Care Team ministers to members, friends through a variety of ways

More than a year ago, Pastor Alicia invited some of us already serving the church in care-giving capacities to assist her in contacting and visiting members and friends who no longer could come to worship.

She was especially busy with city church meetings, helping close James Street UMC and the myriad other opportunities a pastor embraces.

The former Care and Share team became our Care Team, and uses elements from our former Stephen Ministry group, and ongoing Altar Guild, Prayer Circle, worship prayer requests and other requests the church office receives.

We help identify members and friends to receive altar flowers; through the Prayer Circle, invite people to join in receiving an email or phone call to pray (with permission unless public information) for those who are ill, have had accidents, are hospitalized, deaths, medical treatments, other life changes, challenges and celebrations.

This team makes phone calls, sends emails, visits and sends cards, providing links with our church family.

Deciding on Chimes and bulletin articles, helping integrate James Street and other newcomers, live-streaming worship services, are some of the other offerings we have addressed.

See DIRECTORY, Page 7

Reconciling Team to meet in wake of council’s ruling

In response to the recent UMC National Judicial Council ruling that the election of Bishop Karen Oliveto, who is in a same-gender marriage, was against church law and that conferences must ask ordination candidates about their sexual orientation before approving them, the Reconciling Ministries Network Team at UUMC is being re-energized.

We will meet Thursday, May 11, at 6 p.m. to continue our response as a congregation to witness to our belief in full inclusion and our commitment to Jesus’ commandment to love our neighbor.

One of the first tasks will be to plan a June celebration of the sixth anniversary of our unanimous vote to be a reconciling congregation and join the Reconciling Ministries Network (www.rmnetwork.org).

We welcome new members to the team. I look forward to hearing your ideas and working with you to spread our message.

As Bishop Oliveto said in a message to her conference: “There will be challenges, but for now we roll up our sleeves, pray without ceasing and work hard!”

— Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler
From our pastor...

Driven by hope, we’re ready to ‘Emerge’ into something new

Greetings!
The last week has been full of emotion and prayer.

Our worship theme, the season of Eastertide, “Emerge,” has spoken in a way that I never could have imagined. As a congregation, we are on the cusp of something new, something exciting and new, something beautiful and loving.

In March, we had a “secret worshipper.” This is a consultant who comes to worship and then gives feedback on his or her experience.

Our secret worshipper had mostly good things to say. There is always room for improvement.

The thing that struck me that the consultant said was, “It is clear the congregation and worship experience is all about inclusion.”

He went on to say inclusive of race, culture, socioeconomic status, ability and the LGBTQ community. (to name a few)

I believe that when a congregation is actively including and even integrating all of God’s children in a faith-filled and loving way, they are on the cusp of something exciting and new!

I bring this to you because the validity of an election of a bishop in the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church was questioned and brought to the Judicial Council last week.

The validity was questioned because the new bishop, Karen Oliveto, is in a same-gender marriage. Bishop Oliveto was interviewed along with others involved in the election process.

In the end, the Judicial Council ruled that the Book of Discipline does not allow for a bishop to be in a same-gender marriage.

This was somewhat expected, but it once again hurt many in the LGBTQ community and made them feel as though they are not fully included in the United Methodist Church.

So, this has been a week full of emotion and prayer. We gathered together three times to pray, and many individuals prayed hour by hour from Tuesday to Friday.

As a reconciling congregation, our congregation is beyond sad and would like to make a statement about this decision.

We are ready to Emerge into the next stage in our lifecycle. We are ready to Emerge into the community, making it known that we are a congregation that is “all about inclusion.”

I am proud of this loving congregation, which is ready to Emerge into something new, driven only by compassion, hope, faith and love of God.

I hear often when talking with members of the congregation that their focus in life and faith is on the Greatest Commandment: “Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Always remember: You are a child of God!

Peace,
— Pastor Alicia

Altar Guild thanks all who helped with Easter flowers

The members of the UUMC Altar Guild want to thank those who volunteered to help with flowers for the Easter service.

Marg McDivitt and Margo Koten ordered and/or picked up flowers to decorate the sanctuary, decorated the sanctuary and delivered flowers to shut-in members of the congregation.

Others who were involved in preparing the sanctuary or making deliveries were: Tom and Carol Boll, Judith Bowers, Barbara and Jerry Cargo, Stark Donnally, Beth Drew, Melissa Faley, Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill, Nancy Hough, Dean Moyer, Angela Palmieri, Barbara Nunn, Lee and Ed Potter, Nelson Price, Jackie Sadowski and Cynthia Steinem.

Those receiving flowers were: Sue Bates, Rosemary Chappell, Thomas Christoff, Hil-de Cooper, Mary Klepper, Dot Logan, Howard Long, Rev. Allen and Lois Lum, Roger MacDonald, Lois McTarnaghan, Ann Milner, Carol Moyer, Eddie Nunn, Tom Owens, Don Steenberg, Betsy Wiggins, Ben Wiles Jr., Mary Wilson, and Ed and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

Each member of the church staff also received a flower in appreciation of service to the church.
Outreach Ministry

Historical roots of support for Food Pantry run deep

This past week my two younger children were off from school for their spring vacation. Due to commitments with my daughter’s crew team and adult work schedules, we opted to stay in Syracuse and enjoy a day trip or two.

Friday afternoon we took the short drive to Seneca Falls, to check out the Women’s Rights National Historical Park.

The primary focus of this campus is the Women’s History Museum and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel where the very important event of the Women’s Rights Convention of 1848 took place.

The museum was terrifically laid out, wonderfully interesting and engaging for a variety of visitors/interests.

The chapel was a huge brick vessel of a building with suggestions of how the space might have presented at the Women’s Rights Convention.

The town of Seneca Falls has a wonderful history of its own with the Women’s Rights Convention being its claim to fame.

At dinner my family and I discussed why? We decided the reason was the perfect combination of people residing in one region. You’ve got the Methodists (AKA “Reformist,” still a relatively new religious group in the U.S.), the Abolitionists who were strongly in place and had a solid working relationship with the Quakers (or were Quakers).

Additionally, there was Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer and Catherine Blaine, just to name a few; upper class, educated, wealthy women who fought tirelessly for the goals of the suffragists.

These groups were flanked by righteous neighbors in Syracuse and Rochester.

Mixing these groups and individuals together it created a sort of perfect storm. They couldn’t help but be inflamed, empowered and motivated to make a change.

Due to the town’s healthy industrial institutions and “medical” resorts sitting a stone’s throw away, access to Seneca Falls was very easy.

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel of Seneca Falls opened its doors to the organizers of the Women’s Rights Convention as the only offering of space.

The theory for this is that the Methodists paid for and built this church for education and where “free speech shall transpire.” Happily it sat squarely on the main road (Falls Road) at town center.

All pieces in place for a successful moment in history.

This morning I attended a quarterly meeting put together by Michele Jordan with Syracuse’s Interfaith Food Consortium. These are fun and interesting meetings as Michele always invites an interesting guest speaker, we check out each other’s pantry space, have community building discussions about food issues, problem solving and share information on new programs.

I learned at this meeting of the six city pantries represented that none of them are supported by their congregation, their church’s budget or in the mission beliefs of the site where their Food Pantry lives.

This is not unusual if a Food Pantry exists in a community center, but these each live in a church or temple.

What was more surprising was that the attendees were stunned when I stated that I was supported by colleagues, the church’s budget, that I have an office, access to computers/phone/printers, that I join in staff meetings and our congregation, with pastor, support me and our Outreach efforts so our ministry is successful.

See PANTRY, Page 5
People and Prayers

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

Sunday, April 9
- Sherri Cullen: Don Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaide Ferrandi, Kathy Dewey, Gloria Goodison, Patty Walker, Jeanne and Shane and my sister Heidi
- Kathy: Peaceful prayers for the Steward Family as we celebrate Bud’s life today.
- Gail Tyndall: Jenessa, John Tyndall, Sue Gayer, Donna Douglas
- Bruno Mukasa: With God all things are possible. I call this church to pray for the peace in Congo.
- Allen Lum: to get up every morning
- Erika: Bob and Barb Weaver, Maria Storto and family
- Have mercy on your people.
- Jim Tallman: Prayers for the family and friends of Elaine, who died this week.
- Nate: For my son in college
- Barb and Del Gilbraith: The family of Frank DeYulio. He died Thursday.
- Christopher: God will help me control my anger, to create a fun comic company.
- Robert James: Please pray for my mother, Phyllis Grassman, for healing of a broken hip and who is blind that she may see again.
- Don and Margo: For our grandson Dillon and classmates as they’re traveling to Italy this week.
- Dear God, Help us remember you first when thinking of our best response to the immigrants or use of force toward Syria or anyone else.
- Ellyn Gale: My sister Joy.
- Jim: Congratulations to Bruno Mukasa. He has found a job working for a warehouse in Liverpool. Our prayers have been answered.
- Lee Safford: For pessimists to not be dismal.

Sunday, April 16
- Sherri Cullen: Don Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaide Ferrandi, Kathy Dewey, Gloria Goodison, Patty Walker, Jeanne and Shane
- Kathy: For the Campolita Family in their time of need
- Erika: Bob and Barb Weaver, who are coming home on the 26th: Maria Storto and family.
- Jim: Prayers for Yalala’s mother in Tanzania as she is not doing well
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I praise you for your resurrection
- Donna Ricci: Please pray for me. I am having bad medical problems
- Sue Bates: Continued healing
- Peter: For the great work of the SU Emmett Till Memorial “Cold Case Justice Initiative” and may it keep healing families without being cut
- USAR David F. Davis: All our brave men and women far from home in these troubled and uncertain times.
- For Eva Cooper, who is in the ER now from severe leg pain
- Joyce Flynn: In grateful memory of Emily, whose generosity gave Katie new life 3 years ago! Alleluia!

Sunday, April 23
- Sherri Cullen: Don Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaide Ferrandi, Kathy Dewey, Gloria Goodison, Patty Walker, Jeanne and Shane
- Kathy: Prayers for peace and less stress from my work schedule
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I pledge to you, to clear my mind for making better decisions
- Peter: For children everywhere to grow up in peace, wake up in freedom and to share God’s love instead of fighting.
- Sue Bates: Continued healing for friends and family
- Nate: To muster the courage to come out of the make-believe place I am at in the present
- Rochelle: France, our country
- Ted G.: Tiny Homes for Good, Pedal to Possibilities
- Emelia Weah: Please pray for me to become a teen adviser
- Evelyn Abamo died Palm Sunday
- Kiza Kashindi: God bless America and the United Methodist Church
- Alphonsina: God bless me and my family.
- Please help me make the right decisions
- Nichola: Father God, please show me whether the journey you gave me is to go to Bible college or to become a U.S. Marine.
- Nancy States: Our house will sell
- Mary: To give me the strength I need to forgive.

See PEOPLE. Page 5
CONTINUED from Page 3

When asked where I work, Michele answered for me: “University Methodist. Galyn works in a very old Methodist-run pantry.”

“Oh!” is the reply, with nodding heads.

As I remembered the definition of Methodism at the Women’s Rights National Historical Park museum: “A Christian denomination that emphasized earthly justice and personal responsibility. Religious efforts in education, equality and poverty reform are ingrained in this faith.”

I stated to this group that the work I do is part of the basic fundamental belief of the congregation, theology and pastor. I recognize that this is as it’s always been.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Conference now requires background checks every two years

In accordance with a new safe sanctuary policy by the Upper New York Conference, all staff, plus volunteers who come in contact with vulnerable populations, must undergo background checks every two years.

Some examples of those covered by the policy are Sunday School teachers and Food Pantry and Community Breakfast volunteers.

You will be contacted in the weeks ahead if you are among those who need a background check.

People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

- For Marty Potter’s health concerns
- Leigh Safford: Friends, family, neighbors and co-workers in bereavement. Deborah A. Fyer
- “Be Not Afraid” If we have tried everything else, why not try God?
- Ellyn Gale: For my son Scott
- Mary: Strength to keep the faith.

THANKS & PRAISE

Sunday, April 9

- Mamie B.: Lord, thank you for what you have given me. Your praise, I will continue as I hold the love and gifts and people you have placed in my life.
- Dean Moyer: Gratitude for the great workshop yesterday with Terry Hershey leading
- Asani-Mauridi: Thanks, God, for everything.

Sunday, April 23

- Ann Owens: Ross Wells, Ann’s dad, celebrated his 85th birthday on Friday

Sunday, April 30

- Sherri Cullen: Don Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaide Ferrandi, Kathy Dewey, Gloria Goodison, Patty Walker, Jeanne and Shane, Betty and Barbie.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I plead to you to lead me and my family to settle in a new home!
- Sue Bates: Continued healing for friends and family
- Erika: Maria Storto and family
- Mike Rodda: Anthony Pavia and family
- Jim Tallman: Competition next Saturday
- Praying for my sister Crestina and her health
- Ralph: For the family of Ralph Ketcham, who died this week
- Christopher: Strength and patience amongst intolerance of Christ and Christian views
- I pray that God sends me a God-fearing loving husband
- Prayers for hope in all of the United States
- Barb and Bob Weaver:

Alayah Green, our great-granddaughter, who has leukemia
- For Bishop Karen Oliveto
- Mary: Strength to keep the faith.
City Restart ministry helps people begin their new lives

Restart, formerly Methodists on the Move, is an outreach ministry of the Syracuse United Methodist Churches that supports individuals and families who are restarting their lives.

Some move out of shelters, while others move from places that were condemned, caught fire or had other difficulties.

Often, Restart must move quickly to assist as these people begin their new lives.

Recently the ministry moved several individuals and families, supplying them with furnishings for their new homes.

The furniture and other items are collected from donors and delivered to recipients as they organized their new residences.

Two examples highlight what Restart is all about:

A man moving out of the men’s shelter was in need of furnishings for his efficiency apartment, so Restart delivered a bed, chair, dresser, kitchen table with chairs, kitchen and bathroom items and personal hygiene and laundry products.

The man was appreciative of all he received and was ecstatic that he would now be able to have his children visit for meals.

While his efficiency apartment was small, it was home to him and exemplified his newfound independence.

Another example comes from a donor family who faced the recent loss of their beloved mother.

They needed to clear out her apartment quickly and were at a loss for ways to dispose of her furnishings and other belongings.

Restart arrived armed with volunteers to pack up items, pick up much-needed furniture and simply share compassion with the family as they said goodbye to the memories tied to their mother’s possessions.

The family spoke about how happy their mother would be knowing that her possessions would bring comfort to others.

Restart brings joy, peace and love to all involved. Volunteers note that this experience has shown them what homelessness looks like and how helping hands can bring about change.

It is difficult to realize that some people have only the clothes they wear when they leave a shelter.

Restart can expand their lives and lessen their anxiety in moving forward.

If you would like to help with Restart’s ministry, there are many ways to contribute:

- Donate furniture and household items. Most apartments are small, so large pieces of furniture cannot be used.
- Volunteer to help move furniture.

Two types of volunteers are needed: volunteers for monthly pickups that usually occur between the last and first week of the month and emergency volunteers who can move furniture quickly as many calls come in with little time to plan.

- Offer your truck or trailer for deliveries or offer to drive a rental truck.
- Donate money that’s used for needed supplies and for truck rentals. Checks can be made out to your church with the notation of “Restart Ministry,” and the funds will be forwarded to the project.
- Share this project with others and seek donations from family and friends. Restart volunteers often help pack up and clear furnishings, especially in situations where families must downsize or move into other living situations.
- Pray for all involved in this outreach ministry. You can contact Restart ministry through Deb Virgo, UUMC’s mission representative to the committee, or by contacting the Rev. B.J. Norrix at bjinorrix@gmail.com.

Restart blesses all who receive and all who give. Many of us have enough, but others do not. Restart can provide enough for those in need.

As Christopher Maricle said, “Jesus taught us that if we share, if we combine our resources with trust in God, there is enough.”

May you be moved to share and trust that with God’s help we can provide enough.

— Nancy Williams
Continued from Page 1

Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay has been our lead organizer.

Some of us answered Barbara Fought’s invitation last summer to meet and learn more about and share our prayer experiences.

Lee Potter continues her good work of making nametags for new people and identifying persons to be prayed for, listed in our bulletin each week.

We now are working on a new pictorial directory, with Ben Meade doing our photography, so be sure to find a time to be “snapped” and included!

If you are interested in coming to meetings, usually held the second Tuesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Chappell Room, let us know.

And, you may wish to check in with information you receive through contacts you’ve made without attending meetings or being on the team. We appreciate your help!

Current Care Team members, who meet with Pastor Alicia, are Barbara Cargo, Barbara Nunn, Lee Potter, Nelson Price, Janet Sciscioti, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay and Gail Tyndall.

Ginny and Bob Dewey, and Jerry Cargo also make visits and calls.

We have a Care Team mailbox by the office — Box 21 — and welcome communication that way, as well as your contacting the church office, 315-475-7277 or emailing Mary Slack at uumc@twcny.rr.com.

— Janet Sciscioti

UUMC a stop on Sacred Sites tour again

Jayne Humbert and Dean Moyer are busy preparing UUMC to host a stop once again this year on the New York Landmarks Conservancy’s Sacred Sites Open House Weekend May 20-21.

This year’s theme is “Stained Glass: Windows on This World and the Next.”

Our sanctuary will be open for visitors 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 and 1:30-3:30 p.m. May 21.

Jayne and Dean put together a new 15-minute “Reflections in Glass: Self-Guided Tour of the Stained Glass Windows at UUMC.”

Here is some information Jayne and Dean have put together on our windows:

They were designed and fabricated by the William J. Pike Stained Glass Co. of Rochester

Our English Gothic sanctuary has more stained glass per square foot of floor space than any other church in Syracuse.

The windows extend three stories high, and the side walls are three times more glass than stone. The brilliant reds and blues lend the feeling of being inside a jewel box.

In the Middle Age tradition, the eight enormous windows portray the life of Jesus. They show the Nativity, his ministry, his betrayal and resurrection.

The huge ninth window above the front entrance is called the Ascension window. It is illuminated at night and visible only from the outside. Its beauty reveals Jesus on a throne with symbols of spiritual power.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By Lynn Baker and Kellie Wood in loving memory of Kellie’s grandmother, Jessie Ward.

By Rosemary DeHoog in loving memory of her parents, Frederic and Edythe Luther

Flowers were given to Rochelle Dail, Don Koten, Mary Klepper and Barb and Bob Weaver. Flowers were delivered by Barb and Jerry Cargo.

Procession to Support Refugees

People of all faith communities are invited to join a prayerful procession in solidarity with refugees 3 p.m. May 7 at White Branch Library, 763 Butternut St.

Along the route, the procession will pause at several faith centers in a gesture of welcome and acceptance. It will end at the library at 4:30 p.m. For more details and a map of the route, visit: ccoc.us/news/procession.
The James St./Erwin First United Methodist Women wish to thank all those who contributed to the School Kit and Health Kit project. We were truly blessed by the contribution of money and items that came in from Erwin First and University UMC's. Because of your generosity, we were able to complete 33 School Kits and 35 Health Kits. We were able to also cover the cost for handling at $2 a kit in the amount of $136. We ended up with five shipping boxes. To our good fortune, the boxes will be personally delivered to Mission Central by Rev. B.J. Norrix and two others, who will be visiting there. The kits will then be sent to the United Methodist Committee on Relief’s Sager Brown Depot for distribution. Thanks again for your participation.

— Barbara Gilbraith
UMW President
Palm Sunday
April 9, 2017
(6 photos)
Easter Sunday
April 16, 2017
(2 photos)
Connections Easter Dinner
April 16, 2017
(5 photos)
Neighborhood Cleanup
April 22, 2017
(3 photos)
Syracuse Climate March
April 29, 2017
(3 photos)
Climate Justice for ALL!
Betsy Wiggins speaks after accepting an ACTS award for social justice leadership given to Jim posthumously.
Children add more butterflies to our rainbow banners.
We had three baptisms.