Time nears to decide on pledge for 2017; $5,000 challenge grant boosts campaign

As we complete our stewardship campaign and contemplate our pledge for the coming year — this Sunday, Oct. 30, is Pledge Sunday — we have an exciting new opportunity: meeting a challenge grant presently in the amount of $5,000.

So how does it work? If you presently pledge $300 a year and increase it to $400, the $100 increase will be matched.

If you have never made an annual pledge and wish to make one this year of, say $300, that $300 pledge will be matched.

If you wish to add to the matching grant so we can provide an even larger amount to the challenge grant, please contact Nelson Price at nprice@twcny.rr.com or 446-7656.

The new matching grant is especially important this year because we will need to replace the rental income we will no longer have when the bishop and the Upper New York Conference move their offices to the new Conference Center in Liverpool in early 2017.

We depend on that rental income to help pay for our building, which is larger than we currently need to operate our church. It represents 20 percent of overall church income.

Of course, we are actively beginning to market the space to a not-for-profit organization that would complement our mission.

So please keep this exciting new opportunity in mind when you pledge this year.

In addition, the Governing Board has approved receiving pledges and donations by credit card. Details will be shared when that’s ready.

— Vito Sciscioli, Chair, Governing Board

Time to gear up for annual Thanksgiving bag project

Thanksgiving will be upon us before we know it.

At UUMC that means preparations for our Thanksgiving bag project have begun. There have been some changes in our requests this year. Dates and times have been altered as well as our “Purchase” list.

Due to careful, strategic shopping and the abundance at the Food Bank of CNY, we have ordered and received many of the items we once asked you to buy. Much of our foods have come via the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

As you might recall from some of my past writings, any food categorized as USDA is part of our national surplus. For us that means it’s FREE.

See STUFFING, Page 2
All Saints’ Day: a meaningful celebration of loved ones’ lives

Greetings,

I was listening to a podcast last week as I traveled to Cedar Point on my vacation about how the church marks the moments of individual and families’ lives.

As part of being a pastor I both dread and am humbled and honored by officiating funerals and memorial services. Funerals and memorial services mark the moment of the individual who has passed, but they also mark the moment within the life of the family.

For example, when my grandmother died someone loudly announced at the memorial service my mother was now the matriarch of the family. My mom was really struck by this announcement because it marked the moment of a new role formed for her in her life.

Another example from my own history comes from my aunt passing away unexpectedly. As the first Christmas without her came, each of her five children took one task that their mom had done before to make the holiday special. As they sat around the table at Christmas dinner they realized their mom had taught each of them something different so that not one person could do everything that she had done but each could do one or two things.

They needed each other in a new way. They were amazed at the legacy their mom (my aunt) had left them beyond her life.

When a loved one dies, life for the living changes. Things shift. New roles emerge. New duties emerge. Those who are left are called to learn what life is without the person who is gone. A “new normal” shapes.

This October as a part of our Stewardship Campaign we are exploring the treasures in our lives. Many would think treasure is a chest full of gold coins, but we are noticing the treasures we have as ministries we have on our hearts, our time, our prayer and our talents.

In preparation for All Saints Day, yet still in the mindset of this campaign, I remembered one of my favorite songs from a few years back, “Time Well Wasted” by Brad Paisley.

This song talks about how when you spend time with your loved ones it is time well wasted, even when you don’t get to complete your “to-do” list.

November 6 is All Saints’ Day at UUMC. I love this tradition within the United Methodist Church. We honor all our loved ones who have passed in the last calendar year.

We also take a moment to honor all those who have passed whom we have loved. The family and friends in our memories.

I feel marking the moment in life changes is essential for healing and spiritual growth.

I’m so honored our church takes part in a meaningful celebration of life each November. As names are turned in for All Saints’ Day and we move toward November 6, I will keep the names of those who have passed this year and their families in my prayers.

Peace be with you until we meet again,

— Pastor Alicia

Stuffing, quick-bread and cake mixes among items needed for guests’ bags

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Some food will need to be bought for our Thanksgiving bags, but please note our new lists.

**Items needed:** fresh or frozen turkeys, recyclable bags with handles, canned yams, canned gravy/gravymix, quick-bread mix, stuffing mix, cake mix, frosting.

**Items NOT needed:** cranberry sauce, canned low-salt vegetables, canned low-sugar fruit, instant mashed potatoes.

Extra free items we’re offering include cream of chicken soup, 1-pound bags of walnuts and cranberry juice concentrate. Farmer Jim Brownson will provide us with two crates of winter squash. And the Methodist Men of Fayetteville donated 100 pounds of potatoes they gleaned from fields in Maine.

How can you help? Adopt a family off the turkey tree in the sanctuary, buy all the ingredients, including the turkey and put a brief greeting in their bag.

Donate money: Put “Thanksgiving Bags” on the memo line. Help stuff bags after worship Nov. 20 or help distribute bags the morning of Nov. 22.

—Galyn Murphy-Stanley  
Outreach coordinator
Thanksgiving — another time our ministry unites many

I was raised and raise my family among books — books of all types, for all age groups, all subject matter. We also read those books, they are carried with us, they are shared to live with another and then eventually find their way home.

Our books often show the signs of being well read. Our “Autobiography of Malcolm X” has amazingly lived through three generations of readers.

Purchased as a new release for a college class and costing $2.50, it lives with us rubber-banded together awaiting its next reader. Each holiday brings books that have been tucked away the prior year.

The favorite Thanksgiving book in our house is “Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving.” Written by Laurie Halse Anderson (a descendant of Sarah Hale and native Syracuse), we are guided through Sarah Josepha Hale’s tireless efforts to create a national holiday.

In a time when the only U.S. national holidays were Washington’s Birthday and Independence Day, Sarah’s efforts were deflect ed through five presidents’ tenures.

Finally, President Lincoln embraced Sarah’s work as a vehicle toward national unification, celebration and empowerment for a recovering post-war country.

“In 1863 President Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday — a day for all Americans to give thanks, together.

“It took Sarah Hale 38 years, thousands of letters, and countless bottles of ink, but she did it. Nothing stopped Sarah. That bold, brave, stubborn, and smart lady saved Thanksgiving ... for all of us.”

The book is rich with pre- and immediate post-civil war American history, women’s suffrage, abolitionist activities and the power of the pen.

Although pictured, the overly taught story of the Pilgrims and Native American fest is only touched on in the back of the book in a historic reference section titled “A Feast of Facts.”

Our book shows the signs of many interested young readers hungry to gather this new information and store it within themselves.

I think of this book often as I prepare for Thanksgiving with my family and with UUMC’s Outreach programs.

As Joyce Flynn, her family and I work behind the scenes to ready for our annual Thanksgiving Bag giveaway, it becomes abundantly clear that this ministry provides another vehicle toward unification of our congregation, our friends, our guests, our neighbors and our volunteers — that on Thanksgiving Day we will all have connected with at least 100 souls who can sit down to a self-created meal that fills their body and their heart.

Please refer to your UUMC communications to understand the current happenings and re-
**THANKS**

Friends are the flowers in the garden of life.

My garden really bloomed the day the Kotens delivered altar flowers from the church. What a lovely custom UUMC and the Altar Guild have in doing this.

They were beautiful and truly raised my spirits and the spirits of others who enjoyed them.

Many thanks to donors and other members who do this lovely thing.

Gratefully,
Mary Klepper

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**PRAYERS REQUESTED:**

- For those in military service: Jim Pettyjohn and Matt Fischer
- Barb: Continued prayers for Bob Weaver, who is still recovering from his surgery.
- Erika: Joey Storto and family, Bob and Barb Weaver
- Gail: Barbara Silverman and victims of the New Jersey train accident.
- Jim: Give healing power to my stepson, Logan, as he is under the weather.
- John: To get my life a lot better than it is now.
- Nelson: Newtoria Coleman and her family — severe medical issues.
- Ralph: I ask for your thoughts and prayers on Friday as I will be getting a pacemaker implanted.
- Robert: For the SU Student from Beijing, China, who was murdered here on Friday, and his family.
- Sanders Family: Peace and love for all
- Tony: Keep the people of the world safe and healthy.
- Blessings for Barbara Cargo recovering from surgery at Menorah Park
- Dan Reed: Annette’s mom
- Prayers for the 6-year-old boy who died from his injury in the school shooting.

**Sunday, October 9**

- Angela: Joseph Palmieri, who is having back problems.
- Ann: New employment opportunities.
- Barb: Continued prayers for Bob Weaver, who is still recovering in the hospital.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, lead me to unexpected answers to my prayers.
- Erika: Joey Storto and family, Bob and Barb Weaver.
- Nelson: For my sister, Helen, who is facing medical issues.
- Peter: For Alicia Swords and husband, Tim, who have been great foster parents to a baby who is returning safely to her own home.
- Robert: For all those afflicted by the floods from the hurricane.
- Rochelle: The upcoming election and all involved.
- Sheila: Prayers for Roxanne Sopchak and family. Her mother died this week.
- For Matt, who needs Grandma.
- For all those struggling with disappointment and discouragement: God has a place for you.
- For my extended family
- Hurricane Matthew storm damage
- Donald Trump
- Prayer for returning good health for my husband, John
- Prayers for my friend, Bernadette, whose son is having open heart surgery tomorrow.

**Sunday, October 16**

- Barb: Continued prayers for Matt, who needs Grandma.
People/Prayers

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Bob Weaver, who is still slowly recovering in the hospital

• Bruno: My kids to be accepted in school
• Elise: Prophet Jesus, I request healing for my mother by her injuries at home!
• Kathy: For all the people who were affected by the hurricane
• Celebrate the new environmental agreement among nations
• Prayer for recent passing of my grandmother Helen
• Prayer for my soul in this absolutely trying time with love. All I have is God and my family.
• Prayer for the violence happening in Ethiopia and for the families of the two murdered police officers in Palm Springs – and for the homeless in Syracuse.
• Prayer for continued healing and growth
• Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton
• Those on drugs
• Margaret Carr, Beth Drew, Alicia Wood

Sunday, October 23

• Ann: Tom Owens, who fell last week
• Barb: Bob Weaver, as he now recovers at home
• Dan: Annette’s mom
• Diana: Clarity of purpose
• Elise: Prophet Jesus, I plead you to set a warm hearth for the needy!
• Erika: Bob Weaver, Barb Weaver, Joey Storto
• Mark & Melanie: Deborah Dubach – job interviews
• Mike: Anthony Pavia and family and the family of Robert Hagerty
• Peter: The earth, the sun, the water and the air – and all that we can learn from the elegant design!
• Robert: Blessings and good health for Dean and Pastor Alicia
• Sharon: Tom, who has serious health issues
• Susan: Laura Pelligrini
• Prayers for marriage;
• For Theo Hoelker, John Tndall, Kevin Young
• Prayers for all who need shelter and food as the colder weather arrives
• Continued prayers for Barbara Cargo – recovering from knee surgery

JOYS, THANKS AND PRAISE
Sunday, October 2

• Shirley: Praise God for the birth of our great granddaughter, Madilyn Paige.

Sunday, October 9

• A prayer of thanks that my brother, Ralph, who received a pacemaker on Friday, is feeling fine this morning.

Sunday, October 16

• Barbara: Joy that the fabulous Nelson Price has been married to me for 20 years this week
• Mamie: Praise the Lord and allow his will to continue to lift and keep our spirits

Sunday, October 23

• Blessings and thanksgiving for Mary Klepper and family gathered here this weekend in celebration of her 90th birthday.
• Happy 90th birthday to Nancy Hough.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:
By Jerry and Barbara Cargo in memory of parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crossman and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Cargo and brothers John and David Cargo.
By Beth Drew in honor of the baptism of her granddaughter, Olivia Drew-Rios, on September 25.
In loving memory of Erma Bowes Berwick, who was a devoted member of UUMC for many years.
By Mary Klepper’s family honor of her 90th birthday.
Flowers were given to Mary Klepper, Nancy Hough, Claudette Brown-Smythe, Beth Drew, Ralph Best, Jackie Sadowski, Barbara Cargo and Ruth Houser.
Flowers were delivered by Lee Potter and Marg McDivitt.

November birthdays

5 — Lynn Steenberg, Ed Tillapaugh
6 — Monica Shworles
7 — Phyllis Wright
10 — Michael Grome
14 — Daniel Kirkley
15 — Jim Virgo
16 — Jenny Hicks, Brian Finlayson-Schueler
19 — Robin Best, Connie Wilson
24 — Krystina Nilsson
25 — Roger MacDonald, Joe Tompkins
30 — Kate Lyle, Greg Allen, Mary Klepper

Worship Committee

The next Worship Committee meeting is 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10, in the Chappell Room.
Anyone wishing to help with planning of our worship experiences is welcome to attend.
Finance Corner

Pledging Update
2016 total pledges: $179,649
Paid to date: $137,398
Non-pledge contr.: $16,297

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

Help the bag project
CONTINUED from Page 3
quests that allow UUMC’s Thanksgiving Bag ministry to be successful.
Consider picking up the book I’ve referenced. It makes for great Thanksgiving dinner conversation and is a good dose of accurate American history on one of the most American of national holidays.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
— Galyn Murphy-Stanley Outreach Coordinator

Women’s Guild Meeting
The Guild’s November meeting is Nov. 30 at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Margo Koten, 317 Standish Drive, Syracuse.
Allen and Lois Lum will present “Our Life in Appalachia.” They lived there for many years. All are welcome, and please let the hostess know you will be there. Phone: 446-0649.

Thanks for donations
The United Methodist Committee on Relief thanks UUMC for these 2016 donations:
• $400 (total) for U.S. Disaster Response
• $1,200 (total) General Board of Global Ministries, in honor of Dr. Mark Zimmerman
The CNY Community Foundation thanks us for a $100 gift to Hearts in the Right Place Fund.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 30
Pledge Sunday the 30th
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, Gathering Room
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
4-5:15 p.m. Ten Commandments Study Group, Fought/Price home

Wednesday the 9th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 10th
6 p.m. Worship Committee
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 11th
10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13
Sunday the 13th
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, Gathering Room
12:30 p.m. Soup and Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
4-5:15 p.m. Ten Commandments Study Group, Fought/Price home

Monday the 14th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Tuesday the 15th
6-7 p.m. Food Pantry

Wednesday the 16th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 17th
6 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations Committee
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 18th
10 a.m. Friday Community
Our four-week Stewardship Campaign (Oct. 9-30) theme comes from Matthew 6:21: — “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Church Activities Fair
Oct. 2, 2016 (12 photos)

Reconciling Ministry
Sunday School

Vacation Bible School
Grades K-12

Special Adult Class
CONFIRMATION

Christmas Pageant
nursery

Topics ’16-’17
Jesus
- moses
- Joseph
- ten commandments
- mary
- parables
- principles
- find it in our lives

Come share your faith journey with children, youth & adults.
Women’s Guild
United Methodist Women
The Syracuse United Methodist Churches collected and stocked 140 flood buckets to restock UMCOR for its disaster relief.
Children watch a baptism on Oct. 9
Oct. 23, 2016, Breakfast & Worship (4 photos)
Pastor Alicia shows the children prayer beads, which came from the third of our four treasure chests.