

THE CHIMES

August 27, 2014

**Next Chimes
deadline:
September 10**

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An All-Together Time is tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. Sept. 7.

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 worship to stay at 11 a.m.; pastoral rotation a work in progress

As approved by a vote of the Governing Board, UUMC's worship time will remain at 11 a.m. in September and the months ahead.

Under the new ministry plan developed for the city of Syracuse, half of the city congregations were to worship at 9 a.m. and half at 11 a.m., allowing pastors to preach the same day at the two congregations they are responsible for.

However, five churches are staying with a later time, and two are worshipping earlier.

Because of that, most congrega-

tions will have to find a guest speaker approximately once a month.

Rev. French, who is directing the city clergy team, will be the sole pastor responsible for UUMC. He is also pastoring at Bellevue Heights.

The current plan is for him to preach at UUMC the first two Sundays of each month. The remainder of the rotation is still being developed.

Rockefeller UMC is in the discerning process of deciding whether to close or merge with another congregation.

Creation Stewardship

March on climate change planned for Sept. 21

On Sunday, Sept. 21, a huge People's Climate March will be held in New York City.

Climate change is an issue for people of faith because often the people hurt the most by extreme weather events are the people who have the least resources.

The march is set for the weekend before the United Nations holds a climate summit in New York City. A large contingent of people of faith will participate. Please come — we need to make sure the world knows that climate change is a moral issue!

New York Interfaith Power & Light, of which UUMC is a member, is organizing buses from Albany and

Syracuse. Details will be forthcoming.

Go to NYIPL's website for more information — www.nyipl.org, or call (315) 256-0078. In addition, the People's Climate March website has lots of great information on additional modes of transportation, including regularly scheduled public transportation, and some information about limited housing in NYC. Check out <http://peoplesclimate.org/march/>.

If you can't attend the march, you can still participate!

There will be a "Sound off" outdoors at 1 p.m. when houses of wor-
See **CHANT**, Page 5

Sabbatical offers a time for rest, connecting with God



For some, a sabbatical is a time for study, research, new learning. And so it was for me.

I went back to school. Spent

Rev. French time in a classroom, as a student, for the first time in almost 40 years. Homework. Books to read. Writing assignments. Class presentations. It was all good.

In light of the transitions taking place for University Church and all the other Syracuse city churches ... for me and all the other city pastors ... I spent my time delving into two important topics: “Healthy Congregations” and “Deep Change.”

What makes some churches healthier than others? What makes one church thrive and another decline? How do we change the things we can and make peace with what’s beyond our control? I look forward to bringing what I learned back to you and the other leaders around the city.

+ + +

For some, a sabbatical is a time for rest. And so it was for me. I relished the change of rhythm to my life. Not hurrying out the door to get to the office every morning, but letting my grandchildren — and me — ease our way into these summer days. Driving them out to summer day camp at Baltimore Woods in Marcellus. Spending the morning reading and observing the beauty of nature, then enjoying a picnic lunch with the youngest child, be-

fore returning home. Taking a nap. Getting hooked on BBC murder mysteries and the Tour de France. Walking or riding my bike almost every day. Tackling a few home repair projects. Getting more involved in meal planning and preparation.

There’s a lot to be said for a slower, more balanced pace to life (even when I’m not on sabbatical).

+ + +

For some, a sabbatical is simply a time for ceasing all work, period. This, of course, is the deepest and truest meaning of the word. One which I almost overlooked.

As I write these words, I’m nearing the end of my annual weeklong silent retreat on the Connecticut shore. I don’t come here because I’m so good at it, but because my life depends on it.

I need this time and place ... the silence and stillness it provides ... to push everything else aside, in order to rediscover God and myself and the goodness of life ... to allow God to open my eyes and melt or soften my heart ... to hear Jesus calling me, as if for the first time.

But I almost missed out on that this year, because I came ready to use the week to wrap up all the unfinished items on my sabbatical to-do list. The books still waiting to be read. The planning still needing to be done for my expanded leadership role. The pulling together and synthesizing of all my learning over the past two months.

Fortunately, a wise and wonderful woman (whom I met with every day to talk about how my retreat — my time with God — was going) put a stop to all that by reminding me that I had one priority and one priority only during my time on retreat: to make myself available to God and God’s love for me. If that meant some books didn’t get read or some plans didn’t get polished, oh well, there’s always next week / next month / next year.

So instead of madly racing through my unfinished reading list, planning my first few sermons back and calibrating how best to fulfill my new leadership role, I read poetry and scripture. I walked the beach for an hour or so, as a storm rolled in with winds of 25-40 miles per hour, waves swelling to 4-5 feet and a tidal surge of 50 feet or more further down the peninsula.

I watched a lone seagull finding her way home before the last sliver of daylight was gone. I listened to the steady lapping of the ocean in the middle of the night.

I watched a dozen artists spend a morning painting the same seascape, each in their own way.

I “snuck” out for a lobster roll and a gem of a movie (a “talkie”!) about adolescence, families and growing up. I studied the stars. I met woodchucks, rabbits, foxes and skunks, all staking claim to the property.

I found reasons to smile and laugh, along with shedding a tear or two at the news of the day.

In other words, I saw God. And it was all so wondrously glorious. See **EXPECTATIONS**, Page 6

Give out ears of corn, receive tales of life in return



Deb Virgo

The past few days have been busy one for the food pantry and our Friday Community.

We've been busy both receiving

and giving.

Before the pantry opened on Friday, we received gifts from three area partners in the fight against hunger.

1. **Erwin First UMC** brought their faithful monthly donation. Charlie Miller brought 77 (count 'em!) rolls of toilet paper along with paper towels and food. Each month he faithfully records everything that Erwin donates. That's how I know it was 77 rolls. He gets the credit for counting them, not me.

2. **Grace Episcopal** has been bringing us bread every week. Their food pantry is on Thursday, and they receive a large donation of bakery bread from local grocery stores. We are happy to take their surplus for our own pantry guests.

3. The **Interreligious Food Consortium** contributed a carload of food items. The pantry shelves looked full as we opened for business.

After our pantry closed, we participated in the first joint mission project of the Syracuse United Methodist Churches.

Erwin First had arranged to receive a collection of produce from Matthew 25 farm in Tully and it was to be divided up among the churches.

Lee and Ed Potter and I went



Deb Virgo and Robert Simmons bag corn from Matthew 25 Farm on Sunday for guests as they left at our Community/Church Breakfast.

to Erwin First to collect boxes of produce. We got corn, lots of onions (albeit a little muddy!) and smaller amounts of potatoes, squash and cabbage.

Since the corn wouldn't last a week, we decided to hand it out on Sunday morning to the people as they left our Community/Church Breakfast.

So we set up a table in the hall with the corn and some bags. I didn't count the ears, but we easily handed out six or seven boxes' worth.

I was grateful for Robert Simmons' willingness to help at a moment's notice and for Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay's taking the time to help as well as chat.

If you want to learn about how someone lives, ask them if they'd like to take some corn home with them!

While many were grateful to have some corn, many said "no

thanks" because they didn't have a place to cook it or didn't cook much. Or didn't have enough teeth for corn-on-the-cob.

I had wondered if handing out something that has to be prepared on a stove made sense at the breakfast since many guests are "housing-insecure." But I really didn't know.

Several men said they lived at a shelter and didn't cook. A few said they lived on the street and couldn't cook.

And one said he lived on the street but was happy to cook it at his campfire. Hmmm...

I am grateful for these donations. I am equally grateful for the chance to share them with others — not just as a handout but also a hand extended in community.

— Deb Virgo
Interim Friday Community Coordinator

People/Prayer Connection

THANKS:

- Thanks to God for **Tim Nevin's** safe return from Afghanistan
- **Peter Swords:** Thanks for the harmony that comes when we put away competition and privilege and get together with people of different traditions.
- **Ginny Dewey:** Thank you for the altar flowers and well wishes that have come from UUMC. I am feeling better every day.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

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

Sunday, July 27:

- **Cass:** My family, **Burrett family, Stewart family, Peterson family, Allen family and Rodney Spaulding**
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, I plead you to CLEAR MY MIND with your water of truth, for I am so thirsty for replenishment!
- **Peter:** The wisdom that has naturally grown & evolved in our human brain and nervous system, and our chance to understand and serve each other.
- **Steve Bacon:** A joy for the birth of **Jack Charles Pratt**, grandson of **Bette and Steve** and great-grandson of **Ellen and David Bacon**
- Thanks for our children. Prayers for the children caught in the border crisis. I pray for wisdom, grace and courage to know how and when to speak the truth.
- **Alicia's** daughter, **Ann Marie**

- God to give me strength to get better.
- **Ken**, dealing with undiagnosed illness.
- We would love someone to buy our home who would love it as much as we do.

Sunday, Aug. 3

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, bring your chariot to have my husband travel with you!
- **Russ: Dr. Sun.** Prayers for **John**, all the people in Japan, my wife, **Valerie**, and my friend, **Barbara**. For **Nelson, Stephanie**. All the people and members of this church
- Praise for bringing my mother, **Sherry Hitztaler**, to visit us in Syracuse. I pray for peace in regions being torn apart from fighting, especially Ukraine.
- Pray for **Elijah**, his family and community
- Liberia and other countries dealing with Ebola and especially protection for **Eva's** children there
- The family and friends of **Jalica Housley**, who died last Thursday

Sunday, Aug. 10

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, redirect critics to Your praise, toward focusing your works!
- **Cathleen Bruns**, who died from leukemia.
- All persons who are persecuted.
- Children coming into the USA to live in, go to school and become citizens.
- Those facing Ebola – and **Eva's** children in Liberia
- People of Iraq
- Our marriage of 2 years ago

here. Hope **Jimmy** can understand the importance of family.

- A joy for **Brian**, our new breakfast volunteer
- Thanks for a wonderful visit with my mother, **Sherry Hitztaler**.
- Prayers for peace in the midst of war, healing in the midst of disease.

Sunday, Aug. 17

- **Ginny Dewey**, for a good recovery from recent knee replacement surgery.
- **Gert Wolfe**, who is in hospice care.
- For stopping the Ebola outbreak.
- Praise for a beautiful summer and the chance to reunite with friends and family.
- I'm praying for God to heal my country of Liberia

Sunday, Aug. 24

- **Cynthia:** Dear God, help us to remember how to sing, to make a joyful noise in praise for you.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus, praise you to give me pause to be thankful for a lively consultation!
- **Peter:** For the gift of freedom – and that everybody may experience it, even those who have denied it.
- **Tobbie:** My partner's mother and family and my grandson.
- To all in need to pray for more in life and better.
- Keep my health good.
- **Stacy** lost her baby due to a miscarriage.
- The people in San Francisco.
See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

People/Prayer Connection

CONTINUED from Page 4

- Those in Liberia facing the Ebola crisis. For **Eva**, whose relatives died (though not from Ebola).

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- **Sept. 7:** Deborah Bradshaw, Michael Owen, Elizabeth Bradshaw, Grace Bradshaw
- **Sept. 14:** Cheryl Brown, Charlotte Burnap, Diane Butler
- **Sept. 21:** Michael Camaione, Barbara Cargo, Gerald Cargo
- **Sept. 28:** Marjorie Carter, Joseph Case, Thomas Christoff

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR CROSSROADS DISTRICT CHURCHES AND PASTORS:

- **Sept. 7:** All students attending school; Oswego First UMC, Yohang Chun
- **Sept. 14:** Onondaga Nation UMC, Marcelline McLean; Martville UMC, Dean Fleming

Chant, pray in solidarity with marchers at 1 p.m.

CONTINUED from Page 1
ship and others will be ringing bells, sounding shofars, chanting mantras and offering public calls to prayer at 1 p.m. their time in solidarity with marchers.

Organizers are suggesting you make your sound for 5 minutes and 50 seconds (350 seconds to signify 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide – the highest amount for a stable climate).

— Stephanie Hitztaler

Elisa Sciscioli's group to sing at Sept. 28 worship; singing workshop planned for after service

On Sunday, Sept 28, Elisa Sciscioli will be singing at UUMC with her a cappella group the Honey Child Soul Quintet during our 11 a.m. service.

She will offer a 60-minute multicultural singing workshop immediately after the service in the sanctuary.

Since 2006 Elisa has been teaching a workshop series called "The Joy of Group Singing."

In addition to leading exercises that promote vocal health and vibrancy, she teaches simple sacred songs from a variety

of cultures.

Elisa recently completed a master's degree in transpersonal psychology with a specialization in creativity and innovation. Her focus was the therapeutic benefits of singing in groups and the power of transformational workshops.

Members of her diverse singing group will assist the workshop at UUMC.

While the workshop is primarily for adults and teenagers, supervised children are welcome. Donations are accepted.

College degrees earned by those with ties to UUMC

A number of people with connections to UUMC received degrees from institutions of higher learning this year.

Rachel Boll, daughter of Carol and Tom Boll, graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in political science and a minor in sociology.

Connor Fay, son of Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay and Mike Fay, graduated with a doctorate in physical therapy from Ithaca College.

Soba Muqizya Griffine graduated from the School of Management and Administration of Africa University in Zimbabwe. She was in the Africa University Choir that sang at UUMC in 2011. She was a recipient of an Upper NY Conference Endowed

Scholarship.

Tallia Ann Harrison, granddaughter of Lee and Ed Potter, graduated from the School of Education at SUNY Oswego.

Julia Ross, daughter of Martha Sutter and David Ross, received a master of music in percussion performance from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

John Edward Scalzo III, son of John Scalzo Jr. and Joanna Scalzo and grandson of Shirley and Harry Miller, received a doctorate of pharmacology.

Elisa Sciscioli, daughter of Janet and Vito Sciscioli, received a master of arts in transpersonal psychology from Sofia University in Palo Alto, Calif.

Dear Pastor French and UUMC,

I would like to thank all of you for the bike. It'll really help me get to and from work. God bless you,

Brian Ireland

(Brian completed a Visions for Change workshop, got a job and needed transportation.)

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2014 total pledges: \$230,877

Paid to date: \$148,252

Non-pledge contr.: \$16,514

Sounds of the Spirit Campaign

Donations received \$70,843

Expenses paid \$70,589

Current balance \$254

September birthdays

5 – Sharon Huard

8 – Martha Potter, Sarah Lund,
Noel Sommers, Joshua DeHoog

9 – Bernie Hinds

11 – Eva Jah

13 – Shahryar Mousavi

14 – Oliver Onninen Hitztaler, Aidan Mountain

15 – David Magowan

16 – Robert Morris Sr., Negin

Dehdar Nasab

17 – Patrick Hyland, Bill Potter

22 – Ray Sturge

23 – Dithole Thebe

26 – Memory Mungure

27 – Jimmy Chen

28 – Kristofer Alestalo

29 – Deborah Borenstein

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given by Carrie and John Hunt in memory of Carrie's brother, John Edwin Kittell; by Edwin and Lee Potter in memory of their parents; by Marjorie Carter in honor of everyone celebrating an August birthday; and by Rita and George Soufleris in memory and honor of loved ones.

Flowers were given to Sue Bambacht, Ruth Houser, Alicia Wood, Ted Finlayson-Schueler, Marjorie Carter, Ginny Dewey, Jalica Housley and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

Flowers were delivered by Lee Potter, Steve Bacon and Marg McDivitt.



University United Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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Dated material

WEEK OF AUGUST 31

Sunday the 31st

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. Doug Mackey, preacher

Noon Fellowship, Narthex

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Room

Monday the 1st

LABOR DAY – office closed

Wednesday the 3rd

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 4th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 5th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7

Sunday the 7th

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Room

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Room

Monday the 8th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 10th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 11th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 12th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14

Sunday the 14th

9:30 a.m. Community/Church
Breakfast

10 a.m. Contemporary Issues

11 a.m. Worship, Rev. French

Noon Fellowship, Gathering Room

12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon
Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 17th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 18th

7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Friday the 19th

10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Expectations were met but in a different way

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ous, wakening me (again) to the power and majesty, the mystery and wonder of The One who created all things and called them good – including me and you.

In the end, my retreat time lived up to my hopes and expectations – just not in the way I anticipated. Instead of neatly tying up all the loose ends of my

sabbatical, it completed my sabbatical by adding the missing piece: the spiritual dimension.

Apparently, what I wanted God to do – bless all my careful planning for the future – wasn't what God wanted to do, which was simply to bless me. I'll settle for that. Gladly.

— Craig

Sunday Worship Starts Outside

Aug. 24, 2014 (4 photos)









Sunday Worship Outside and Inside

Aug. 10, 2014 (4 photos)









Alicia asks the children if an object will “sink or swim” in the container of water.



Richard helps Mike tidy up the church after worship.

Photos of Matthew 25 Farm Produce

Aug. 22, 2014 (3 photos)

Photos by Allison Virgo







Community Garden Harvest



Collards, beans, basil and tomatoes from the Community Garden.