Find what you need in Holy Week: workshops, prayer, Communion

Holy Week is near, and activities start with Terry Hershey’s two workshops this Saturday, April 8.
Signup deadline is Thursday at http://tinyurl.com/thershey or by calling the office. The $10 fee covers both workshops and lunch. The workshops are “Finding Sanctuary” at 9 a.m. and “Soft Hearts from Hard Places” at 1 p.m.
Hershey will preach on Palm Sunday, April 9, at our 11 a.m. service. His sermon title is “Jesus in Skin.” He says it’s based on the premise that justice starts with inclusion.
At UUMC, our Sanctuary will be open on April 14, Good Friday, for meditation and prayer from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
New this year is an Easter Eve service on April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pettengill Center. The service will have a family atmosphere as attendees will sit around tables. Communion will be celebrated.
Our 11 a.m. Easter service on April 16 will include the traditional “Hallelujah Chorus” in which those attending are welcome to join the Senior Choir in singing in the front of the Sanctuary.
The other Syracuse United Methodist churches have the following planned:
See HOLY, Page 5

Clean up, march for the environment this month

If you’re interested in the environment — cleaning it up or marching to protect it — you’re in luck.
On Saturday, April 22, starting at 9:30 a.m. in our parking lot on University Avenue, volunteers will head out to attack litter in the neighborhood.
If you’re interested, dress appropriately for the task and bring work gloves if you have them. Some will be provided. You’ll receive a voucher for lunch once work is done. Last year, the confirmation class took this task on.
To volunteer, call the office at 315-475-7277 or sign up at this poll: http://doodle.com/poll/tirhpfk6qkr4vyk2.
The following weekend, April 29, there will be People’s Climate Marches in Washington, D.C., and Syracuse.
UUMC member Stephanie Hitztaler said: “We will march specifically to push for solutions to the climate crisis that are based on racial, social and economic justice. Such solutions include finding ways to transition to a new clean and renewable energy community that benefits everyone. We will also be marching to support our brothers and sisters who are immigrants, people of color, LGBTQIA, indigenous and tribal people.”

See LOCAL, Page 2
Being in a ‘tomb’ is part of life, but Jesus is with us

Greetings,

As we approach Holy Week and Easter I can’t help but think about the tomb. Believe it or not, even with my happy-go-lucky, glass half-full (even overflowing) outlook, I sometimes find myself in a tomb.

I’m not saying being in a metaphorical tomb is good or bad. I’m just saying it is a part of life.

Sometimes my tomb has to do with needing some time alone as a part of self-care or spiritual renewal.

Sometimes my tomb is a time of prayer and reflection about a life or the world’s situation.

Sometimes it’s full of darkness, sadness, frustration or self doubt.

Sometimes I enjoy spending time in the solitude of the tomb, and sometimes it feels like a prison.

What I know for sure is that the time in the tomb changes me.

Even in the dark times, I feel as though with God by my side, I will not remain in the tomb forever. I will emerge a different person.

This Lenten Season we have been reflecting on the things we need to let go of inside ourselves as we seek justice.

Seeking justice is hard and long work. In doing the work, we can be changed.

It is OK to feel our feelings as long as we recognize we are not alone in seeking justice.

Jesus was all about justice, but he did not do it alone. He prayed to God often and gathered with his disciples and other people.

We can rely on Jesus. Jesus shows us the way forward. He shows us how to live. He tells us how to pray. He gives us eternal hope.

On Easter we are reminded that the tomb is empty, Jesus is resurrected and is made new!

In knowing and trusting Jesus Christ we can be made new!

Whether this Lenten season has been one of spiritual renewal, reflection or darkness, know that Jesus has been and will be with you until you are ready to exit the tomb changed.

April 8 and 9, Terry Hershey will be our guest speaker sharing his gifts of finding sanctuary in our lives. It will be a wonderful start to our Holy Week.

Please join us Palm Sunday weekend and for the events of Holy Week, including an Easter Eve Service, April 15, around tables in Pettengill Center (Holy Communion will be served), and on Easter morning when we remember the tomb is empty.

Christ has risen!

May we live our lives full of hope, compassion and God’s love.

Peace,

— Pastor Alicia

Local march starts at Franklin Square and follows Creek Walk

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There are two options:

Join the march in D.C. The Peoples Climate Movement, which is organizing the D.C. march, wants to build as much critical mass in D.C. as possible so that we can bring a large, collective voice to the halls of political power.

Here at UUMC we are currently exploring transportation and housing options, depending on the number of people who are able to attend this march.

Tentatively, the whole trip would take a little over one full day.

For instance, we would plan on leaving in the afternoon on Friday, April 28, and would return later in the evening after the march on April 29. See peoplesclimate.org for more details.

Join the sister CNY People’s Climate March here in Syracuse. Organized by Climate Change Awareness and Action, this will begin at 11 a.m. at Franklin Square Park and follow the Creek Walk toward the Inner Harbor Amphitheater. See climatechange-action.com for details or contact cc.awareness.action@gmail.com.

Please confirm your participation in either march as soon as possible by contacting Stephanie at shitztal@umich.edu or (315) 558-9563 or signing up on this poll: http://doodle.com/poll/vqgravfcmrkz3eya.
Poverty, food scarcity in early years have lasting effects

My older daughter, Aydan, a freshman at Syracuse University, has recently declared her majors as psychology and history.

She always has been compelled by the connection between “deviant” or criminal behaviors and the personal story of the individual who embody or execute these behaviors.

Additionally, if those actions are “nature vs. nurture” and how these individuals/behaviors are managed throughout history.

Aydan will spend a month in London this summer studying Jack the Ripper in Victorian London, a course seemingly crafted just for her.

As Aydan prepares for this adventure there is an amazing amount of information that has surfaced on the connections between mental illness, cognitive impairments, decision-making abilities, poverty and food scarcity.

Cornell University has published a recent study on childhood poverty that indicates how and why many physical, cognitive and psychological deficits follow into adulthood.

After tracking participants over a 15-year period, this analysis demonstrates overwhelming results that impoverished children who lack food security have more psychological stress and more antisocial conduct like aggression, bullying and helplessness behaviors than their mid-income peers.

Poor kids also have deficits in short-term spatial memory, which affects retention, language, problem solving, cognitive abilities and ultimately, achievement into adulthood.

“Kids who grow up in poverty (with unreliable food and housing sources) are likely to stay impoverished as adults,” the article says.

This article goes on to conclude that the remedy lies in restructuring governmental supplementary income to individuals who will limit children’s exposure to poverty and in turn, their risk of developing psychological and cognitive impairments that carry into adulthood.

This particular study was presented via the Food Bank of CNY in a monthly newsletter. I assume it was shared with pantry coordinators to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of the folk who visit our food pantries. I feel this was brilliant sharing by the Food Bank.

Understanding and empathy are of the utmost importance in the weekly effort of opening UUMC’s Food Pantry to the public, filling it with food, diapers, clothing and toiletries, training volunteers and creating a fluid process for all.

Additionally, this holds true for UUMC’s Sunday Community Breakfasts, where week after week our emergency food programs are visited by largely the same individuals. Where the obvious conclusion is that every week offers “an emergency,” where guests’ problems can’t be solved by themselves, that behavior is hard to change and the wounds generated during their childhood poverty prevail.

Aydan used this Cornell-generated article offered by the Food Bank of CNY in a large project for a psychology class at SU. She has gathered additional information from a variety of other sites.

She will present in her work that the nature of poverty and all of the insecurity, stressors and limitations that it offers create scars that are often unseen and irretrievably present.

While in London Aydan will have a better understanding that the supports a nation gives to its people throughout time indeed define them, their behaviors, their choices and their ability to prevail for a very long time — therefore, creating the history of a nation.

—Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Galyn Murphy-Stanley

Aydan heads to London this summer.
People and Prayers

DEATH
- Rev. Vernon C. French Jr., 89, died March 20. He was the father of our former pastor, Rev. Craig French.

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

Sunday, March 19
- Pray for those grieving
- Peter: For the rational approach to federal priorities. May we stop wasting our taxes on weapons and have safety and human rights for everyone
- Kellie and Lynn: Asking for prayers for our family as we just learned of the death of an aunt and cousin early this morning.
- Angela: Jenny Preaster, who is recovering from surgery
- Erika: Maria Storto and family; Barb and Bob Weaver
- Ellyn Gale: Ted Ball, recovering after surgery for a detached retina. Elmo Oliveria is in ICU in Brazil. Emily White is recovering from a mild concussion.
- Sharon Cullen: Dan Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaide Ferrandl, Kathy Dewey, Patti Walker, Gloria Goodison, Jeanne & Shane
- Dean: Justice for those who seem to be facing more uncertainty for their financial future with the direction our government may be heading.
- Prayers for a friend of a friend, Leon, as he is fighting leukemia
- William Belle: God, look over me while I am on vacation

Sunday, March 26
- Pray for those grieving
- Bruno Mukasa: I request this church pray for peace for the DRC because they kill people every day.
- Keep Jim in your prayers for next Sunday.
- We pray for the AID workers with the refugees in Africa as well as Europe and Asia.
- Lynn and Kellie: Asking for prayers for Amy and the O’Gorman family as they are going through a difficult time and have difficult decisions to make.
- Nancy Hough: The family of my friend Hank, who died yesterday.
- John Hunt: My sister Pat
- Robert James: Pray for John, who has Parkinson’s, Bill with dementia, Jerry with arthritis, Carola with a new pacemaker, and Tom, who needs better nutrition.
- Robert James: For Phyllis, a blind woman with a broken hip in Loretto who needs healing prayers. For Ben Meade to have success in his studies at SU.
- Allen Lum: We pray for strength to accomplish all we need to do.
- Pray for courage
- Pray for Mary Ellen
- Gail Tyndall: Barbara Silverman and Janessa
- Kathy: Prayers for Samantha Steward. Her husband, Bud, died last Thursday
- Mike Rodda: The family of James R. Gooley
- Thank you, Lord, for waking me up and continue to bless
- Sherri Cullen: Don Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaide Ferrandl, Kathy Dewey, Patti Walker, Gloria Goodison, Jeanne & Shane
- Don: Justice for those who seem to be facing more uncertainty for their financial future with the direction our government may be heading.
- Prayers for a friend of a friend, Leon, as he is fighting leukemia
- William Belle: God, look over me while I am on vacation
- Peter Swords: Thanks to all who stand up for health care as a human right
- Elise: Prophet Jesus, I plead to you for a peaceful home.
- Shirley and Harry Miller: Congratulations to Liz and Will Hubbard on the birth of their twin boys, Liam and Simon
- Peter Swords: For the relief, even if it temporary, of keeping Medicaid intact. Let’s have health care for everybody.
- Emelia Weah: To fulfill getting the role as teen adviser in the girl up community of education for girls in other continents and worldwide.
- Jim: Prayers for Jack Bataglia’s family. Jack died Friday evening. Jack will be missed by all of us at Value Home Center.
- Faith: That God looks after my father as he is not with us currently, but I ask God to bring him back safely. Amen.
- Faith: That God continues to shine his light and give blessings to my family and me forever and always. Amen.
- Stephanie: Prayers for my friend Sarah and her unborn child. Prayers for all those dealing with grief.
- Mike Sr.: Pray for prosperity and peace.

Sunday, April 2
- Ann Owens: Happy Birthday, Ted Holmes!
- Ted Holmes is celebrating his 71st birthday today. Happy Birthday!
- Peter Swords: Thanks to all who stand up for health care as a human right
- Emelia Weah: To fulfill getting the role as teen adviser in the girl up community of education for girls in other continents and worldwide.
- Jim: Prayers for Jack Bataglia’s family. Jack died Friday evening. Jack will be missed by all of us at Value Home Center.
- Faith: That God looks after my father as he is not with us currently, but I ask God to bring him back safely. Amen.
- Faith: That God continues to shine his light and give blessings to my family and me forever and always. Amen.
- Stephanie: Prayers for my friend Sarah and her unborn child. Prayers for all those dealing with grief.
- Mike Sr.: Pray for prosperity and peace.
Holy Week at other Syracuse UM churches

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Holy Thursday, April 13:
Bellevue Heights/Gethsemane: 6 p.m.: Christ in the Passover at Bellevue Heights, 2112 S. Geddes St.
Erwin First: 7 p.m. “Cleansing and Communion,” 920 Euclid Ave.
St. Paul’s: 7 p.m., With foot washing

Good Friday, April 14:
Brown Memorial: Noon, Carrying the Cross through the neighborhood, 228 Davis St.
Gethsemane: Noon, Joint service with Westminster Presbyterian Church at Westminster, 1601 Park St.
St. Paul’s: Noon to 3 p.m., Open for Stations of the Cross
Erwin First: 7 p.m., Stations of the Cross

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People/Prayers

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- randi, Kathy Dewey, Gloria Goodison, Patty Walker, and my sister’s test to be negative.
- Joyce and Katie Flynn: Prayers for the people of Colombia in the wake of the mudslides, as well as the people in Yemen, South Sudan, Syria and other places where there are humanitarian crises.
- Dear God, Help me see I have many options and give them to all around me.
- Barb and Jerry Cargo: A happy 90th birthday on Wednesday to Ralph Best!
- For Lizz Magowan and her two classmates as they travel to China for a month of study.
- In praise of my mother’s life — Gert Wells, who has been with the Lord three years today.
- Ginny and Bob Dewey: For the family of Vito and Janet Sciscioli as they grieve the loss of Vito’s sister.
- Stephanie Hitztaler: For my best friend Sarah with a complicated pregnancy. My sister to find employment. Jason, my cousin, has deep emotional and physical issues.

JOYS, THANKS AND PRAISE Sunday, April 2

- Jerome Weah: Thanks be to God for everything he has done.
- Mamie B.: Thank you, Lord, for the members of the church who continue to pray for me and keep those less fortunate in their prayers.

May birthdays

2 – Melissa Pedro, Jaxon Steenberg
4 – David Bacon, Ethel Phillips, Marg McDivitt
6 – Bethany Boll
17 – Caroline Bracket
21 – Evan Simmons
25 – Allison Virgo, Benjamin Virgo, Kirstin Coutu
26 – Eileen Schell
29 – Joyce Flynn
30 – Bunny Hannum
31 – Sara Bergan

If birthdays are missing or wrong, please contact Tom Boll at uumctb@twcny.rr.com.
WEEK OF APRIL 9
Sunday the 9th—Palm Sunday
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m. “Renegade Gospel” book study, Laubach Room
10 a.m. Sunday School, K-12, Pettengill Ctr.
10 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm
11 a.m. Worship, Terry Hershey, guest speaker.
11:15 a.m. Sunday School for adults with disabilities
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
12:30 p.m. Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Monday the 10th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Tuesday the 11th
5:15 p.m. Governing Board
Wednesday the 12th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6 p.m. Worship Committee, Chappell Room
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Good Friday the 14th
8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sanctuary open for meditation, prayer

WEEK OF APRIL 16
Sunday the 16th—Easter
11 a.m. Worship, Pastor Wood.
12:15 p.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
12:30 p.m. Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm
Tuesday the 18th
6 p.m. Food Pantry
Wednesday the 19th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 20th
6 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations Committee
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir
Friday the 21st
10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF APRIL 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. Fellowship, Gathering Room

WEEK OF APRIL 30
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 & Sermon Chat, Chappell Rm

Flowers were given to Kellie Wood and Lynn Baker, Dale Fryer, Mary Wilson, Nancy Hough, Katie Flynn and Ralph Best.
Flowers were delivered by Marg McDivitt and Barbara Nunn.
Sunday, March 26, 2017
Signing the Charter for Compassion
6 photos