

THE CHIMES

Dec. 16, 2015

**Next Chimes
deadline:
January 6**

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**Crossroads District will
welcome Bishop Mark
Webb 6:30-8 p.m. Jan.
14 at Bellevue Heights
UMC, 2112 S. Geddes St.**

*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*



Shepherds hear the message. Will you?

A little more than a week remains of our first-time Extended Advent observance.

This Saturday, Dec. 19, children, narrator and readers will rehearse the Christmas pageant from 9 a.m. to noon.

We have one more Sunday left

in our seven-week Advent, Dec. 20.

Christmas Eve we'll have the traditional pageant with the children portraying the Christmas story starting at 7 p.m. There will be the usual carols and candlelight.

Children participating need to be at the church by 6 p.m.

Hand to Plow training continues in January

The United Methodist churches in Syracuse are participating in a series of Hand to Plow trainings from October 2015 to June 2016.

This Hand to Plow training has been adapted to fit the situation in Syracuse. It is one of a kind just like us.

In November about 40 representing most of the Syracuse United Methodist churches attended a large group gathering. The day started with worship and ended with Holy Communion.

The rest of our time together was spent building relationships in small and large group conversations. Our conversations were based on the book "The Artisan Soul: Crafting Your Life into a Work of Art" by Erwin Raphael McManus.

The purpose of our unique Hand to Plow experience is to build relationships with one another so that we can create a comprehensive mission in the city of Syracuse that the United Methodist congregations can get ex-
See **HAND**, Page 5

Greet the new year with hope and guests with hospitality



Alicia Wood

Greetings, 2015 has been a year of changes at UUMC.

As the year began we wondered how the United Methodist churches in Syracuse would become something new and what that would mean for our congregation.

We have a new building superintendent and outreach coordinator. We also experienced the retirement of our beloved pastor, Craig French, in June.

In July, I began my appointment at UUMC. I'm sure there are many more changes that have occurred both in your personal life and at church this year that I have not named.

The thing I observe over and over again here at UUMC is the faith of the congregation. Your faith is strong. Change happens, but we seem to carry on knowing God is with us.

Although we have kept several traditions alive, we have shifted our season of Advent from four to seven weeks. This is a new old tradition. Advent was seven weeks in the Fourth and Fifth

centuries but was shortened to four weeks as the years went on.

Our rekindling the tradition of the seven weeks of Advent has, for me, given the season of Advent real meaning.

It's not just a couple of weeks until Christmas but a season of anticipation. I can't wait for Christmas! I long for the retelling of the story of Jesus' birth. I can't wait to talk about Jesus' life in the upcoming months!



middletonucc.org

Each week I pray for new faces at breakfast, all of our Sunday classes and worship.

I live in anticipation of guests. How do we welcome guests to our church?

This is a very friendly congregation! We are very welcoming once new faces are in worship.

How do new people know which way to go once they arrive at the church building?

Next time you come to the

building pretend you have never been here before.

These may be some of your questions: Which door should I go in? If I come in the Peale entrance, do I go up or down the stairs? Am I going in the wrong way if I walk into the front of the sanctuary? Where are the classes both for children and adults? How do I get to the breakfast?

These are all questions a greeter could answer.

I would like to have an organized group of greeters for Sunday mornings in anticipation of the new faces that are yet to come to our beautiful, friendly and faithful congregation.

Please let me know if you would like to be in a rotation of greeters or would like to organize the rotation of greeters.

I am so grateful and proud to be in here in this place and in this time where change is around us and faithful people reside.

Thank you again for your outstanding hospitality and love you have given to me since I arrived.

As we live and wait for what is to be in 2016, I am hopeful that the best is yet to come.

Peace,
— Pastor Alicia

ALTAR FLOWERS were given:

By Jim and Deb Virgo in memory of Jim's parents, Roderick and Dorothy Virgo

By The Women's Guild in memory of our member, Sue Bambacht. Flowers were given to Mary Klepper, Genn Thuma, Diane Tarbell, and Claudette Brown-Smythe.

Flowers were delivered by Barb and Jerry Cargo, Marg McDivitt and Lee Potter.

The Thanksgiving display of fruits and vegetables Nov. 22 was given by the Altar Guild and was donated to the UUMC food pantry.

The poinsettias for Dec. 13 were donated by the Altar Guild.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2015 total pledges:	\$210,572
Paid to date:	\$175,596
Non-pledge contr.:	\$25,701

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

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

Working to make UUMC a neighborhood center once more



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

During the spring semester of my junior year at Syracuse University I spent six months in London, England, studying, traveling and experiencing being a European citizen for a while. As an art

student my academic course load consisted of art & British history and architecture classes.

In this setting I began to appreciate the vast historical, cultural, communal presence of Europe's churches, synagogues, temples and mosques. I learned that places of worship were so much more than that, and by offering this phrase as a description was to misrepresent the vessel of the church greatly.

The churches of Europe were the community center. Villages, towns and cities were physically built around these facilities — this space being the true focus.

Churches in their magnificent presentation were absolutely the landmark for travelers, neighbors and pilgrims.

Church plazas and interior spaces were maintained to allow crafters, farmers and vendors to sell their wares, share in business exchanges, engage in political debates, execute legal procedures and enforce education. All of the workings of towns and cities filled the halls.

Parish gardens were dining areas, sick wards, child care facilities, animal stockyards, cemeteries and simply, a place to find respite and the presence of God.

When I began working at UUMC I inherited a newly won

grant generated by Rev. Craig French and Friday Community Coordinator Deb Virgo.

In 2014 the initial grant

was titled "Reaching Our Neighbors." Filling the grant application with accounts of UUMC's neighbors, our Food Pantry guests, looking for purpose, hospitality services and spiritual growth, the award was granted and these needs/wants were quickly met and absorbed into the everyday workings of the Outreach programs, but more needed to happen.

In March 2015 Craig was made aware of Rev. Mike Mathers' work at Broadway United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Shortly, Rev. Mathers was invited to Syracuse to educate UUMC of the new ways Broadway Church is connecting and supporting the community surrounding it.

By May 2015 UUMC's grant had morphed into a "Spiritual Leadership" project, and we anticipated the arrival of Rev. Mathers. June brought Rev. Mathers to us and definition to our "neighbors" grant. The adoption of Mathers' mantra: "Stop helping people ... be good neighbors, we should listen" mobilized the hiring of Lori Wyman and Derrick Johnson as our roving listeners by our newly arrived Pastor Alicia Wood. By the close of summer Pastor Alicia had drafted a training, job description, a pur-



pose and tools the "Listeners" use at each exchange. Thusly armed, our "Listeners" were off to find the "God-given

gifts that already exist in our neighborhood so that we (the church) can empower (neighbors) to use their gifts through support, space and celebrations."

Lori and Derrick have made several happy findings and connected with close to 80 individuals this autumn.

They have found gifts, desires, connections and patterns. They have educated folk on the offerings of UUMC and given invitations to create more for the individuals who surround us.

Additionally, Derrick and Lori have begun relationships, often-times with individuals who have very few.

In my engagement to assist with the ongoing efforts of our "Roving Listeners," our winter work will focus on the culmination of data:

- Creating links with UUMC's congregation and our neighbors.
- Filling the rooms of UUMC with programs where folk can celebrate their gifts.

Yesterday's European churches have become a reference that I use always. Possibly, our neighbors will find UUMC as their center again.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

People/Prayers

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

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

Sunday, November 15

- **Cindi:** That I gain strength as in the Proverbs "A wise man listens"
- **Peter:** For our leaders not to jump to revenge; "Let us not become the evil we deplore": in reaction to the Paris atrocities.
- **Rosemary:** Prayers for the family of **Sue Bambacht**, who died on Wednesday.
- Family of **Sue Bambacht**. Sue was a very active volunteer here for many years.
- For needing meaningful work.
- May we find hope in one another in times of sadness. Let us remember the good outweigh the bad.
- Paris, France
- The world and all the suffering people in Paris.
- New Hope Animal Shelter
- Volunteers for Legal Advocacy for the Disabled

Sunday, November 22

- **Peter:** For all the kids all over the world who deserve peace, justice, their rights to health and safety and an end to war and the arms trade
- **Jeff Foley:** I now have better health and have a better understanding of being a parent and dad
- **Jeanne F-S:** For family and friends of **Dr. Valarie Torrence**, who died on Friday. She was a teacher and administrator in the city schools.
- **Chuck:** Pray for the victims in France
- **Cindi:** That I be uplifted in the

Lord and his word. Please pray for me.

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: Train me to lead on in the light of hope!
- **Emelia Weah:** Thank you, God, for all you do for me and my family, for helping people in need.
- New Hope Animal Rescue Farm needs volunteers to collect food for dogs and cats. Support adoptions.
- Safe travel for all traveling over Thanksgiving holiday
- Help us to be the church in the time of fear mongering and to welcome the stranger
- **Dave Martin**, in hospice care
- All feeling lonely this holiday season

Sunday, November 29

- **Ann:** Pray for peace on earth. Pray for my boyfriend, **Jeff**, and me.
- **Chuck:** Pray for the victims of Colorado shooting incident.
- **Diana:** That all God's creatures will learn to live in peace not just during Advent, but all year long.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I ask with humility to overcome my current challenges in the marriage, who will no longer serve your purpose.
- Prayer of health for **Mrs. Johnson**
- For those needing work
- Prayers for financial support to Mercury One, a charity rescuing children and others in Syria.

Sunday, December 6

- **Barb:** Healing prayers for Genn Thuma, who is at Community Hospital.
- **Cindi:** Prayers for medication adjustments for blood pres-

sure and from recent falling events.

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I give thanks and praise to be your servant, to correct injustice in your sight.
 - **John:** Yesterday I made 17 years sober, thank God and Jesus.
 - **Nate:** Victims and people of San Bernardino shootings.
 - **Peter:** For **Elaine Miller-Kavas**, who is leading a workshop today on resilience training. (30 miles from San Bernardino)
 - **Rebekah:** Prayers of healing for my friend **Nathan**, who donated bone marrow to his mom. Prayers that the transplant is successful for his mom, who has cancer.
 - **Robert:** End to violence in our city. No more loss of precious lives.
 - Please pray for strength for **Dan Johnson** to overcome his sickness and for ease of recovery.
 - Prayers of help and hope for those struggling with depression and other mental health issues.
 - For all who feel unsure about the safety of our communities, towns and world.
 - San Bernardino
 - God should be with all kinds of people.
 - For those who are grieving, may they find hope and comfort in their sorrows.
 - Pray for our nation that is so conflicted on so many issues including how to deal with violence and fear
- ### Sunday, December 13
- **Barb:** Healing prayers for
See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

120 neighborhood families receive Thanksgiving meal

Once again, UUMC has reached out to our friends and neighbors by providing all of the ingredients for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal to 120 families in our neighborhood.

For the first time ever, we provided every single family a turkey (instead of the chicken that was provided to smaller families in the past), a very meaningful and symbolic part of the meal for many.

We welcomed our guests with coffee, fruit, bagels and muffins as they waited for their turn to receive their bags, turkeys, fresh fruit and fresh produce.

A big thanks to the UUMC congregation who made this wonderful outreach effort a success again with generous donations of bag items, turkeys, money and assistance in bag packing and working the day of the giveaway.

Also, appreciation to Galyn, Tim, Alicia, Marsha and Rachel, who worked in various ways to help facilitate.

We are hopeful that next year we will again have the opportunity to share our bounty with our neighbors, and are already discussing ways to make the meal we share even more meaningful for everyone.

— Joyce Flynn

People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

Genn Thuma, who is receiving rehab at Community Hospital.

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, protect my son, from irrational choices, inside his peaceful and safe home!
- **Kathy:** For a new job for Jim that he will be happy at.
- **Peter:** For San Bernardino – that they will keep their resiliency, even as they mourn the loss of heroic helpers, together in love.
- For **Carl Roberts, Wade, Nora Oja**
- May my brother and my wife recover their health.
- Guide me in the right direction on my search for a career job.



Thirteen students and young adults plus Pastor Alicia shared a Thanksgiving dinner hosted last month by Barbara Fought and Nelson Price. Students and church members brought much of the food. Above are Devine Cooper and Yangweiyu Pan.

- Prayers for peace within families and between nations and cultures.
- Prayers for the **Reeves family** – 2 young adult suicides in the family recently

Hand to Plow book focuses on question of ‘why’

CONTINUED from Page 1 cited about.

The next Hand to Plow gathering you are all invited to attend is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan 9, lunch provided, at Erwin First, 900 Euclid Ave.

Our conversations will be based on the theme of the book “Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results” by Lovett H. Weems Jr. and Tom Berlin.

You will be able to attend and participate whether you read the book or not. I recommend

the book whether or not you are able to attend the training.

The book gets to the question of “why.” “Why do we do what we do?”

I’m happy to lend my copy or purchase several from Cokesbury or Amazon for people to read.

Please let us know by emailing, uumc@twcny.rr.com or calling the office, 475-7277, if you plan to attend and if you’d like us to order your book.

— Pastor Alicia

January birthdays

1 – David Lund, Samuel Weah, Pablo Weah, Tae’jin Spinner, Kaleigha Spinner, Joviet Cooper
 2 – Maria Pedro
 4 – Autumn Kerr, Charlotte Burnap, Ken Craig
 9 – Joseph Smythe

11 – Jim Samuel
 15 – Martin Luther King Jr.
 16 – Eric Nilsson
 20 – Ebony Wilson-Selmon
 21 – Jacob Upcraft
 22 – Diane Swords
 23 – Eboni Marshall, Judith Bowers

24 – Fred Zuti, Seineh Weah
 25 – Lara Chappell
 26 – Matt Rokahr
 27 – Colleen Magowan
 30 – Eros Marshall, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay
 31 – Neil Damron

Stewardship update

Thank you to all who have pledged as part of the Stewardship Campaign.

Preliminary figures are showing that many people who pledged in 2015 either raised their pledges or stayed at the same giving level for 2016.

There is still time to make an annual pledge for 2016 if you have not done so.

Remember, making a pledge is not a binding document. If circumstances change for you, so can your giving.

Pledging does, however, help to establish a realistic annual church budget.

You can still pledge by contacting the church office at 475-7277 and asking for Rachel Kgama, picking up a pledge card on the table in the back of the sanctuary and placing it in the offering plate, or calling Beth Drew at 492-9123.

If you are not up-to-date on your 2015 giving, there is still time to catch up.

Every Chimes issue shows the year-to-date giving as well as the total budget dollars from pledges.

You may be interested in reviewing those numbers throughout the year to gain a sense of the progress of UUMC pledging income.

All of the Syracuse United Methodist churches faced questions and change during 2015.

Building on trust, University Church has shown its loyalty to ministry, worship and outreach through consistent and generous financial commitment and pledges for 2016. Thank you. Join in, if you can!

— Beth Drew,
Lay Leader



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 20

Seventh Advent Sunday the 20th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade, Pettengill Center

10 a.m. Adult Bible Study, History Room Annex

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood

11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with special needs

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Wednesday the 23rd

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 24th

7 p.m. Christmas Eve pageant

Friday the 25th—Christmas

Church office closed

WEEK OF DECEMBER 27

Sunday the 27th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Friday the 1st—New Year's Day

Church office closed

WEEK OF JANUARY 3

Sunday the 3rd—Epiphany

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood. Communion.

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm.

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Wednesday the 6th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 7th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 8th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JANUARY 10

Sunday the 10th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade, Pettengill Ctr

10 a.m. Adult Bible Study, History Room Annex

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood

11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with special needs

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm.

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Wednesday the 13th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 14th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 15th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community



Our newly installed Little Free Library outside the Peale entrance on University Avenue.

Chimes prep crew

Dec. 15, 2015



2 More Photos from
Connections Thanksgiving Dinner
at Fought/Price Home
Photos by Barbara Fought





Advent Potluck Luncheon

Dec. 13, 2015 11 photos

Photos by Tom Boll, Pastor Alicia



About 70 UUMC members and friends stayed after worship Sunday for the luncheon and caroling in Fellowship Hall.























Our Handbell Choir plays during the Dec. 13 service.



Our sanctuary landscape has grown during our extended Advent.



Pastor Alicia talks with the children about the manger and its occupants.

East Genesee Regent Association Christmas Party for Children

Photos from Pastor Alicia, Kristine Sherlock











