

THE CHIMES

Nov. 16, 2016

**Next Chimes
deadline:
November 30**

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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

‘The Redemption of Scrooge’ will help us prepare for Christ’s birth this year

Too early to think about Christmas? Bah! Humbug! you say?

Well that’s our starting point for our Advent worship theme this year: “The Redemption of Scrooge,” based on Matt Rawle’s book of the same title and Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.”

Each of the four weeks has a theme as we travel with Scrooge through his evolution looking at it through the lens of faith.

Week 1, Nov. 27, is “Bah, Humbug! Making Change,” followed by “The Remembrance of Christmas Past: Hope from Heartbreak” on Dec. 4, “The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me” on Dec. 11, and “The Hope of Christmas Future: Death-Defying Acts” on Dec. 18.

Advent will have a number of events, the first of which is a free showing of “A Christmas Carol” at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 26, in the sanctuary.

The annual Advent Potluck Luncheon will follow worship on Dec. 4. The Senior Choir will perform special music for us during the Dec. 11 service.

Dec. 18 will be the annual Bringing in Christmas coat drive for our pantry guests. All sizes are needed. The Handbell Choir will play during the service.

After worship, volunteers will wrap Christmas items for our pantry guests and then embark on Christmas caroling of members.

The Neighborhood Christmas Dinner is 6 p.m. Dec. 19 this year.

The Christmas Eve Pageant begins at 7 p.m. Dec. 24. Rehearsal for children participating is 9 a.m. Dec. 17.

With Christmas on a Community Breakfast Sunday this year, we’ll have breakfast at 9 a.m., followed by a brief worship service that includes carols, all in Fellowship Hall.

New office coordinator loves kids, motorcycle riding



Mary Slack-Nolan

Mary Slack-Nolan, our new office coordinator, says she has spent 20 years of her life “loving and educating children.”

She grew up in Newark Valley in the Southern Tier and graduated from high school there. She’s a certified teaching assistant and worked 12 years as one for the Dryden Central School District.

In addition to her UUMC job, Mary also works at Saint Matthew’s Church Over-the-Rainbow Daycare in East Syracuse, where she lives. She’s been at the daycare for 2½ years during which she’s been cook, teacher and more and now manages their office.

She’s been married to her husband, Dale, since 2012 and is the mother of three children, Victoria, 20; See **EVERYONE’S**, Page 6

Regardless of political outcome, our task remains the same



Alicia Wood

Greetings!

I write to you after a week full of many emotions. I hope you are well.

Hope. A word I was praying would become part of my vocabulary again.

This election has made me pray more than ever before. The words that have bubbled up in my prayers are “remember, you are a Christian first.” We are Christians first.

Being a Christian, a Christ follower, must affect every other aspect of our lives.

Therefore, as a Christian I know no matter what happens in politics our mission, our task, remains the same: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

This is written in not only in Matthew 22:37-39 but also in Mark 12:30-31 and Luke 10:27.

How do we love our neighbor? We can find this answer in Matthew 25:35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a

stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

If this is our “to-do list” as Christians, we have work to do! This work has always been the same and remains the same. I look forward to working with all of you on this Christian mission.

Quite honestly, I’m hoping that we as a congregation get more involved in ACTS and Inter-Faith Works and other organizations that are working toward a common goal that aligns with Matthew 25. When people come together, more things get done.

Hope. I shared this on Sunday, but I will share it again.

I have found hope again in the fire that burns in people’s hearts and souls who work together in community.

I saw hope Friday as I attended the ribbon cutting of the three newest Tiny Homes for homeless veterans.

I saw hope, with tears in my eyes, as the group that marched from the Onondaga Nation to Clinton Square, some 6½ miles, stretched four city blocks to “Stand with Standing Rock.”

I experienced the hope of young adults as I sat with the

Connections group Saturday evening and learned of their hope for this country and world.

I know of hope because not only did God gift us Jesus, who gave us a new covenant of life, the Holy Spirit came to live and dwell among us.

Our church community is gearing up for an Advent full of activities that will get us thinking as we await the Holy birth of Jesus, our Redeemer.

This Advent we will wrestle with an ancient and current reality: the gap between the rich and the poor. We will look at this issue through the book and worship series “The Redemption of Scrooge.”

I do believe in hope, love, joy and peace. When we hold these in our hearts, we are keeping the mission of Christ alive.

As we move forward as Christians first, we will need to keep these alive in our hearts as we work together and share God’s love with all people, most especially our brothers and sisters Jesus named as “the least of these.”

Peace be with you until we meet again,

— *Pastor Alicia*

Volunteers Needed

Each Christmas season the sanctuary at UUMC is decorated in celebration of our Savior’s birth.

The decorations include poinsettias, which are delivered to homebound and ill members and friends of the congregation. Volunteers are needed to deliver these flowers.

The poinsettias are picked up by volunteers after the church service on Sunday, Dec. 18, and delivered to a designated recipient anytime before Christmas Day.

If you wish to participate in this program or would like more information, please contact Bobbie Hemphill at 315-492-9592 or hehemphi@earthlink.net.

Messages may also be left at the church office, 315-475-7277.

Worship Committee

The next Worship Committee meeting is 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Chappell Room.

Anyone wishing to help with planning of our worship experiences is welcome to attend.

City UM churches prepare for Syrian refugee family



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

In 2016, nearly 200 Syrian refugees have arrived in Syracuse.

Between 2010 and 2015 more than 5,000 refugees came to Onondaga County from Somalia, Burma, Bhutan, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Cuba and elsewhere.

These numbers have made Onondaga County the highest per capita refugee re-settlement county in the state and the third highest in the nation, as reported by The Post-Standard, Nov. 6.

Referencing history we understand why folk are arriving: political and religious prosecution, unemployment, war, famine, genocide, abuse, neglect and unfathomable obstacles.

This past weekend, weeks of effort and organization came together as the city United Methodist Churches worked **together** to prepare to settle a Syrian family. Through InterFaith Works (one of the two largest re-settlement

agencies in the county), we were assigned to assist a mother and her four children scheduled to arrive in Syracuse midnight Nov. 7.

When they get here, we can assume that our family traveled from the Middle Eastern country of Jordan where they, most likely, lived in a refugee camp for a year or more. We can also assume that the mother arrives in Syracuse blindly without any connection to our region of the world, hoping only that she and her children will be safer here than there.

Bellevue UMC, Erwin First UMC, James St. UMC paired with Gethsemane UMC, Brown UMC, St. Paul's UMC, Hope Korean UMC and University UMC. Each took responsibility for one room within the assigned apartment. We gathered furniture, fabrics, kitchen and bathroom supplies, hardware and small appliances appropriate for a family. Inter-Faith's truck patiently collected items at each church. Large pieces were moved into the family's future home. Then representatives from the city UMC Outreach

Team with supporting volunteers and congregation members arrived to finish setting up the apartment.

The kitchen and refrigerator were stocked, beds were made, curtains hung, a rug was laid, enough towels, sheets and blankets for a family filled a linen closet next to necessary shampoos, soaps, toothpaste/toothbrushes and hairbrushes.

We hope that once they get here, Mom can finally rest and the kids will happily grow and that maybe one day we can meet. But even without meeting, for most of us we can hold that someone in our family was all new to this country and that in a country of immigrants we are "stronger together."

Thank you to all of Syracuse's United Methodist congregations, staff and pastors for cooperating on the project! Job well done!

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Update: The Syrian family did not arrive. An Afghan refugee family of five has moved in.

UUMC Care Team wants to hear from you about your caregiving needs

Greetings from the Care Team at UUMC.

We want to know who you are, and we care about who and "how" you are!

Our group cares, visits, phones, works with the Altar Guild in flower delivery and prays for you and your loved ones.

In particular we support and work with Pastor Alicia caring for you and our congregation. Many hands make it possible to meet our congregational care needs.

Please let the Care Team know if you or someone you love needs special caregiving. Also consider a call to the church office to share who among

us might need contact and/or prayer from UUMC. Please secure permission unless information is already public.

If you would like to know more about UUMC congregational care, let us know. You are invited to participate in upcoming meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. at the church with Pastor Alicia.

In Christ's Love and Care from your UUMC Care Team:

Barbara Cargo, Barbara Nunn, Lee Potter, Nelson Price, Janet Sciscioli, Gail Tyndall, Gwen Tillaugh-Fay and Pastor Alicia Wood

People/Prayers

THANKS

I never realized that turning 90 was such a big deal. Many thanks to the many UUMC friends who sent wishes, Altar Guild and Mary Klepper for the beautiful flowers celebrating her 90th, and cards, Guild as well. The flowers are still lovely ten days later.

With much appreciation,
Nancy Hough

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service:
Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer

Sunday, October 30

- **Mamie B.:** I am looking forward to a peaceful move; also pray for those in struggles
- **Don and Margo Koten:** **Joan Brubaker**, who is in hospice care
- **Willie Kern:** Pray that my wife's health improves
- **Erika:** **Bob and Barb Weaver, Joey Storto**
- **Morgan:** My home church of Stittville Methodist while they begin the search for a new pastor
- **Kiza Kasahindi:** Congo
- **Angela Palmieri:** Joseph Palmieri, who is having back problems
- **Martha:** For the memory of my mother
- **Leigh Safford:** **Shirley Miller**, who is in St. Joe's
- **Jayne Humbert:** Welcome once again to the **Bruno family**
- **Barb Weaver:** **Bob and Barb Weaver, Carus and Mary Olcott Sr.**

- A prayer for **Kim**
- **Laurel Herff and Betty Wilcox**
- **Linda Barton and Annie Dav-enport**
- **Bobby B.**, who died this week
- **Loretta Valentine, Margret Carr and Hattie King**
- **Dan Reed and Linnett's mom**
- **Helen Zwinger, Nelson Price's** sister, who has health concerns

Sunday, November 6

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I praise you for fulfilling my promise.
- **Robert James:** For blessing and good health for **Pastor Alicia** and the congregation
- **Morgan:** **Laurie Pauley**, on her move to Rhode Island
- **Kathy Cleary and Jim Roser:** Prayers for **Riann's** family; she died from a drug overdose
- **Martha Sutter:** Blessing on all the new U.S. citizens who will be voting
- **Peter:** Ancestors, their influence and how they pay attention to us in their lives
- **Mike Rodda:** The family of **William F. Bailes**
- **Roger MacDonald:** In memory and honor of **Harold Britton**
- The upcoming election and the aftermath; **Loretta Valentine and the King Family**

Sunday, November 13

- **Ann Owens:** Family of my Aunt **Pat**, who died on Friday
- **Sharon:** Pray for **Tom Kane's family**; he died on Thursday
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I plead for serenity in this confusing time
- **Peter:** For a country where everyone is well, secure, welcome and at peace, even our

children

- **Rochelle Dail:** **Kiyah and Weah girls, Loretta Valentine, Hattie King, Margaret Carr and Brian Reeves**
- **Del and Barb Gilbraith:** Our country and **Lew Roberts**
- **Martha:** For my niece **Megan**, who has given birth to triplets last week
- **Leigh Safford:** **Wanda G.** is out of the hospital
- **Ellen Gale:** Let go of hate and fear and open our hearts to love
- **Ann Pickard:** That my thyroid is OK, the health of me and a peaceful Thanksgiving
- **Sherri Cullen:** **Dan Reed, Annette's mom, Zak's friend, Jeff and Ann Therrien**
- **Maddie Buckley:** My grandmother, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's this week
- **Kathy Cleary:** Prayers for the people of New Zealand after the earthquake
- **Robert S.:** Forward-moving laws and policies; make America greater
- **Kimberly and Ben**
- That all people of color, LGBT, women, immigrants and people of all faiths find love, support and help

JOYS, THANKS AND PRAISE

Sunday, October 30

- **Weah Family:** We say thanks to God for allowing our parents to buy their first house
- **Beth Drew:** A joy! My son, **Will Drew**, and **Stacy Orris** became engaged last week

Sunday, November 13

- **Shirley Miller:** Thank you for all the love and concern with my recent illness

Harold Britton contributed in many ways

Editor's Note: Harold Britton died Oct. 31 at the age of 98.
By Janet Sciscioli



Harold Britton

Harold and his wife, Martha, were longtime, dedicated members of University Church while bringing up their four sons and one daughter.

Pre-hired-building-manager days, Harold was our "go-to," ever-responding person for building-related problems that arose.

I worked in the church office and had his phone number committed to memory. He always came; he always fixed.

In the late 1980s, Harold worked alongside Ken Taylor as volunteer project managers. This was when our elevator was installed and office space rearranged, among other improvements. They shared an office and came "to work" daily.

Harold had worked as an engineer with General Electric, and Martha, as a nurse. The two of them picked up and delivered food for our food pantry, then serviced out of our office and the Neighborhood Linking Office.

He helped with our Chimes mailings and often caught any spelling or minute, grammatical error we had made. Sometimes in frustration I would think, "But look how many things we got right!"

He also delivered The Chimes for bulk mailing to the Taft Road Post Office — through rain, sleet or snow.

Harold was a music lover, playing French horn in community bands and in our church's own "No-fault Orchestra."

He sang in our choir many, many years — a bass who could hit the lowest notes. He also financially contributed to organ repairs.

We wanted to have a plaque engraved for his participation in that project but didn't know how he would wish it to be worded. I invited him to supply the inscription so it would be to his liking, but he never did.

Our former organist, Nathan Sumrall, saw to it that a concert series in our sanctuary was named in his honor.

Many more things can be said about Harold and his many contributions to our church.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By Nancy Hough, in memory of her mother, Margaret Lincoln Laing, whose birthday was Nov. 12.

By Martha Sutter, in memory of the October birthday of her mother, Laurine Sutter.

By Joanne Zinsmeister Yarwood and Dr. Edwin Yarwood, in memory of family and UUMC friends who have brought great joy to our lives.

In loving memory of Erma Bowes Berwick, who was a devoted member of UUMC for many years.

Flowers were given to Nancy Hough, Dr. Jose "Peppie" Calvar, Carol Boll, Pastor Alicia, Dot Logan and Shirley Miller.

Flowers were delivered by Martha Sutter, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay, Harry Miller and Don and Margo Koten.

December birthdays

- 3 — Karabo Ratala
- 4 — Chrysa Charno
- 5 — Vera Onninen
- 6 — Samora Thebe, Danny Magowan
- 7 — Virginia Dewey
- 8 — Eleanor Huard
- 12 — Alex Huard
- 13 — Rev. Harold Garman
- 15 — Dr. Bruce Simmons, Debra Virgo, Claudette Brown-Smythe
- 17 — Christopher Huard
- 19 — Barbara Cargo
- 22 — Rachel Kgama
- 25 — Kevin Upcraft, Peter Smith
- 28 — Dr. Edwin Yarwood

Free Haircuts

Nineteen Community Breakfast guests received free haircuts Sunday from two DeWitt Styling Shop barbers.

Connections group celebrates with holiday meal

Five of the most active college/graduate students at UUMC celebrated Thanksgiving at the home of Barbara Fought and Nelson Price this past weekend.

They are Sungsu Lee, Maddie Buckley, Nneke Eke, Run Zhang and Cynthia Moore.

Pastor Alicia led a discussion over a Thanksgiving dinner cooked by several members of the congregation and some of the students.

The conversation ranged from the recent election to what gives them hope. Sungsu said one of the things that gives him hope was those around the table, noting they included a future lawyer, political scientist, journalist, accountant and doctor.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2016 total pledges: \$179,649
 Paid to date: \$144,343
 Non-pledge contr.: \$18,200
 Prepaid 2017 pledges: \$20,000

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

Donations received \$79,519
 Expenses paid \$75,901
 Current balance \$3,618

2017 Pledging Update

We have received 58 pledges totaling \$158,102. Of those pledges, 21 have increased. The total increase in pledges is \$9,484. Not included in the total is \$7,000 in matching funds. We have 12 new families making pledges. We are awaiting a number of pledge cards to come in.

Women's Guild Meeting

The Guild's November meeting is Nov. 30 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Margo Kotten, 317 Standish Drive, Syracuse.

Allen and Lois Lum will present "Our Life in Appalachia." They lived there for many years. All are welcome, and please let the hostess know you will be there. Phone: 446-0649.

Everyone's been kind

CONTINUED from Page 1

Jacob, 18; and Broc, 5, and stepmom to Devin, 19, and Trevor, 17. Dale is a volunteer ambulance driver and retired volunteer firefighter and drives a truck for System Freight.

Mary has her own motorcycle and has been riding for five years. She and Dale do a number of charity rides.

Since Mary started Oct. 31, she said everyone she's met "has been very welcoming. They're very kind, everyone who's come in."



University United
 Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20

Sunday the 20th

10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
 10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
 11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
 11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with disabilities
 12:15 p.m. Pack Thanksgiving bags, Pettengill Ctr
 4-5:15 p.m. Ten Commandments Study Group, Fought/Price home

Tuesday the 22nd

9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving bag distribution, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday the 23rd

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 24th

Thanksgiving — Office Closed

Saturday the 26th

7 p.m. Showing of "A Christmas Carol," sanctuary

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27

First Advent Sunday the 27th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
 10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
 10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
 11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
 11:15 a.m. Sunday School for

adults with disabilities
 12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
 12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
 Monday the 28th
 7 p.m. Handbell Choir
 Wednesday the 30th
 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 Thursday the 1st
 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
 Friday the 2nd
 10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF DECEMBER 4

Second Advent Sunday the 4th

10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
 10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
 11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood. Communion
 11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with disabilities
 12:15 p.m. Advent Potluck Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
 Wednesday the 7th
 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
 Thursday the 8th
 6 p.m. Worship Committee
 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
 Friday the 9th
 10 a.m. Friday Community

Thanks for donation

The United Methodist Committee on Relief thanks UUMC for donating \$150 to the General Board of Global Ministries, in honor of Dr. Mark Zimmerman.



Syracuse firefighters inspect the church after the fire alarm went off Wednesday during the Food Justice Symposium.



Former UUMC member Roseanne Samuel was in town recently and stopped by for a visit.

Free Haircuts

Nov. 13, 2016 (5 photos)

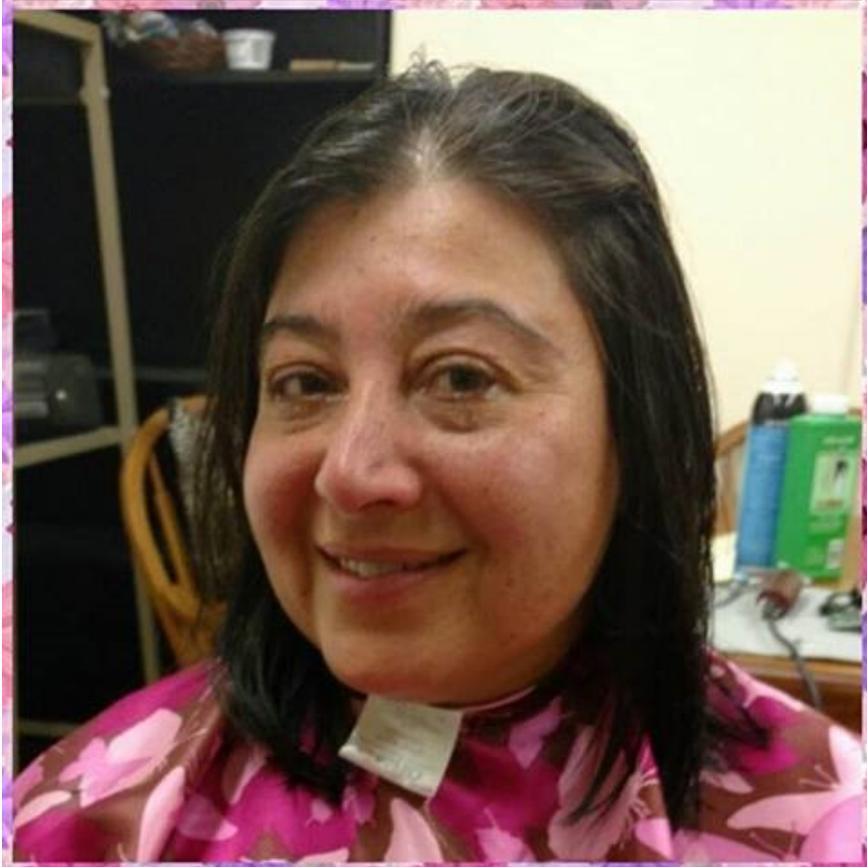


Bob and Nicole, owners of the DeWitt Styling Shop, donated their time to give haircuts to 19 of our Community Breakfast guests.









Setting Up Apartment
for Refugee Family
Nov. 5, 2016 (2 photos)

**Update: The Syrian family of 5 did not arrive.
The furnished apartment went to an Afghan
refugee family of 5.**







Communion Sunday Nov. 6.



Pastor Alicia shows prayer beads, found in one of the treasure chests, to the children Oct. 23 during our Stewardship Campaign. She talked about the gift of prayer.



Pastor Alicia pulls out gifts from the fourth treasure chest on Pledge Sunday, the day we promise to support the church through our gifts.

Children in Worship
Nov. 6, 2016 (2 photos)



