

THE CHIMES

Nov. 29, 2017

**Next Chimes
deadline:
December 13**

Inside this issue:

From Our Pastor: Visited by an angel or been one?	2
Outreach: How we fed 135 families on Thanksgiving	3
People/Prayers	4-5
Altar Flowers	5
Birthdays	5
Stewardship Update	6
3-Week Schedule	6
Finance Corner	6

The name for our current season, Advent, comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “visit.”

Articles for *The Chimes* must be submitted by noon on the deadline day and can be sent to: uumctb@twcny.rr.com or put in Box No. 12 in the church office.

Alicia Wood, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor

Advent: ‘Angels Among Us,’ special musical offerings, traditional pageant

Our observance of Advent, with the theme “Angels Among Us,” began Sunday with the message of #morehope in a sanctuary with visual representation of angels.

Angels in Jesus’ birth story had short, to-the-point messages that would fit perfectly in our world of tweets and hashtags.

Their favorite line was #DoNotBe Afraid. As we look at the angels’ visits to Mary, Zechariah and the shepherds and the reactions they provoke we’ll consider what messages we can offer today’s culture of fear and how we can bring #morejoy, #morehope, #morepeace and #morelove to the world.

This Sunday, Dec. 3, we’ll celebrate Communion as usual and gather after worship for the annual Ad-

vent Potluck Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Dec. 10 worship will include spiritual interpretive dance by Carrie Hunt and a handbell choir performance.

Dec. 17, our Senior Choir, under the guidance of Music Director Aimee deBerjeois, will present special music throughout the service. Afternoon caroling is planned. The next evening is the annual Neighborhood Christmas Dinner at 6 p.m.

Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant will be 9 a.m. Dec. 23 in the sanctuary, followed by costuming.

With Christmas Eve a Sunday this year, we’ll gather twice that day: at a 10:30 a.m. service of Lessons & Carols and for the traditional pageant at 7 p.m.

Second worship service: Thursdays, starting Jan. 11

Do you miss the experience of worship when you travel on weekends? Do you know someone who works or participates in a sport on Sunday morning?

In January 2018 University UMC will offer worship twice a week. We will continue to worship and grow together Sundays at 10:30 a.m. In addition, we will add a second worship Thursdays at 6 p.m. starting Jan. 11

We have chosen Thursday evening for a few reasons. First, one-third of Syracuse works on Sundays. Second, many families are pulled away from Sunday morning worship by

sports and other school activities. Finally, many in our congregation travel on weekends and would like a second option to attend worship for weeks in which they travel.

Our Thursday evening worship will meet in The Gathering Room. Beverages and snacks will be offered. Worship will be similar to Sunday mornings. Our music will be led by Music Director Aimee deBerjeois playing piano or by a talented student playing guitar.

As we begin our second worship we will need the support of the congregation for six months to a year in

See **VOLUNTEERS**, Page 6

Have you had an angel in your life, been one for someone?



Alicia Wood

Greetings!

Our theme song this season is “Angels Among Us.” As I listened to the choir sing it Sunday I thought, do we have angels among us today?

Angels pop up in the Bible many times. The word angel comes from the Greek word *aggelos*, which means *messenger*.

Malak is the Hebrew word for messenger. It seems angels appear to people in the Bible at times of uncertainty. Angels either bring clarity or curiosity. Either way, they bring messages from God.

The angels that appeared in Scripture from Jesus’ conception to Jesus’ first year of life played an important role in Jesus’ life.

An angel appeared to Mary to tell her of her baby Jesus. An

angel appeared to Joseph to reassure him to follow through with the marriage to Mary. Angels appeared to the shepherds urging them to go see with their own eyes the Savior. Finally, an angel appeared to Joseph warning him to flee to Egypt to keep Jesus safe from Herod.

Do we have angels among us now? Today, they probably appear without wings yet with good advice from God. This is the refrain for our theme song:

*I believe there are angels
among us
Sent down to us from
somewhere up above
They come to you and me
in our toughest hours
To show us how to live, to
teach us how to give
To guide us with a light of
love*

Our prayers connect us to God. How much of our time is

spent talking, and how much is listening in prayer?

God has an interesting way of communicating with us. It’s possible that God may need to have messengers or angels to get us to finally listen.

I wonder if you have had someone say something or do something in your life that in hindsight was your angel, your messenger from God.

I also wonder if you have ever acted as someone else’s angel as they struggled with uncertainty.

Thank you, God, for never giving up on us and startling us with angels’ messages exactly when we need them.

May you have a blessed Advent as we wait for the long-expected Jesus.

Peace,

— *Pastor Alicia*

Young mother’s words of gratitude: “Thanks for you and for this church”

CONTINUED from Page 3

food customs are swapped. Out loud giving of thanks and words of celebration float through the rooms.

A young woman holds my hand and says she had “just gotten my children back and now we can have a good, right Thanksgiving.” She pulls me toward her, puts her forehead against mine and says, “Thanks for you and for this church.”

1 p.m. arrives and our giveaway is complete. We are tired as we assist our hard-working volunteers off with their boxes and bags. As several of us tidy UUMC’s space, I’m surprised that I feel as one does when a friend has missed something.

I realize that in all of the quiet preparation, the heavy lifting, the organization, all of our donors and contributors to this effort, all of our bag packers and note writers, all of our purchasers, all of our delivery folk and cleanup crews didn’t see the surprise of food, didn’t hear the conversations, didn’t receive the thanks, haven’t shared the love or smiles.

I write this to you all to share this with you. **Syracusans are thankful to you!** You made a difference with lots of people this Thanksgiving. Love, respect and celebration was felt by our community, by our neighbors and by our friends with the effort, energy and attentions of University United Methodist Church’s Thanksgiving bag ministry.

I want to thank you as well and hope that each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

— *Galyn Murphy-Stanley*
Outreach Coordinator

The story of how you fed 135 families on Thanksgiving



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

**“It requires but a few threads of hope to weave a web of happiness.”
— Sarah Josepha Hale, Inventor/advocate for the American Thanksgiving**

Tuesday, Nov. 21, we, University United Methodist Church of Syracuse, began the day by supplying 135 of our neighbors, friends and community supplies for their Thanksgiving dinner.

The supplies are raw, in boxes, cans or bags ready to be created at home with one’s family, friends or with the recipient’s own community. Easily, the food shared by UUMC fed 300 individuals.

Our Thanksgiving bag giveaway is the apex of several months of combined efforts from a very large community and congregation that supports this ministry in several quiet ways. I’d like to share the highlights of gifting food to 300 people at Thanksgiving.

I begin watching and acquiring Thanksgiving foods that are free to Food Pantry sites from The CNY Food Bank at the beginning of summer. This year we were able to gather all of the instant mashed potatoes, dried fruits, macaroni and cheese kits, cranberry sauce and cream soup that we needed.

The Interreligious Food Consortium, otherwise know as the pantry to Syracuse’s Food Pantries, shared hundreds of cans of vegetables and dozens of cake

mixes for our Thanksgiving bags.

The Methodist Men of Fayetteville linked UUMC with The Society of St. Andrew’s Maine field gleanings. UUMC volunteers collected thousands of pounds of potatoes that became an offering of fresh vegetables.

Potatoes joined community donations of other winter vegetables that arrived during an evening Thanksgiving worship at University Methodist.

UnitedHealthcare brought in additional vegetables and a large donation of baking supplies.

What was not gathered through these acquisitions is purchased with very generous donations from our congregation members, past and present, and friends in the community.

As we move into mid-November, supplies for our Thanksgiving bags have been pulled out of storage, purchased and almost all has arrived to UUMC.

Through mid-October and mid-November our Food Pantry guests are invited to register for a Thanksgiving bag for their family.

Although many folk have participated in past years, several are new to this ministry and its gifts. Lots of information is provided to guests about Thanksgiving programs throughout the city of Syracuse.

Sunday, Nov. 19, the congregation was invited to partake in the Thanksgiving bag filling. In assembly-line fashion folk fill bags for recipients that they’ll never meet. Each bag filler is asked to include a note for the bag’s recipient. This is often the

only connection the bag filler has with the recipient.

These notes vary greatly. Some have a drawing, some a heart. Some have words extending well wishes, faith and celebration for the holiday season.

Together people combine efforts and happy, strong energy fills our Thanksgiving bags in addition to the food items.

Packed bags are carefully numbered and organized for a specific guest and their family. Plans, wishes and great attention is paid to ensure that each family has what is needed for a successful feast.

Monday, Nov. 20, arrives with more food deliveries of eggs, butter and fresh fruit. Rooms are comfortably set up to provide a hospitable, fluid work environment. Final preparations are made with coffee and snacks for our guests.

Nov. 21, doors open at 9:30 a.m. and UUMC fills with happy, excited warmth. Folk are quickly checked in with a meticulously developed list.

After collecting their pre-packed bag, frozen turkey, roasting pan and fresh supplies, guests are often overwhelmed with the quantity of food they’ve received. Physical assistance is provided to our guests. Cars are loaded, heavy with enough food for their meal.

Inside, there is consistent low conversation of folk who were planning to not have Thanksgiving but now can. Guests talk of recipes, family they’ve been able to include with these additional foods. Family

See **YOUNG**, Page 2

People and Prayers

CONTINUING PRAYERS

- **Erika:** Barb and Bob Weaver, who are in Florida; Maria Storto and family
- **Bob & Barb:** Alayah Green and family, Carus Olcott Jr., Mary and Carus Olcott Sr.
- **Sue Bates:** My family and my health
- **Jackie Sadowski:** Fern Townley, Marilyn Krackhardt fighting cancer.
- **Sharon Smith:** Please pray for my friend Linda and her family.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service: **Matt Fischer**

Sunday, November 12

- **Sherri Cullen:** Kathy Dewey, Annette Reed, Billy & Mike Howard, Barbie.
- **Bruno:** I invite all the church to pray for my country because they don't make peace. Killing people every day.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: I praise you for the generous gift in hard times.
- **Gail Tyndall:** Barbara Silverman, Kathy Mattay, who is 53 years old and suffered a stroke.
- **Barb Gilbraith:** Marilyn Krackhardt, who has terminal cancer.
- **Olesea Cojohari:** Praying for the health of my sister, Crestina.
- **Jim Tallman:** Starts bell ringing Friday for the Salvation Army. They are looking for ringers.
- **Judith:** Prayers for my brother, who faces difficult knee surgery.

- Please pray every day that we rent the second and third floors of our building
- For all military service and veterans. Prayers for world peace.
- **Gwen:** For Rhonda and Oja family grieving Aunt Nora's death last Sunday.

Sunday, November 19

- **Moza:** Prayers for the people in the hospital who are ill.
- **Peter:** For the kids who will lose medical care, early childhood education and food if the Republican tax plan passes.
- For all those who are alone for Thanksgiving.
- **Sharon:** Safe travels for everyone during this holiday time.
- **Barb Gilbraith:** Peter Yuhas and Marilyn Krackhardt, both with terminal cancer.
- **Allen and Lois Lum:** Safe journey for the Dails to Tennessee.
- Touch **Bishop Webb's** heart that he might hear all the Gospel and not selected portions.
- **Kathy Dewey, Grace Antonio, Billy and Mike Howard.** Family and victims of shootings, military and their families.
- **Gail:** Prayers for **Kathy Mattay**, who recovered from having a stroke. **Lee's** great grandbaby, who requires many surgeries.
- **Jim:** Asking for healing power for my mom, **Susan Carpenter.**
- **Jeff:** Kindly pray for my dad. His birthday was yesterday. For my girlfriend's mom, who had pneumonia last week, and for my friend **Chris**, who is struggling with mood swings.

- For **Mary, Peter, Bethany**, and their healing through Christ.
- **Ralph Best:** Prayers and healing thoughts for **Shirley Woodward**, who fell and fractured her pelvis.
- **Bob O'Connell Family, the Mahoney Family, Marlow Bock**
- **Don and Margo Koten:** For our son-in-law, who is traveling in India the next two weeks.
- **Jim T.:** Prayers for a full Salvation Army Kettle this season. "Ringers" needed.
- **Kathy:** Prayers for my parents. Thanks to God for new beginnings.
- **Stephanie Hitztaler:** Feeling very grateful for my mother on her 71st birthday on Nov. 18!
- **Ann Owens:** Prayers for a new great-nephew, **Lincoln John**, born this past week.

Sunday, November 26

- **Courtney:** Hope my man gets better soon. I love you, Babe.
- **Olesea Cojohari:** Praying for the health and well being of my parents
- **Rita Soufleris:** Prayers for **Ralph Best** as he starts new treatment this week.
- **Kathy:** Prayers for **Logan and me** this week. Prayers for a healthy, happy holiday season.
- **Jeanne F-S:** Prayers for **Danielle Adams**, our child care worker, who continues to be in pain after her surgery last month.
- **Alan Kinney:** That the churches of the Upper New York Conference will get out of the pews and into the streets.

See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

People/Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

- **Mamie** will be 55 on Friday!!
- **Mike Rodda: Daryl Evans:** retired construction supervisor with lung trouble.
- **Donna Ricci:** I would like to pray for **Mrs. Graham.**
- **Peter Yuhas,** cancer.
- **Jackie: Marilyn Krackhardt, Ferne Townley,** traveling mercies.
- For **Dominico Delpriore** and his dad. Lord hold them, give them peace, hope and strength, and for **Mrs. Delpriore** is full of joy in heaven with you.
- **Allen Lum:** Pray for grace and strength as we all have need.
- God's mercy for **Lorraine.**

- **Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Grace Antonio, Billy and Rosie,** safe travels.
- **Jeff Preble:** For my new friends, most of all my friend **Anna.** Pray for my nieces and nephews. Pray for New York City and Washington, D.C.
- **William Belle:** Bring joy and happiness among ourselves.
- **Edward:** To be more understanding of each other.
- **Alec Zuch:** I pray that those who struggle with body image learn to love their true beauty.
- **Mary:** I pray that my husband's nephew, who was shot this weekend, will make a full recovery and that they find who did this. Give his mother

strength as she has not left his side since Saturday morning.

THANKS & PRAISE Sunday, November 12

- **Marcia Willis:** Thank you to all veterans

Sunday, November 19

- **Yalala:** I say thank you to the church for the prayers to my family after the loss of my mother.

Sunday, November 26

- **Mamie:** Father, as today, Lord, I come to you in thanks and praise, continue to lift up my family & bless my son and daughter and allow them to know I am with them in praise.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

By Nancy Hough in memory of her parents, Margaret and Raymond Laing.

By Cynthia Steinem and Family in memory of Judith Mitchell Steinem and Joseph L. Steinem.

The Thanksgiving cornucopia was given by the Altar Guild. The produce was donated to the Thanksgiving Bags.

Flowers were given to Roger MacDonald, Rev. Brian Konkol, Janet Thorne and Peter Swords.

Flower deliverers: Don and Margo Kotten and Nancy Hough.

Blessed Sacrament gives thanks for James St. donation

In dispersing the assets of James Street United Methodist Church, the members decided to make a donation to Blessed Sacrament Church's Parish Outreach Program.

Here's a letter from Blessed Sacrament:

"I wanted to thank your for your extremely generous donation to our Parish Outreach Program. Your church and your members have always gone above and beyond when helping and aiding our Parish Outreach. It saddens me that your church has closed.

Your extraordinarily benevolent donation will help us to lighten the burden of those who are less fortunate within our community. We will use the donation to purchase food for the families that come to our local food pantry. Again, our clients' families, our volunteers and I thank you for your support of our community food pantry."

Sincerely,
Janice Corcoran
Blessed Sacrament Outreach

December birthdays

3 – Karabo Ratala

4 – Chrysa Charno

5 – Vera Onninen

6 – Samora Thebe,

Danny Magowan

7 – Virginia Dewey

8 – Eleanor Huard

12 – Alex Huard

13 – Rev. Harold Garman

15 – Dr. Bruce Simmons, Debra

Virgo, Claudette Brown-Smythe

17 – Christopher Huard

19 – Barbara Cargo

22 – Rachel Kgama

25 – Kevin Upcraft, Peter Smith

28 – Dr. Edwin Yarwood

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2017 total pledges: \$216,252
 Paid to date: \$192,044
 Non-pledge contr.: \$25,898

Stewardship update

Pledges: \$156,402
 Matching funds: \$4,290
 Total pledges: \$160,692
 46 Recurring giving units
 13 New pledgers
 59 Total giving units



University United
 Methodist Church

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WEEK OF DECEMBER 3

Sunday the 3rd

9:30 a.m. Bagels, coffee, The Gathering Room

9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room

9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center

10:30 a.m. Worship. Communion.

10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities

11:45 a.m. Advent Potluck Luncheon, Fellowship Hall

Monday the 4th

7 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday the 6th

10 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 7th

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 8th

10 a.m. Friday Community

12:30 p.m. Book Study, Chappell Rm

WEEK OF DECEMBER 10

Sunday the 10th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fel-

lowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Rm

9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center

10:30 a.m. Worship.

10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room

Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 13th

10 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 14th

6 p.m. Worship Team

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 15th

10 a.m. Friday Community

12:30 p.m. Book Study, Chappell Rm

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17

Sunday the 17th

9:30 a.m. Bagels, coffee, The Gathering Room

9:30 a.m. Hot Topics, Chappell Room

9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center

10:30 a.m. Worship.

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 18th

6 p.m. Neighborhood Christmas Dinner

Tuesday the 19th

5:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

Wednesday the 20th

10 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 21st

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 22nd

10 a.m. Friday Community

12:30 p.m. Book Study, Chappell Rm

Saturday the 23rd

9 a.m. Christmas Pageant rehearsal, Sanctuary

Volunteers needed to attend both services, offer hospitality and spread the word

CONTINUED from Page 1

just a few ways. We would like 25 people to attend both Sunday and Thursday worship so that when new people arrive they will not arrive to a room of only 5 or so people. Having a group will grow the group. We would like a few congregation members to offer hospitality, become greeters and ushers once or twice a month. Finally, we need you to spread the word! Please let folks you interact with know that University UMC will have worship Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings! Please email

pastoraliciawood@gmail.com or call the office to let us know you would like to volunteer by Dec. 17.

As the new year enters in, please pray for the second worship service to connect with people throughout our city so that God's Love may reach new people in new ways.

Blessings,

Second Service Team

Ann Owens, Beth Drew, Dale Fryer, Koki Ratala, Ted Finlayson-Schueler, Pastor Alicia Wood

Stuffing Thanksgiving Bags

Nov. 19, 2017 (14 photos)











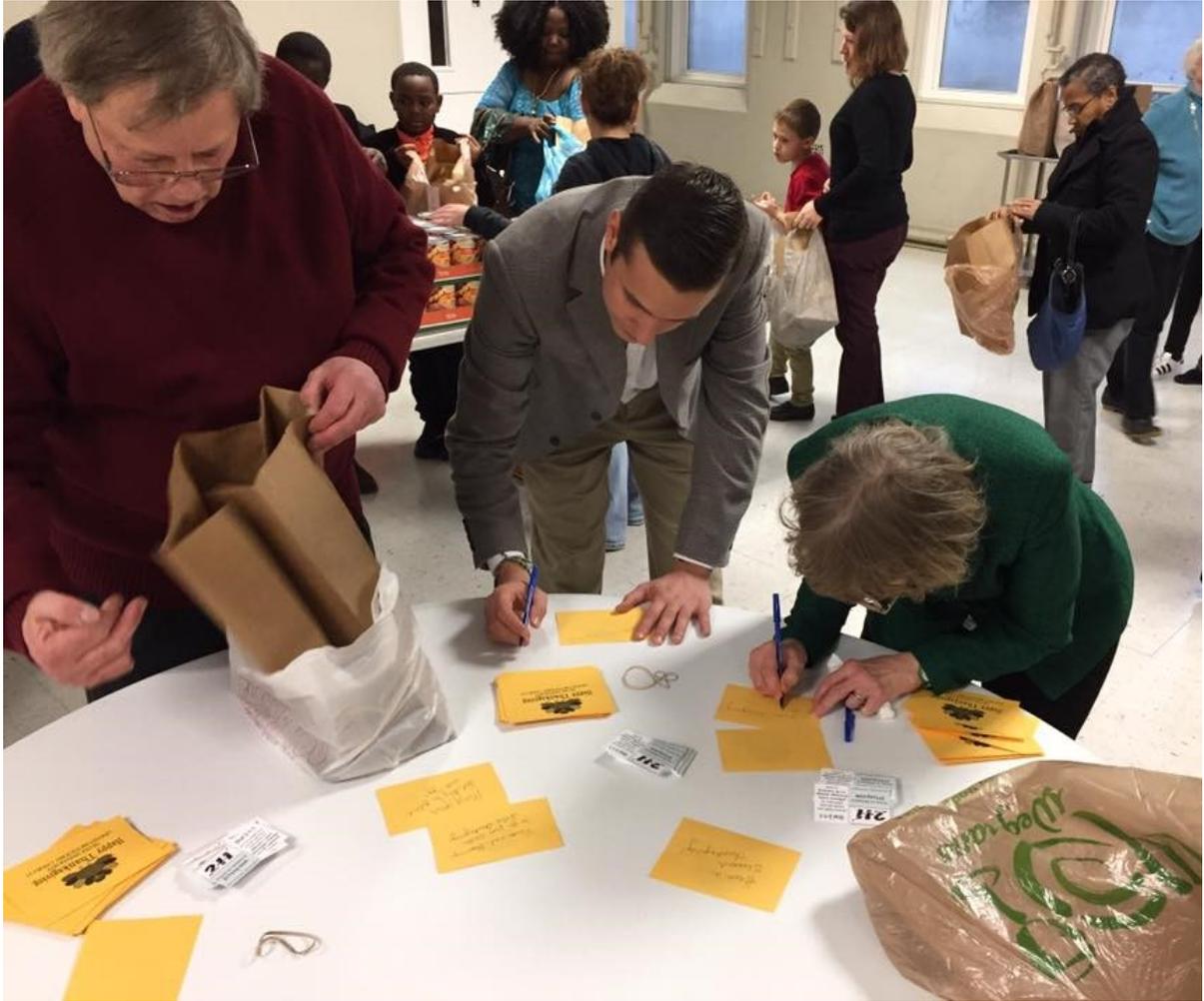


















Combined Syracuse United Methodist Thanksgiving Service Nov. 19, 2017 (7 photos)













