Summer’s Here!

Be ready to greet visitors, and wear your nametag

Church growth experts say that summer is one of the most popular times for newcomers and seekers to check out a religious institution, so all the more reason that UUMCers should be ready to show friendliness and hospitality.

Beth Drew has agreed to be a transition liaison for those members of James Street UMC who are interested in learning more about UUMC after the congregation disbands. Their final service is this Sunday, June 26, at 2 p.m.

UUMC will welcome new members in worship June 26 and at a special reception afterward.

The Care Team is organizing nametags on a rotating carousel in the Peale entrance.

If you come in a door nearer East Genesee you’ll see nametags

See VOLUNTEERS, Page 4

Small groups to start soon on affirmations and Jonah

Three new small groups are starting at UUMC. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, thought small groups were integral to the faith.

Two are complementary to a sermon series Pastor Alicia begins this Sunday, June 26, on the Phoenix Affirmations.

These are 12 principles of Progressive Christianity written by laypeople and clergy from Phoenix, Arizona.

The principles are divided into three groups of four principles under the headings of: Love of God, Love of Neighbor and Love of Self.

The first principle is: “Walking 

By Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay
Co-Lay Leader

June 2-4 I had the opportunity to attend our seventh session of the Upper NY Annual Conference.

The theme was “Planting God’s future in hearts and neighbors called to give thanks.”

And... just so you know, I was privileged to be one of more than 168,000 members the Upper New York Annual (Regional) Conference of The United Methodist Church comprised of 915 churches in 12 districts, covering 48,000 square miles in 49 of the 62 counties in New York state!

I think it is very important for UUMC to have lay representation at Annual Conference because John Wesley said, “Holy conferencing is one of the means of Grace.”

And, in our UM Book of Discipline, Para 602.6, it says laity members “shall participate in all deliberations.”

See ALL ARE, Page 2
From our pastor...

UUMC served as a sacred site of healing, a safe and loving place

Greetings!

Long ago in American history, churches were one of the first buildings erected in a town. They were built as the center of town. The center of the geographic area and a center point for people to gather.

Today, churches are no longer the same kind of center point. University UMC is working on once again becoming the center point for our city.

Sometimes, this can be a planned event like our Food Pantry that has served this community for many, many years on Fridays yet sees the need to open one evening a month or the clothing closet for everyday clothes and professional clothing or our upcoming VBS or Sunday morning worship to connect as community with the Divine.

Sometimes a tragedy occurs and our church is able to be the center of the city to help in the healing. This happened last week with the Interfaith Pride Service. This was the Seventh Annual Interfaith Pride Service held in Syracuse.

This one was very meaningful since the mass shooting in Orlando against the LGBTQ community happened just days earlier.

Many people came to the service sad, frustrated and uncertain where they belonged in God’s eyes.

What they found was a huge community filled with Love, including people from many faiths. The service and theme was pre-planned as “Solidarity through Pride.”

Guests and participants found this in our church. Solidarity in God’s love and loving one another through the sadness, frustration and uncertainty no matter who they are or who they love.

I am so proud to say that University UMC was able to be an unplanned sacred site of healing for our city, becoming a safe and loving place for the LGBTQ community.

I am proud to say that our congregation is continuing to create a church that is the center of our neighborhood. A place in which God’s love shines through in worship and outreach.

It may no longer be a norm for a church to be the center of the city, but thanks to God sometimes we are.

— Pastor Alicia

All are welcome in small groups; Alcoholics Anonymous launches new session

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fully in the path of Jesus without denying the legitimacy of other paths that God may provide for humanity.”

Dean Moyer has agreed to host and lead 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon discussions about the affirmations at his home, starting this Sunday. Contact the church office for information.

Pastor Alicia will lead a second group on the affirmations Wednesdays at 1 p.m. at the church beginning June 29.

She also will lead a Bible Study on the book of Jonah at 12:30 p.m. on six Fridays beginning July 8 at the church.

Everyone is welcome in these groups.

Also a new Alcoholics Anonymous group has begun meeting from 10 to 11 a.m. after the second- and fourth-Sunday Community Breakfast.

— Barbara Fought
Outreach Ministry

Labels from other parts of life disappear on Senior Prom night

On Friday night, June 10, my two oldest children attended Nottingham’s Senior Prom.

Aydan, my oldest, who will be a graduating senior, asked her younger sister, Brynn, who will be a graduating freshman, to attend this monumental event as her partner.

Devin, my son and youngest child, provided each of his sisters with a corsage and was happy to stay home and eat takeout with Mom and Dad.

Prior the kids heading off to the prom, Nottingham’s tradition is for all children and their parents to meet at Thornden Park’s rose garden for photos.

This is especially exciting as the kids finally get to see each other in all of their finery, to see who is going with whom and to solidify the plan of partying all night.

As parents we witness the children, many of whom we’ve known since preschool, present as adult men and women.

One also recognizes the evolution of the costumes worn, the support systems kids have at home and the partnerships the kids choose to take.

Many children attended their prom as a large group, some went as a traditional pair, some went as a same-sex couple and a few went as transgender.

As I took a minute to quietly note this moment in my mind, I included this: These young men and women, as goofy, as in transition, as excited, and as young as they are, might have figured something out.

This important milestone is not about how different each of these kids are, but how they all are celebrating together in the best way they are able. Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Straight, Bisexual, Differently-abled, Refugee, Immigrant, Athlete, Academic, Poor, Wealthy are labels that Nottingham’s prom-goers might carry in other parts of their life but not on that night. This night was special.

Kids rejoiced, celebrated, laughed and carried on, equally accepted by their peers without exception.

As we mourn the 49 individuals killed in Orlando, Florida, due to their sexual orientation. As we manage our patience in the redefining of United Methodist policy toward the LGBQT community.

As UUMC prepared to proudly host the CNY Pride Interfaith Worship and march in Syracuse’s Gay Pride Parade, let’s learn from our children.

Together we are stronger without exception. There is a place for all of us at life’s party.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

New evening hours for Food Pantry

Beginning next month, our Food Pantry will add evening hours to serve eligible neighbors. The new time is 6 to 8 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month, starting July 19.

The neighborhood need has been obvious to many of us working in the Outreach ministry. We are excited to open our doors to our community.

We need volunteers to help out. There is no age limit on volunteering. All new volunteers will be trained. Please contact Galyn for more information at uumcoutreach@twcny.rr.com or 315-475-7277.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley

Seven youth to attend Camp Casowasco; Campership Fund needs replenishment

Seven UUMC youth will be attending Camp Casowasco this summer in July and August.

They are Esther, Princess, Lisa, Emelia and Sandy Weah and Erick Jah and Joel Cooper.

Consequently, we need to replenish our Campership Fund.

If you are able to help, please write “Casowasco” on the memo line of your check, or on your offering envelope, if you are giving cash during worship. Thank you!

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By the Bacon/ Helwig and Steenberg families, in honor of their fathers, Donald Steenberg, David Bacon and Charles Helwig.

By the Altar Guild, in honor of our choir.

By Mary Fridie Wilson and Jo-Ann May, in memory of Rev. and Mrs. W.N. Fridie.

Flowers were given to Martha Sutter, Dennis Triggs, the Zimmerman family, Jerry Cargo, Roger MacDonald, Jerome Weah and Ted Guercio.

Flowers were delivered by Judith Bowers.

Volunteers sought for greeters

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in a case, as before. Please make sure you pick yours up and wear it so newcomers can learn your name. If you don’t have a nametag, leave your name at the church office and look for it the next week.

Greeters will be offering a smile and “welcome” at the doors through the summer. If you’re interested in being a part of this greeting and hospitality ministry, contact Barbara Fought (bcfought@syr.edu or 443-4054). She has a “how-to” so you’ll know just what to do.
PRAYERS REQUESTED:
- For those in military service: Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer

**Sunday, June 5**
- **Angela**: For **Kelly** as she starts chemo and for rain for the farmers.
- **Ann**: Keep everybody in the church safe from abuse – pray for world peace. I pray that my boyfriend and I can find work soon.
- **Chuck**: Pray for peace in the world
- **John**: I had an MRI on my head and I hope everything is OK.
- **Jim**: Prayers for family members of **Muhammad Ali**, the greatest boxer of all time.
- **Kathy**: Prayers of wellness for **Bob Weaver**
- **Peter**: For the natural resilience & recovery we can find, even in adversity, staying connected in God’s love.
- **For Ann Price** with health concerns; for family and friends of SUNY Cortland swim captain who died.
- **For Sophie Finlayson-Schueler**, who has relocated to Ohio.

**Sunday, June 12**
- **Arielle**: For the 2016 graduates, that they continue to grow in faith on their new journey.
- **Barb**: Congratulations to **Steve Bacon**, who was selected to go to NASA in Florida for five days to learn about astronauts in space. He will share this information with his class.
- **Chuck**: Pray for the victims at the Orlando nightclub
- **Elise**: Thank you, Prophet Jesus, for calming my mind to take on difficult choices.
- **Harry**: I pray that we as a nation become busier building bridges and tearing down walls.
- **Jayne**: Congratulations to **Joeviet Cooper**, who achieved her CNA (Certified Nurse Assistant) last Friday. Good work, Joeviet!
- **Michael**: Lord, please help me get a job.
- **Peter**: For **Joelle** and Cheryl, who finally made it to Boston for medical help for Joelle’s illness; for the family of **Peggy Heineman**, my cousin, who died suddenly on a hike in California.
- **SJ Moon**: Prayers for my family in Korea as they prepare for the funeral of my grandma, who died Friday.
- **Prayers of love and peace**
- **Aunt, Alice Hinton**, suffering from stage 4 cancer

THANKS AND PRAISE
**Sunday, June 5**
- Thanks to Prophet Jesus, who died for our sins and blessing to everyone.
- For 60 years completed with God’s grace and innumerable blessings.

**Sunday, June 19**
- **Shirley**: Pray for my sister **Barbara**, who fell last evening and broke her kneecap and tore a ligament. She is in surgery at this moment.
- **Robert**: With God’s love and our prayers, everything is possible
- **John**: I wanted to wish my nephew **Jaysun** happy birthday, but he is in heaven because of his mother killing him 10 years ago on my birthday.
- **William**: Let’s find a cure for losing your memory
- **Congratulations to Lyndsey Graves and Nate Medford** on their wedding this afternoon in Georgia. They met here at UUMC.
- Dear God, Please watch over us all, but especially the Orlando community as they experience the funerals of all those who died at Pulse.
- **Healing for Adama Kamara**
- Prayers for the people of James Street UMC
- **Aunt, Alice Hinton**, suffering from stage 4 cancer

**Guild meeting**
There is no meeting of the UUMC Guild in July.

The next meeting is our planning meeting at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 24 at Rita Soufleris’ home, 5195 Pointe East Drive, DeWitt. Please think of program ideas for the next year. We need a lot of input. Call Rita for information, 299-7702.
Finance Corner

Pledging Update
2016 total pledges: $179,649
Paid to date: $61,584
Non-pledge contr.: $10,204

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

Organ Repair Fund Goal: $12,000
Matching Gift received $6,000
Donations received $9,060

Week of June 26
Sunday the 26th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
New members.
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 29th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations
Friday the 1st
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Week of July 10
Sunday the 10th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm.
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon

Week of July 3
Sunday the 3rd
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
Communion

July birthdays
2 - Israel Toe
3 - Kate Drew Rios
4 - Kelsey Youmell
6 - Matt Fischer, Mark Zimmerman, Linda Oertel, Ping Hemphill-Wu
8 - Jon Boll, Esther Weah
9 - Sol Swords
10 - Jeff Foley
11 - Matthew Upcraft
14 - Elizabeth Bradshaw, Esther Livingstone, Richard Schemichen, Eli Weah
15 - Lee Potter, Margo Koten
16 - Ellen Bacon, 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

Vacation Bible School in August
UUMC will host Vacation Bible School 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 21-25.

We are looking for volunteers and teachers to connect with and minister to the children. We would love at least 10 teachers/adult volunteers and several teenage volunteers.

Email Pastor Alicia at pastoraliciawood@gmail.com or Morgan Mills at morgan.r.mills15@gmail.com if you are interested.
Zimmermans’ Visit
June 5, 2016
(6 photos)
United Methodist Night at the Ballpark
June 7, 2016
(10 photos)
CNY Pride Interfaith Worship Service
June 14, 2016
(9 photos)
CNY Pride Parade
June 18, 2016
(1 photo)
The children hand out candy to the congregation after Pastor Alicia told us we need to love God with the heart of a child.