

THE CHIMES

May 21, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
June 4**

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Altar Flower donors are needed. Contact Marg McDivitt if interested.

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

Summer pulpit lineup set; worship moves to 11 a.m.

Despite the recent weather, summer is approaching, and with it, more change.

Under the new ministry plan for the city of Syracuse, fewer pastors will be covering the eight congregations as of July 1.

To make that work Sunday mornings, services will need to be at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. UUMC's service for July and August will be at 11 a.m. Decisions on the churches' services for September and beyond have not been made.

Those preaching in the summer during Rev. French's sabbatical are members of the city clergy team and others, including UUMC member Christine Doran, who will relate her recent experiences in Africa.

As reported earlier, seminary student Alicia Wood will be present throughout the summer at Sunday services and attend staff meetings, the Friday Community and Community/Church Breakfasts. She will preach

three times.

Here is the preaching schedule:

Date	Preacher
June 1	Craig French
June 8	Craig French
June 15	Alicia Wood
June 22	Robert Hill
June 29	Jim Wiggins
July 6	Alicia Wood
July 13	Caroline Simmons
July 20	Tom Buckel
July 27	Christine Doran
Aug. 3	Patience Kisakye
Aug. 10	Peter Sarver
Aug. 17	Alicia Wood
Aug. 24	Craig French
Aug. 31	Doug Mackey

The city ministry team announced in the previous Chimes has changed. Chip and Lillian Owens, the couple from Gammon Theological Seminary, will not be coming to Syracuse in September as announced.

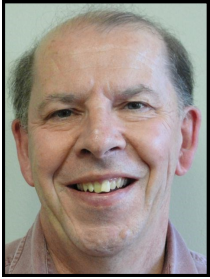
The assignments are detailed below.

Syracuse City Church Assignments Effective July 1

For each church below, the pastor listed first has his/her principal responsibility at that site. "Open" are the spots the Owenses would have filled.

- **University:** Craig French and open
- **Bellevue:** Patience Kisakye and Craig French
- **James Street:** Doug Mackey and open
- **Erwin First:** Open and open
- **Gethsemane:** Open and Patience Kisakye
- **Rockefeller:** Doug Mackey and Caroline Simmons
- **St. Paul's:** Caroline Simmons and Doug Mackey
- **Brown:** Patience Kisakye

New ministry plan calls for some heroic action



Rev. French

I'm not a big fan of sci-fi monster flicks. I've never watched any of the classics of that genre ("Mothra," "The Blob," "The Mummy," "Alien," "Creature from the Black Lagoon," "Night of the Living Dead," "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes"). Still, I'm intrigued by the ads for the new "Godzilla" movie. I hope the reviews are decent enough that it's worth buying a ticket and going to see.

What is the appeal of such movies? Monster movies speak to the unpredictability of everyday life and our fear of that which is out of our control.

No matter how well we have our lives planned out and carefully orchestrated, there are unforeseen events — disasters — catastrophes that we simply cannot anticipate.

They appear unannounced, out of nowhere, wreaking havoc and mayhem in all directions. They turn our lives upside down and appear utterly impossible to overcome. Who or what can stop them and bring normalcy back to our lives?

Monster movies (like children's fairy tales) are a safe and symbolic way of dealing with the scariness and uncertainty of life — a passion play, an epic and apocalyptic battle between good and evil, chaos and order, with the future hanging in the balance.

In his book, "Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection," Brian Blount writes that the story line described above is a staple of modern popular culture, because it helps us interpret and cope with the "ever-present and all-encompassing nature of death. ... Death reveals the fragility and tenderness of life. ... Life trembles before it and struggles to overcome it (H)ope, that what is good about life can overcome what is destructive about death, provides the dramatic lure, the proverbial carrot on a dramatic stick that hooks readers of novels and viewers of film. They keep coming back because they keep believing that sooner or later the death-wielding vampires, werewolves, zombies, aliens, pandemics, environmental disasters and the horrifying devastation they bring with them — all such will themselves die, and life will win out."



But here's the thing: We have to be willing to see it all the way through to the end. If we stop reading or watching too soon, we effectively cede the victory to the monster (or death).

It will appear that we and all we hold dear are doomed, that we are helpless and powerless to do anything about the monster and the destruction it brings. We will miss the great story of those who, against all odds, heroically rally against the monster, stem the tide and win the day on behalf of the whole community. We can never reach Easter if we close the book at Good Friday and the cross.

For the past four months, we have been watching and anticipating the approach of a "monster" in the guise of a new cooperative ministry plan for the United Methodist churches of Syracuse.

The plan is monstrous not in terms of being evil or demonic, but in the sense of reordering our familiar concept of church and causing us to think and act interdependently in ways we've never had to before. For "can do," positive-thinking, privileged people and congregations, this is new (and perhaps unwelcome or traumatic) territory — one that may well help us better comprehend the daily reality of persons in poverty and persons of color, who often have limited control over their lives and destiny.

But are we truly helpless or powerless in the face of the coming changes? If we think that, then we're dead already. This is not a time for hand-wringing and doomsday-ism.

It is, however, a time for heroic action ... for using our skills, resources, wisdom, faith and experience to face the oncoming changes and challenges head-on and to strive as mightily as we can, not to defeat them, but to make them work — not just for our own sake, but for the sake of all United Methodists across the city of Syracuse and, even more, for all the people and neighborhoods of this great city.

So, one ticket for "Godzilla," please. And one ticket for my friend, Jesus. Anyone else want to come along? It's going to be a terrific adventure!

— Craig

Postal Service food drive delivers for our pantry



Deb Virgo

Last week, the phrase “going postal” meant driving to the DeWitt Post Office to collect food from the annual National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive.

If you put a bag of food in your mailbox to be collected ... thank you. It may not have come to us directly, but food pantries all over Central New York benefited.

Special thanks to Starke Donnally and Rita Soufleris for going to collect the food.

I'm not sure of the exact amount we received, but it was enough to completely fill Starke's car and not break the springs. As for Rita, I think she could have fit a couple more bags in her car.

reciproKate

As you may have heard, there will be a fundraiser for Katie Flynn on June 1 at the Camillus Elks Lodge, Newport Road, Camillus, from 1 to 5 p.m.

It goes by the charming name reciproKate, and information can be found on the Facebook page of the same name.

In honor of Katie's work in our outreach program, some of the organizers wanted to collect food.

They did this with the girls' softball teams from Onondaga Central School. The players collected food at their game May 10.



Starke Donnally and Jim and Deb Virgo with the food Starke and Rita Soufleris picked up for our food pantry at the DeWitt Post Office from the letter carriers' food drive earlier this month. (Photo by Craig French)

Tickets are \$20 each and \$50 for a family. Children 10 and under are free.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to reciproKate, Box 15594, Syracuse 13215. Checks should be made payable to Marcellus Sports Boosters, with “reciproKate” in the memo line.

Grant

We just submitted our annual application to the Food Bank of Central New York for assistance. This assistance comes in the form of food as well as funding to help us with our operating costs. Keep your fingers crossed!

In 2013 we spent \$40,700 on food alone. The Food Bank contributed about \$8,000 to help with the cost of food.

But the bulk of this cost, approximately \$30,000, is covered by donations from individual members of this congregation.

Wonderful!

Group

Enough about food and money. The Friday Community is about ... well, community. To nurture this we have started our third round of our Leading Through Service group.

We have evolved into a communal lunch after the pantry closes with a blend of conversation around being in community, a book study of “City of God: Faith in the Streets” by Sara Miles and a DVD and related Bible study from a series called “Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything.”

We have some extra books if you are interested...call the office.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community
Coordinator

People/Prayer Connection

JOYS

April 27

- Thank God for being back home from Africa to Syracuse.

April 20

- Thank you all for the beautiful flowers
- Lord – we “laud and praise” you. You are awesome! We know we see only part, a small part of what you want us to see. We praise you and thank you for wanting us.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Lt. Timothy Nevin, Matt Fischer**

Sunday, April 6

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, Empower me to direct toward a growing destination!
- **Katie:** **Jevon Thurlow** and the **Thurlow** family. Jevon died on Saturday at an early age.
- **Peter Swords:** the extended **Swords/Moore** family celebrating the centenary (100th birthday) of **Alison M. Swords** next Sunday

Sunday, April 13

- **Katie** and the **Flynn** family
- Continued recovery for **Bob Laubach** Our friend **Mary Roblin**, who had a stroke this past week
- Safe travels to Fort Bliss, Texas (military transition)
- All who are sick and need your healing touch
- All the people on that missing Flight 370

Sunday, April 20

- **Josephine:** God, please help me find a job
- **Peter:** **Mary Swords-Erhardt**, who is recuperating from rotor cuff surgery.

- **Ralph:** the family of **Gordon Woodward**, who died this last week. A longtime friend.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I give thanks and praise for your instructions through your parables because I survived!
- Our friend **Elam Morales**, who is having tests for ongoing illness.

Sunday, April 27

- **Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler:** **Baby Jasmin’s paternal great-aunt** as she transitions from this life to the next.
 - **Robert James:** God’s love to comfort the family of **Charles Chappell Jr.** at this time of sorrow.
 - **Russ:** All those lost when the ferry tipped over. Please pray for my sister, **Penny**, and my daughter, **Jamie**. Please bless all those who came for the breakfast and all the people who are worshipping here today.
 - **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, praise your father to show me your son’s accomplished mission as what is the resurrection process.
 - God should bless all people
 - Be with **Mary Wilson** as she recovers in the hospital.
 - **Daphne**, a former attender of UUMC. Please pray the biopsy she is having on her thyroid is benign.
 - **John Schmitz** with Parkinson’s, **Robert Keith Gray**, who recently died; **Tom Law, Jim Rebholly and Bill Anderson**
 - Those in tough situations to find clarity, finally this week.
 - People in so many places
- See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges:	\$230,877
Paid to date:	\$56,079
Non-pledge contr.:	\$7,449
Pre-paid pledges:	\$56,504
<u>Sounds of the Spirit Campaign</u>	
Donations received	\$70,843
Expenses paid	\$70,589
Current balance	\$254

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
30 – Grady Steinwert-Arrowood

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Vito and Janet Sciscioli, Patricia and Brandon Gill, Dorothy Logan, Rosemary DeHoog and Marg McDivitt.

Flowers were given to Nancy Hough, Elmorie McKay Mol-la, Mary Wilson, the Flynn family, Dennis Triggs, Nelson Price and Barbara Fought, Martha Sutter and Bob Laubach.

Flowers were delivered by Don and Margo Koten, JoAnn May, UUMC friends, Janet Sciscioli and Judith Bowers.

Focus on family life in 1950s, Christian Ed building goes up

By Rosemary DeHoog
Church Historian

Under Dr. Donald G. Wright, pastor from 1955-1966, there was continued emphasis on family life.

To help young homemakers, the church arranged a weekly Mother's Day Out, a day when mothers could leave their young children at the church for classes and activities while they were free to do other things.

To provide improved facilities for the Christian Education program, the church raised almost \$200,000 in a special campaign led by Kenneth Taylor in 1958.

Construction was pushed through rapidly and the splendid-

ly-equipped Christian Education building was consecrated Feb. 22, 1959.

The proceeds of the building fund also made possible a much-needed renovation of the church offices.

Within the Methodist denomination, Dr. Wright was one of the prophetic voices emphasizing the growing problems of the city and the consequent need for new programs.

He spoke out vigorously on these issues in general church conferences and helped to educate his own congregation at University Church. He instituted adult seminars for the discussion of social issues and relevant reli-

gious principles.

During these years, the first Methodist Intercity Team visited Syracuse. One of its members was Ethel Johnson, who was later to become director of Christian Education at University Church.

In honor of Dr. Wright's pastorate at University Church, his family established the Dr. Donald G. Wright Lectureship, which provides for a nationally known religious leader to come to the church for an address usually on Palm Sunday. It is always one of the highlights of the church year.

From "A Century of Ministry"
by Dr. Nelson Blake, Syracuse University

People/Prayer Connection

CONTINUED from Page 4
who are experiencing violence and oppression.

- My friend, who is heart-broken. For my country that is stressed economically and politically. For my work, to focus and be steadfast to the end.

Sunday, May 4

- **Chuck:** the secondary school girls kidnapped in Nigeria
- **Peta Long:** Bring Back our Girls Event at Columbus Circle at 1:30 today. On April 15 over 200 girls were taken from their school and they have not been found. We gather in prayer and awareness to this event, and request prayer for their safe return.
- **Peter:** the gift of liberation, and the wisdom to discern what we need liberation from.

- **Tiel:** Nigerian girls who don't have a voice. Pray for their safety while away and their quick arrival back to their families.
- **Carol and Tom Boll:** Safe travels for **Jon** and his dog, **Tamu**, as he returns this week from his 27 months in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica.
- Thank God for the church for helping me in my bereavement.
- **Ronda**, who is dealing with a death in the family and death of a friend.
- Pray for the students of all ages who are finishing up their studies this spring semester.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **May 4:** Phyllis Wright, Ed Yarwood, Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood

- **May 11:** Gale Youmell, Jeffrey Youmell, Rebecca Youmell, Kelsey Youmell
- **May 18:** Russ Young, Val Young, Deidre Zimmerman, Mark Zimmerman, Zachary Zimmerman, Benjamin Zimmerman

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **May 4:** Cicero UMC, Everett Bassett and Rebecca Laird
- **May 11:** Caughdenoy UMC, Samuel Moore; Clay Trinity UMC, Brad Hunt
- **May 18:** Collamer United Church, Caroline Simmons
- **May 25:** Borodino UMC, Peter Agnew; Cornerstone UMC, Terry Millbyer
- **June 1:** Jamesville, Mark Harrison
- **June 8:** Delphi Falls, James Austin; Mexico UMC, Bill Palmer

Annual Conference next week

The Upper New York Annual Conference returns to the Syracuse Oncenter May 29-31.

Volunteers are needed to assist with greeting, ushering and/or helping with Communion. There are four- to five-hour shifts each day. Volunteers get free parking and lunch or dinner during or after their shift. To register to help, go to this address: www.unyumc.org/registrations/register/57.

Questions? Contact Anne Hutchings at 422-2288 or crossroadsdistrict@unyumc.org.

Events are open to the public. Live-streaming is available at: www.unyumc.org/AC2014.

Here are some notable events:

Thursday, May 29

1:30 Opening Worship, Bishop Webb preaching
3:00 Plenary #1
7:00 Memorial Service

Friday, May 30

8:15 Bible study with Bishop Mike Lowery
9:30 Plenary #2
11:30 Meal packing for Stop Hunger Now (register by 5/27)
2:00 Plenary #3
5:30 Meal packing for Stop Hunger Now
7:00 Ministry Celebration

Saturday, May 31

8:15 Bible study with Bishop Mike Lowery
9:30 Plenary #4 - including the fixing of appointments
2:00 Ordination and Commissioning, Bishop Webb preaching



University United
Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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WEEK OF MAY 25

Sunday the 25th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Grades 1-12
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Sunday School, Pre-K, kindergarten, adults with special needs
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room; bread sale
11:45 a.m. Trustees
Noon Soup and Sermon Chat
Tuesday the 27th
11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting
Friday the 30th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JUNE 1

Sunday the 1st

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10:30 a.m. Worship — Communion

ion

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room

Noon Soup and Sermon Chat

Tuesday the 3rd

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 6th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JUNE 8

Sunday the 8th — Pentecost

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Orchestra rehearsal
Noon Soup and Sermon Chat
Wednesday the 11th
11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting
Friday the 13th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

United Methodist Night at the Ballpark

This annual event is June 24 this year. The Syracuse Chiefs will be playing a doubleheader — two seven-inning games — against Lehigh Valley, starting at 5 p.m. A \$5 ticket will get you into both games. The traditional tailgate party hosted by Crossroads District United Methodist Men will be 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the lot southeast of the stadium. Bring a dish to pass, table service, flatware, something to drink and your own lawn chairs. To support the Food Bank of Central New York, bring a nonperishable can of food to put in collection bins. Tickets will be available at the church office.

Pray-In for Syracuse City UM Churches
Brown Memorial UMC
May 7, 2014
(3 photos)





