October brings World Communion, Church Fair, Stewardship Campaign

October is upon us with World Communion Sunday and a Church Fair this Sunday, Oct. 2, and our Stewardship Campaign, beginning Oct. 9.

Christians around the world celebrate Holy Communion in acknowledgement of our similarities.

We celebrate the sacredness of this act given to us by Jesus.

It’s a time of renewal through a physical act and a spiritual act of togetherness.

We are asking for two to four people to bring in bread machines loaded with dough so that the machines can start baking bread around 10:30 a.m. or so.

In the Methodist tradition not only are we called to grow closer to God through prayer, reflection and Holy Communion, we are also called to be friendly to those we don’t know who are newcomers or visitors.

Your smile, handshake might make the difference.

A visitor to UUMC or any church will decide in the first 10 minutes whether to come back.

That’s what a new training guide from our denomination reports.

So that’s before they hear our fabulous choir or listen to Pastor Alicia’s sermon. It’s up to the rest of us to be that first positive impression.

Most of us are friendly to one another, so we think we’re a friendly church. But the experts say that we really need to reach out and be friendly to those we don’t know who are newcomers or visitors.

Greeters and ushers are working to make sure every newcomer feels welcomed. They’ve just been through a training session and now have a one-page guide for everything they need to know, including some secrets of the church building (could you find the wheelchair if someone needed it?)

If you’re interested in helping with these welcoming ministries, see Ralph Best, Ed Tillapaugh or JoAnn May if you’d like to usher. See Barbara Fought if you’re willing to be a greeter at either entrance.

Here are a couple of other suggestions from the “Welcoming Ministry” book that we should all consider:

Circle of 10: Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within 10 feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don’t already know within your Circle of 10.

Rule of 3: Try not to talk to
Greetings!

As fall arrives we all seem to have the desire to get into a routine.

Here at UUMC we have started the routine of Sunday School and Adult Classes getting reconnected. We have been busy planning our fall worship schedule and themes.

As I look to October, I see the opportunity to settle into new commitments of prayer, reflection and service.

This first Sunday in October we will celebrate World Communion Sunday, which came out of the Christian Ecumenical Movement of the 20th century.

As Christians, we don’t all agree on the doctrine on Holy Communion or even the way in which Holy Communion is served, but we have decided to agree that we all have Holy Communion in common as a part of the body of Christ.

What a great way to start the fall routine. We are reminded of the similarities of the Christian faith. We are encouraged as a group to reflect on the body of Christ in the world.

My prayer is that this World Communion Sunday creates a movement for all Christians that is full of love, hope and service.

At UUMC we will honor cultures around the world through sight and sound, through dress and language. We invite you to come to church dressed in clothing that represents a culture from around the world. We will pray in several languages during the Lord’s Prayer.

After that services ends, the Church Fair will give each of us the chance to learn about the ministries offered at UUMC. We invite everyone after worship to attend the Church Fair to find something they would like to add to their fall routine by serving our community. UUMC offers opportunities that happen once a year, once a month and once a week. You wouldn’t think that our October Stewardship Campaign would offer us ways to get into a routine of taking a moment or two to be kind to another above and beyond our usual routine.

Acts of kindness give us a chance to see God’s face in another AND for another to see God’s face in our kindness.

In October, we will be asking for a tally of the Acts of Kindness in our congregation to both celebrate kindness and to set in motion a conscious routine of kindness.

I’m ready to start a new routine this fall. The idea of a new routine that brings me closer to God through prayer, study, reflection, devotion and service sounds, well, just divine.

Peace be with you,

— Pastor Alicia

Women’s Guild Meeting

The next Women’s Guild meeting will be 1:30 p.m. Oct. 26 at the home of Shirley Miller, 705 Scott Ave.

Ted Guercio will present, “The Battle of Normandy.” He was there and has firsthand information for us.

All are welcome.

Please let the hostess know you are coming at nurshirl@aol.com.
Halloween invites all to participate, as do our ministries

Growing up in a large family meant Halloween was a favorite holiday for us kids.

It wasn’t occupied with adult-dominated activities, no huge dinners to shop for and then prepare, no endless cleaning, no long trips to Grandma’s house, no stressed-out parents. It was our holiday to largely do as we liked.

Of course, growing up in a large Irish Catholic family, we received our annual dose on the history of Halloween.

(In a nutshell) Halloween’s origins date back to the ancient Pagan Celtic festival of Samhain (“sow-in”). The Celts celebrated their new year Nov. 1.

This day marked the end of summer’s harvest and the beginning of the cold, dark winter, a time of year often associated with death.

Irish Celts believed that the night before the new year, the boundary between the living and dead became blurred.

Celebrations to close the year, end the harvest and welcome family and friends (alive or dead) were revered with huge bonfires. Costumes were worn, and food was plentifully offered to all.

Samples of the most special foods were left at burial sites to ensure a happy deceased ancestor. Hopefully, this would result in a healthful, easy winter.

Community folk who struggled with their ancestral offerings were assisted by their neighbors.

Leaves will be falling soon, and Halloween won’t be far behind.

No one wants an angry/hungry spirit around.

This could result in a harsh winter, damage to future crops, sick livestock or family. These casualties would affect the entire community.

My parents often began this lecture with the phrase “straddling the line between warmth and cold, plenty and poverty, life and death, Halloween is a time for celebration for everyone!”

Pastor Alicia has been patiently teaching me about some of the Methodist traditions of October.

Seemingly the annual Stewardship campaign is a big thing: the annual pledging of monies to support the activities of the church.

This seems similar to handing out sweets to neighborhood kids on Halloween night.

University United Methodist Church has so many wonderful activities worthy of your support and your attention.

We have several programs that will begin again as the cold weather approaches and settles upon us. So many ways to support ourselves, our friends and our community. So many ways to celebrate together.

By the 1930s, Halloween, in America, had become a secular, community-centered holiday, employing the iconic costumes, trick-or-treat activities and a nod to harvest decorations and food.

As a grownup, I, with my husband, attempt to satisfy the droves of children who arrive in the Westcott Nation for their annual trick-or-treat allotment.

While eating bites of pizza, our children are helped into their evening costumes, makeup and hairstyles, then ushered out the door to be surrounded by gangs of other children to enjoy their evening of fun and adventure.

In the end my kids will give a lot of their candy away. For them, Halloween gives them the control to celebrate with whomever, however they’d like, to wear the costume and stay up late. It’s not so much about the candy.

The ministries at UUMC are similar. We work toward celebrating together and ensuring all are able to join as best as they are able.

Halloween, in all of its many centuries of reinvention, has remained a holiday for communities

See PLEASE, Page 5
Dear Friends,

The past several weeks have been a journey, one which has been scary to say the least. David’s accident has made us take stock of what is most important in life ... our family and friends who care about us and love us unconditionally. We are all hopeful that David will recover completely.

More importantly, it is with the continued prayers, thoughts, meals, rides, cards and all of your thoughtfulness that we will heal as a family.

We are so grateful.

David, Kerri, Samantha, Tyler, Josh and Amanda Aitken

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service: Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fisch-

Sunday, September 11

- Elise: Prophet Jesus, I praise you and give thanks for your harvest!
- Erika: Joey Storto and family; Barb and Bob Weaver
- Gail: Barbara Silverman, Theo Hoelker
- Jim: Prayer that my dad’s results from the doctor come back positive.
- John & Carrie: For comforting the families who lost family members on 9/11/01 and “Let there be peace on earth.”
- Kathy: A happy birthday to Jim Roser! Prayers for a happy and healthy year.
- Mike: To the family of William F. Bailes, the family of Robert Sharpe
- Peter: For the many ways we can “tend the friend” each other in many parts of the world, to heal it!
- Robert: A prayer for all of the firemen, police and workers and others who lost their lives on 9/11, and their families and friendship carry their memories with them every day.
- Robert: Remind us we are not alone. Even in the dark there is a spark of light.
- Continued prayers for Mary Klepper
- Give strength to Matt so he can move forward in this life
- Esther Purdue, Carol Walters; Ruth Prell, Barb and Bob Weaver, Carus and Mary Olcott
- For those grieving on 9/11 and for peace in our world
- Prayers for the people in Syria — that the world doesn’t forget their plight and that we all work in ways big and small to help them
- Prayers for the cease-fire in Syria.

Sunday, September 18

- Beth: Please pray for my Aunt Dora Coates, who is experiencing sudden and unexpected health decline.
- Connie: For my sister Brenda, recently diagnosed with breast cancer and my sister Patti, who is receiving radiation for breast cancer.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, Bless my home with firm and gentle instruction toward peace!
- Jim: Prayers for my parents as they are dealing with a difficult situation.
- Mamie: Good morning, family. I’m excited to be downsizing into my new home. Keep me in prayers for acceptance of it in Solvay.
- Mike: The family of Robert Hagerty; Anthony Pavia and family.
- Olesea: Prayers for my sister Crestina for a speedy recovery of her injured arm.
- Peter: For an end to poverty and its traumatic effect on our children right here in Syracuse.
- Sanders family: For your prayers
- Weah children: For our father, even though he’s not in church today but that he shall have a blessed 43rd birthday.
- Pray for continuing recovery for Mary Klepper back at The Nottingham
- Carol Walter
- Joey Storto and family
- Barb and Bob Weaver;
- Pray for Shay; Karen, Ruth Prell, Bob Weaver surgery on Friday, Barb Weaver, Carus and Mary Olcott
- Prayers for all dealing with domestic issues
- For our country and world

Sunday, September 25

- Barbara: Prayers for Kaye Lindauer, whose husband, John, died July 27.
- Chris: Self-reliance and increase in income through trusting in God’s Spirit to bring glory to his name.
- Doug: Prayers for my cousin Bob, who died this week. The See PEOPLE, Page 5
Stewardship Campaign theme: Treasure

CONTINUED from Page 1 to serve. In that spirit, we are hosting a Church Fair after worship also Oct. 2 so folks can learn how they can serve through ministries at UUMC.

The theme of this year’s Stewardship Campaign is “treasure,” based on Matthew 6:12: “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” If you have something resembling a treasure chest you could loan for sanctuary display, please contact the church.

Please make sure Outreach has support for our ministries

CONTINUED from Page 3 to celebrate together.

Please help our community at UUMC have the means and support to celebrate together through warmth and cold, plenty and poverty, life and death.

Happy Halloween!

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

October birthdays

4 – Janet Mandigo, Nelson Price, Phillip Wellner, Dan Shworles
5 – Renee Threatte, Lonnie Threatte
8 – Arlene Musilli
10 – Mary Magowan
11 – Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood, Carol Boll
15 – Elizabeth Magowan
16 – Nathan Miller
18 – Ruth Houser
21 – Larry Myers
22 – Michael Toe
25 – Colin Simmons
26 – Katrina Tillapaugh
Barbara Cook
27 – Rosemary Chappell
30 – Koketso Ratala
31 – Ann Burrows

If any birthdays are in error or missing, please contact Tom Boll, uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By Ralph Best, in memory of his wife, Betty.

By David and Ellen Bacon, in honor of the birthday of their daughter Nancy Richmond.

By Barbara Nunn, in memory of the Sept. 9 birthday of her mother, Bernie Hinds.

Flowers were given to Beverly Schmidt, Bob and Barb Weaver, Roger MacDonald, Mary Wilson, Howard Long and Arlene Musilli.

Flowers were delivered by Ralph Best, Ed and Lee Potter, Starke Donnally, JoAnn May, Barbara Nunn and Carol and Tom Boll.

Be sure to talk to visitors immediately after worship

CONTINUED from Page 1 to other members for the first three minutes after the service. Talk only to those you don’t know and to people that you know are guests. It takes guests about three minutes to exit the church after worship, so it’s important to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.

— Barbara Fought, Spirit chair

People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4 to serve. In that spirit, we are hosting a Church Fair after worship also Oct. 2 so folks can learn how they can serve through ministries at UUMC.

The campaign kicks off Oct. 9 with Outreach Coordinator Galyn Murphy-Stanley speaking about our Outreach ministries.

The focus Oct. 16 will be on where we spend our time and attention. Beth Drew will be our guest speaker.

Oct. 23 finds us considering how we spend our time in prayer.

We’ll turn in our pledge cards for 2017 on Oct. 30 as we contemplate how and where we use our talents.

Lord called him home

• Erika: Joey Storto and family, Bob and Barb Weaver
• John: To stop alcohol, cigarettes and drugs and heal from sickness.
• Nate: To help my son and me out of our current problems.
• Peter: For peace in our city, so all our kids can grow up healthy and safe.
• Robert: Prayer for my grandmother, whose birthday was today, who raised me. She is with the Lord.
• Tony: Let Jesus guide me in a positive lifestyle.
• Prayers for Barbara Cargo’s knee surgery this week
• Dan Reed
• For Barb Weaver, on the loss of her mother, Ruth Prell
• For Bob Weaver as he recovers from lung cancer surgery
• Prayers for our nation to find a way in the struggle to make all feel safe regardless of color, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity.

If any birthdays are in error or missing, please contact Tom Boll, uumctb@twcny.rr.com.
Finance Corner

Pledging Update
2016 total pledges: $179,649
Paid to date: $129,870
Non-pledge contr.: $15,043

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

Summer’s over and we’re heading into the last quarter. Please check to make sure you’re current on your pledge.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 2
Sunday the 2nd
World Communion Sunday
10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood. Communion.
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with disabilities
12:15 p.m. Church Fair, Pettengill Cntr.
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
4-5:15 p.m. Ten Commandments Study Group, Fought/Price home

Wednesday the 5th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 6th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 7th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 9
Sunday the 9th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with disabilities

12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
4-5:15 p.m. Ten Commandments Study Group, Fought/Price home

Monday the 10th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 12th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 13th
6 p.m. Worship Committee
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 14th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 16
Sunday the 16th
10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
11 a.m. Worship, Guest speaker: Beth Drew.
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with disabilities
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
4-5:15 p.m. Ten Commandments Study Group, Fought/Price home

Monday the 24th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 26th
6-7 p.m. Food Pantry

Thursday the 20th
6 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations Committee
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 21st
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community
Saturday the 22nd
7:30 p.m. Spiritfilm, Price/Fought home

WEEK OF OCTOBER 23
Sunday the 23rd
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with disabilities
12:15 p.m. Potluck Luncheon, Governing Board update
4-5:15 p.m. Ten Commandments Study Group, Fought/Price home

Monday the 24th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 26th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 27th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal
Friday the 28th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

Worship Committee
The next Worship Committee meeting is 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13, in the Chappell Room. Anyone wishing to help with planning of our worship experiences is welcome to attend.
Rally/Kickoff Sunday Intergenerational Gathering
Sept. 11, 2016
(10 photos)

Getting acquainted.
Getting acquainted.
Picking out clothes to get “dressed” for church.
Getting “dressed” for church.
All “dressed” for church!
All “dressed” for church!
All “dressed” for church!
All “dressed” for church!
Jeanne teaches us the signs for “Welcome” by Mark Miller.
Practicing the signs for “Welcome.”
Final Sunday of Phoenix Affirmations
Sept. 4, 2016
(2 photos)

Our tent is complete, with all 12 affirmations.
Our phoenix, on loan from Open Hand Theater.