our speaker will be Katie Knudsen from The Nottingham.

Stewardship: Common stewardship materials have been developed for use by the Syracuse churches in an effort to reduce effort and planning time and to have rich resources.

Each congregation will determine timing and how it may use the common material.

Headquarters Move: Members of the Upper New York Annual Conference voted to approve the trustees' recommendation to buy a building to serve as the new Conference Center.

With the approval of the recommendation, the trustees will pursue buying a 33,000-square-foot building at 7481 Henry Clay Blvd. in Liverpool with an option to consider other properties

should that purchase not come to fruition.

The vote authorized up to \$3.4 million be spent for the purchase and renovations. The move is expected in Fall 2015 from offices at University Church.

Church Administrators: Administrative staffs from Syracuse churches met to discuss common concerns and ways of streamlining their duties through cooperation and sharing. More to come.

Youth: Twenty-five adults and youth did the CROP walk on Oct. 5, and 19 youth and adults went to Abbots farm in Baldwinsville for apple picking and the fall festival Oct. 12. Four groups wandered the corn maze with one needing rescue.

There were wagon rides and a super slide that even the adults liked. The apple cannon and slingshot were popular.

The group picked 60 pounds of apples and gave them to St. Paul's for Tuesday food distribution and to Gethsemane's food pantry.

See the schedule on page 3 for upcoming activities.

Bible Study and More

Sunday: 6:30 p.m., James Street, small meal, guided by The Elford Bible Study

Mondays: 2 p.m., Bellevue Heights, Gospel of Luke (book \$14)

Tuesdays: Spanish Bible Study – 3–4:30 p.m. at Brown Memorial

Tuesdays: 9:30 to noon, Life skills training, Brown Memorial

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30–8 p.m., tutoring, Brown Memorial

Wednesdays: 10-11 a.m. James St. First six weeks based on a group of scriptures, then an Advent study

Breakfasts and Dinners

Nov. 1: 8 a.m. Men's B&B (Bible & Breakfast), Erwin First

Nov. 4: Chicken & Biscuit Dinner, 4:30 p.m., James Street

Nov. 4: Roast Beef Dinner, Col-lamer United Church, 4:30 p.m.

Nov. 7: Spaghetti Dinner, St. Paul's, to benefit SWUM, 5-7 p.m. Advance sale, \$5 adults, \$3 children. At the door: Adults \$6.

Youth Group activities: shopping, caroling, partying, fundraising

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Dec. 7: Shopping for Brown Memorial's Christmas Store and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army's kettle campaign 2-4 p.m. Meet at Bellevue UMC.

Dec. 14: All Churches Christmas Caroling, both young and old, 3-5 p.m. Hot chocolate and soup to follow. Meeting place to be announced.

Dec. 21: Christmas Party, games and snacks, 6-8 p.m. Meeting place to be announced.

Dec. 28: No meeting. Merry Christmas!

Jan. 4: Applebee's fundraiser, Camillus Plaza, 8-10 a.m. Meet at the restaurant. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Group. Youth will need to sell tickets in advance.

For questions or rides, call or text:

Laura Mattice, 315-416-5198

Diane Dermody, 315-423-4334

Rev. Caroline Simmons, 585-721-2144

Rev. Doug Mackey, 518-925-4790

People/Prayer Connection

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Jim Pettyjohn, Lt. Timothy Nevin, Matt Fischer**

Sunday, Oct. 26:

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, Please continue to work with me, for performing your example to my son!
- **Carol Boll:** Prayers for my mom and **Martha Sutter's** dad, both at Crouse Hospital.
- **Martha:** For my father, who is ill and in the hospital.
- God please be with **Barbara Fought, Nelson Price** and their families.
- For **Nelson's** recovery.
- Thanks to God that my grandson has a job.
- Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. (A famous quotation.)
- Thank you, God, for helping the people of Washington State to acknowledge rights for all its people.
- Dear God, allow my niece to marry her beloved wife.
- **Jimmy and Violet's** marriage
- For my son to pass his driving test on Thursday.
- People with depression and mental illness.
- All suffering from Ebola and containing the virus — prayers to remain calm.
- A healthy end of pregnancy.
- The people of the West African nations affected by the Ebola virus.
- Legal Advocacy for the Disabled.
- Happy 96th birthday to **Bob Laubach!**

Sunday, Oct. 19

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, direct, instruct and guide me to learn more of your parables and your acts!
- **Peter:** For justice, an end to military domination and a new focus on dialogue, diplomacy and partnership.
- **Russ:** Please pray for all those affected by the weather and the damages it creates. God bless you all.
- **The McKay family:** Please pray for **Max**, who is suffering from stage 4 cancer without medication.
- Our friend **Elam Morales**, who is undergoing cancer treatment.
- Family of **Norma Cronkright**, who is in Hospice.
- Keep **Bernie Hinds** in your prayers for good health
- Thanks to our church family and our family and friends for the continued love, support and prayers for **Katie**.
- Peace in the Middle East and around the world.
- Those impacted by Ebola, especially at the center of the outbreak in West Africa. Pray for the health care providers, the armed forces who are there. Pray for your protection and coverage surround them. Help them to be safe and healthy.
- Those who grieve, family of the student in Virginia.
- I thank God for all he has done for my life.
- Happy Anniversary to **Bob and Ginny Dewey!**

Sunday, Oct. 12

- **Ralph Best:** I lost a longtime friend, **Hilda Stewart**, last Sunday. I ask for a prayer of comfort for **Alex Stewart and family**
- **RJ:** That the person who stole my wallet has the conscience to return it
- The family of **Dr. Richard Aubry**, who died in an accident this week
- **Larry Myers**, as he recovers from a recent fall
- **Jeanette Shawtraw**, who is recovering from heart surgery
- Legal Advocacy
- Help me to remember and that you, God, the source of all love and strength, and to thank you all who have helped me already

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **Nov. 2:** Negin Dehdar Nasab, Shahryar Mousavi, Kaymar Mousavi
- **Nov. 9:** Rosemary DeHoog, Robert Dewey Sr., Virginia Dewey
- **Nov. 16:** John Dick, Starke Donnally, Christine Doran, Dale Fryer
- **Nov. 23:** Beth Drew, William Drew, Katherine Rios, Carlos Rios, Aaron Rios
- **Nov. 30:** Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler, Ted Finlayson-Schueler, Sophie Finlayson-Schueler, Brian Finlayson-Schueler

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges:	\$230,877
Paid to date:	\$175,147
Non-pledge contr.:	\$19,343
Sounds of the Spirit Campaign	
Donations received	\$70,843
Expenses paid	\$70,589
Current balance	\$254

Reminder: If you are behind, please remember to catch up on your pledge commitment for 2014.



Dozen members help keep sanctuary open

On Aug. 21 we began the practice of opening the church doors so people could enter for prayer.

We were open an hour on four weekdays.

Today, Oct. 29, we ended this opportunity until the weather becomes warmer.

Many thanks to the volunteers who offered their hospitality.

They are Cheryl Brown, Beth Drew, Elise Curry-Schemichen, Jayne Humbert, Marg McDivitt, Dean Moyer, Nancy Nevins, Keith Nevins, Ed Potter, Lee Potter, Nelson Price and Peter Swords.

Especially we thank Don Betz, our building manager, who spearheaded this effort and provided signage and security.

— Lee Potter



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF NOVEMBER 2

Sunday the 2nd

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 5th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 6th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 7th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9

Sunday the 9th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship, Beth Drew preaching
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 10th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 12th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 13th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 14th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16

Sunday the 16th

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. Congregational Meeting/Luncheon, Pettengill Center

Wednesday the 19th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 20th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 21st

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Life's not the same going forward, but it's not over

CONTINUED from Page 2

But also see that he gets the help he needs. And that our expectations for the future are clear-headed and realistic. His life's not what it used to be, but it's not over either.

The formula's similar for church renewal.

— Craig

Reconciling Anniversary Celebration

Oct. 26, 2014 (2 photos)







Steve holds a bag of candy and asks for patience during a Children's Time



Steve and children in closing prayer.



The registration table for the Friday Community on Oct. 24.

Community/Church Breakfast

Oct. 26, 2014 (4 photos)



A moment of prayer before serving breakfast.



Pastor Craig greets Ted.



Mary gets servings of fruit salad ready for breakfast guests.



Pastor Craig with another Ted.