

THE CHIMES

June 19, 2013

**Next Chimes
deadline:
July 10**

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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*

Meet members of The ROAD and our neighbors at July 20 block party

The ROAD church and cafe is partnering with Dr. Zina Berry, our dentist neighbor across University Avenue to put on a block party and health fair 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 20.

The block party will be in both parking lots and parking will be in our fenced-in lot off Ashworth Place.

We are invited to join in the planning and running of this event. It will be a great way to get to know the members of The ROAD and our neighbors.

The ROAD is a planned coffee house/gathering place for young adults that will be located in Dr. Berry's building.

For the block party, volunteers



BLOCK PARTY

will be needed for tasks such as set-up and serving food, and possibly holding down a UUMC information table.

Planning is underway for food, entertainment and fun.

If you'd like to join in the planning along with The ROAD, or are available to volunteer on the 20th, email Rev. Rebecca Laird, pastor of The ROAD, at revlaird79@gmail.com, or Lyndsey Graves, at uumclg@twcny.rr.com, or call the church office at 475-7277.

Methodist Night

Reminder: Next Tuesday, June 25, is the 34th annual United Methodist Night at the Ballpark. The Syracuse Chiefs face the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders at NBT Bank Stadium at 7 p.m. A tailgate party with hot dogs starts at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to pass, your table service and lawn chairs. Tickets are \$5 and available at the church office.

Outreach

This Sunday's service will include reflections on poverty, our attitudes toward poverty and our church's role in alleviating it.

A free lunch will be provided immediately after the service in the Pettenigill Center to kick off the Outreach Workshop. Please join us for mini-classes. Everything will end by 2 p.m.

To help or RSVP, please see Lyndsey Graves.

When You Travel...



When you're away from home this summer, take your UUMC T-shirt with you, snap a photo of you in it at your destination and email it to uumctb@twcny.rr.com. Let's see how far UUMC travels. No shirt? You can still send a photo.

From time to time, God yells to us, “Jump!”



Rev. French

The following words are adapted from a reflection I gave at the CNY Pride Interfaith Service held June 11 at All Saints Church.

How crazy is this — that you chose to ask me to reflect on the theme “Moving Forward” ... knowing that I’m part of a denomina-

tion that is stuck in neutral (at best) or, more truthfully, grinding its gears around issues of full inclusion for LGBT persons. And as crazy as that is ... how crazy is it that I said yes?

I’ve been thinking about my younger brother. Years ago, he decided to take up skydiving. He took all the classes. He learned how to pack a parachute. How to strap it on. How to pull the ripcord. If necessary, how to activate the backup system. How to launch himself from the plane. How to handle the free fall. How to prepare himself for a safe landing.

At last the day came for his first actual dive. Along with his instructor and classmates, he hopped into the plane, clipped himself in, taxied down the runway, lifted off from the ground, climbed to the proper altitude and speed, saw the door being opened, took his place in line, watched his classmates jump out one by one by one ... but Keven ... Keven didn’t.

No matter how many times the instructor told him to “Jump,” Keven couldn’t make himself do it, and so he rode the plane back down to the landing strip and never attempted to skydive again.

Now I’m not making fun of my brother for two reasons. First, because I’ve never even thought about going skydiving. And second, because I know what it’s like to get stuck in the doorway.

I’m here tonight, because I’ve been standing in the doorway, halfway between heaven and earth, listening to God yell, “Jump!”

When a 79-year-old retired United Methodist pastor and seminary dean recently had charges filed against him for having performed his son’s wedding to another man ... God said, “Jump!”

When my colleague and friend Steve wrote a letter to our bishop announcing that, contrary to church law, he has officiated at several same-sex weddings, including one for his own daughter ... God said, “Jump!”

When two good, faithful members of my congregation, who happen to be gay, came to ask if I would marry them — and then posed a question no couple has ever asked before — or should ever have to ask again: “Would performing their wedding ceremony get me in trouble — put my job and career at risk?” ... God said, “Jump!”

And when Kathleen called to invite me to speak here tonight ... God said, “Jump!”

(With friends like this, pushing me to the edge of ecclesiastical boundaries, who needs enemies?!)

For those of us who are Christian — who look at and understand God’s revelation through the life and work of Jesus, and who seek to pattern our lives after his example — a good place to start, whenever we’re confused or uncertain about what to do, is to go back to Jesus’ marching orders to his disciples, found in Matthew 10. I invite us to listen with two sets of ears tonight:

One set for those of us who come from a faith family and tradition where the full rights and equality of the LGBT community are still in question or dispute. Jesus has something to say to us in these instructions.

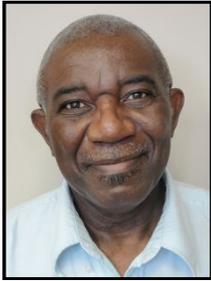
Another set of ears belongs to those of you who are much farther down the road in these matters ... who are already living out the full equality of the LGBT community, in both civil and religious life ... and who may have little patience with or understanding of those of us who are still lagging far behind at the back of the parade. I could not blame any of you for choosing to wash your hands of us — give up on us — turn your back on us (the way we’ve turned our backs on you). But I thank you for not doing that ... at least not yet ... at least not completely. I believe Jesus’ words have something to say to you, too.

For those of us who stand on the border of ecclesiastical obedience and disobedience, Jesus counsels us to be as wise as serpents, yet as innocent as doves.

The struggle for full inclusion and full equality demands our best and sharpest thinking/ planning /strategizing, but in a way that does not

See **DEFINED**, Page 4

OUTREACH MINISTRY



We continue to serve the friends who come to Friday Community. The figures for three recent weeks are shown in the table at right.

Rev. Smythe I mention these figures because for a long time we have not served these numbers at this time of the month. I hope this will not be an indication of the summer months.

We received clothing from other persons. Some include members of this congregation and the board. Thank you.

Food Items

We continue to receive food items from Erwin First United Methodist Church on a monthly basis. Last week we received food from the Postal Drive.

In addition to members of UUMC, other persons continue to bring food.

One lady said, "It is good to know we can help others with food."

Volunteers for Summer

We are thankful for the persons who volunteer their time for the

Served by the Friday Community					
Date	Children	Adults	Seniors	Total	Meals
May 24	40	55	7	102	918
May 31	22	41	2	65	605
June 7	76	68	3	147	1,303
Total	138	164	12	314	2,826

summer. Four persons signed up along with Upstate Spiritual Care Department.

Resignation and Farewell

It has almost been five years since I started working here as either as interim coordinator or as chaplain.

I was offered a chaplain's position at Upstate Community Hospital beginning July 1, and I accepted the offer.

In light of this decision I submitted my resignation. In doing, so I acknowledge the work of the pastor in seeking me out, supporting me and offering directions.

I acknowledge the work of staff especially when it was time for the Ministry Persons Luncheon.

I acknowledge the work of this

Outreach Committee for their tireless work through the years and the work of the diverse group of volunteers.

Everyone, including the members of the congregation, committed themselves to the Friday Community in supplying food, money and talents.

The program will definitely go on with others' guidance, and I believe that with the direction of God we will achieve more than we are able to identify. My last day will be June 28. My body will be gone but my spirit will remain. Thanks for all the support by the various individuals in the church and Friday Community.

— Rev. Joseph Smythe, Friday Community chaplain

Despite crowd's demands, Jesus focused on woman who lost son



Lyndsey Graves

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he

approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out — the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the

Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

I never noticed the crowd before.

I always thought Jesus just raised the widow's son because he had nothing better to do. Because he knew he was supposed to, maybe. Because it was his job. But this is different. Jesus had very important things to do and people fighting for his attention — he was leading a crowd.

If I were leading a crowd some-

where, we would give a funeral a wide berth. People died all the time. People died young all the time. There was no reason for the two crowds to meet.

Jesus, though — Jesus didn't see a funeral. He didn't see a crowd. He saw one woman, whose last hope for a family had been stripped from her. He watched her replaying scenes from her son's life, helpless to stop reliving a happiness she would never know again.

See **LOOKING**, Page 6

Farewell to the Wolfes

Rev. Tom Wolfe has been selected as president of the Iliff School of Theology, a United Methodist seminary in Denver. He begins duties Aug. 1. Rev. Marilyn Wolfe, his wife, is a former UUMC associate pastor and pastor. Tom has preached at UUMC and taught the senior high Sunday School. Barbara Fought and Nelson Price are hosting an open house for UUMC members to come and say goodbye, 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, July 1, at their home at 6305 Hamlet Crest in The Hamlet across from CBA.

Defined by God's peace, not the rejecters

CONTINUED from Page 1

cause us to become cynical or caustic or hard-hearted, especially toward those who disagree with us.

Jesus calls us to the high road, to our best selves — always — no matter how hard that may be.

Jesus also tells us that saying yes to God and God's way is almost always going to get us in trouble somewhere — sometimes with our own family members (whether they are blood relatives or whether they are our denominational brothers and sisters) ... and sometimes with those who hold authority over us.

We're going to get in trouble ... but don't worry, Jesus says; God will show us what to say and do, when that time comes.

At the very least, I take that to mean that our prayer life — talking and listening to God, not just to ourselves — needs to be as substantial and regular as our political organizing.

Jesus also coaches us to carry our peace — God's peace — wherever we go. To bring that peace into every situation, every conversation, every confrontation, and to share that peace with everyone we meet.

What *they* do with that

peace is their business ... but if they choose to reject that peace, we are to hold fast to that peace even more, and we are not to let ourselves be tarnished or discouraged by that encounter.

We are defined by God's peace ... not by those who reject us.

Finally, Jesus calls us to fear no human being, no matter how powerful they may be or what they can do to us in this life. It is not our physical comfort or status or well-being that matter, but our spiritual well-being. Our fear is reserved for the one who "can kill both body and soul" ... because when we sway from or become disloyal to that truth, we are lost ... we are doomed ... we have nothing ... we become nothing.

And for those of you on the "outside," who watch with dismay or disgust what is going on in my denominational home, I ask and pray that you not give up on us, not berate us, not abandon us, for we are still your brothers and sisters.

Instead, pray for us ... encourage us ... weep with us ... hold our hands and our hearts ... hold our feet to the fire, too ... and above all, from time to time, please yell "Jump! For God's sake, jump!"

— *Craig*

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2013 total pledges: \$249,290

Paid to date: \$131,394

Non-pledge contrib.: \$8,886

Pre-paid pledges: \$58,300

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$51,343

Expenses paid \$34,375

Current balance \$16,968

Guild Meeting

The Guild will meet June 26 at noon for a salad luncheon in the Pettingill Center. Please bring a dish to pass, along with the recipe.

July birthdays

3 – Kate Drew

4 – Kelsey Youmell, United States of America

6 – Matt Fischer, Dr. Mark Zimmerman, Linda Oertel, Ed Tillapaugh, Ping Hemphill-Wu

8 – Jon Boll, Esther Weah

9 – Sol Swords, Mercia Palmer

10 – Jeff Foley

14 – Elizabeth Bradshaw, Esther Livingstone, Richard Schemichen, Eli Weah

15 – Lee Potter, Margo Koten

16 – Ellen Bacon, Dr. Timothy Damron

17 – Deirdre Zimmerman

18 – Elisa Sciscioli

21 – Harold Britton, Afton Kapuscinski

22 – Tajmier Brackett

24 – Dorothy Logan

25 – Rebecca Youmell, Peter Sciscioli

26 – Corrie Fagut-Pratt

28 – Jayne Humbert

29 – Jackie Simmons

30 – Helena Weah, Rev. Tom Wolfe

PEOPLE/PRAYER CONNECTION

THANKS

- Thank you, God, for your presence at our breakfast. Bring peace to troubled hearts, rest to the weary, and thanks for new job as cook for one — we celebrate with love.
- Thank you, God, for this beautiful earth and all the people on it
- Thanks for prayers and help while I've been in transition. It's so nice to have a place to call "home." Thank you, Jesus. Thank you. From **Grandma Ann**

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

- Those in military service: **Nathan Miller, Jim Pettyjohn, Alex Saxby and Matt Fischer**
- Prayers so that my husband can get his surgery Aug. 7 and have all the guardian angels stand by him and protect him. Thank you, God. God bless the preachers and all the congregation and guide Rev. French and bring prosperity to UUMC, from **Val**
- Thanks for the life of **Kay Wiggins**. Be with her family in their grief. May Kay rest in peace.
- The recovery of **Carola**, wife of Rev. Jerry Shane, who fell at Peace Conference and broke her nose and jaw. For 86-year-old **Joe Wilson**, who broke his hip at Rosewood Nursing Home, from **Robert James**

- The hope we can inspire in each other, even when we share in moral outrage and the songs of struggle. Bless our harmony! From **Peter Swords**
- **Marsha**, who will have surgery on Tuesday, from **Beth Drew**
- Better health and reuniting with kids, from **Jeff**
- The pastor at Solvay UMC, from **Leigh**
- Those with brain cancer and other kinds of cancer, from a **breakfast guest**
- **Johanna MacDonald**, as she faces surgery on Friday in Boston, from **Barb and Jerry**
- **James** to return to his family very soon. Please keep him safe from all harm. Thank you, God.
- The family of **Albert "Blue" Thompson**, as they mourn his unexpected journey to heaven this week
- Forgiveness of one's self and others. For serenity, peace of mind and clarity of thought.
- Pride Month, Oklahoma tornado victims, our troops.
- For God to help me in my Christian joining
- Jesus the Prophet, guide your servants to be vigilant for your spiritual lessons to apply them, from **Elise Curry**
- Brother-in-law **Malcolm**, who is recovering from brain surgery, from **Nelson**

- Prophets who tell the truth, expose oppression and challenge us to seek justice and peace, from **Peter Swords**
- All those in Oklahoma and all over this world. Prayers for my sister, **Penny**, and UMC staff and members, from **Russ**
- Praise Jesus for me to become self-sufficient, as you taught me, from **Elise**
- For God to rejoin my children

DEATH

- **Kay Wiggins** died June 2 after a stroke. A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Friday, June 28 at Hendricks Chapel.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **July 7:** Craig French, Barbara French, Maya Fredette, Kaitlin Spinner
- **July 14:** Eleanor Hunt, Julia Ketcham, Ralph Ketcham
- **July 21:** Jeff Foley, Eva Cooper Jah, Rachel Kgama
- **July 28:** David Kirkley, Freda Kirkley, Mary Klepper

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR

CROSSROADS DISTRICT

CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **July 7:** Jordan, Dana Horrell, Rebecca Laird
- **July 14:** North Volney and Palermo UMC, Tammie Nipper
- **July 21:** Little Utica, Michaela St. Marie; Skaneateles, Jolynn Tuttle
- **July 28:** Camillus Immanuel, Heather Williams

Altar flowers

Flowers were given by Malcolm Myers, Ken and Bobbie Craig and Matt and Lynn Steenberg.

Flowers were given to Gene Clark, Johanna MacDonald, Steve Bacon, Barbara Cook, Nancy

Hough, Sue Bambacht, Don Steenberg and David Bacon. Flowers were delivered by Patricia Gill, Judith Bowers, Barbara Cargo, Gale Youmell and Steve Bacon.

WEEK OF JUNE 23

Sunday the 23rd

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Tuesday the 25th

5:30 p.m. United Methodist Night at the Ballpark at NBT Bank Stadium

Wednesday the 26th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Friday the 28th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JUNE 30

Sunday the 30th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Wednesday the 3rd

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Thursday the 4th— Office Closed

Friday the 5th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JULY 7

Sunday the 7th

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Tuesday the 9th

5 p.m. Outreach Committee

Wednesday the 10th

11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday the 12th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF JULY 14

Sunday the 14th

9 a.m. Community/Church Breakfast

9:30 a.m. Contemporary Issues

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:45 a.m. Fellowship - Gathering Room

Tuesday the 16th

7 p.m. Stephen Ministry

Wednesday the 17th

11:15 a.m. Staff meeting

Friday the 19th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community



**University United
Methodist Church**

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

1085 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210

Phone: 315-475-7277 Fax: 315-475-8995

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Dated material



Looking harder for the lost and lonely and rock-bottomers

CONTINUED from Page 3
And he had compassion on her. And he stopped. And he gave him back to his mother. Did he even think about what chaos must have ensued?

Jesus and crowds have a strange relationship. He alternately has compassion on them and feeds them, alienates them with his weird teachings, confuses them on purpose with impenetrable stories, weeps for them, shows vague disdain and disinterest in them, tries to get away from them, is worshipped by them, seems wearied by them, blesses their children.

This used to confuse me. But my own life has become much more crowded in the past year as an “adult.” I have a larger network of shallower relationships than I used to, and I live and work near the middle of a city.

Now I get Jesus’ ministry a lot more than I did, and I’m also more intimidated by it, because even though it’s wiser, it’s not any easier. It’s not easy to let the crowd be and say and do what they will while you minister to one person at a time.

How did he stay open to these individuals’ needs, to their pain, when the needs and follies and demands of the crowd are so blindingly overwhelming?

I don’t often know; I rarely feel that I succeed. Sometimes circumstances absolutely prevent me from spending any time on the more intimate relationships that make this work worthwhile.

But I find myself looking harder for the lost and lonely, for the rock-bottomers and the desperate-for-a-glimpse tree-sitters. I find myself throwing away efficiency and the crowd’s demands to reinstate compassion, following my heart when it goes out from me to offer the unbusinesslike moment of rest, the hand on the shoulder, the gift of my full attention. And when it is still all too much, when I get overwhelmed or make mistakes or need to get away, there is the friend, the phone call, the timely Scripture or the whisper of the Spirit bearing rest, and I see Jesus walking through the crowd toward me.

Lyndsey is our mission intern. She’s with us until July 17.

CNY Pride Interfaith Service June 11 at All Saints Church Five Photos from Billy Kluttz





Billy Klutz, at left, with friends at the service.









Former UUMC members Clayton and Carolyn Van Doren, at Letchworth State Park last weekend, where they shared a cabin with Carol and Tom Boll.



