SU senior begins tenure as intern in UUMC Outreach Program

For years UUMC has talked about hosting a Syracuse University intern in one program or another. Last month, that happened.

Anna Magnuson, an SU senior from Maynard, Mass., majoring in food studies and minoring in nutrition, began her internship here.

Anna will spend 85 hours during the semester under the direction of Outreach Coordinator Galyn Murphy-Stanley learning about and working in our Outreach Program, primarily on Fridays when our pantry is open.

You may also see her on an occasional Community Breakfast Sunday.

How did it happen? The seeds were planted last spring when two professors from SU’s Falk College came with their students to learn about and work in the pantry.

Galyn told them about the history of food pantries and other sites for the “food insecure” of Syracuse.

The professors were pleased and submitted Galyn’s name and UUMC to the Falk intern placement coordinator for Food Studies.

With support from Pastor Alicia Wood and Executive Administrator Rachel Kgama, UUMC became one

See INTERESTED, Page 5

Sponsor a breakfast to help feed the hungry

The free Community Breakfast that we serve on Sunday mornings twice a month is serving more hungry people than ever.

We have been averaging over 100 persons each breakfast and hit a high of 162 one Sunday in November — that was loaves and fishes time!

For the past nine years, we have been financing this breakfast through sponsorships. Individuals volunteer to cover the $250 cost of one breakfast, or individuals get together to sponsor a breakfast together.

The sponsorships have allowed the breakfast to operate successfully without having any impact on the rest of the church budget.

If you would be willing to become a sponsor, this is the time to do it.

Ted Finlayson-Schueler is the person who organizes them, and you can contact him to tell him you want to become a sponsor or to ask about sponsoring at 315-446-6333 or SchoolBusTed@safetyRules.net.
Greetings!
You may or may not know that I am not a morning person. Each week, very early on Wednesday morning, eight or nine of us gather at one of the six United Methodist churches in Syracuse. You may ask, “Why are you leaving your house at 6:30 a.m. on Wednesdays when you are not a morning person?” My answer is prayer. Wednesday morning has become a day of renewal through the act of praying together. I have made it through this time of frustration and uncertainty because of prayer. Prayer grounds me and gives acknowledgement and motivation. 

Each week the pastors take turns hosting our prayer time. Each week our prayer time is different.

Last week at St. Paul’s, Pastor Jee Hae gave us a slip of paper with a Bible verse from Jeremiah. Then we were asked to read the Scripture three times, pray for ourselves and then pray for the people of the church. We were asked to walk around the sanctuary and the building to pray for those who enter. We were encouraged to touch objects within the church as we prayed. It was quite moving and Spirit-filled. I even stood at the window and prayed for those yet to come.

On February 12, immediately after worship, we will take a prayer walk around the UUMC building. We will walk all through the church, including the sanctuary, pantry and rental space. My prayer is that this becomes Spirit-filled for all of us. I hope that we pray for those yet to come to our worship and pantry and our next renters. The week of February 13-17 we will host a prayer walk each morning from 7 to 9 a.m. on the first floor.

Folks who come to pray will not only have a chance to pray but also get to walk a set measured “path.” I know prayer walks are not new to this congregation. So I hope you will join us on our prayer walks in February. Prayer is essential to our peace of mind and our renewal. I have even found this at 7 a.m. on Wednesdays!

Peace,
— Pastor Alicia

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February birthdays
2 – Bette Helwig
7 – Domonick Weah
8 – Tom Boll
9 – Starke Donnally
16 – Robert Morris Jr.
19 – Jan Garman
20 – Aidan Brackett
21 – Taylor Bacon
23 – Roseanne Samuel
25 – Elise Curry-Schemichen

Snack hosts needed
We are in search of eight people/families willing to host our snack after worship once every eight weeks. We have three volunteers so far. When we have eight to host, they will be asked to schedule a date only six times a year! Thanks in advance for your gift of hospitality. Please email uumctwcnynr.com to volunteer.

Care Team formed
As our congregation grows, UUMC has created a Care Team that works closely with Pastor Alicia to connect with our members who are unable to attend worship regularly. If you would like to join the Care Team or know of someone we need to connect with, please email pastoraliciawood@gmail.com.
Although I could write and rant about our most current of current events, I prefer to write about something that has more power than even the most top of our elected officials.

Solidarity, grassroots efforts and unification.

Jan. 21 my family and I, about 25 UUMC members and roughly 2,000 others participated in the Syracuse Solidarity rally at James M. Hanley Federal Building downtown.

It was an amazing event full of lively conversation, music, friends, posters, flags and chants. We circled the building and even managed to execute “the wave.”

My daughter Brynn was interviewed by the local news, and my son, Devin, waved his flag from the top of a sculpture.

Together we looked forward, we made our selves and our voices present, we held hands and promised to protect our democracy, ourselves, our children and the environment.

That evening, social media, network news and NPR presented a collection of all of the marches, rallies and organized celebrations worldwide.

Around the world, we all looked the same, the chants were the same, the energy was the same, the pink hats were the same, the work is the same.

Pastor Alicia’s “Reclaiming the Common Good” Jan. 20 workshop offered us tools of organization for our “worries” and for whom we are worried in this next administration.

We identified commonalities and actions that might be pursued by UUMC.

A possible resurgence of the UUMC social justice group will come up in future conversations and actions will hopefully follow.

Jan. 21 also brought our student intern from Syracuse University. Anna Magnuson will be joining us almost every Friday with some additional hours through the week.

She will be assisting in the Food Pantry and other areas where food insecurity issues are focused on by UUMC for our friends and neighbors.

Our Jan. 21 Game Day was attended by about 25. As we watched SU’s men’s basketball team take on Notre Dame we gobbled up Ted Finlayson-Schueler’s wonderful venison chili and enjoyed a respite after the morning’s rally.

Sunday morning brought about 126 folks to our community breakfast. As always, a popular event, but we are seeing many more children and young families. Fellowship Hall bubbles with their laughter and energy through breakfast.

So it was a weekend full of action, fellowship, celebration.

As we look forward to the rest of 2017 unsure about what policy changes will come our way from Washington, one thing is certain: Our commitment to our work each day will not waver.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Galyn’s daughter Brynn on Time Warner Cable News at the Syracuse Solidarity rally Jan. 21 at the James M. Hanley Federal Building.
People and Prayers

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service: Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fisch-er

Sunday, January 15

- Kellie and Lynn: Prayers for Cortney as she heals from a car accident.
- Dean Moyer: Lori Wyman’s sister was hit by a car jogging. Lori’s brother Brad is recovering from a car accident.
- Donna Ricci: please pray for the Williams family, for little Mark, that God watch over him always.
- Jackie Sadowski: Grandson John, who had major ankle surgery
- Allen Lum: God loves all the little children and all who are here.
- Leigh Safford: Planetary survival
- Gail Tyndall: Donna Douglas and Annelise’s granddaugh-ter Kinsey
- Joyce Flynn: For the family of Joe O’Donnell on his death; prayers for the continuing water wars and humanitarian crisis in Yemen
- Jim Wiggins, who is hospital-ized
- For teachers and students beginning a new semester

Sunday, January 22

- Donna Ricci: Say a prayer for Linda Green; she is having problems with her eyes
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, I plead to you a new home.
- Erika: Barb and Bob in Florida; Maria and family
- Kathy Cleary: Prayers for Bud and Samantha. Bud is going into hospice care.
- Gail Tyndall: Kinsey and Barbara Silverman
- Peter: For our mutual support as allies for human rights and global security and de-fense of creation.
- Jackie Sadowski: John Sadowski, healing from ankle surgery
- Michael Rodda: Anthony, Paulina and family; John Fike
- Alana Lindsay: That my ca-reer goals pan out.
- Allen Lum: Getting to church worship because we do not want to be sad.
- A prayer for Sarah M., as she goes through life changes
- Morgan and Stella: Healing prayers for Darlene Berdeen as she recovers from surgery
- Prayers for our country and President Donald Trump and his family.
- Shirley and Harry Miller: Please pray for the family of Tom Catskill, who died this week.

Sunday, January 29

- Gail Tyndall: Barbara Silverman, Sue Guyer and Amanda and her family
- Peter Swords: Justice for re-fugees seeking asylum from oppres-sive governments and wars fueled by U.S. interven-tion.
- God give me strength in things my heart desires and family! Thank you
- Jeanne F-S: Welcome home to Stephanie Hitztaler & fami-ly.
- Jim: I am blessed to be a part of the Mukasa family. They are truly an amazing family.
- Joyce and Katie Flynn: Prayers of concern for the sup-port of all immigrants trying to come to the U.S. Prayers for all the representatives that they deal with erratic, extreme actions and policy
- Changes with conscientious compassion
- Kathy Cleary: Prayers for my parents as they decide how to care for my mom.
- Stephanie Hitztaler, Oliver and Vera: Praise and grati-tude to be back in Syracuse and to be with our cherished church family. Prayers as we make this transition.
- Rochelle Dail: Lois Lum and Tom Owens
- Prayers for our country and President Donald Trump and his family.
- Sherri Cullen: Dan Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaine Fer-randi
- Kathy Dewey, Gloria Goodison

JOYS, THANKS AND PRAISE

Sunday, January 22

- Brad Bowers and the Choir: Happy 80th birthday to Ju-dith Bowers

Sunday, January 29

- I am grateful for my pastor and church. Thank you, Lord. Continue to live within my heart.
CONTINUED from Page 1 of the first Food Studies intern-eligible sites for Falk. UUMC is defined by Falk as a site for students interested in social and food justice, food accessibility and community empowerment.

And that’s what attracted Anna to UUMC’s internship. Anna said she started out as a nutrition major but found her interests lie more in governance and hunger.

“I’m very interested in social issues and policy,” she said. “It was kind of perfect.”

She said she took a course last semester called Human Right to Adequate Food and got a completely different perspective.

“I saw where my interests are for grad school, like working in human rights and policy,” she said. “I wanted to see how everything worked and be able to get more involved in the Syracuse community at the same time.”

She’s not sure what kind of job she’d like to have as she has a lot of interests, including food accessibility, prison reform, civil rights and women’s rights, but she noted that these are related.

On campus she’s involved in the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Club in which she mentors and acts as a role model to local middle and high school girls.

As for her family, she’s an only child. Her parents are Karen Magnuson and Ann Little. Karen manages a home for disabled older residents, while Ann works as a corrections officer. She has three cats and two dogs at home.

Among hobbies, Anna likes to work out and travel, especially with her close friends from SU. She studied abroad in London last fall.

An eight-year quest for two degrees

Sungsu Lee is a busy young man on an eight-year journey.

He’s a student in the MD/Ph.D. program at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

When he finishes this eight-year program, he’ll have both degrees. It includes two years of medical school, followed by four years of graduate work and two more years of medical school.

Sungsu, who joined UUMC a year ago, is in his second year of graduate research, which is toward a doctorate in neuroscience. He recently passed his oral qualification exam and is currently working in an ophthalmology lab. Right now he’s planning on focusing on psychiatry.

Sungsu grew up in a Methodist family in Port Jefferson on Long Island’s north shore and graduated from Cornell University with a physics major. While at Cornell, he attended St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Ithaca.

His parents live in Fulton, Md., where they moved while he was in college. He has a sister who goes to Gordon College near Boston.

At UUMC, you’ll see Sungsu at worship, and he’s part of the Connections young adult group. His studies leave him little time for anything else.

One activity he has to relieve the pressure of academia is going to weekly trivia nights, often at The Inn Complete on SU’s South Campus.

“My team usually does pretty well,” Sungsu said. “It’s a trivia team made of medical students. Whenever there’s a disease question we always get it.” Sungsu said he’s also strong on questions about transportation systems and geography.

He also said the MD/Ph.D. students have board game nights. The type of students who get in his program are extremely competitive, he said.

“I guess the best way to put it is, it’s not the most relaxing way to play board games because every single person in the group is thinking about strategies and everyone’s working on an angle,” Sungsu said. “It’s a very interesting and lively group to play board games with.”

They’ve moved on to a game called “Pandemic,” in which they team up to fight a global disease.

He said, “We’ve gotten wise and moved to cooperative games because individual games tend to be a little too much for us to handle sometimes.”

In addition to those pursuits, Sungsu also enjoys skiing and indoor rock climbing.

‘Reclaiming the Common Good’

In response to a nationwide call by the General Board of Church and Society, about a dozen members met Jan. 20 at UUMC to discuss the “common good,” and what UUMC can do.

Attendees were asked what groups they were most worried about.

The next meeting is 4 p.m. Feb. 12. All are welcome.
**Finance Corner**

**Pledging Update**
- 2017 total pledges: $192,352
- Paid to date: $15,219
- Non-pledge contr.: $1,200
- Prepaid 2017 pledges: $28,366

**Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund**
- Donations received: $79,519
- Expenses paid: $75,901
- Current balance: $3,618

**Worship Committee**
The next Worship Committee meeting is 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in the Chappell Room.

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**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5**

**Sunday the 5th**
- 9:45 a.m. “Half Truths” book study, Laubach Room
- 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
- 12:30 p.m. Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

**Monday the 6th**
- 7 p.m. Handbell Choir
- Wednesday the 8th
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- Thursday the 9th
- 6 p.m. Worship Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
- Friday the 10th
- 10 a.m. Friday Community
- 12:30 p.m. “Half Truths” book study, Chappell Room

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**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12**

**Sunday the 12th**
- 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. “Half Truths” book study, Laubach Room
- 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 & Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
- 4 p.m. Election Reflection/Action Tuesday the 14th
- 6 p.m. Governing Board

**Saturday the 11th**
- 1 p.m. Game Day: SU vs. Pittsburgh, Pettengill Cntr.

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 19**

**Sunday the 19th**
- 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 & Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

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**Altar Flowers**
- Altar flowers were given:
  - By Pastor Alicia Wood and Angela Palmieri in honor of the January birthdays of their mothers, Peg Leonard and Ann Owens.
  - By Charles Chappell III in memory of his father, Charles Chappell Jr.
  - By Margo and Don Koten in loving memory of their parents, Dr. Irvin and Dora Koten and Rev. George and Margaret Schnabel.
  - Flowers were given to Ann Owens, John Indick, Jim and Betsy Wiggins, Jo-Ann May, Mary Wilson, Carol Boll and Ben Wiles Jr.
  - Flowers were delivered by Nelson Price, Don and Margo Koten, Jackie Sadowski and Ed and Lee Potter.
Syracuse Solidarity Rally
Jan. 21, 2017
5 photos
Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017
Pastor Alicia and children share jokes
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Carrier Dome, Jan. 29, 2017
6 photos
‘Half Truths’ Book Study
Jan. 29, 2017
(1 of 3 groups reading the book)