

THE CHIMES

Nov. 7, 2012

**Next Chimes
deadline:
November 21**

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Page: Community Where All Are Welcome	2
Outreach/Mission: Sisters Are Dedicated	3
Mission Intern: Real Relationships Take Time	4
A Look at Consecration Sunday	5
Finance Corner	6
People/Prayer Connection	7
Altar Flowers	8
New Website	8
Three-Week Schedule	8

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

GET THE LATEST SCOOP AT SUNDAY'S LUNCHEON

Christmas is only 48 days away, but before looking that far ahead, be aware what's in store in November.

First, the all-church fall luncheon will be held immediately after worship this Sunday, Nov. 11, in the Pettengill Center.

This annual event is a time for us to come together for food and fellowship, and to share and celebrate some of the highlights of the last six months in the life of the church.

The business part of the meeting will include updates on programs and initiatives relating to and reflective of our church mission statement that calls on us as a congregation to "Feed my people, body, mind, and spirit."

As part of our church charge conference business, we also will vote on the pastor's compensation package for the upcoming year.

Also at the luncheon you will get a peek at this year's stewardship campaign. **(See letter on Page 5).** You'll hear more on that in the future by way of announcements during worship and letters to your home, all culminating in Consecration Sunday in December.

Be sure to attend this important after-church gathering – a time to connect, celebrate, and evaluate where we are and where we want to



A turkey representing a family in need waits to be chosen on the "tree" in the sanctuary.

be as a faithful church community dedicated to God's work in the world.

Thanksgiving Bags

As you receive this Chimes, our annual Thanksgiving Bag Project is entering its final stages. We are anticipating that 200+ families will sign up to receive the bags, and this will mean providing a nice family meal on Thanksgiving to about 500-550 people in our neighborhood.

Visit the "turkey tree" in the sanctuary to choose a family to shop for or to make a monetary donation for. Checks should be made payable to UUMC with a notation of "Thanksgiving Bags."

Also, Wegmans is selling turkeys at 49 cents per pound with the purchase of \$25 of groceries. If you buy

See **DONATE**, Page 6

Church: a place to see face of Jesus, find our true self



Rev. French

in him, so wanted to honor his life and work and witness.

The custom at clergy funerals is for other pastors to robe and process as a group as a sign of respect and solidarity — a reminder that we have made a lasting commitment — a covenant — not just with God but with each other — a covenant that transcends time and space.

Regardless of how much we know or even like each other ... regardless of whether we serve big churches or small ones ... regardless of how effective or “successful” we have or have not been ... regardless of how close or different we are in age, location, theology and personality ... as clergy and as Conference members, we belong to each other; we share a common bond, devotion and mission; a bond greater than anything that might divide us, including death itself.

That message was reinforced that day in the persons who’d been asked by the family to lead the service: four friends of mine who’d been part of a clergy support group with Wade for over 30 years.

Think of it — 30+ years of being there for each other, caring for each other, learning each other’s deepest joys and sorrows, praying for each other, attending to each other’s souls, walking together through good and bad, watching over one another in love. Who better to mark Wade’s passing from earthly life to eternal life? Who better, indeed.

Somewhere along the way, I hope you have

In life and in death we belong to God. And to each other. I was reminded of that several weeks ago when I attended the funeral of a clergy colleague. I knew Wade only casually — had gotten to know him at an urban ministry training event several years ago —

but I liked what I saw and heard

found a set of trusted, reliable, steadfast friends like that. People who will race to your side (literally and figuratively) at a moment’s notice, no questions asked. People who will love you and accept you, no matter what. People who will laugh with you, weep with you, rejoice with you and even sing your song for you when you’ve forgotten how to sing. People you don’t need to hide anything from ... and if you do, who will call you on it.

People who will encourage you and, when life beats up on you (or you beat up on yourself), will remind you of your better self. People who will stay with you all the way to the end.



A mug at the conference on multiclass and multicultural worship and ministry in Columbus, Ohio, last month.

At its best, church is meant to be that kind of place for each and every one of us. Not a place we drop in for an hour or so on Sunday or Friday morning or any other day of the week, but a place where we are schooled in the life-transforming power and ways of Christ ... where the love and mercy, promises and forgiveness of God are practiced and made real ... where the face of Jesus is seen ... where we find our true self and true purpose in life in the company of others.

Last week a group of leaders from this church attended a national training

event on “multicultural, multiclass worship and ministry.” We went with lots of hopes and expectations and were not disappointed. We came home with a TON of new ideas.

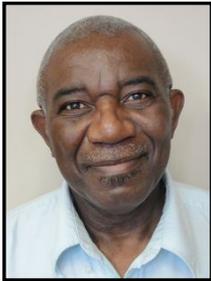
But when we gathered a couple of days ago to compare notes and talk about where to begin, it was interesting to see what rose to the top.

We zeroed in on wanting to foster a greater sense of community among ourselves, with those who are new to the church and especially with our neighbors who are part of our Friday Community (Food Pantry) and Sunday community breakfast.

No matter what else we want to do, it starts here: building a sense of community that stretches

See **BUILD**, Page 7

OUTREACH MINISTRY



Rev. Smythe

Over the years that I have served as interim outreach coordinator for the pantry, now Friday

Community, volunteers

continue to function effectively and thus make a smooth operation.

I am the only paid staff and believe me, if the volunteers were not there on a regular basis, whether it is midweek or on Fridays, we would not function as we presently do.

Those serving as volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, including religious ones.

Today I am highlighting two such persons from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They are Sisters Love and Caton.

These young women are just two of the possible 12 or so who have served us in the past years. These sisters were introduced to the program about three years ago by another volunteer, and today they are fully involved with the Friday Community.

Sisters Love and Caton are missionaries who serve particularly in the clothing area. They are committed to being present as often as possible and if they will be absent on a particular day they will inform us.

As soon as they arrive each Friday, they get involved in helping to sort out the clothing, packing them in the necessary bins, placing them on the racks



Sister Caton, left, and Sister Love of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints serve in the Friday Community.

or even storing them in the clothing area.

They are often asked questions related to clothing by the friends.

These sisters are pleasant and willing to work, but sometimes some of our friends push them to provide items that are not in stock. They work in twos because the senior watches the junior.

Sisters Love and Caton say that they love working with us and this is reciprocal from the other volunteers.

We commend Sisters Love and Caton for their dedication and love. We commend them for the need to be watchful of each other.

We deeply respect the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for allowing them to serve with us as a venture of love.

Marie Peterson

Marie Peterson, one of our volunteers is no longer serving with us. She was the one who helped to guide the clothing area and was always supportive of this area.

Initially, when she started working with us she raised questions about the need to distribute clean clothing. She often took home clothing we received that was not clean and washed them before distributing or placing them in storage.

She was dependable, kind and willing to learn. Marie and I shared ideas about improving the area. She was asked to serve on the Outreach Committee and when she was convinced it was the right thing to do she did so wholeheartedly.

In her time with us she was involved with one refugee family.

See **PECANS**, Page 6

Real relationships don't go on spreadsheets



The hallway can get crowded on Fridays with people packing up bags and boxes and socializing after they

Lyndsey Graves shop. I raise my voice a little over the hubbub.

“Sonny, could you pass that cart behind you over this way?”

Five or six heads turn to look at me and Sonny breaks into a grin.

“Did you hear that? She remembers my name!”

Much as I love seeing everyone smiling, inside my heart drops.

I haven't performed a spectacular feat of memory; Sonny and I introduced ourselves to each other 10 minutes ago before we walked through the pantry together.

In his happy exclamation, what I really hear is an indictment of the systems that shuffle Sonny and other community members through a rotating door of forms and numbers.

I hear a longing to be recognized as an individual human being, not a member of the mass called “the poor.”

I am a big-picture person. I like efficiency and organizing things strategically. I want to know how to improve the system, how to create widespread change, where to put resources for maximum impact on real-life circumstances.

But ultimately, that approach on its own is destined to



Bread and vegetables line the table in the Food Pantry.

fail, because relational and spiritual needs, so bound up with physical ones, don't fit into its spreadsheets.

Systems and strategies can deliver faster service and smarter budgets, but they don't make more of humanity.

George Buttrick writes: “Life itself seems to insure that mass pressure shall splinter again into its units. Real conversations are not stereotyped. Artistry is an individual gift. Thoughts are intimate. Memory is essentially personal. Love knows its own. Prayer is selfhood aflame — the more itself because it is lost in God: at Pentecost every man was heard speaking ‘in his own language.’ In this wide realm where separateness reigns, people are valued not only because they are like, but more because they are unlike: friends are dear for their idiosyncrasies of gesture and thought. ... It is a rule that ignorance and indifference see [humanity] in the mass, while

knowledge and love resolve the mass into remembered friends. The Good Shepherd ‘calleth his own sheep by name.’”

“Social justice” has become such a buzzword for me in the past few years that I have divorced it from its real beginning and end: the love of God. And in the process, I lose sight of the deeply personal nature of love, and of true justice.

I imagine that my responsibility is to “contribute” in some way, but not to offer *myself* as a neighbor, as a friend. It is easy to take a similar approach to student ministry — to focus on getting a certain number of people in the door without taking time to simply appreciate those people once they get here.

The hard work of relationships is not efficient, not measurable, not a cause-and-effect chain; it is slow and uncertain to a degree the system's spreadsheets would calculate out as absurd.

It's also not optional. We have to care for whole people, and the massive investment that takes requires all of us to commit to making these others part of our lives.

But this is the mystery of God's economy: When we start doing that, we might find that it is the first time we've started to care for *ourselves* as whole people, with relational and spiritual needs nothing else can fulfill.

— Lyndsey

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



UNIVERSITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Working to end poverty—spiritual, material, relational"

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

REV. CRAIG FRENCH
Pastor

BETH DREW
Lay Leader

MARTHA SUTTER
Music Director

DENNIS TRIGGS
Organist

RACHEL KGAMA
Church Administrator

MARSHA PLUCINIK
Office Manager

DON BETZ
Building Superintendent

REV. JOSEPH SMYTHE
Outreach Coordinator

TOM BOLL
Media Specialist

LYNDESE GRAVES
Mission Intern

BISHOP MARK WEBB
Upper New York Area

REV. DARRYL BARROW
District Superintendent

REV. DR. HAL GARMAN
Pastor Emeritus

**DR. MARK AND DEIRDRE
ZIMMERMAN**
Missionaries in Nepal

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Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive.

Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday in December, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Consecration Sunday Team,

Beth Drew
Ellen Bacon
Nelson Price
Lynn Steenberg
Tom Boll
Craig French

Pecans for sale; reading corner needs books

CONTINUED from Page 3

She helped to guide them in several areas of adjustment.

One lesson she told me she learned as she supported the refugees, was they are unfairly treated once some people recognize they are not Americans.

We will miss her in the Outreach Ministry and particularly in the clothing area, and I know she will seek to help persons seeking help wherever she lives. God bless you, Marie.

Thanksgiving Bags

We are presently receiving and collection funds, gift certificates and food items for the Thanksgiving bags. These will be distributed on Nov. 20.

The intake format this year is different from previous years. This year we will seek to find out as many details about the persons before a bag is packed.

Using this method, whenever an individual family collects their bags, it will contain only things they request or desire.

Cheryl Brown is guiding this area and we believe it will be successful.

We plan on feeding a maximum of 220 families and to date we have registered 125 families.

Do you realize that it is just a few weeks before we distribute these bags? Yes, this will take place in two weeks.

If you are able to help in any way, speak to Cheryl Brown, Joseph Smythe or Joyce Flynn, who will provide you with answers.

Pecan Sales

While we think of

Thanksgiving Bags, we need to begin talking about Pecan Sales. This the major fundraising program for Outreach/Missions.

We hope each one 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.

Reading Corner

Do you know that we distribute adult and children's books as well as magazines to friends of the pantry? At present our stock of books and magazines is running low. If you are able to supply any such books or magazines and especially books for children, please do not hesitate to offer them.

Every week pantry friends take books to read. The adults and children look forward to reading them.

Katie Is Home

Katie Flynn is a co-chair of the Outreach/Missions Committee. Recently she had surgery.

We are glad that God took her through it and now she is recovering at home. To God be the glory. Keep praying for the family as Katie recuperates.

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. God loves a cheerful giver.

Blessings.

— Rev. Joseph Smythe,
Friday Community chaplain

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

Total amount pledged for 2012: \$204,360. Amount paid to date: \$159,392. Prepaid pledges: \$14,500.

"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.

Guild and Russia

The next Guild meeting is 1:30 p.m. Nov. 27 at Shirley Miller's home on Scott Avenue. Lee Potter will present a program entitled "Russia Today."

Donate a turkey

CONTINUED from Page 1

a turkey to donate, you can bring it to the church between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. weekdays or on Sunday to go in the freezer.

You can also help by signing up to stay after church on Sunday, Nov. 18, to put food in the bags, or to assist in handing out the bags 9:30 a.m. to noon Nov. 20. For more information or to volunteer, contact Joyce Flynn at 673-2761.

In addition, the Connections ministry has placed boxes around the Syracuse University campus — Twitter hash tag #FillTheBoxSU — to collect food from students for the Thanksgiving bags.

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- The Flynn/Hunt Family is thankful that **Katie's** surgery was successful and is hopeful of a speedy recovery

JOY

- For the birthday of **John Swords** (92) and the 40th anniversary of **Diane and Peter Swords**, from **Peter Swords**
- Happy birthday to John Swords! I am grateful for the blessing of family, from **Andy Swords**
- For **Evan Simmons and Caitlin Blanchard**, who were married Oct. 27
- Blessings to **Bob and Ginny Dewey** on their anniversary this past week
- Our office manager, **Marsha Plucinik**, and her husband, **Dennis**, have become grandparents for the third time: Oldest son **Dennis** and his wife, **Yuki**, gave birth on Nov. 2 to their first child, a girl, **Elizabeth Mia Plucinik**, 8 pounds, 6 ounces.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer**
- The family of 5-year-old **Star Sarr**, who died on Friday in

- The Gambia of an asthma attack. Star was a member of the family with whom I lived this summer, from **Beth Drew**
- All parents worried about their children's welfare, from **Grandma Ann**
- All those seriously affected by Hurricane Sandy, from **Lynn**
- The way people in the Northeast are responding to the post-Sandy stress by "tending and be-friending" each other, from **Peter Swords**
- My father in heaven: My heart is still broken when you left me one year ago. Therefore, praise Jesus to comfort you in your new home! From **Elise**
- Persons living with mental illness. Pray for their strength and healing.
- This church, its future and its ministry
- The family of **Jeff Cobb**, who died last week
- Legal advocacy of the disabled; my grandparents; **Alan**, who is in a coma in the hospital
- The family of **Susan Potter Nicholson**, niece of **Ed Potter**, who died Nov. 2
- All who are in need, by **Dakota**

- Healing for **Beverly Schmidt** as she recovers from triple bypass surgery
- Father in heaven, guide your servants to show and live true colors to love ourselves! From **Elise**
- **Dr. Alden Starr** turned 90 years old; prayers for **Bill Anderson** and New Hope Mission Legal Advocacy for Disabled to find a new office, from **Robert**
- **Rosemary DeHoog**, as she heals from recent surgery
- Thank you, **Lyndsey**, for your thoughtful remarks in The Chimes. We need to remember to listen
- Blessings and good health for **Katie Flynn**
- Help stop wars in different countries, from **Dakota**
- Rest in peace, **Tom**. You left us way too soon.
- Help me to teach my child to understand forgiveness, to forgive and to be forgiven — understanding God's grace and mercy
- I pray for a job! Please, please God.
- Prophet Jesus, I am thankful for my third year in marriage, from **Elise**

Build a community that encourages all to grow and contribute

CONTINUED from Page 2

from Sunday to Saturday, embraces all parts of the city and county, and where all persons are welcomed, accepted, cared for, loved, treated with dignity and respect, encouraged to grow and to contribute what they can to the building up of Christ's body and ministry.

To paraphrase St. Paul, we can have all the best plans and intentions in the world; but if we do

not love, they get us nowhere.

We can have all the programs and activities anyone could want or ask for; but if we do not love, they only wear us out.

We can have all the money we need; but if we do not love, we are bankrupt and hollow.

Love comes first. And last. Always.
In love,

— Craig

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Barbara and Tom Cook, Barbara and Jerry Cargo and Cynthia Steinem.

Flowers were given to Rev. John Swords, Beth Broadway, Rosemary DeHoog, Katie Flynn, Ted and Genn Thuma and Jeanne and Sophie Finlayson-Schueler.

Flowers were delivered by Marg McDivitt, Peter Swords, Dick Hunt, Rosemary Chappell and Barb and Jerry Cargo.



University United
Methodist Church

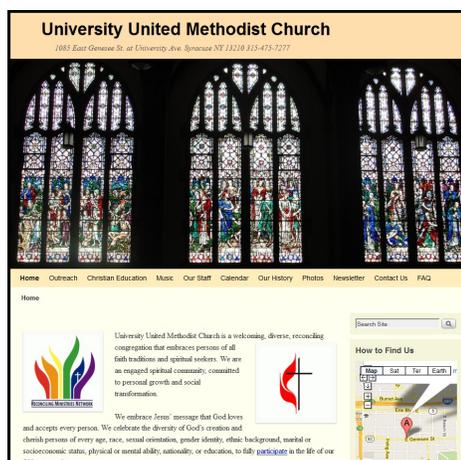
Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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Dated material



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, a calendar that's viewable by week, month and agenda and past issues of The Chimes.

Soon you will be able to hear Rev. French's sermons from past services.

Please contact Tom Boll at uumctb@twcny.rr.com with questions or comments.

Birthdays

November birthdays were in the Oct. 17 issue of The Chimes. December birthdays will be in the Nov. 28 Chimes.

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11

Sunday the 11th

9 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages
5 and up

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship; Sunday
School, ages 3-4

11:45 a.m. Fellowship -
Gathering Room

Noon Charge/Church
Conference, Congregational
Luncheon, Pettengill Center

Wednesday the 14th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

7 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations
Committee

Thursday the 15th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 16th

10 a.m. - noon Friday
Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18

Sunday the 18th

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages
5 and up

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday
School, ages 3-4

11:45 a.m. Fellowship -
Gathering Room

Noon Thanksgiving bag

stuffing, Fellowship Hall

Noon Orchestra rehearsal,
Music Room

Tuesday the 20th

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

7 p.m. Stephen Ministry

Wednesday the 21st

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday the 22nd

Thanksgiving—Office Closed

Friday the 23rd

No Friday Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25

Sunday the 25th

9 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, ages
5 and up

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday
School, ages 3-4

11:45 a.m. Fellowship -
Gathering Room

Wednesday the 28th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Thursday the 29th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 30th

10 a.m. - noon Friday
Community

Conference on Multicultural, Multiclass Worship & Ministry Columbus, Ohio





Craig, Lyndsey and Memory at the conference.



Gwen, Jeanne and Craig.



Gwen enjoys a dance at the conference.

United Methodist Church For All People

CORE VALUES

1. All people are loved by God just the way they are.
2. All people are welcome.
3. All people desire inclusive community.
4. All people desire relevant worship.
5. All people seek hope and healing.
6. All people have the God-given power to improve their lives
7. All people have gifts to give and a desire to serve.
8. All people desire affirmation.
9. All people are capable of being transformed by God, in and through Jesus Christ.





Site of the conference.



Craig, Lyndsey, Billy and Memory.



Time for some fun and “The Electric Slide.”

Apple Picking at Beak & Skiff



Nate, Shirley, Lyndsey and Billy on the wagon to the orchard.



Nate and Martha



Martha gets some hard-to-reach apples.



Lyndsey and Shirley.



Lyndsey and Martha