It’s September. Labor Day is past. The state fair is over. Students are back in school. It’s time for activity to ramp up at UUMC.

Our focus shifts from our summer theme of “Listening” to “Words Can Change a Life” for this month.

This Sunday, Sept. 13, the Senior Choir returns and Sunday School resumes. It’s Rally Day, and that means registration, refreshments and an all-together activity in the Pettengill Center starting at 10 a.m. for youngsters in kindergarten through 12th grade.

The Contemporary Issues Class, which met through the summer, also convenes at 10.

A new offering at 10 a.m. on Sundays, starting the 13th, is an adult Bible study led by Rebekah Grella in the History Room Annex. She will also lead the same Bible study at noon on Fridays, beginning Sept. 25, after the food pantry and Friday Community close.

Sunday School for adults with special needs meets at about 11:15 a.m., after the Children’s Blessing during worship.

Next week, Sept. 20, Laurel O’Connor, the Upper New York Conference’s field coordinator for Africa 360, will update us in worship on the denomination’s Imagine No Malaria campaign. UUMC contributed more than $2,600 to the cause in donations presented at Annual Conference this spring.

Also on the 20th, the Westcott Street Cultural Fair runs noon to 6:30 p.m. This year the congregations of the United Methodist Church of Syracuse are jointly staffing a table with

New member John Indick worked as a chef

New member John Indick is a Mattydale native who went to North Syracuse High School. He trained as a chef at BOCES in Liverpool and has worked at Beefsteak Mining and Galveston’s locally and a Howard Johnsons in Hartford, Conn.

John, who now lives in Syracuse, said his specialty is Italian food, and he loves to make lasagna, ziti and homemade meatballs.

John’s been on his own since age 16. “I don’t know what a family is like,” he said. “I don’t know what a Thanksgiving or Christmas is like.”

He’s been an avid bowler for nearly 30 years and a member of a men’s league at Bowl Mor Lanes in East Syracuse. His average is 175, and his high game is 285.

At this point, John’s looking for work and said he can do painting, landscaping, janitorial and security jobs.

John’s been attending UUMC almost two years now and comes because, he said, “I want to know Jesus more. I want to get to know people. I’m a shy person and I want to build up my trust in people.” He said he loves the
Let’s make our words kind so that we show God’s love

From our pastor...

The month of September we will be exploring how words can change a life or even the world.

On Sept. 6 in worship we listened to poems, prayer and Scripture, then creatively meditated. The Holy Spirit was all around us as we created beautiful pieces of art or quietly listened for God.

Sept. 20 we will hear from a guest who will share more about Africa 360. Africa 360 is a ministry in which words and actions have changed many lives.

Our theme has shifted from listening to words. Words we have heard have changed our lives. The encouraging words from parents, mentors, teachers or friends have shaped who we are and what we believe about ourselves.

Just as positive words have shaped us, the hurtful negative words have made us who we are.

Some hurtful words may have made us question our abilities or our worth. Other hurtful words may have made us more determined to prove the other wrong.

Words can change a life. Words can change the world.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s words, “I have a dream,” give me goosebumps every time I hear them.

A lesson on forgiveness comes from Nelson Mandela: “As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison.”

Maya Angelou: “I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt, as he fought for social welfare programs for the young and old: “The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”

As we speak our words of encouragement, frustration or anger, let’s remember that our words matter as much to the person we are speaking to as words that have changed our own lives, whether they be spoken by someone we know personally or admire as a public figure.

“Loving and forgiving God, who shows us each day how to be a better person when we let you guide us, please forgive us for words of hurt we may have said and give us the kind words to use with people around us so that we will be able to show your love in action and in word. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen.”

Peace be with you until we meet again.

— Pastor Alicia

More than a dozen people marched with the UUMC contingent in the Pride Day Parade at the State Fair. Among them were: Pastor Alicia Wood, Jeanne Finalyson-Schueler, Ed and Lee Potter, Jeff Foley, Kathy Cleary, Jim Roser, Logan Buchanan, Josiah Phelps, Mathew and Lacey Hamlin and Jamie and Diana Breedlove-Crouch, from St. Paul’s UMC, Ithaca.

D.S. Installation

The Rev. Nola Anderson’s installation as Crossroads District superintendent will be 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, at Cicero UMC, 8416 Brewerton Road, Cicero. Please RSVP to crossroadsdistrict@unyumc.org if you plan to attend (for dinner count).
Like Uncle Greg, the hoarder, donate your unwanted stuff

My Uncle Greg, who lives in Hawaii, is a bit of a hoarder. Caught up in the trend of extreme couponing, he, with his girlfriend, acquired massive amounts of shelf stable foods, personal toiletry items, pet supplies and the like.

Gregory, being the eighth of my Mom’s nine siblings, enjoyed supplying his nieces and nephews with acquired school supplies, making every dessert at family meals as well as cleverly inventing side dishes (apparently boxed dessert and side dish mixes are generous with their coupons & sales; combined this equals a free or close to free product).

Greg, with our family, reaped the benefits of a bountiful pantry (basement, garage, closet and bedroom).

Without warning Greg’s girlfriend got a job transfer. Their apartment, whose lease was held by her employer, needed to be quickly vacated.

Immediately, the girlfriend transitioned to the new job location to begin her work and establish an apartment, car, etc.

Gregory was left behind to find a temporary residence for himself and their dog and eliminate or send all of their belongings to their new apartment. Greg moved in with his younger brother, Jack.

Jack often uses his large family as support in his busy life, so Jack’s new roommate only formalizes an already working relationship. What didn’t work was all of the products that came with Greg.

Phone conversation after conversation, I learn of the new living conditions: tucking kids into bed with rolls of toilet paper jammed between the bed and wall; unavailable parking in the garage due to cases (yes, cases) of cake, cookie, brownie and stuffing mix; large, heavy bags of cat litter bordering the garden wrapped in bright blue tarps and garbage bags.

For a variety of reasons, Jack decided this all has got to go.

Jack, with the help of his two teenagers, brought a truckload of assorted products to the neighborhood food pantry. It was happily received and incorporated in their daily food giveaway program.

Greg found this quick elimination of product inspiring and followed suit, supplying a truckload of assorted product to each food pantry in the county.

On one of Greg’s deliveries as he connected with several folks, he was invited to assist in the daily distribution and still occasionally volunteers at food pantries across Oahu.

This story is not unique. September is a time of transition. As we move from one place of our lives to another we shed old for new. At UUMC’s Friday Community and Sunday Community Breakfasts, clothing, blankets, household linens, books, magazines, school supplies, food and personal toiletry items are offered to our guests.

Proudly, I can say that we are one of the most popular pantries on this side of the city, and our community breakfasts are highlights to our neighbors’ month.

Thusly, we move an incredible amount of product to a variety of folk who are often in desperate situations who will greatly appreciate what you have to offer.

Please bring us your unwanted, underused, unloved stuff.

Easily, it will find a new home where it will be loved, appreciated and fortifying for another person, again.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator
People/Prayer Connection

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

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

Sunday, August 23

- **Kathy**: Healing for Marva. Prayers for closing on our house
- **Lacey**: To find a new job soon.
- **Matthew**: Please let all family and friends be healthy.
- Prayers for Moon, who is taking exams to enter a Ph.D. program
- For Carol and Tom in caring for her parents — and for her parents’ health
- Prayers for university students taking major exams this week and preparing for the new semester
- Young adults in distress
- Peace and tranquility as I strive to continue living a purpose-driven life
- Don Hunt, recovering from cancer surgery
- I ask God to lead the way in my pregnancy and I should have my baby
- I said goodbye to a dear friend, Bob Tompkins. Please pray for his family.

Sunday, August 30

- **Josiah**: To be a good boy and be helpful again.
- **Kathy**: Prayers for a smooth move into our new home and to be filled with love and peace.
- **Lacey**: Pray for a ray of luck in a time of need for me and mine to attain what is needed to survive.
- **Mark McDivitt**: Best wishes to my daughter, Samantha McDivitt, who starts her college experience at Bucknell University this month.
- **Peter**: Gratitude for the opportunities we have to make peace here and in the world, by ending the systems that exploit and dominate.
- Safe travels for Esther, Nick and Sam, and for them to return home safely.
- For a dear friend who has terminal cancer.
- Pray for Clay Kuntz, who is hospitalized with encephalitis.
- For the family of George Houser, who died at the age of 99, founder of CORE, civil rights and first freedom rider in 1954.
- Pray that I find peace with the death of my son. Forgive my family.
- God heal my soul.
- Pray that I get a great home for me and my wife.
- All first responders who never know if they may return home.

Sunday, September 6

- Jim and Kathy: Love and prayers for Jim’s niece on her health concerns
- **John**: For Grandpa George to get better. He’s in the VA Hospital.
- **Cynthia**: That my heart is open to God, that he help me to remove all resentment so that I can move forward in you

THANKS & PRAISE

- Thank you for the life you spared this week — my aunt
- Joy that Liz Pruchnicki has a new job
- Thanks for reminding me to breathe! All will be well with you!
- Thanks to God for giving us an angel who is Barbara and her family. Also, to the church family.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY ASKS PRAYERS FOR:

- Oct. 4: Leigh Safford, Eileen Schell, Autumn Kerr
- Oct. 11: Jill Sarkodie-Mensah, Dany Sarkodie-Mensah, Janet Sciscioli, Vito Sciscioli
- Oct. 18: Dan Shworles, Monica Shworles, Allison Shipley
- Oct. 25: Bruce Simmons, Jackie Simmons, Robert Simmons

Houser on the death of their grandson, Tom Poppenger
- Healing for all victims and survivors of trauma
- The Danhouser family. Bill died this week
- I pray for my loved ones left behind to come to college. I pray that distance will strengthen the relationships.
- For Danielle Adams’ family: operations for her mother and nephew
- Please pray for my daughter-in-law Theresa, who will be having back surgery Thursday
- A prayer for the family of Jean Howe, who died recently. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church for many years.
October birthdays

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

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

‘A Walk in the Woods’ starts off Spiritfilm

The 15th season of Spiritfilm begins on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Price/Fought home.

Each month, a film is selected for viewing independently in a theater near you.

Conversation focuses on the spiritual, religious, ethical and relationship themes in the film, not the cinematography, acting or script.

We share personal insights and experiences, discover scenes or meanings that escaped us but jumped out for others and get to know each other in deeper and more meaningful ways.

We have seen and discussed the many meanings of dozens of films, including “A Beautiful Mind,” “Les Miserables,” “McFarland, USA,” “Selma,” “St. Vincent,” “The Theory of Everything” and “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.” Fun films, heavy films, issues films. Well over 100 films.

If you enjoy film, spirited conversation, and great desserts and beverages, come join us. The Fought/Price home at 6305 Hamlet Crest is in The Hamlet condo complex across from Christian Brothers Academy on Randall Road, just over the Syracuse/DeWitt line.

The Sept. 19 selection is “A Walk in the Woods” with Robert Redford and Nick Nolte. Other fall dates are Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 19, always 7:30 p.m. at the Fought/Price home.

To add your name to the Spiritfilm list to receive information on the next selection, email nprice@twcny.rr.com.

No obligation. No dues. No initiation ritual. Just come when you can.

— Nelson Price

October will have many John Wesley references

CONTINUED from Page 1

a focus on Imagine No Malaria.

If you are interested in helping at the table for one hour, call the church office.

Looking ahead to October, John Wesley’s name will be heard frequently. Oct. 4 is World Communion Sunday, and Pastor Alicia is planning on adapting Wesley’s “Constant Communion” sermon. The focus for the month is stewardship, and Wesley’s approach to money will be explored.

Another joint effort by the city United Methodist congregations related to the malaria campaign will be Oct. 16 at Bellevue UMC. It’s a joint potluck dinner at 6:15 p.m. followed by a program. Each city church is expected to contribute something to the program.

For November, there’s the traditional and the new. All Saints Day is Sunday the first, and we will remember the saints no longer among us since last year. The following Sunday, Nov. 8, is the new, as we’ll begin celebrating an extended Advent, around the time pledge cards are to be collected.

UUMC is to host, along with the Syracuse UM Churches Mission Team, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser Nov. 13 to support the Syracuse Westside Urban Ministry -- SWUM. More information on this and the other events already mentioned will be shared as they become available.

Neighborhood Listeners Update

Derrick Johnson and Lori Wyman, our Neighborhood Listeners, have found some more matches: People who are interested in learning and teaching art and those who are interested in teaching and improving computer skills. There also may be something involving dance choreography.

Hunger Action Month

September is Hunger Action Month and the CNY Food Bank is asking us to sign onto a letter supporting the Hunger Free Summer for Kids Act.

You can do this by going to: http://goo.gl/forms/mhjNXHeSeh

Feed My People: Body, Mind and Spirit
Where's the Finance Corner?
The Finance Corner will return in the next issue of The Chimes.

The Guild
The initial fall meeting of the church Guild will be 1:30 p.m. Sept. 23 at the home of Lee Potter. Lee will present the program, “Treasures from Around the World.” Please notify Lee at 449-0592 if you are unable to attend. Visitors are welcome.

Charge Conference
Our Charge Conference, which will be held with the other Syracuse city churches, will be at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 4 at Erwin First UMC, 920 Euclid Ave.

ALTAR FLOWERS were given:
• by Nancy Nevin, in memory and of loved ones
• by Starke Donnally III, in memory of his father, Starke Donnally Jr.; his mother, Janet Lehr Donnally; and his brother, Bruce Donnally. All were longtime members of UUMC
• Carol and Tom Boll, in honor of Carol’s parents, Dr. Howard and Frances Long, and in memory of Carol’s brother, David Long, and Tom’s parents, George and Carol Boll, and Tom’s sister, Kamae Miller.

Flowers were given to John Sutter, Bud and Ruth Houser, Barbara Nunn, Jill Sarkodie-Mensah, Dr. Howard and Frances Long and Martha Sutter.

Flowers were delivered by Martha Sutter, Marg McDivitt, Starke Donnally, Lee Potter and Tom and Carol Boll.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13
Sunday the 13th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade, Pettengill Center
10 a.m. Adult Bible Study, History Room Annex
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with special needs
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Rm
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 16th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 17th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 18th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20
Sunday the 30th
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade, Pettengill Center
10 a.m. Adult Bible Study, History Room Annex
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with special needs
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 23rd
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 24th
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 25th
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 27
Sunday the 27th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10 a.m. Contemporary Issues
10 a.m. Sunday School, kindergarten-12th grade, Pettengill Center
10 a.m. Adult Bible Study, History Room Annex
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with special needs
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Narthex
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Wednesday the 30th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 1st
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 2nd
10 a.m. - noon Friday Community
Sunday, Aug. 23, 2105

7 photos
Putting on the armor of God.
Worship attendees took time to creatively express experiences with God speaking to them during worship as Pastor Alicia read prayers and poems and our organist played during quiet time.
Allan Drew Memorial Bike Ride  
Around Onondaga Lake  
Aug. 29, 2015 15 photos

Eight cyclists did the final Allan Drew Memorial Bike Ride. This one was around Onondaga Lake and included going behind Destiny USA and past the State Fair, stopping for pedestrian traffic.