

THE CHIMES

Dec. 7, 2016

**Next Chimes
deadline:
January 4**

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**No Sunday School or
Hot Topics classes on
Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. No 11
a.m. worship on Dec.
25. Breakfast at 9 a.m.,
followed by brief wor-
ship at 9:30.**

*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*

Still time to visit Christmases Present and Future with Scrooge this Advent

Two weeks to go in our Advent journey in "The Redemption of Scrooge" at our 11 a.m. service. Dec. 11 we'll have special music from our choir and "The Life of Christmas Present: Look Upon Me." Dec. 18 is "The Hope of Christmas Future: Death-Defying Acts." See Pastor Alicia's column for Advent details.



Angels, shepherds and kings were ready for Christmas last year. Children who want to be in this year's pageant need to come to rehearsal at 9 a.m. Dec. 17 at the church.

Feedback sought for Pastor Alicia's annual assessment

Dear SPRC, Governing Board members and Congregation members,

This year's Staff/Parish Relations Committee is working on the annual pastoral assessment for Alicia Wood.

We have received her self evaluation, and we are soliciting your assistance in this work by asking that you provide our subcommittee — Don Koten, Joyce Flynn, Eileen Schell — with feedback/responses to the questions that follow.

Since she is part of a citywide pastoral team. Please take that component of her job into consideration as you answer these questions:

1) What do you find most effective about Pastor Alicia's ministry?

2) What do you think that Pastor Alicia could do to improve her effectiveness?

3) Are there other comments you would like to provide?

Please share your responses by Dec. 20 with one or all of the following:

Don Koten
(dkoten@twcny.rr.com) or phone:
(315) 446-0649

Joyce Flynn
(jhflynn56@gmail.com) or phone:
(315) 289-9039

Eileen Schell (eeschell@syr.edu)
or phone: (315) 383-1505

Thank you in advance for your help.

2016 was a year of growth, but much work is left to be done



Alicia Wood

Greetings!

We have had a very busy and exciting year! This year we have seen growth in worship attendance, membership and Outreach Ministries.

In worship we have worked to incorporate worship series with a common theme to share God's word such as "Home," "Gifts of the Dark Wood," the Phoenix Affirmations and currently "The Redemption of Scrooge."

Most of these themes are inspired by books by the same name, if you would like to know more.

Our Music Ministry continues to "wow" us in worship each week.

Our Outreach Ministries have reached new people in a variety of ways.

Month after month we see record numbers receiving meals through our Pantry and Friday Community.

Outreach has been intentional about networking and working together with organizations throughout Syracuse such as Visions for Change and the Diaper Bank.

Our ministry with children got a boost this year as we brought back Vacation Bible School in August. This excited the children and families to attend Sunday School in the fall.

It also energized new Sunday School teachers and new Sunday School helpers.

We sent seven children to Camp Casowasco this past summer.

Our meeting in early May that

included many of the leaders of the church set this year on a course of action, growth and faithfulness. We will have another meeting early spring 2017 to keep the momentum going.

The second half of the year we embraced our Brothers and Sisters from the former James Street UMC into the family of UUMC. Our congregation has been blessed to have them become such a vibrant part of the ministry.

"We will be working on ways to continue to connect in and outside of our church building."

Our challenge this year is to quickly rent the office space on the second and third floors of the building and to see donations increase proportionally to our attendance and outreach ministries.

I have no doubt with God's help this will happen, but we must name challenges as well as celebrations.

The year is not yet complete. We still have the Senior Choir's Special Music Program on December 11 during worship at 11 a.m.

We have a Church Conference on December 11 at 12:15 p.m. to approve and support a candidate of ministry from our congregation.

On December 18 during worship we will bring in Christmas by donating warm coats at 11 a.m. After worship we'll have a small lunch and wrap Christmas gifts

together that will be given out to everyone who attends the Community Breakfast on Christmas morning (Christmas is a fourth Sunday, our usually breakfast Sunday).

Finally, we will go Christmas caroling to some of our members who are unable to make worship on Sundays.

We have our upcoming Annual Christmas Dinner and Christmas Eve Pageant.

Christmas morning we'll have breakfast at 9 a.m., then worship at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. There will be no worship at 11 a.m. on December 25.

We have so many reasons to be grateful. Yet we have so much work to do.

As we grow we need to be intentional about getting to know one another. So please join us in a small group study or other fun activities offered.

We have much to do outside of our church as well. We are called to be the voice of the oppressed. We will be working on ways to continue to connect in and outside of our church building.

Thank you for all you have done to support University UMC! Your love and faithfulness shine through!

Thank you for all the prayers you have said for me. I have felt them, and I continue to need them.

I look forward to another year together working to share God's Love throughout our beloved city of Syracuse!

Peace be with you until we meet again,

— *Pastor Alicia*

Uncle's caring act made long-lasting impression on teen



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

This summer and fall I have completed several interviews.

The interviews have been for radio, for a magazine, for The Food Bank of CNY and the Syracuse newspaper.

However, most of the interviews are by students from Syracuse University.

The students range from sophomores learning about social service programs in Syracuse to PhD candidates understanding UUMC's place in the world of food justice.

Although the interviewers have their own interests and their own line of questioning, everyone always asks me one same thing; "How did I get into this line of work?"

Like many diverse professionals, my route to this job was very indirect. I didn't grow up feeling as if I'd like to run an Outreach Program at a large, busy urban church.

I, with my sisters, did grow up watching, listening, arguing, laughing, protesting, traveling, playing and learning about people, about history, about the mechanics of society, about Syracuse, about what is fair and unfair, how to work hard and try our best every day.

Along with my Mom and Dad, my dear uncles (my Mom's seven brothers — you remember I'm Irish Catholic, right?) played a very important role in my upbringing. I was reared with and by these men and I adore them completely.



Galyn's Uncle Greg five years ago with her children, from left, Aydan, Brynn and Devin with two young cousins Tatum and Logan enjoying "shave ice" in Oahu, Hawaii.

While visiting my family in Hawaii one Christmas, several of us were walking home on a late afternoon.

The city sidewalks were busy in Waikiki as everyone hustled home at the end of the workday. It was hard to keep track of all in our large group as we moved with little kids, wandering teenagers and too much beach gear.

My Uncle Greg led this menagerie in haste but suddenly disappeared.

The remaining of us stopped without our leader and waited.

Minutes later Greg popped out of the McDonald's restaurant that we all were standing in front of. In one hand was a paper sack indicative of the traditional "Happy Meal" and a coffee in the other hand.

He scooted around a column on the facade of the restaurant

and stooped to hand a woman the meal.

We all had just walked by this crease in the wall and only upon Greg approaching did I see that the pile of torn clothing and newspaper held a very small, very old woman.

The woman slowly stood and hugged my uncle deeply. With tears streaming, she held his face, she blessed his forehead and gushed a litany of

Japanese words that obviously were in celebration of his gift.

My embarrassed uncle helped her get settled with the meal, then ushered us onward.

Later in the evening I asked my uncle about this woman and about the food he gave her.

I learned that he frequently gave her food, that she moved around Waikiki and that he looked for her.

I also knew he didn't understand a word she said, but he knew she liked her coffee black.

My uncles don't ever want a huge line of questioning about anything. They don't like to be in the spotlight. They aren't always introspective, but Greg did say this to me: "She is just a woman who is old and hungry, who deserves attention for a minute and who might have a better day be-

See **UNCLE**, Page 5

People and Prayers

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

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

Sunday, November 20

- **Kathy Cleary:** all who are without a home or family for Thanksgiving.
- **Sherri Cullen:** **Dan Reed, Lynnette's mom, Jeff and Anne Therrien**, and those facing Thanksgiving without a loved one
- **Rita Soufleris:** Safe holiday travels
- **Robert:** May we find joy today
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I thank you and praise you for your beautiful harvest
- **Mike Rodda:** For the family of **Robert Hagerty**
- **Erika:** **Joey Stortoe** and family. **Barb and Bob Weaver**
- **Aimie S-M- Best:** For those that struggle emotionally during this holiday season. May they find comfort in God's presence and promise
- **Jackie Sadowski:** **John Sadowski**, for healing of his ankle.
- **Don and Margo Koten:** for the family of **Sidney Cochron**. **Sidney** died this week.
- **Gail Tyndall:** **Donald Trump**
- **Jeanne F-S:** That our transgender youth may find love and a safe space so that suicide does not seem the only option.
- **Mamie:** Thank you, Lord, for another day. For struggling.
- **Ginny & Paul Bartow:**
- A joy that the Samaritan Center will not be razed when Route 81 is rebuilt.

- **Bruno Mukasa Muluia:** Jesus add the peace and love in Syracuse
- **Rochelle Dail:** **Ann and Tom Owens, Angela Palmieri, Barbara and Bob Weaver**, our country and those concerned over the election, our church, our conference and all members of UUMC
- **Kirsten Magowan:** For my mother and my cousins **John and Rhona** on the death of my **Aunt Cathie Kennedy** on Thursday.
- **Renee McCleary:** Prayers for **Anita Pillow**. She just had open-heart surgery.
- **Stella:** My daddy's (**Dan**) birthday is tomorrow and **Daddy and Morgan** got engaged yesterday!
- **Barb Weaver:** **Bob Weaver, Jim Bishop, Carus & Mary Olcott**
- **Jim Tallman:** **Diana Rockhill**, who has been in the hospital and continuing medical appointments
- **Peter Swords:** For allies: people who stand up for those who are targeted, blamed, scapegoated and denied.
- **Jim:** Blessings to the **Bruno family** as they are doing great learning the English language.
- **Alphonsina Muluta:** Congo and God please my family
- A new granddaughter born on Wednesday
- For those that are sick and discouraged
- Prayer for peace and unity for families and the world.

Sunday, November 27

- **Mamie Baxter:** God continues to bless the entire world
- **Sherri Cullen:** **Dan Reed,**

Grace Antonio, Adeline Ferrandi, and Jeff & Anne Therrien

- For those struggling, may God provide for their needs and give them strength and hope.
- **Carrie and John Hunt:** Prayers for success and a quick recovery for **John**, who is having surgery tomorrow
- **Laurel:** **Betty Wilcox**
- **Peter Swords:** for all the people living in the U.S. whether officially or not, and their human rights
- **Donna Ricci:** Please pray for my son and daughter **Ricci**
- **Ralph Best:** For the **Landis Family**. **Mary Landis** died last week.
- **Erika:** **Joey Stortoe and family, Barb and Bob Weaver**
- I love my church. I ask God to keep well this church.
- **Dale Fryer:** For those who have lost hope.
- **Irena:** Lithuania
- We are happy to meet together today here; God bless this church.
- **Kathy Cleary:** Prayers for **Jim** on his search for a new job
- **Robert James:** Prayer that we all come together as one nation under God sharing God's grace with one another.
- **Barb Weaver:** **Bob & Barb Weaver, Jim Bishop, Carus & Mary Olcott**
- **Robert:** Prayers for good health for **Jerry & Barb Cargo** and for friend **Jan** on her 95th birthday
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, prepare me for your arrival into this world.
- **Lois Lum:** **Allen**
- **Robert:** Prayers for **John**

See PEOPLE, Page 5

People and Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

- **Schmitz**, who is a missionary for Christ and is now unemployed and homeless, however he still keeps his faith strong in God. Even though he has given to God and the poor most everything he had and owned.
- Please pray for my father who is fighting off a staph infection and not responding to antibiotics.

Sunday, December 4

- **Kathy Cleary**: Prayers for better health for **Sue and Fred**
- **Weah Family**: We pray God will be with our father while he travels to Africa for one month
- **Marg McDivitt**: Best wishes for **Marjorie Carter** as she travels to Florida for the winter
- **Jeanne F-S**: Our country
- **Dean Moyer**: Pray — and

stand — for a peaceful and just solution to the plans being protested by the Native Americans and veterans and so many others at Standing Rock

- **Sharon Smith**: Please keep **Sandy Kane & family** in your prayers
- **Ann Owens**: My brother **Robert Klock** is having back surgery tomorrow.
- **Joyce Flynn**: Prayers for those in Gatlinburg, Tenn., in the wake of their losses of homes and businesses. Prayers for the people of Syria
- **Jim**: Help lead me in search of a new career
- **Gerda**: Prayers for my sick mother in Albania and for my family
- **Gail Tyndall**: **Karen Schroeder**
- **Rochelle Dail**: Praise God for **Bob Weaver's** presence! **King family, Nichols Family, Marg-**

ret Carr, Terri Jean Crowell, Zahria Dirkson

- **Yalala Baraka**: I ask this church to pray for peace for Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **Peter Swords**: For the healing that we all need, so our bodies can return to peaceful calm occasionally, and so our brains can think.
- Prayers for all those who struggle with anxiety & depression. Know that you are loved and there is hope for healing

JOYS, THANKS AND PRAISE

Sunday, November 20

- **Barb and Jerry Cargo**: Happy Birthday to **Roger MacDonald**, who will be 90 on Friday

Sunday, November 27

- **Joyce Flynn**: Prayers of thanks for being a part of this wonderful, diverse & energizing church family.

Uncle saw a woman in need and acted immediately

CONTINUED from Page 3
cause of a \$5 meal and that I saw her.”

In so many ways this experience made such a strong impression on me that it impacted me as I grew into the woman I am today.

The most obvious is that a teenage girl wanted to be just like her adored uncle, but more so, that a small gesture could fill a need.

It didn't need to be expensive, big, loud, noticeable, documented or talked about. Greg SAW her, he SAW that she was needful, he could correct that immediate need and he did.

As Christmas approaches I desperately miss my uncles, but I

remember this moment on a hot afternoon in a busy city where possibly the best gift was given for an old, hungry woman as well as for my 16-year-old self who was indirectly provided a beacon.

Ultimately, what is difficult to share in an interview is that this line of work suits me. It comes very naturally to me because of a moment, because of an offering, because of several beliefs and experiences that created me.

This is how: “I got into this line of work.”

Merry Christmas to you all. Take care of each other this holiday season.

— *Galyn Murphy-Stanley*
Outreach Coordinator

Women's Guild Meeting

The Guild's next meeting is Jan. 25 at 1:30 p.m. in the Chappell Room at the church.

January birthdays

- 1 – David Lund, Samuel Weah, Pablo Weah, Joviet Cooper
- 2 – Maria Pedro
- 4 – Autumn Kerr, Charlotte Burnap, Ken Craig
- 9 – Joseph Smythe
- 11 – Jim Samuel
- 20 – Ebony Wilson-Selmon
- 21 – Jacob Upcraft
- 22 – Diane Swords
- 23 – Eboni Marshall, Judith Bowers
- 24 – Fred Zuti, Seineh Weah
- 25 – Lara Chappell
- 27 – Colleen Magowan
- 30 – Eros Marshall, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay
- 31 – Neil Damron

WEEK OF DECEMBER 11

Third Advent Sunday the 11th

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. Church Conference, Sanctuary

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room

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

Monday the 12th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 14th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 15th

6 p.m. Staff-Parish Relations Committee

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 16th

10 a.m. Friday Community

Saturday the 17th

9 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal

WEEK OF DECEMBER 18

Fourth Advent Sunday the 18th

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



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adults with disabilities

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room

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

Monday the 19th

6 p.m. Neighborhood Christmas Dinner

Wednesday the 21st

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 22nd

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 23rd

10 a.m. Friday Community

Saturday the 24th

7 p.m. Christmas Eve Pageant

WEEK OF DECEMBER 25

Sunday the 25th—Christmas

9 a.m. Community Breakfast and Brief Worship, Fellowship Hall

Monday-Tuesday the 26th-27th

Church Office Closed

Wednesday the 28th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 30th

10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF JANUARY 1

Sunday the 1st

11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood. Communion

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room

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

Monday the 2nd

Church Office Closed

Wednesday the 4th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 5th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 6th

10 a.m. Friday Community

Altar Flowers

The Thanksgiving cornucopia was given by the Altar Guild in honor of UUMC members and friends.

The produce was donated to the Thanksgiving bags for distribution.

Altar flowers were given:

By Dr. Cynthia Steinem in memory of Dr. Joseph Steinem and Mrs. Judith Steinem.

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

Flowers were given to Roger MacDonald, Alan Lum, John Hunt and Margo Koten.

Flowers were delivered by Marg McDivitt and Ann Owens.

New Members, Baptisms

Two adult baptisms were performed at the Nov. 20 service.

We also received 33 new members during worship, many of them from the former James Street United Methodist Church. Welcome to all!

Finance Corner

2017 Pledging Update

We have now received pledges totaling \$163,332.

Included in that total is \$26,154 in new pledges, which are from new members and those who didn't pledge in 2016.

When \$7,000 in challenge grant matching funds are added in, we're at \$170,332.

There still are more pledges to come in.

Connections Holiday Dinner

Nov. 12, 2016

4 Photos



Photo by Barbara Fought



Photo by Barbara Fought



Photo by Barbara Fought



Photo by Barbara Fought

Nov. 20, 2016

Baptism, Reception of New Members,
Packing of Thanksgiving Bags

11 photos



Photo by Ted Finlayson-Schueler

















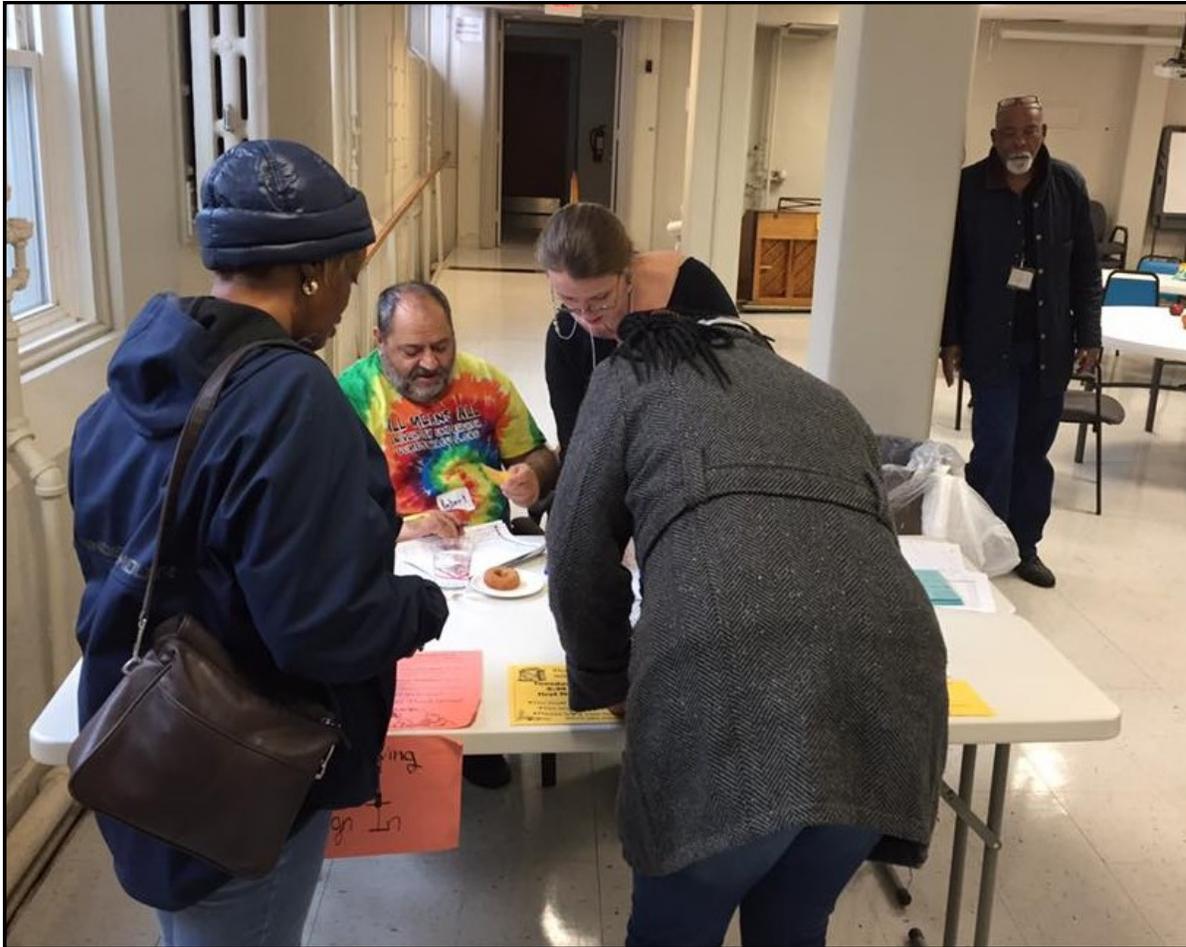




Thanksgiving Bag Distribution

Nov. 22, 2016

4 photos









Lighting the First Advent Candle

Nov. 27, 2016



Photo by Barbara Fought

Dec. 4, 2016
Service and Advent Potluck
16 photos





















Photo by Pastor Alicia



Photo by Mark Fullerton



Photo by Mark Fullerton







