

THE CHIMES

March 25, 2015

**Next Chimes
deadline:
April 15**

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**Greetings from Finland —
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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.*

*Rev. Craig French, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor*

Norrix to lead four-person team to serve city UMC congregations

It was announced in church on Sunday that Bishop Mark Webb intends to appoint Rev. Dr. Robert Joseph BJ Norrix, Pastor Andy Anderson, Pastor Alicia Wood and Pastor Jee Hae Song as a pastoral team to the city of Syracuse to serve the United Methodist churches, effective July 1.

After Rev. French had announced his retirement earlier this year, we had been informed that a new pastoral team would be appointed to the city.

Norrix is appointed as the lead pastor of the new team.

The bishop's office said: "The Pastoral Team will discern how best God will use their various gifts and leadership styles to lead, learn and to serve with the United Methodist Churches in the city of Syracuse, their members, their visitors/friends, their neighbors, and with all the new



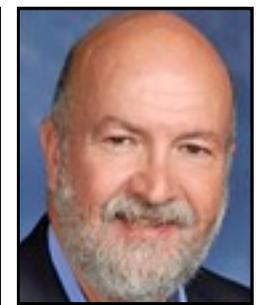
Alicia Wood



Andy Anderson



Jee Hae Song



BJ Norrix

people that United Methodists will seek to reach in the city of Syracuse.

Accompanying our pastors to
See **PRAY**, Page 4

Handbells, palms start Holy Week observance

This Sunday, Palm Sunday, March 29, we begin Holy Week, with a service that includes distribution of palms and a procession and postlude by the handbell choir.

As part of the cooperation and coordination among the city
See **UUMC**, Page 3

New outreach coordinator is lifelong city resident

Galyn Murphy-Stanley has been hired as UUMC's new outreach coordinator.

Galyn is a lifelong resident of Syracuse and a graduate of SU.

She lives with her family in the Westcott area.

She says she's excited by what she's learning about the church and its commitment to the city.

Darkness is a part of life, but a new day dawns on Easter



Were you there when the sun refused to shine? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble ...

Rev. French

In a matter of days, we enter Holy Week — the week that defines not only Jesus but the essence of Christian faith and what it means to follow Jesus.

Everywhere we look that week, there is growing darkness, both figurative and literal. There is an overall sense of foreboding, as Jesus' criticisms of the ruling powers become harsher and more direct.

In response, the conspiracy against Jesus tightens and grows more active. And in self-defense, Jesus withdraws from the city every evening.

Then comes sundown Thursday. Jesus gathers in the privacy of an upper room for a last meal with his disciples. Jesus pushes Judas out into the darkness to finish his betrayal.

A short while later, Jesus and the remaining disciples follow, singing a parting hymn and heading out into the dark.

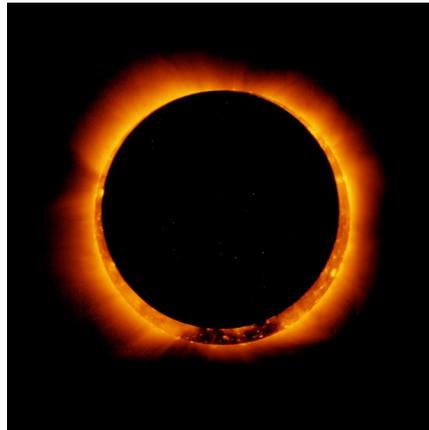
In the dark, Jesus falls on his face in agony and prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. In the dark, the disciples grow drowsy and begin to drift away.

In the dark, Jesus is betrayed by a kiss and arrested by armed soldiers. In the dark, Peter denies knowing Jesus three separate times.

Even when the rooster crows at daybreak, the darkness does

not disappear. Jesus is blindfolded and beaten, then nailed to the cross. Darkness descends over the whole land from noon to three in the afternoon.

And when it is all over, his lifeless body is laid in a dark tomb, sealed tight with a large stone.



NASA.gov

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

In her book, "Learning to Walk in the Dark," Barbara Brown Taylor reminds us that darkness is as much a part of life as light; that darkness has its own gifts and lessons; and that the dark, too, belongs to God.

"Darkness," she writes, "is shorthand for anything that scares me — that I want no part of ... The absence of God is in there, along with the fear of dementia and the loss of those nearest and dearest to me.

"So is the melting of polar ice caps, the suffering of children, and the nagging question of what it will feel like to die.

"... The problem is this: when, despite all my best efforts, the lights have gone off in my life ...

plunging me into the kind of darkness that turns my knees to water ...

"I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion: I need darkness as much as I need light."

Last week's Lenten study at the home of Barbara and Nelson began with light-hearted banter about our favorite and least favorite beverages (as a lead-in to Jesus' statement, "I thirst").

But by the end of the evening, as we quietly told personal stories of accompanying loved ones through the darkness of dying, there was deep recognition that we were on holy ground — holy ground that existed only because we dared to face the darkness and find God's presence even there. As Scripture tells us, *"the darkness and the light are both alike to God."*

And so, in the darkness of the soil the seed grows. In the darkness of the womb new life emerges. In the darkness of the tomb Jesus stirs and rises from the dead.

And when he breaks loose from the tomb in the early morning light, it really is a new day, a new beginning, a new creation for all of us.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Easter blessings and joy!

— Craig

UUMC hosts service Good Friday evening

CONTINUED from Page 1

United Methodist churches, two Holy Thursday services will be held, both at 7 p.m.

One is at St. Paul's UMC, 2200 Valley Drive. The other is at Gethsemane UMC, 1700 Butternut St.

Likewise, on Good Friday, we are hosting a 7 p.m. service for the city congregations.

Our Easter Sunday worship at 11 a.m. will conclude with the "Hallelujah Chorus," with those in attendance invited to join the Senior Choir down front for its singing.

Bellevue Heights UMC is offering a 7 a.m. Easter sunrise service at Woodland Reservoir near the church, which is at 2112 S. Geddes St.

Come April 19 to 'Feel the Spirit' by John Rutter



Elisa Sciscioli will perform John Rutter's "Feel the Spirit" during 11 a.m. worship.

The work is a cycle of traditional spirituals for instrumental ensemble and choir.

Elisa Sciscioli, who has brought her Honey Child Soul Quintet to UUMC in the past year and given after-worship workshops, returns to be the guest soloist.

The instrumental ensemble will include clarinet, flute, bass, percussion and piano.

Mark Sunday, April 19, on your calendar to come hear the Senior Choir perform John Rutter's "Feel the Spirit" during

Margo's artistic expression displayed for us over 37 years at Peale entrance

In 1977 Apple put its first computer on the market, Jimmy Carter became president and Barry Manilow's song, "I Write the Songs (that make the whole world sing)" topped the charts.

That's also the year that Margo Koten began designing the display case in the Peale entrance to University United Methodist Church.

She has done it with grace and style, helping us remember holidays, challenging us with meaningful quotes and honoring people and events.

So some 37 years later, after she's been asking to be relieved of the job for a couple of years, we've finally said yes, with regret.



Margo Koten performs her artistic magic in the Peale entrance display case.

And we know it will be really hard to match her artistic expression and dedication over all these years.

Please thank Margo when you see her for all her love and care shown in that display space.

Robert Simmons has agreed to take over the design for future windows, and so he

and I will be working together to try to reflect our church's faith and events in the months to come.

I thank him for his enthusiasm in taking on this task with me.

— *Barbara Fought, Spirit chair*

Commitments by UUMC members

Last Chimes we shared some of the commitments UUMC members and friends made commitments for the coming year at January service. Here are more:

Make time for daily prayer for God

Slow down. Turn to God earlier in my decision-making than I have before. Regular practice of listening for God and responding

To be more conscious of how my words affect others

I will work for justice

Be more faithful in prayer, reading the Bible and making time

Be more prayerful and meditative. To see how my actions and deeds reflect on others

April birthdays

- 1 – Matthew Steenberg
- 2 – Ted Holmes, Jereline Weah
- 5 – Ralph Best, Diamond Weah
- 6 – Connor Fay
- 8 – Russ Young
- 11 – Sheila Murphy
- 13 – Merylyn Mungure, Doug Coutts
- 14 – Marty Nicholas
- 16 – Julie Pedro, Ryan Steenberg, Eleanor Frank, Jeff Huard
- 17 – Dale Fryer
- 19 – Dr. Richard Phillips, Gale Youmell, Abby Hyland
- 20 – Corinne Upcraft
- 22 – Princess Weah
- 23 – Golden Duru
- 24 – Carol Dawes
- 25 – Cheryl Brown
- 29 – Genn Thuma, Ginny Knight, Janet Sciscioli
- 30 – Vera Gaskin, Dennis Triggs

If any birthdays are in error or were omitted, please contact Tom Boll, uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

- By Matt and Lynn Steenberg in memory of Ken and Harriet Taylor
- By Rita and George Soufleris in honor of Beth Soufleris
- By Mary Klepper and her family in loving memory of Larry Klepper

Flowers were given to Beth Drew and Nelson Price by the congregation in appreciation for their leadership; Samuel Mba-jah, Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood, Deeanna Dimmick and Mary Klepper, for The Nottingham.

Flowers were delivered by Barb and Jerry Cargo and Ralph Best.

Pray for our new pastors and families

CONTINUED from Page 1

Central New York are their family members.

BJ is married to the Rev. Karen Bellimer, who currently serves as minister of music at Erwin First UMC.

Andy Anderson is married to the Rev. Nola Anderson, who will be appointed as the district superintendent of the Crossroads District effective July 1.

They have one son, Asriel.

Andy has been approved by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry as a provisional elder and will be commissioned at this year's Annual Conference in May.

He graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, with a master of divinity degree.

UUMC members are already familiar with Alicia Wood, who was our pastoral caregiver last summer while Rev. French was on a study leave.

Alicia has one daughter, Annmarie, who is a high school

senior. Alicia will graduate this May from Boston University School of Theology with a master of divinity degree.

Jee Hae Song will travel to South Korea this summer and will get married to her fiancé, Se Gye Shin.

She will officially start her appointment at the end of August.

Jee Hae will graduate this May from Emory University Candler School of Theology with a master of divinity degree.

Our United Methodist churches' SPRC chairpersons, lay leaders, other key leadership and our current pastoral team and staff will work together with our new pastoral team as a Transition Team to provide support and to cooperate as some anticipated changes are made between now and July 1.

The bishop asks us to pray for these pastors and their families and send notes and cards of welcome and encouragement to them.

Greetings, from Finland!

Stephanie Hitztaler sends greetings and warmest regards from Finland.

She said she's been able to get out a lot with both kids, Oliver and Vera, (pictured at right) and meet families of various nationalities. Stephanie also said she's beginning to learn to speak Finnish.

Vera recently had her first swim lesson.



People/Prayer Connection

THANKS

- Our thanks to Margo Koten for decorating our Peale entrance glass case for the last 37 years!
- **Jim Wiggins:** Prayer of thanksgiving for **Betsy's** successful treatment

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- Those in military service: **Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer**

Sunday, March 22

- For **Stephanie Hunt** on the one-year anniversary of the loss of spouse
- For **Michael Owen**, husband of **Deborah Bradshaw**. He is hospitalized with an unknown infection
- **Peter:** the long-term influence of inspired people's mentoring on our children. May we create spaces for safety and nurture everywhere
- **Valerie:** That our churches prosper. For **Russ**, that he find a doctor to look at the muscles that have fallen following earlier surgery and for pain medication to help him cope
- **Russ:** Please, Lord, bless **Becky Baker**, my sister, another sister, brother. Please, Lord, keep safe and healthy them and me and the rest of us who are dealing with illness and recovery from surgery
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, navigate me to avoid all acts of terror and instead to create

peaceful activities

- **Shorty:** For my life, and what's left of it
- Please help us in your prayers for healing within our family
- **Tom and Carol Boll:** For son Jon, who starts a new job in San Francisco tomorrow

Sunday, March 15

- All first responders who put their life on the line daily for our safety.
- Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth now.
- Honorable discharge appealed from other than family issues get resolved.
- I pray for great blessings through this year.
- Thanks for the little signs of spring in spite of more snow today!
- Happy birthday to **Don Koten**

Sunday, March 8

- **Linda:** Healing of cyst. Need physical strength to overcome.
- **Peter:** For the skills of non-violence, which are even more needed in today's world than 50 years ago
- For **Katie and Betsy**, who face surgery this week.
- Be with **Betsy Wiggins** Thursday during hospitalization.
- Prayers for **Sam** and his health.
- Pray for my children in Africa that they will join me.

- For continued good health. Recovery from surgery for all those friends so infirmed.
- Pray for healing of my brain, heart, legs and body.
- Prayers for the friend at breakfast who died this past week. He played the piano for us many times.
- Happy birthday to **Rita Soufleris and Lori Wyman**

BIRTH

- A joy in the birth of **Emily Joy to Kurt and Aimie Sarkodie-Mensah Best** on March 10

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **April 5:** Afton Kapuscinski, Peter Smith, Lily Smith, Kay Smith
- **April 12:** Mary Klepper, Don Koten, Margo Koten
- **April 19:** Bob Laubach, Julius Lawrence, Rob Lewis, Fred Zuti
- **April 26:** Billy Lindsay, Nancy Myers, Dorothy Logan

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **April 5:** First UMC of Phoenix, Marion Moore-Colgan
- **April 12:** Chittenango UMC, John Fulton; Hannibal Center-South Hannibal UMC, Greg Beasley
- **April 19:** Nelson UMC, Kevin McAllister
- **April 26:** Cazenovia UMC, Ray Lange; Oswego Trinity UMC, Jeff Hodge

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2015 total pledges: \$210,572
Paid to date: \$40,949
Non-pledge contr.: \$10,464

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

Donations received \$74,519
Expenses paid \$71,544
Current balance \$2,975

Connections group members invited for Easter dinner

The Connections Young Adult/Professional group continues its tradition of getting together for Easter dinner.

It's a casual event with good food, laughs and interesting conversation.

We'll connect at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 5, at the home of Nelson Price and Barbara Fought in Jamesville.

Any college student, graduate student or 20-something who attends or is a member is welcome.

Six people have already said they'll be there. Please let others know you are coming by RSVPing at this poll: <http://doodle.com/vqcdgpdrmvgd5mum>

The group will coordinate rides for those who need them once everyone has done the poll. If you like to cook and want to bring something, list that in the poll. But you don't need to. For questions, contact Nelson at 315-446-7656.

April Guild Meeting

The Guild will meet next at 1 p.m. April 22. Topic: "Favorite Family Fond Memories." Call hostess Barbara Nunn for details: 315-426-8641.



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF MARCH 29

Sunday the 29th—Palm Sunday

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French, preacher
11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 1st
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 2nd
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 3rd — Good Friday
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community
7 p.m. Good Friday worship service

WEEK OF APRIL 5

Sunday the 5th— Easter
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French, preacher
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 8th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 9th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 10th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF APRIL 12

Sunday the 12th
9 a.m. Community/Church Break-

fast, Fellowship Hall

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Monday the 13th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 15th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 16th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 17th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF APRIL 19

Sunday the 19th
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship: Senior Choir special music
11:15 a.m. Sunday School, adults with special needs
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 22nd
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 23rd
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 24th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

March 22, 2015, Breakfast and Service
(8 photos)

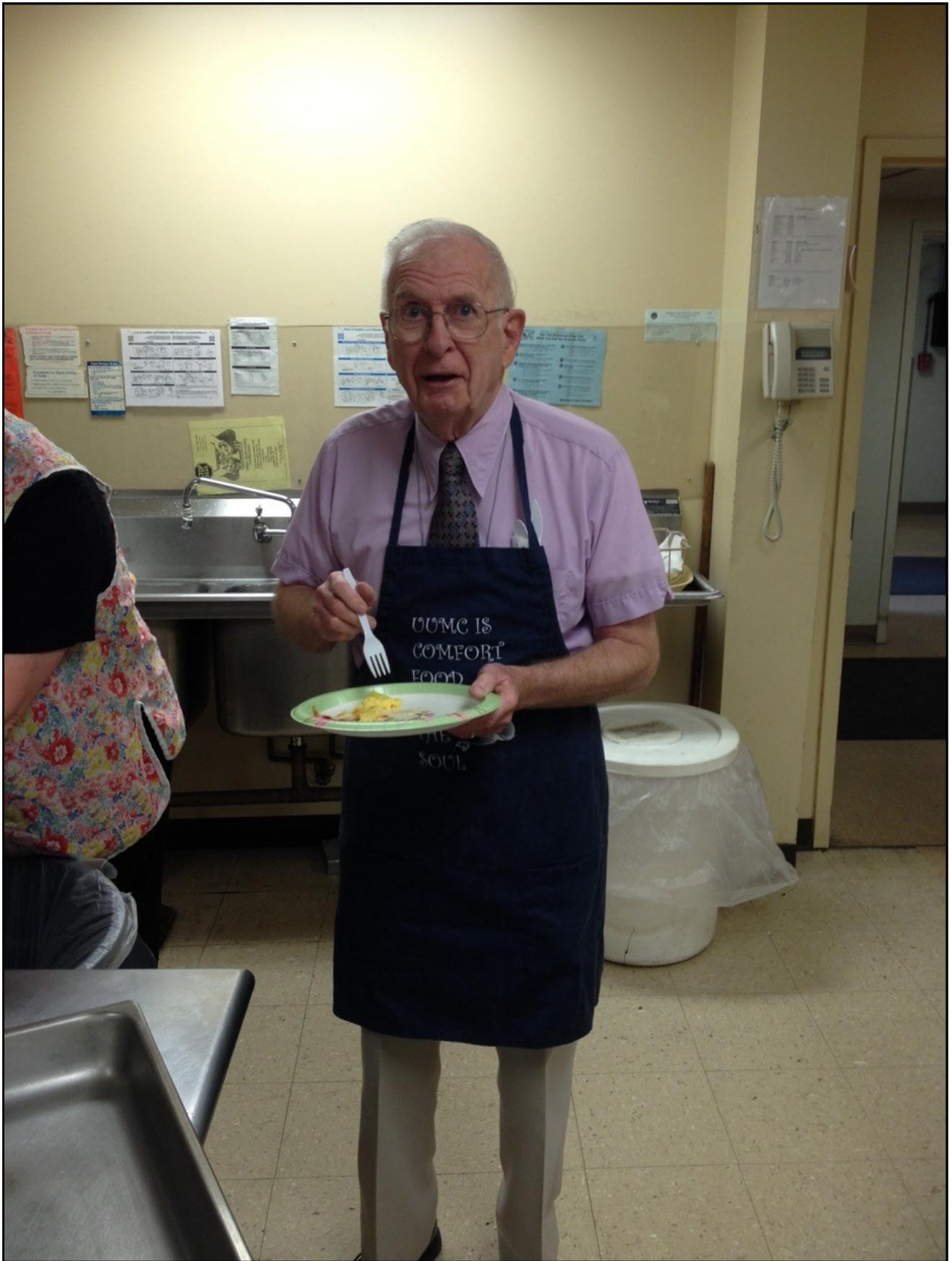


















Matt helps unload a food delivery for our food pantry.