Time to get ready for a Beach Party as VBS returns to UUMC Aug. 21-25

UUMC will hold Vacation Bible School next week after an absence of many years.

The theme for the session, which runs 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 21-25, is “Beach Party: Surfing Through the Scriptures” and is for children ages 4-11.

The children will be divided into three groups: preschool, younger elementary and older elementary.

After an all-together time in the sanctuary with music, the students will move with their age group through stations for a snack, game, craft and Bible story. There will be another all-together time before dismissal.

The curriculum includes five Bible stories and a “be-attitude” for each: The Call of Gideon (Be obedient), David’s Kindness to Mephibosheth (Be Kind), Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Be Forgiving), A Woman Healed (Be Bold) and Jesus and Thomas (Believe).

There’s also a color theme for each day: orange, red, blue, green and yellow.

We need beach-themed props for the sanctuary. If you can loan any of these items — beach towels, beach noodles, beach balls, sand toys, sand buckets, sunglasses, boogie boards, surfboard, inflatable palm tree — or anything else that says “beach,” please bring them to church this Sunday.

Some helpful hints on using your new nametag

Thanks to all who have name tags and are wearing them. It is so helpful to everyone at this time, especially with new folks attending, college opening and visitors on vacation.

1. There are two new carousels in the Peale entrance. One has nametags with the last name beginning A-K. The other has L-Z.

2. There is a suitcase in the narthex (rear of the sanctuary) entrance where you can store your nametag if you use that entrance.

3. We’re not fussy. If you like to wear yours home or store it in your car, that’s OK. Just remember to wear it back.

4. If your family has 2 or 3 members, please use the same slot and tuck the hanger into the back of your tagholder.

5. If you prefer to use the clip, just remove the hanger and leave it on the nearby table or in the case.

6. If you don’t have a tag or need a new one, just print your name on the list on the table near the carousels and we’ll make on for you.

— UUMC Care Team
Wesleyan prayer reminds us to accept God’s grace, share with others

Greetings!

You may have noticed that I am often jumping from one thing to another.

I love the excitement and the business of doing God’s work.

I love being active and new things popping up around me. This is a wonderful attribute and an exhausting attribute.

I sometimes collapse at 9 p.m. after going and going throughout the entire day.

You may be thinking, “This sounds like most of my days” or you may be thinking, “I’m exhausted just reading about this!”

No matter where you fall on the busyness meter it’s a good idea to remember the “why.”

The “why” we get up and move in the morning. The “why” we care about others. The “why” we love. The “why” we do just about anything.

The “why” is Grace. God’s Grace.

I have rediscovered the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer. I thought I’d share it with you.

It can be found in its classic version in our United Methodist Hymnal on page 607.

This prayer grounds me. It reminds me of the “why.” It reminds me that I have a purpose. It reminds me to accept God’s Grace. It reminds me to extend God’s Grace to others.

It reminds me that in the busyness I need to remain focused on the “why.”

I speak this prayer each day out loud to myself in my time of prayer. I’m sharing so that if this prayer resonates with you in this time of your life, you can say it in your time of prayer.

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,

Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.

And now, O wonderful and holy God,

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

you are mine, and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

Peace be with you until we meet again,

— Pastor Alicia

News from Stephanie Hitztaler

Early this summer received an update from Stephanie Hitztaler in Finland:

“We are doing well here in Finland. Oliver and Vera are growing up SO fast! In fact, Vera just turned 18 months old this past Sunday — I can’t believe it! She is thriving — speaking many words already in both English and Finnish. Oliver is also proud that he can speak two languages.

I have been super-blessed to get a part-time research position based right in my field at the Finnish Institute for Russian and East European Studies.

We pray for our church family in Syracuse every night and hope that you are all doing well!”

(Electronic version will have photos of Oliver and Vera)
Young volunteers lend time and muscle to help our Outreach

Outreach Ministry

Child labor has a long history in this country. Those young workers helped move this nation swiftly into and through the Industrial Revolution. They spent their strength, sweat and youth and provided much-needed income for their families.

But they suffered great abuse, misuse, lack of fair wages/education and made tremendous life-altering sacrifices.

In 1900, 18 percent of all American workers were under the age of 18. The majority of these workers were new Americans laboring to improve their and their family’s dismal quality of life.

As an Irish-American, I have an interest in these workers as they were my ancestors.

Several in my family worked in the factories of New York City, building typewriters, making candles, shoveling coal and any other work granted to an Irish immigrant.

Being raised in a large family, my sisters and I were expected to work.

We each held part-time jobs after school, on weekends and in the summer.

We split/stacked wood, harvested food at local farms, installed gardens, managed landscapes, prepared piles of food, completed simple car repairs, wrangled children and performed all sorts of child care and household tasks.

We worked while summering in Connecticut alongside my uncles on local farms, cleaning and maintaining various houses and properties where they worked.

My sisters and I had full childhoods filled with wonderful education and experiences. We celebrated our moments of play alongside our moments of work as they were balanced, rewarded and largely fun.

This summer we have had a variety of young workers at UUMC performing various tasks for our Outreach program.

They have cleaned out basement storage rooms, sorted/organized piles of clothing and outerwear, stacked books, collated/processed paperwork, unpacked/packed and organized food stuffs, picked up food and diaper donations and distributed UUMC fliers through the neighborhood.

They are fabulous workers who filled the basement with music, dancing and laughter while completing their tasks. They are strong, consistently receptive, easily guided and quick to learn new tasks—all of the same reasons why factories found kids a terrific labor resource so long ago.

The children who worked with me this summer attend Ed Smith, J-D High School and Nottingham High School.

They will be heading back to their schools, sports and paid, part-time jobs in a few weeks. This summer most have completed at UUMC an area high school graduation requirement of “20 hours of Community Service.”

They each will move forward with personal experiences in labor, human services and our group discussions around “Why are these services needed?” “Who uses these programs?” Each kid may have even learned a thing or two about UUMC, the work we do and why we do it.

Ultimately, I feel strongly that there is a place in my world for safe, fair, agreed-upon child volunteering/labor.

I am grateful for the tremendous amount of energy, effort, conversations and tasks accomplished by all of our volunteer laborers.

Winston Churchill said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

To all of the many children who

See FAREWELL, Page 5
THANKS
Dear UUMC family,
Many thanks to all who made our daughter Kate’s wedding wonderful.
Thanks to all present and former members who have contributed to purchase and maintain the organ and piano.
Thank you to the Altar Guild for their work in preparing the sanctuary.
A special thank you to Pastor Alicia for adding her special sparkle to the ceremony.
Bette Helwig
Steve Bacon

PRAYERS REQUESTED:
- For those in military service: Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fisher
- Connie: Praise and Joy as my niece and nephew Kristi & Danny along with their daughters, in worship with us today.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, navigate me to create better choices for my family!
- Francis: Peace and prayer for peace.
- Hannah: I would like to pray about my husband’s bar exam this Tuesday and Wednesday. For him to have faith, peace and strength for God’s will. And for me to be by his side.
- Jarrod: Zenetta Vigara, Sam, Burt Lamb, Rev. Mary Drake, Pat
- John: I was robbed when I was in the hospital
- Mamie: Pray for wisdom for the universe.
- Robert: Tim & Kathy from Welch Terrace and family, Tim is still in the hospital after a stroke.
- Shirley: Please pray for my sister, Barbara, as she faces another surgery.
- For the family of Roland Ritzman, who died this week. He was a dear friend.
- For Nathaniel. Respect for all. Let us work together for peace.
- Better health for John Schmitz and John Swenderman.
- Pray for all who need shelter during the summer heat.

Sunday, July 24
- Ed & Lee: That more people attending church services hear of us elsewhere.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, I give praise and thanks for growth experience.
- Gwen: For my daughter, Maria’s, safety during her travels to Italy this week.
- Jeanne: Gratitude for Mark Miller, who blesses us with new music to help us heal.
- Jim: Thank you to my mom and my brother, for healing all family issues from our past.
- Kathy: Prayers for the reopening of the Sandy Hook Elementary School. Prayers for staff and children.
- Mamie: For my family to be united, for families and communities and people of addiction to find the way.
- Mike: Melissa W. and Anthony Pavia & family.
- Rob: May Sheila and Donna find God again and be healed.

Sunday, July 31
- Dan and Morgan and Stella: Prayers for a smooth, stress-free move into our new home. We close on Thursday!
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I plead to you for a recovery of my cousin Ola!

Sunday, August 7
- Ann: For Angela Palmieri to find peace.
- Arielle: That the friends I made continue to prosper in life and their career.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, I give thanks and praise for a settled mind!
- Eva: Prayer for my family, friends and the church.
- Peter: For our daughter, Alicia. son-in-law, Tim, and their foster baby, who will probably be returning to her birth parents soon.
- Robert: Relief from addictions for all.
- Tony: That Jesus will help those people who are suffering.
- My sister Princess comes home. We hope she is still well.
- Barb and Bob Weaver, Ruth Prell, Carus Olcott Jr.
- A safe trip for Rebekah
- Esther Pardue
- May the Olympics be safe and foster respect and peace among the many nations
- Mary and Van Donahue, Phil and Annie Davenport, Mara Hile
- Terry Kubat

Sunday, August 14
- Dan and Morgan and Stella: Prayers for a smooth, stress-free move into our new home. We close on Thursday!
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I plead to you for a recovery of my cousin Ola!

See PEOPLE, Page 5
People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4
- Mamie: Praying for family and grandkids and those less fortunate. God bless all. God's grace and spirit for the future of our earth.
- Peter: For the people of Turkey and Syria as they try to discern a way out of years of strife and war.
- Robert Simmons: Serenity
- Mary Olcott, Bob and Barb Weaver, Ruth Prell, Carus Olcott Jr.
- Eva Jah, Claudette Brown-Smythe, Terry Kubat
- Vacation Bible School next week. Prayer for all the volunteers, parents and kids

THANKS AND PRAISE
Sunday, July 31
- Ann Owens: Thank you for the prayers and flowers for my husband, Tom.
- Jayne: Thank you, Lord, for beautiful summer days.
- Jim W.: Thanks for improved health for Betsy and me.

Sunday, Aug. 7
- Welcome to our visitors from Rhode Island, Jim and Ann Ganung. Ann grew up here, they were married here and their children were baptized here.

Sunday, Aug. 14
- Cynthia Steinem: Thank you, God, for all our voices, and 1,000 strong who sang “the public domain” yesterday at Mostly Mozart concert, a real community!
- Robert James: Thanking God for Pastor Alicia and her positive message of God’s word. Amen!

September birthdays
5 – Sharon Huard
8 – Martha Potter, Sarah Lund, Noel Sommers, Joshua DeHoog
11 – Eva Jah
14 – Oliver Onninen, Aidan Mountain
15 – David Magowan
17 – Patrick Hyland, Bill Potter
23 – Dithole Thebe
28 – Kristofer Alestalo

If any birthdays are incorrect or missing, please contact Tom Boll at: uumctb@twcny.rr.com

Farewell to a ‘diamond’ of a volunteer at UUMC

CONTINUED from Page 2
work, paid or unpaid, by choice or by command, in whatever way you define your labor: Thank you for your work. It is of great value and service.
— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Farewell to Rebekah
UUMC volunteer Rebekah Grella has left Syracuse and UUMC to begin the next piece of her life’s journey as an English teacher in South Korea. I am certain she will find herself relishing this new adventure, and I tip my hat to her courage and strength to begin again.

We will greatly miss her terrific knowledge of Syracuse’s many social service programs, her command of several languages, her eye for efficiency, her hospitality and her spunky attitude.

Rebekah is a diamond among volunteers, and I will always be thankful for her teachings when I began my job at UUMC.

Godspeed, Rebekah. You will be missed.

Livestreaming of Service
Steve Bacon has livestreamed our 11 a.m. Sunday worship service the last four weeks. He’s been tweaking the technology involved to get the highest quality broadcast.

The address has changed from the first broadcasts. The new one is:
http://www.ustream.tv/channel/A8N8DXV9Nv?lang=en US

State Fair Pride Day Parade
UUMC is once again looking to have a contingent in the 6 p.m.


Contact Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler at 446-6333 or jeannefs327@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

If any translations are incorrect or missing, please contact Tom Boll at: uumctb@twcny.rr.com

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## Finance Corner

### Pledging Update
- 2016 total pledges: $179,649
- Paid to date: $107,594
- Non-pledge contr.: $12,539

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

If you have been or are planning to be away for a time this summer, please be sure to check and keep your pledge contributions current.

### Graduates
- This year’s graduates who are related to members and attendees, and where the high school graduates are headed:

  **High School graduates:**
  - Colleen Magowan, SUNY Binghamton
  - Adrianna Roser, OCC
  - Katrina Tillapaugh, SUNY Geneseo
  - Jereline Weah, Long Island University

  **College graduates:**
  - SJ Moon, master’s degree in math from Syracuse University
  - Run Zhang, finance degree from SU
  - Molly Potter Pearlman, bachelor’s in sociology, Brandeis University

### Altar flowers
Altar flowers were given:
- By the Altar Guild.
- By Ed and Lee Potter, in memory of Aunt Minna Rathbun.
- By Marjorie Carter, in honor of everyone celebrating an August birthday.
- By Nancy Nevin, in honor of her son, Keith, whose help and love make it possible for her to live at home.
  - Flowers were given to Nancy Nevin, Terry Kubat, Ted Guercio, Larry Myers, Ann and Marie Cronin, Elsie Olivio, Ann and Tom Owens and Jason Naradzay.
  - Flowers were delivered by Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay, Lee Potter and Starke Donnelly.

### West of August 21
- **Sunday the 21st**
  - 10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
  - 11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
  - 12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex
  - 12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

- **Wednesday the 24th**
  - 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
  - 1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations Friday the 26th
  - 10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

### West of August 28
- **Sunday the 28th**
  - 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
  - 10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
  - 11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
  - 12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex
  - 12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

- **Wednesday the 31st**
  - 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
  - 1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations Friday the 2nd
  - 10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

### West of September 4
- **Sunday the 4th**
  - 10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
  - 11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood. Communion.
  - 12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex
  - 12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

- **Monday the 5th**
  - Labor Day—office closed Wednesday the 7th
  - 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
  - 1 p.m. Phoenix Affirmations Friday the 9th
  - 10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

### The Guild
The next meeting is our planning meeting at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 24 at Rita Soufleris’ home, 5195 Pointe East Drive, DeWitt.

Bring plans to get next year’s program set up.
We’d like it to be ready by the Sept. 26 meeting.
Call Rita for information, 299-7702.
Photos of Vera and Oliver Onninen from Stephanie Hitztaler in Finland.
Young people helping organize, stock Food Pantry
(3 photos)
Getting ready for Vacation Bible School (2 photos)

From left, Morgan Mills (Vacation Bible School director), Katie Flynn, Pastor Alicia and Steve Bacon are prepping for VBS next week.
Pastor Alicia tells the children during Aug. 14 worship about Vacation Bible School.
Communion Service
Aug. 7, 2016
(6 photos)
We said goodbye to Rebekah Grella, far right, who was deeply involved in UUMC and the Syracuse community.