

# THE CHIMES

Dec. 20, 2017

**Next Chimes  
deadline:  
January 3**

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**The new second  
service, at 6 p.m.  
Thursdays, will  
now begin in  
February.**

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

Alicia Wood, Pastor  
Tom Boll, Editor



## We've had many angels among us; come on Christmas Eve for more

We're days away from Christmas now. We're days away from Christmas caroling after the service.

But before we look ahead, let's look back.

We enjoyed the food, fellowship and caroling of the Advent Potluck Luncheon.

The East Genesee Regent Association held its annual Christmas party here for neighborhood children.

The Handbell Choir presented "Ukrainian Bell Carol" and Carrie Hunt and Luanne DeFelice presented a spiritual interpretive dance.

The Choir presented their special music on Sunday.

More than a dozen people went

The Neighborhood Christmas Dinner fed 180 people Monday, and Santa Claus came by.

Still ahead: Children need to come to the church on Saturday, Dec. 23, at 9 a.m. for rehearsal and costuming for the traditional Christmas pageant the next evening, Christmas Eve.

But first, there's the Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. It will be a Lessons & Carols format.

The Christmas Eve pageant, with a live Baby Jesus, begins at 7 p.m. Children in the pageant need to arrive at 6 p.m. for costuming.

## Our signs give messages of hope, just as Jesus' birth did



Alicia Wood

Greeting from the last Chimes in 2017!

We have three banners on our church building.

Two are rainbows that say "All

Are Welcome" signaling to the LGBTQ community that our church is a safe place.

We also have a banner with a very pregnant Mary riding on a donkey, and it reads "Immigrants & Refugees Welcome."

These signs have brought people to our Sunday worship service for a few reasons.

First, they are curious about this congregation given these signs of inclusion.

Second, they come to see what this church has to say about LGBTQ persons, refugees and immigrants.

Many people today are asking, "Where is God in this? Where does Jesus stand on immigration? What does God have to say about human sexuality?"

Finally, some people come to see if we *truly* are open and



inclusive.

God sent angels to be messengers to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds.

The messengers told each of them the good news of Jesus' coming.

Jesus did not come in on a chariot with a crown but came to us as a baby born in a stable.

As an infant, he and his family fled for safety from Herod, making them refugees in Egypt.

This child would grow to share the good news to the poor and oppressed. Jesus ate with the outcast. He invited unlikely people to become his disciples.

So, what's in a sign? A sign is nothing without a message of hope. The angels shared messages of hope in the Messiah's birth, the One who would bring us hope, love and peace.

Our banners or signs bring our new friends hope. A hope that God is with the LGBTQ community, immigrants and refugees as God is with the oppressed.

Then they step inside, and the congregation they find gives them the inclusive love of Jesus here on the corner of University Avenue and East Genesee Street in Syracuse.

This Christmas season, in all our business, let's not forget the sign that sometimes gets missed in all the purchases and decorating.

Jesus is our sign that Love does always win, because sometimes signs are just the beginning of the message.

Merry Christmas,

— *Pastor Alicia*

### Care Team

Our Care Team was hard at work this year reaching out to our homebound friends.

The Care Team was reinvented in 2016 to help Pastor Alicia check in on friends who are ill, recovering from surgery or homebound.

In 2017, The Care Team made 63 visits and 79 phone calls and sent 13 cards.

Pastor Alicia is so grateful for all the love and care they put in throughout the year so that folks know our congregation cares for

each and every one. If you know someone we can put on our list to visit please let Pastor Alicia know.

### Send Cards

Friends of **Norma Goel** are asking for inspiration and friendship cards to be sent to Norma at Building 35, Room 1220, Freedom Blvd. Coatsville, PA 19320.

### Year-End Giving

Given the stock market performance this year, you may want to prepay your 2018 pledge by transferring appreciated stock before the end of the year. That

way you can deduct the market value of the stock and avoid capital gains tax. Contact Rachel Kgamma to work out the details at 315-475-7277.

### 2017 Contributions

All 2017 contributions must be in the church office by Sunday, Dec. 31. Any contributions received after that date will be part of your 2018 contributions and will appear on your 2018 giving statement. Please call the church with any questions concerning your pledge or any other contribution.

## Blankets of love from Brown UMC to babies in need



**Galyn  
Murphy-  
Stanley**

A couple weeks ago I was invited to visit Brown Memorial United Methodist Church on the South West side of Syracuse.

My friend Lori Wyman runs a “Life Skills” class there.

Women, with a few men, have been “coming for years” to work together on community projects. The project they most recently took on was to support the babies of Syracuse with warm, generously sized, beautiful fleece blankets.

Lori knows that my husband, George, is an OB/GYN in Syracuse and has worked most of his professional life caring for the underserved women of Syracuse.

A couple of the women who made blankets at Brown UMC were cared for by George during their pregnancy and for the birth of their babies.

Lori also knows we at University United Methodist Church move diapers for the CNY Diaper Bank.

UUMC was one of their first partner agencies and remains the only Food Pantry in this partnership.

We have become one of Syracuse’s largest distributors of diapers for the Diaper Bank. We generally see 65 babies (or their adults) a month.

As the CNY Diaper Bank requires us to serve only those who have a need within the city of Syracuse, we see many who would not have visited UUMC otherwise.

So, a couple weeks ago, on a bright day, I went to Brown Me-



**Women in Brown Memorial UMC’s Life Skills class made about 75 baby blankets for infants born at Upstate University and Crouse Hospitals and families who visit UUMC for CNY Diaper Bank diapers.**

morial. With small gifts in hand, I spoke to Brown’s Life Skills class about babies, their families, their poverty and their needs.

None of what I said was new information. The group I spoke with obviously knew this story well and had experienced it themselves.

But they wanted to know about the babies. “How many babies?” “How many come to which location?” “What does your husband do after the baby is born?”

I answered their questions, passed out the small gift George and I had brought each of them and listened as they proudly spoke of the blankets, the colors and the patterns. I took a few photos and I was off with about 75 baby blankets in tow.

George and I have divided the blankets. Half are at the OB/GYN Resident Clinic at Upstate

Medical Center where George works on the Upstate faculty teaching residents the birthing, surgery, pain management and details of becoming a skilled OB/GYN physician.

Brown’s blankets are gifted to the families of Upstate and Crouse Hospitals’ newborns.

The other half of the blankets are at UUMC and are distributed to families who visit us for CNY Diaper Bank diapers.

All recipients are **thrilled** to receive this generously sized, warm, beautifully patterned blanket as Syracuse’s cold weather and Christmas approach. Exclamations of joy, happiness and hugs occur when each blanket is brought out for a family.

As I sat on my computer this Saturday morning buying gift after gift for my very large family, I reflected on the gifts of these

See **BLANKETS**, Page 6

# 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:** My family and my health
- **Jackie Sadowski:** Fern Townley, Marilyn Krackhardt fighting cancer.
- **Sharon:** Please pray for my friend Linda and her family.

## PRAYERS REQUESTED:

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

## Sunday, December 3

- Prayers for God to work himself into my relationship with my partner.
- **Alphonsina:** God bless this day. We are so happy to celebrate. This day is so special for us.
- For peace in our hearts within the world.
- **Gail Tyndall:** Helen, who broke both hips and fractured four ribs. **John Tyndall.**
- That we can realize the death of the oppressive pain of privilege.
- **Kathy Dewey,** military and their families. **Grace Antonio.**
- Healing prayers for **Keith,** recovering from surgery; prayers of hope for peace throughout the world in 2018.
- Prayers for peace and to know I am not alone.
- Prayers for Congress, that it may make the tax bill less hurtful to the poor, sick and the students.
- **Ed and Lee Potter:** Son-in-law

- **David Pearlman** having serious spinal surgery this week.
- **Chuck:** Pray for my brother, who has open-heart surgery on Friday.
- Peace for **Gretch, Kim, John, Tara, Emalee and Jason** through this month.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: Bless the vulnerable who seek you for comfort.
- **William Belle:** Let us wait in peace.
- Best wishes for **Marjorie Carter** as she travels for winter in Florida. We'll miss you.
- **Liz:** That she and her friends do not stress during finals week.
- **Stephen:** Hope that our federal government starts to focus on the needs of the lower and middle class, *not* corporations and the wealthy.
- **Kathy:** Prayers of love and strength for **Jessica and JT** on the loss of their infant daughter on Friday.
- **Beth Drew,** who has double pneumonia.
- **Peter:** For **Alicia and Tim,** on their way to DC for the national launch of the Poor Peoples Campaign.
- **Cynthia Steinem:** Prayers for all families to know love, to reconcile with each other.

## Sunday, December 10

- **William Belle:** I pray for happiness.
- **Jeff:** World peace, health of remaining friends and family. I pray I can keep my volunteer job.
- For the loss of loved ones, gratitude for the time together we have had. For **Gerald Young,** father of **Deborah**

## **Bradshaw.**

- For the **Burgos** family on the passing of **Dennis.**
- God's mercy for **Lorraine and Yvonne,** healing for **Audrey.**
- **Lynn and Kellie:** Healing prayers for **Lorraine,** who is in ICU
- **Peter:** For God's work though all of us, for the children, to end poverty, "For there is nothing that God cannot do"!
- **Sue:** All those with health issues.
- Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
- **Sally S.** in bereavement
- Prayers for those of us trying to overcome nicotine addiction.
- **Stephanie and Oliver:** Praise for Vera's third birthday!
- **Morgan:** Prayers for all parents who have lost their children, especially as they enter the holiday season.
- For **Norma Goel,** as she deals with serious health issues.
- Prayers for the members of Congress to do the right thing.
- For the **Young Family** as they say goodbye to the patriarch, **Gerald,** who is in the last days of life and says he is ready to be with God.

## Sunday, December 17

- God's mercy for **Lorraine**
- **Mamie:** God give grace to all having and trying to continue on a journey with you. We praise your name.
- Prayers for my friend **Caitlyn** as she gets out of a relationship that has made her unhappy.

Keep in prayers those traveling for the holiday. Also for my

See **PEOPLE,** Page 5

## People/Prayers

**CONTINUED** from Page 4  
friend **Linda**.

- God bless all members of the church and peace is with them.
- The **Dykes family**, who faces losing their father.
- **Liam Waterman**, a 2-year-old who has been dealing with seizures. **Deb and Tim Anderson and Peter Gale**.
- Help my husband continue to get well.
- **Kathy Dewey**, families of the recent shooting. My godson's

family on the loss of their 21-year-old soldier.

- **Jim R.:** Healing powers for both my mom and dad.
- **Mike Rodda: Jon and Jeanne Westcott**
- **Kathy:** Prayers of love and Support for my dad and mom.

### THANKS & PRAISE Sunday, December 10

- **Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay:** Joy! My daughter, **Maria**, starts her first teaching job next week in Virgin Beach Public Schools.

## Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:  
By Jim and Deb Virgo, in memory of Jim's parents, Roderick and Dorothy Virgo.

By Barbara and Delbert Gilbraith, in memory of Del's sister and husband, Birdena and Dave Williams.

The poinsettias were given by the Altar Guild.

Flowers were given to Beth Drew, Carrie Hunt, Arlen Manwaring and Mamie Baxter.

Flowers were delivered by Marg McDivitt.

## UUMC among four churches in sanctuary coalition

Following up from our September vote to join the Central New York Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, the four Syracuse churches involved held a news conference Dec. 11 to announce their intentions.

We and All-Saints Roman Catholic Church, St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church and Plymouth Congregational Church agree to:

- advocate for comprehensive, humane immigration reform.
- educate ourselves and the greater community about immigration related issues. We will challenge the racist, xenophobic and polarizing and outright false rhetoric of our president – which feeds the fear

and polarization of our nation and leads to violence

- join with other outreach and justice organizations in the community “to support and accompany immigrants upon request, when facing immigration related hearings and meetings.”

The coalition declared solidarity with those undocumented who have decided publicly to refuse to leave their chosen community in defiance of the law.

UUMC has agreed to provide material, interpersonal and spiritual support.

We continue to talk with and work with people who are undocumented, including members of the Workers Center.

## Next worship series

Our next worship series, which runs Jan. 7 to Feb. 11, is “Known and Called.”

In this time after Christmas, “we move into a season of hearing the stories of people discovering and recognizing the identity of Jesus,” Worship Design Studio says.

From Epiphany to Lent, we'll find out who Jesus is, and who we are called to be as his followers.

The weekly themes are: “Known By a Watermark: Called to Life,” “Known on Sight: Called to Be,” “Known as Fishers: Called to Cast a Wide Net,” “Known to Stand Our Ground: Called to Justice,” “Known by Touch: Called to Heal” and “Known by the Company We Keep: Called by the Saints.”

### Annual Reports

The time has come again for handing in Annual Reports. Please have your report to the church office no later than Dec. 31. As always, you may email your reports to

[uumc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:uumc@twcny.rr.com) or send them by regular mail to: 1085 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210. If there are any questions, please contact the church office at 315-475-7277. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Directory Photos

Last chances to have your photo taken will be after worship Jan. 7 and 14. Photos can be submitted by Jan. 15 to [uumc@twcny.rr.com](mailto:uumc@twcny.rr.com) to be included. It goes to print in February.

## Finance Corner

### Pledging Update

2017 total pledges: \$216,252  
 Paid to date: \$200,739  
 Non-pledge contr.: \$27,554

### Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

Donations received \$79,519  
 Expenses paid \$75,901  
 Current balance \$3,618

## Blankets satisfy a need, share love, fill a void

**CONTINUED** from Page 3  
 blankets.

At each end of the continuum people were fulfilled and satisfied.

At one end, a struggling group of Brown Memorial folk, who often are receivers through much of their life. Who are completely vulnerable to the ebb and flow of Syracuse's political, financial, service and education systems, mental and physical health availability, food and basic need access.

At the other end of the continuum, families who visit UUMC, stressed with an addition to an already struggling family, focused completely, every minute of every day in keeping their young family comfortable and healthy. Who are now overwhelmed with the demands of the approaching holidays.

This one gifted blanket fills a void, satisfies a need, takes care of another, shares love and fulfills all.

In the end, Christmas spirit and love are happening everywhere. With a little effort, a bit of attention and an understanding for many, a blanket can become the best gift of all.

— *Galyn Murphy-Stanley*  
*Outreach Coordinator*



University United  
 Methodist Church

*Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit*

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### WEEK OF DECEMBER 24

#### Sunday the 24th

**9 a.m.** Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

**10:30 a.m.** Worship. Lessons & Carols

**11:45 a.m.** Fellowship, Gathering Room

**7 p.m.** Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary

#### Monday the 25th

**Christmas Day — Office Closed**

#### Wednesday the 27th

**10 a.m.** Staff Meeting

#### Friday the 29th

**10 a.m.** Friday Community

### WEEK OF DECEMBER 31

#### Sunday the 31st

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

**10:30 a.m.** Worship.

**11:45 a.m.** Fellowship, Gathering Room

**Noon** Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

### Monday the 1st

**New Year's Day — Office Closed**

#### Wednesday the 3rd

**5:30 p.m.** Church & Society

**10 a.m.** Staff Meeting

#### Friday the 5th

**10 a.m.** Friday Community

### WEEK OF JANUARY 7

#### Sunday the 7th

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

**Noon** Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

#### Wednesday the 10th

**10 a.m.** Staff Meeting

#### Thursday the 11th

**6 p.m.** Worship Team

#### Friday the 12th

**10 a.m.** Friday Community

## January birthdays

1 – David Lund, Samuel Weah, Pablo Weah, Joeviet Cooper

2 – Maria Pedro

4 – Autumn Kerr, Ken Craig

9 – Joseph Smythe

11 – Jim Samuel

20 – Ebony Wilson-Selmon

21 – Jacob Upcraft

22 – Diane Swords

23 – Eboni Marshall, Judith Bowers

24 – Fred Zuti, Seineh Weah

25 – Lara Chappell

26 – Fred Adams

27 – Colleen Magowan

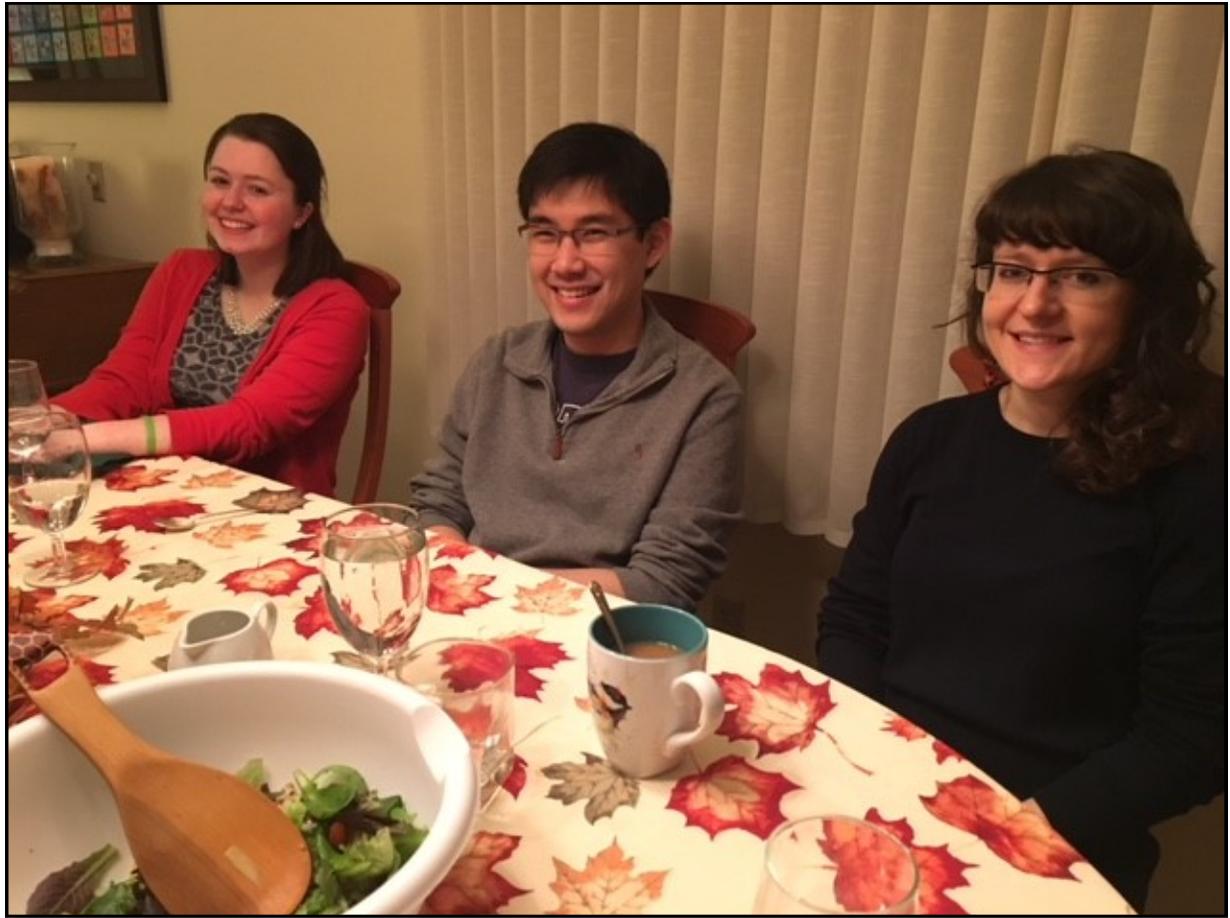
30 – Eros Marshall, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay

31 – Neil Damron

If birthdays are missing, contact the church office.

# Connections Thanksgiving Dinner At Price/Fought Home (3 photos)







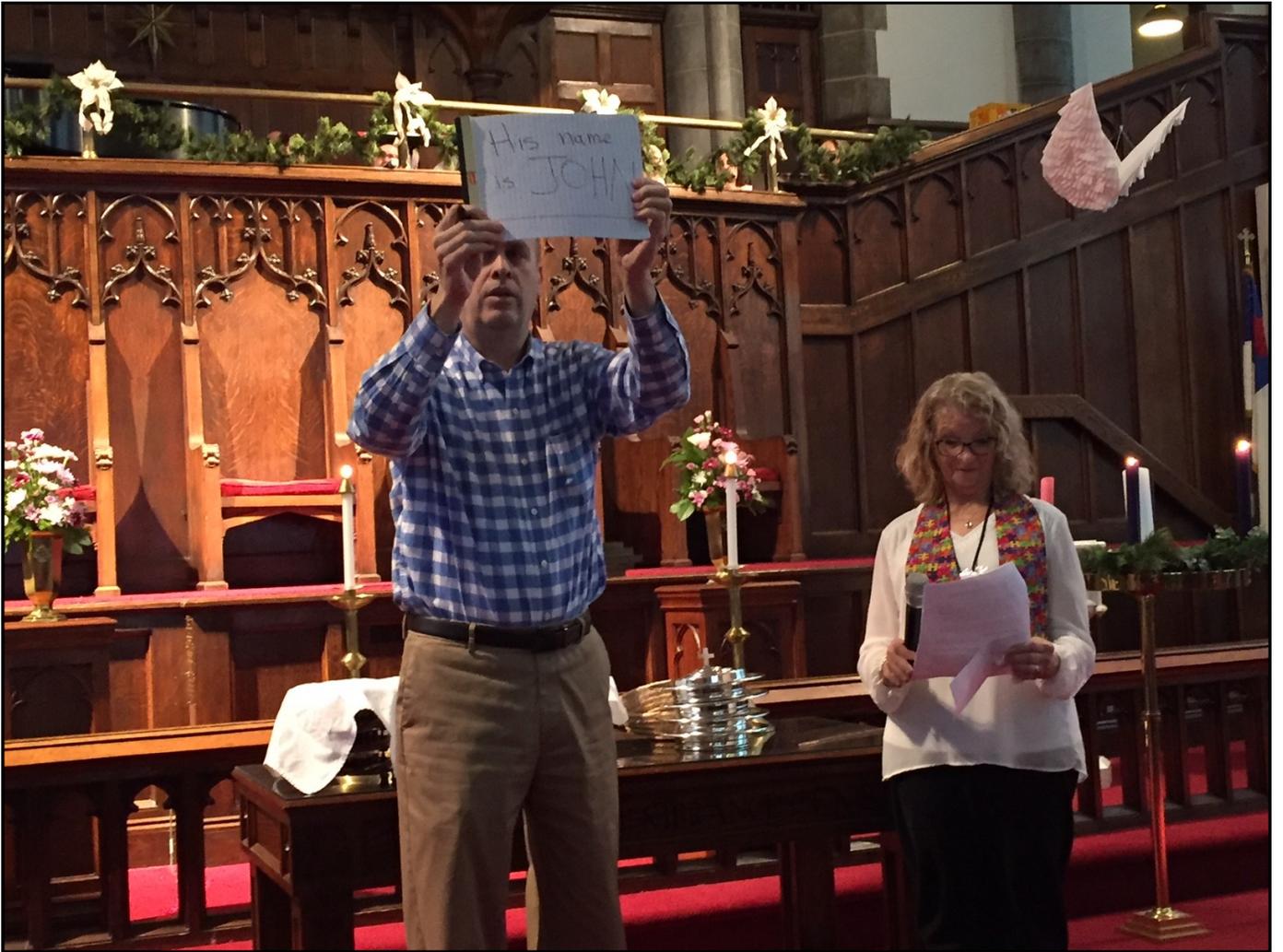


**Cookies plates were given to Connections members in college to help them get through final papers and projects. Cookies were made by Morgan Mills, Katie Flynn, Rita Soufleris, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay and Jackie Simmons.**

Sunday, Dec. 3  
Service and Advent Luncheon  
(6 photos)



**The angel Gabriel visits Zechariah to tell him that he and wife, Elizabeth, will have a son.**



**Unable to speak because he doubted the angel's word, Zechariah writes that his and Elizabeth's son shall be called John (the Baptist)**











**UUMC was well represented at the Dec. 11 news conference announcing the creation of the Central New York Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition.**

# Bringing in Christmas

Dec. 17, 2017 (2 photos)



**75 coats were donated along with an assortment of socks, hats, mittens, gloves and boots for our Pantry guests.**



# Neighborhood Christmas Dinner Dec. 18, 2017 (16 photos)































