UUMC approves resolution to join CNY Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition

In a well-attended after worship potluck on Sunday, Sept. 17, members of the University United Methodist family voted overwhelmingly to support a resolution brought by the Church & Society Team to become a “Sanctuary Congregation.” The vote was 64-1.

Peter Swords guided the presentation and conversation. He clarified exactly what was being proposed. UUMC will be a “supporting congregation” to those houses of worship that harbor persons legally protesting their deportation. UUMC will not house persons but will:
- “accompany immigrants at their request to immigration hearings and meetings …
- “provide hospitality and tangible support …
- “seek ways to provide financial support when appropriate.
- “welcome immigrants and immigrant families into our congregation.”

The resolution also calls upon us to “educate ourselves” and to “advocate for justice and humane immigration reform.” The full resolution can be seen at uumcsyracuse.org/reports.

Three guest speakers addressed the issues.

Aly Wane, an undocumented immigrant, spoke to the difficulty of the long process of securing legal

See MEMBERS, Page 5

‘America’s Original Sin’ study groups set to launch this week

Study groups that will read “America’s Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America” by Jim Wallis are about to begin.

Starting this Friday, Sept. 22, groups will meet at 12:30 p.m. Fridays at the church and 6:30 p.m. Mondays at Dean Moyer’s home.

A third group will start Oct. 1 and meet 5-7 p.m. Sundays at the home of Beth Drew (light supper, 5-5:30 p.m.) Groups are limited to 12 participants.

Call the church office to enroll. Discussion groups will be added as needed. Books are available from the church for $8.

Pastor Alicia is encouraging folks to read this book even if they cannot join a study group. Member communities of the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS) are reading this book together this fall. UUMC is a founding member of ACTS.

On Nov. 21, ACTS will host a keynote speaker to conclude what people discovered in reading the book. This will present a chance for continuing growth and a platform for future social justice actions.
In thinking about sanctuary, remember: We all need one

Greetings!

I’m so excited to say we have many fruitful things happening at University UMC!

Sunday School has started back up.

We are filling flood buckets for our neighbors devastated by the hurricanes in the Southeastern U.S.

Our Outreach Program continues to touch more individuals and families through warm clothes, fresh produce and diapers, in addition to our regular food pantry.

The one that has touched my heart the most is the congregational vote Sunday to become a Sanctuary Support Church with a coalition of interfaith congregations in Syracuse.

The word sanctuary means: a consecrated or sacred place and a place of refuge and protection. It is so beautiful that UUMC has and will fulfill this definition.

The building and congregation have been a sanctuary for folks to worship no matter their country of origin, social status or sexual orientation.

UUMC has been a sanctuary for folks we meet through our Outreach Program.

I have seen tears of comfort and joy throughout the year as folks feel as though no one cares for them and then they are met with a warm response at UUMC.

Now UUMC will mean sanctuary in a new way. It will mean folks seeking help in safely traveling to the doctor, school or the grocery store and so much more will find it in the face of a member of UUMC.

We are not sure of all the details in which members of UUMC will positively affect or provide sanctuary to undocumented people as we support our partner churches. We will learn more in the coming months.

As I began to think about sanctuary I asked myself, “Where do I find sanctuary?”

This is a question Terry Hershey asked us in April.

Maybe this is a question you can ask of yourself once again.

“Where do you find sanctuary?” Where is your sacred place or place of refuge?

Could it be your favorite chair or somewhere you hike? Do you find sanctuary in a book or in a good conversation?

Wherever you find your sanctuary, the next time you experience it, please say a prayer for our neighbors who are undocumented and/or affected by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

In the end, we all need a sanctuary.

Psalm 16:1: “Keep me safe, O God, for I have come to you for refuge.”

Peace,

— Pastor Alicia

October birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name and Member(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Janet Mandigo, Nelson Price, Phillip Wellner, Dan Shworles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Renee Threatte, Lonnie Threatte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mary Woodburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood, Carol Boll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Elizabeth Magowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Nathan Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Larry Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Michael Toe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Colin Simmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Katrina Tillapaugh, Barbara Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Rosemary Chappell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Koketso Ratala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Ann Burrows</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Guild Meeting

The next meeting will be 1:30 p.m. Sept. 27 in the Chapel Room at the church.

Pastor Alicia Wood will speak on “The Journey to Ordination.”

Lee Potter is the hostess, and Barbara Nunn the co-hostess.

All are welcome.
End of school day starts a parade of Syracuse’s youth

Galyn Murphy-Stanley

One of my rituals that begins each fall is picking up my children after school.

As many of us do, I drive into the driveway and wait for my children to break out of the vortex of their school.

What once was a frustrating transition each day has now become more relaxed and enjoyable.

With both of my younger children currently enjoying after-school athletics at Nottingham High School, I don’t collect them every day. When I do, I happily become spectator to one of the best parades in town — high school dismissal.

What one might see at 2:30 p.m. on any given day is teenagers — every sort, size and color.

First out: The freshmen, pie-eyed, laden with heavy backpacks, relieved that they survived another day and are finally homeward bound.

A mix of sophomores and juniors running after one another comes next, shouting in great exuberance about class events or what the homework assignment might/might not be.

If they can get a ride with a newly driving friend is commonly yelled out. Kids’ family cars are often filled to maximum capacity before departing the school lot.

Some kids gather for a Frisbee or soccer game on the front lawn.

Lastly the seniors, who tear out of the driveway, windows down, music up, waving to their friends as they take off.

The city buses fill with long lines of children who magically know which, in the fleet of buses, is going to their chosen part of the city.

School buses line up in another area of the parking lot filling with kids who participate in various sports teams, off to competitions across the county. All

“They feel challenged, engrossed, enriched, acknowledged and celebrated each and every day.”

their faces, their bodies, their words, their music and their actions express great freedom and celebration.

We’ve watched Nottingham grow and change through the years. Its grounds have changed, the teachers always seem younger and younger, the food has changed, technology and computer use has totally changed and, most of all, the kids have changed.

Nottingham proudly states that students from 30+ countries are represented within its walls. Various services are put in place to support all of the children within ‘Ham. These services even trickle down to support the student’s family.

Foods are beginning to be served that are more reflective of students’ tastes. Fundraising, academic tutoring, field trips, extra curricular clubs, athletics, performances and celebrations are ongoing at Nottingham to enrich all the kids and ensure they are linked into this vibrant community.

The message these efforts give to the students is clear: You make a difference, there is a place for you, we see you and you are one of us.

My children love Nottingham High School, just as my husband and I did. They feel challenged, engrossed, enriched, acknowledged and celebrated each and every day.

Nottingham is not without its struggles. The age and use of about 800 people moving through its doors each day shows.

Teachers’ jobs absorb them entirely. Their pay is not reflective of those efforts at all. Supplies and texts are dated, damaged or nonexistent.

Promises of financial support often diminish with changes of district/local officials and state or federal political representatives.

At the end of every school day this is not seen. One can see only the parade of our city’s youth.

Celebrating the simple pleasure of finishing the school day. Fortified from a day of education, equality, empowerment and togetherness our children are linked in this party.

No spoiling thoughts of skin color, religion, financial means, language, class or dress.

My hope and wish is these moments will become lifelong touchstones for our kids and that they remember this joined celebration. With this, life can be a celebration for us all.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator
People and Prayers

THANK YOU
Dear UUMC Family,

Many thanks for the joyful celebration last Sunday. Your kind words, beautiful flowers, generous gift and lovely reception were most appreciated.

UUMC has always held a very special place in my heart, and I am grateful to have been a part of this ministry for 25 years.

Fondly,
Martha Sutter

CONTINUING PRAYERS

- Sherri Cullen: Dan and Annette Reed, Grace Antonio, Adelaide Ferrandi, Kathy Dewey, Gloria Goodison, Patti Walker, Billy and Barbie
- Erika: Barb and Bob Weaver, Maria Storto and family
- Bob & Barb: Alayah Green and family, Carus Olcott Jr., Mary and Carus Olcott Sr.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service: Matt Fischer
- Sunday, September 3
- Jayne Humbert: Gratitude, O Lord, that Kiza will go to the same high school as Alphonsina and Asani
- Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler: Family & SCSD co-workers of Milagros Escalera, who died last week.
- Mike Rodda: Abuse victims we know and do not know.
- Jackie Sadowski: Esther Pardue for healing.
- Claudette Brown-Smythe: For FEMA and all the Emergency Systems volunteers, and first responders servicing the Texans and those affected by Harvey
- Eva Cooper: For my son Joel, who celebrated his 12th birthday on Sept. 1. May he grow in the house of the Lord.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I want to praise you for many blessings to comfort the hurting in Texas.
- Peter: for the needs of the children in our city and country, and for our leaders to address them.
- Barb and Del: Lois and Allen Lum

Sunday, September 10

- Bob & Barb: Prayers for all our friends in our Florida community- hope they are safe.
- Stephanie: For all who have suffered in the wake of the unprecedented hurricane damage.
- Jim: Give the power and strength for my mom to come through an operation tomorrow.
- Alphonsina: Today is Jim’s birthday. Happy Birthday and God bless him for everything.
- Sue: My family
- Olesea: Praying for all those affected by hurricanes, earthquakes and other national disasters. May God help and protect them.
- Peter: For all U.S. residents, especially children, with migration stories, to know we are all worthy of rights.
- For all those at risk of natural disasters
- Verle: For wife Natasha’s ongoing health problems.
- Allen Lum: Peace and joy in Jesus Christ.

- Sharon Smith: My niece and her family, as well as my friends in Florida.
- Donna Ricci: I would like a prayer to help me with my job.
- Remembering those still grieving over losses on 9/11/01 and praying for terrorism to end.
- Ed Tillapaugh: Co-worker Val Capozzi, who had an apartment fire and lost most of her possessions, no one was hurt. Friend Rick Ostrander, who is having heart surgery. Former in-laws who live in Fort Lauderdale.
- Stephen Shepherd: Prayers for the recovery for all disaster-stricken areas around the world.
- Kathy: Prayers of love and celebration for Martha on her retirement. Thank you for all you have given UUMC.
- Terry Eckert: Prayers for my mom and everyone in Florida and all those worldwide affected by climate disruption.
- Barb and Jerry Cargo: Prayers for Clair Wilson, our neighbor who is going to Mexico today to receive a stem cell procedure for her multiple sclerosis.
- Carol Boll: Prayers for my longtime friend, Susan, whose husband died.
- Jim T: Find out results on Tuesday.
- Cynthia Steinem: Dear God, Thanks for Martha Sutter and for all her years of service in this church.

See PEOPLE, Page 5
People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4
Sunday, September 17

- Sue Bates: My family
- Sharon Smith: For my friend Linda and her family.
- Gerald Young, hospitalized
- Peter: For action to end child poverty in Syracuse and all over the U.S., including changes in federal priorities.
- Kathy Cleary: Prayers of support for my struggles with my teenager, prayers for Jamie on her surgery.
- Janet Sciscio: For the family and friends of Nancy Iles Berger, who died Friday. Her Isles family gave our church the gift of handbells. Her daughter Katie Berger briefly played in our handbell choir.
- Jane Humbert: Let us pray the second and third floors of our building are rented.
- Ed and Lee Potter: For people rebuilding their houses in South Florida.
- Jim Roser: Prayers for my mom
- William Belle: Please see me throughout my surgery.
- Mike Rodda: Jeanne Westcott and family as well as the family of Barbara Myer
- Mamie: Prayers for the families of the hurricane weather.
- Courtney: To understand God better.
- Deepika Ranjit: My family to have peace.

Members urged action to live up to congregation’s mission statement

CONTINUED from Page 1
documentation and the pain of separated families.

Mary Kuhn, a member of All Saints Roman Catholic Church, speaking via Skype, described the space they are preparing to house immigrants while they contest their deportation.

Mike Hungerford, an attorney and member of Grace Episcopal Church, laid out the legal risks of harboring and assisting persons being sought by authorities.

He spoke of “what’s legal, what’s moral, what’s ethical.”

Nelson Price presented the proposal on behalf of the Church & Society Team and quoted up-to-date facts from the Sept. 18 issue of The New Yorker Magazine: “In the first half of 2017, arrests of undocumented immigrants rose nearly 40 percent above arrests made in the first half of 2016, and arrests of noncriminal immigrants more than doubled.” He added that 2016, while better, was a tough year for immigrants.

Members of the congregation encouraged “living up to our vision statement.”

Lay Leader Barbara Nunn spoke of “walking through our fear” and recalled those who have gone before us — Martin Luther, who changed Christendom; John Wesley, who defied church authority; and Martin Luther King Jr. Those gathered added other names.

Nate Appleton related the tradition of Central New Yorkers to fight injustice and cited the opposition to the 1851 Fugitive Slave Act and the Jerry Rescue.

Pastor Wood read from Matthew 25:31-40, the Good News Bible, which ends: “When you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.”

After numerous questions and clarifications, plus an amendment to clarify our UUMC position of inclusiveness, Vito Sciscioli, chair of the Governing Board which had already approve the proposal, called for the vote.

— Nelson Price
Church & Society Team

Ronald McDonald House Thanks

On behalf of Ronald McDonald House Charities of CNY, thank you for your gift of eggs, grits, sausage, tater tots and pancakes.

Your support is making a life-changing difference for families with sick children receiving medical treatment in Syracuse.

Thank you for giving the gift of togetherness.

With gratitude,
Beth M. Trunfio
Executive Director
Ronald McDonald House Charities

Thanks from EFWA
Thank you for your generous loaning of the chafing dishes for our 43rd anniversary dinner. These events help us thank our volunteers, members and sponsors for their countless hours of support. Your efforts make that possible.

Sincerely,
Barb Munger
For Eastern Farm Workers Association
Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were given:
By Carol and Tom Boll in memory of loved ones.
By Barbara Nunn in memory of her mother, Florence “Bernie” Hinds.
By David and Ellen Bacon in honor of their daughter Nancy Richmond.
Flowers were given to Martha Sutter, Keith Nevin, Dot Logan, Barb Cargo and Nick Weah.
Flowers were delivered by Don and Margo Kotten.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update
2017 total pledges: $192,352
Paid to date: $137,192
Non-pledge contr.: $22,116
Prepaid 2017 pledges: $28,366

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

The next Worship Team meeting is 6 p.m. Sept. 28 in the Chappell Room. All are welcome.

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24
Sunday the 24th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
9:45 a.m. Song & Prayer, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship. Pastor Wood
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Monday the 25th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir Wednesday the 27th
10 a.m. Staff Meeting Thursday the 28th
6 p.m. Worship Team
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Friday the 29th
10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 1
Sunday the 1st
9 a.m. Bagels, coffee, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
9:45 a.m. Song & Prayer, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship. Pastor Wood. Communion
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Monday the 2nd
7 p.m. Handbell Choir Wednesday the 4th
10 a.m. Staff Meeting Thursday the 5th
6 p.m. Worship Team
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Friday the 6th
10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF OCTOBER 8
Sunday the 8th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
9:45 a.m. Song & Prayer, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship. Pastor Wood
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Tuesday the 10th
5:30 p.m. Governing Board, Chappell Room
Wednesday the 11th
10 a.m. Staff Meeting Thursday the 12th
6 p.m. Worship Team
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal Friday the 13th
10 a.m. Friday Community
Martha Sutter’s final Sunday
As Music Director after 25 years
Sept. 10, 2017
(14 photos)