

THE CHIMES

May 20, 2015

**Next Chimes
deadline:
June 17**

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**UUMC's contribution to
Imagine No Malaria will
be at least \$2,600.**

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

UUMC to look back and forward as time for pastoral change nears

June is shaping up to be a busy month with a special ministry focus for each Sunday as UUMC prepares to say farewell to Rev. Craig French, who is retiring, and to welcome the new city clergy team.

The congregation will be reviewing its history in these areas and looking forward to what God has in store for us.

For June 7, Communion will be celebrated, and the ministry focus will be on Housing Visions, presented by co-founder and UUMC member Ken Craig. Housing Visions is celebrating its 25th year of existence. Sunday School ministry and graduates also will be recognized.

Saturday, June 13, Rev. Mike Mather of Broadway United Method-

ist Church in Indianapolis, will conduct a workshop on asset-based planning and ministry from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$5 for lunch.

The next day, Sunday, June 14, Mather is our guest preacher. The ministry focus is on the Friday Community/Food Pantry, presented by Galyn Murphy-Stanley, our new neighborhood outreach coordinator. There will be a welcoming reception for her, followed by a blessing of the Community Garden at Spencer Park and a picnic with our Welch Terrace partners.

June 21 finds the ministry focus on the Community/Church Breakfast given by Ted Finlayson-Schueler. It's also music appreciation Sunday with

See **CELEBRATORY**, Page 5

Annual Conference kicks off next week

The Upper New York Conference's 2015 Annual Conference runs May 27-30 at the Oncenter downtown.

Highlights of the session include the following:

Wednesday, May 27:

1:30 p.m.: Opening worship
(Bishop Webb preaching)

3 p.m.: Opening plenary
(Conference business)

7 p.m.: Acts of Repentance
(acknowledging our historic and ongoing sin of racism in dealing with Native Americans)

Thursday, May 28

8:15 a.m.: Morning worship (led by young adults)

9 a.m.: Plenary session
(Conference business)

Noon: Packing food for the hungry

2 p.m.: Plenary session

5:30 p.m.: Packing food for the hungry

7 p.m. Memorial service

Friday, May 29

8:15 a.m. Bible Study, led by Bishop Suda Devadhar

See **CONFERENCE**, Page 5

The best place to be for these seven years was here



Rev. French

When I met with my spiritual director last week, she asked how I was doing with my coming transition. I told her — truthfully —

that I was pretty much into denial, at least on the emotional level. Since denial is only the first stage of grief and loss, I clearly have a ways to go.

So switching gears, Sister Rose asked a different question: What am I grateful for and what am I going to miss about this congregation?

This one was much easier to answer. I could have said it in lots of ways, but what I told her was this: You have allowed me and encouraged me to be myself and have brought out the best in me in so many ways — preaching, leadership, administration, coaching, counseling, planning, visioning, organizing.

You placed your trust and confidence in me, which made all the difference, and I am deeply grateful for all of it.

Former Buffalo Bills Coach Marv Levy used to declare: “Where else would you rather be than right here, right now?” For the past seven years, that has been my mantra, and I have felt that way every single day.

There was nowhere else I would have chosen to be. Nowhere else that brought together the spirit, knowledge, resources, desire, determination and creativity. There was ener-

gy, a positive vibe, openness to the future, willingness to experiment, involvement in civic affairs, commitment to the cause of social and environmental justice, active caring for the “least of these,” a great spirit of cooperation and a can-do attitude.

For all of that I am grateful — enormously grateful.

In part, because you brought out the best in me. Or at least you tried.

You provided me with constant care and support, but in return you also made it clear that you expected (and demanded) my best every day ... from the pulpit to pastoral care to staff leadership to ministry planning and development. Grace abounded, but in good Wesleyan tradition, “making do,” “getting by” and “good enough” were never good enough. You kept me sharp, growing and on my toes. And you expected the same of yourselves.

A prime example of that was the advent of visual technology in worship services over the past year. Ted Finlayson-Schueler’s creative abilities from week to week set a high standard for me to match.

Forty years after seminary, and with 40 years of practice, I had to learn how to prepare and preach sermons in a brand-new way. And I think we’re all better for it.

An even more recent example is the decision to share the sanctuary on Sunday mornings with Fellowship AME Church. While the sharing is on a trial

basis for May and June, that is meant to be a time for working out any kinks, and it’s anticipated that the arrangement will become semi-permanent over the summer.

Back in the late ’80s and early ’90s, I cut my teeth on working with some Buffalo-area congregations on shared building arrangements that mostly went nowhere. What makes our situation different and so much more promising is the desire of both congregations to make the shared space succeed.

As some of you have told me, it’s past time for this to happen ... and even a bit embarrassing to think that we left them in the basement for years, while we enjoyed the beauty of the sanctuary.

Surely God is delighted to see us working together to share the sanctuary in this new way. If we can do that, who knows where else it might lead?!

It would be easy to consider the last year “wasted” or disappointing (and of course, parts of it were exactly that), as so much time and energy were diverted to the new citywide operation.

Despite that, what I will remember is how you pushed ahead and got down to business on the hard and holy work of transformation.

That’s the church I’m grateful to have been part of for these past seven years.

Where else, indeed, could I possibly have wanted to be!

— Craig

Clothes closet, pantry reorganized; toiletry items needed



Cleaning, cleaning, cleaning seems to be the theme in the Outreach spaces of UUMC.

Similar to the work we all complete in our homes, Friday Community volunteers and I have purged the clothing closet, reorganized crafting supplies and created two shelving units within the pantry allowing guests to have their own choice of toiletry and household cleaning supplies.

The addition of securing personal/toiletry items for our guests on a consistent basis is so very important, as most social service financial programs do not allow an allotment for personal hygiene purchases, so the need for our guests is very real as are their requests for products.

With your assistance, we can ensure basic hygiene items are available. An updated "Pantry Request Chart" will run in the next Chimes. For May, the main items are sugar-free/low-salt nonperishable items, and for June, they are warm clothing, coats, hats and gloves. Addition-



Personal care items sit in a cabinet in the pantry.

al requests for May are the personal toiletry items.

Annual Food Bank Grants have been written requesting financial support in the purchase of pantry food for 2015. I've also submitted a smaller Food Bank grant specifically for produce.

The goal of this grant focuses around linking local farmers to food pantries.

I'm very hopeful that we will be able to offer guests fresh, seasonal, local produce straight from the farm each week.

In combining efforts with Syracuse University and First English Lutheran Church, the "Ten Tons of Love" annual spring drive

has made a generous donation of clothing to our newly cleaned and organized clothing closet.

The Letter Carriers' Food Drive helped many local food pantries in the county. We received two van loads of donated food to greatly augment our supplies from the Food Bank.

Although donations were reported as being lighter than what the U.S. Postal Service has seen in past years, we have benefited tremendously from this program.

The UUMC Food Pantry reported giving 2,106 meals to pantry guests in April. Approximately 170 guests and volunteers were fed two wonderful Sunday breakfasts also in April.

Our Community Garden in Ormond Spencer Park has some changes in store for this growing season.

With the hoped-for addition of fencing and compost bins we look forward to a great harvest that will be shared between our friends at Welch Terrance and UUMC's food pantry.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Neighborhood Outreach
Coordinator

LGBTQ Pride Interfaith Service

The annual LGBTQ Pride Interfaith Service will be at 7 p.m. June 16 at First English Lutheran Church, 501 James St. The service's theme is "Color Our World with Pride," and will include a diversity of music and prayers of various faith traditions. A reception will follow. Anyone who wants to sing in the choir should arrive at 6 p.m.

Update from citywide Leadership Team

The Leadership Team of the United Methodist Churches of Syracuse recommended:

— A financial team be pulled together from our churches to coordinate the salary and expense process for our new clergy team. This will include the work of establishing how the overall clergy compensation will be shared among the churches, and how payroll and

benefits will be managed.

— A citywide team with SPRC representation from the churches meet to promote a smooth transition of the clergy team.

The team is also working on understanding the process for formally incorporating a citywide parish and plans to have a small team developing a plan to move toward incorporation.

People/Prayer Connection

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

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

Sunday, May 17

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I plead to you to navigate me to continue to fight the battle for decent housing.
- **John:** I wish all the kids in the hospital get better.
- **Peter:** For changes in “the system” – the systems that are tilted against people of color and people in poverty – and kids in Syracuse.
- **Robert:** Help my friends in turmoil. Calm their hearts with forgiveness.
- For the people of Nepal as they continue to deal with the after-effects of the earthquake.
- Prayers of reconciliation for families being torn apart by disagreement.
- Continued healing and patience
- We pray for our church – at University in Syracuse.
- Bless all who are getting older and visiting doctors more!

Sunday, May 10

- **Peter:** Thanks for the nurture we learned from our mothers – and that all our children in Syracuse need from us.
- **Jerome:** For those who work and have no time to sleep at night or even in the morning. Hope they soon get their sleep and make their money
- For Jan Garman's sister, **Pat McFall**, who is facing serious health challenges.
- For my high-school and long-time friend – God's servant

entering Hospice.

- For a friend who has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

Sunday, May 3

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I give praise to you, to have my inner heart chamber burn bright with truth!
- **Rebekah:** For my grandfather in Virginia who has lymphoma and is having complications. He will see his doctor tomorrow, so please pray that they can figure out what the problem is.
- **Robert:** Strength for caregivers
- For **Steve McKearin** for healing from a stroke last week.
- Prayers for **Maggie Flynn-Loney** that she will receive healing treatment for breast cancer.
- Prayers for safe travels to Texas for my son's graduation.
- All of us who are struggling to get out of poverty.
- Pray for those who have hatred in their heart. May these people find and feel God's love and become part of the solution for a better world.
- For a church to partner with Legal Advocacy.

Sunday, April 26

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I praise you for your answers to me to put your teaching into action!
- **Jeanne:** Prayers for healing for **Danielle Adams**, who had surgery Friday.
- **John:** For the three kids that were in the DWI car accident with their dad. Prayers for the child that died.
- For **Bob** recovering from major surgery in South Carolina.

- Prayers to overcome depression in my life.
- For those who need a roof over their heads to hopefully have one.
- For the people suffering from the earthquake in Nepal.
- Be with **Mark Zimmerman** and his family and all those affected by the earthquake area in Nepal.

THANKS & PRAISE

Sunday, May 17

- Thanks for the warm weather, bright sun, flowers and longer days.

Sunday, May 10

- Prayers of thanks for **Maggie Flynn-Loney** for coming through her surgery well and now being home.
- Happy Mother's Day to every mother.

Sunday, May 3

- Thanks to my church family for your prayers for **Joseph**.
- Happy birthday to **Dick Hunt**.
- **Deeanna Dimmick:** This is my last Sunday here. Please pray for me as I apply for jobs and enter the “real world.” Thank you so much for being such a welcoming, kind and generous church home for me for the past two years.

CONGRATULATIONS

- **Eileen Schell**, professor in the Syracuse University College of Arts and Sciences, was named a 2015-16 Laura and L. Douglas Meredith Professor of Teaching Excellence.
- **Deeanna Dimmick**, a recent SU graduate who worshiped with us and was a member of See **PEOPLE/PRAYER**, Page 5

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2015 total pledges: \$210,572

Paid to date: \$62,941

Non-pledge contr.: \$13,643

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

Donations received \$79,519

Expenses paid \$75,901

Current balance \$3,618

June birthdays

5 – Angela Tillapaugh

7 – Audrey Benton

Jerome Weah Jr.

11 – Caroline Tompkins

15 – Rachel Boll

16 – Rev. Edwin A. Potter

Charles Chappell III

17 – Sophie Finlayson-Schueler

Leah (Threatte) Bojnowski

Stephanie Hitztaler

19 – Rev. Dr. Kris Best

20 – Leigh Safford

22 – Ted Finlayson-Schueler

Martha Sutter

Deborah Bradshaw

Christine Doran

25 – Steve Bacon

28 – Aaron Sarkodie-Mensah

Melissa Mungure

29 – Elisa Skeeter

Sharing the sanctuary

Fellowship AME Church, which has worshiped in Fellowship Hall, is worshipping in our sanctuary from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Sundays through June on a trial basis to see if it can become an ongoing arrangement. On Community/Church Breakfast Sundays (2nd and 4th Sundays) the plan is to have a joint coffee hour at 9:30 a.m. in The Gathering Room while Fellowship Hall is cleaned up from the breakfast and prepared for Fellowship AME's post-worship activities.

Conference won't buy Liverpool building for headquarters

Rev. Dr. Wendy J. Deichmann, chair of the property acquisition task force for the Upper New York Conference, recently issued a statement on the conference's attempts to buy a building in Liverpool for its new headquarters.

The seller accepted the conference's initial purchase offer, but after close inspection the conference found building and environmental conditions that

needed attention.

It made another offer at a lower price, taking into account the costs to fix those areas, but it was rejected.

She concluded her statement: "In accordance with our acknowledged duty to the Conference and its constituents, we are proceeding to identify another property to serve as our Conference Center."

Conference highlights

CONTINUED from Page 1

9:30 a.m. Plenary session (Conference business)

Noon Packing food for the hungry

2 p.m. Plenary session

5:30 p.m. Packing food for the hungry

7 p.m. Celebration of Ministry (including retirements)

8:30 p.m. Plenary session (if needed)

Saturday, May 30

8:15 a.m. Bible Study, led by Bishop Suda Devadhar

9:30 a.m. Plenary session (Conference business + appointments)

2 p.m. Ordination and Commissioning Service (Bishop Webb preaching)

Celebratory service set

CONTINUED from Page 1

the No-Fault Orchestra and Senior Choir both performing.

June 28, Rev. French's last day as our pastor after seven years, will include a celebratory worship service followed by a farewell luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

People/Prayer

CONTINUED from Page 4

the Senior Choir, was hired as a TV news producer in Medford, Oregon.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **June 7:** Ann Milner, Carol Moyer, Dean Moyer
- **June 14:** Amanda Mountain, Nathan Mountain, McCarthy Mountain, Aidan Mountain
- **June 21:** Memory Mungure, Solomon Mungure, Merylyn Mungure, Melissa Mungure
- **June 28:** Sheila Murphy, Roger Lund, David Lund, Sarah Lund

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **June 7:** Jamesville United, Mark Harrison
- **June 14:** Mexico UMC, Emily Huyge
- **June 21:** East Syracuse United, Deb Thompson
- **June 28:** Fayetteville UMC, Robert Sherburne; Onativia UMC, John Keating III

ALTAR FLOWERS were given:

- By Rosemary DeHoog in memory of her parents, Frederic and Edythe Luther.
 - By Marg McDivitt in loving memory of John.
 - By Vito and Janet Sciscioli in memory of loved ones.
 - By Brad and Judith Bowers in loving memory of our parents.
- Flowers were given to Jayne Humbert and Claudette and Rev. Joseph Smythe, Dennis Triggs and Hank Krzykowski. Flowers were delivered by Nancy Hough.



**University United
Methodist Church**

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF MAY 24

Sunday the 24th – Pentecost

9 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French,
preacher
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
Monday the 25th
Memorial Day – Office closed
Wednesday the 27th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Friday the 29th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF MAY 31

Sunday the 31st
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French,
preacher
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
12:30 p.m. Orchestra rehearsal,

Music Room

Wednesday the 3rd

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Friday the 5th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JUNE 7

Sunday the 7th
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kinder-
garten-12th grade
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French,
preacher, Communion
11:15 a.m. Sunday School,
adults with special needs
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm

Wednesday the 10th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Friday the 12th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JUNE 14

Sunday the 14th
9 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Mike
Mather, Broadway UMC, Indian-
apolis, guest preacher
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Rm
12:30 p.m. Orchestra rehearsal
12:30 p.m. Community Garden
blessing and picnic, Spencer
Park
Wednesday the 17th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Friday the 19th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JUNE 21

Sunday the 21st
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French,
preacher; No-Fault Orchestra
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gather-
ing Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 24th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Friday the 26th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

36th UNITED METHODIST NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK is June 16. It's a great night of fellowship beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a tailgate cookout with hotdogs and coney provided by the district United Methodist Men. Bring a dish to pass, your own drink and table service. The cookout is in the far right-hand side of the NBT Stadium parking lot. Please bring nonperishable food for the Food Bank of CNY. The game starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. Call the church office, 475-7277, so we know how many tickets to order.

Guild meeting

We will meet at 1:30 p.m. May 27 at Marg McDivitt's home, 106 Sheraton Road, for "Books We Have Enjoyed," a favorite program for us. All are welcome. Please let Marg know if you are unable to be there.

Sycamore Gardens

May 17, 2015

(2 photos by Barbara Fought)



Seven from UUMC walked the gardens, read, meditated and then met at a picnic table in the shade and Rev. French led a discussion for 45 minutes about seeing God in nature.



Liz points out to Ralph where the maze is at the gardens.

Community/Church Breakfast

May 10, 2015 (6 photos)













Senior Choir

Farewell to Deeanna, Birthday Celebration for Dennis

(3 photos)





A farewell gift to Deanna was a photo of the choir signed by members with remarks of thanks and best wishes.



Liz and Deeanna

Handbell Choir

May 3, 2015

(2 photos)





May 3, 2015

Communion

(4 photos)





April 19, 2015 Connections dinner



