

THE CHIMES

Jan. 10, 2018

**Next Chimes
deadline:
January 31**

Inside this issue:

From Pastor Alicia: Wesley's Covenant Prayer a great start	2
Outreach: 2017 a year of more needs from more guests	3
People/Prayers	4
Welcome Team's efforts bear fruit	5
Altar Guild thanks volunteers	5
Finance Corner	6
Birthdays	6
Women's Guild	6

**Make plans to
attend the 6 p.m.
service on Ash
Wednesday,
Feb. 14.**

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

Church & Society invites all to share in plans after a year full of action

UUMC is full of exciting new opportunities this year, especially in social change and economic justice.

The Church & Society Committee invites everybody to share in plans that bring outreach, learning and action together.

Last year at this time, many people were looking for ways to get more involved, and we started by proposing "the creation of a UUMC Church & Society Team to fulfill roles outlined in the Discipline, including education of the congregation and action to oppose unjust social policies."

At our first meeting, we listed many urgent concerns and decided to ask the congregation to prioritize them.

At an all-church meeting, the issues that stood out were health care, immigrant/refugees needs, climate disruption, and economic injustice – with concern for children in poverty.

Encouraged by this sharing of

concerns, we partnered with some SU faculty in setting up teach-ins.

We hosted one in April on health care and immigration policy and another in August on environmental policy and climate disruption. Both were well attended by community people and UUMC members.

We were responding to community needs by educating ourselves and adding to the wonderful efforts of our UUMC Outreach program.

With local organizers from Bellevue Heights UMC of "Blessings in a Backpack," Sharon Smith got monetary and volunteer support for their program of feeding hungry children on weekends.

A few Church & Society members joined an Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, and some also attended events with the Workers Center, including immigrant workers.

We were trying to enact and em- See **CHURCH & SOCIETY**, Page 5

Starting off 2018 with new worship series, leadership changes

With the New Year, a number of new things are happening at UUMC.

We've just begun a new worship series, "Known and Called," which runs until Lent, which begins Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14.

This series focuses on the stories of people discovering who Jesus was, including his baptism, his being recognized as "the one" who was foretold, his calling of his disciples,

his confronting evil, his healing of people and his Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah. And from those stories, we learn who we are called to be as his followers.

The new year also brings new people in leadership roles. Membership on some of the groups is:

Governing Board: Body Ministries, Leader, Nelson Price; Mind See **MEMBERS**, Page 2

A great way to start the year: Wesley's Covenant Prayer



Alicia Wood

Happy New Year! January is a time of reflection on the year behind us and a time of resolution for the year ahead. I find both to be life-giving. Reflection is key in growing wise.

Maya Angelou said, "When I knew better I did better." Resolution is goal setting. Setting goals keeps us striving to do better, be better. Therefore, reflection and resolution are life-giving.

Where is God in our reflecting, resolution and life? God is in all of it, if we invite God. Recently in worship we spoke John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. We quite often begin our year with this prayer, with this commitment. But this is a prayer that can be spoken any time of year. Wesley spoke it every morning as a part of his devotional time.

Last year, I shared some of my journey toward ordination. Sunday, was another milestone. I turned in all the required paperwork so that I may be interviewed by the Board of Ordained Ministry in March. Once the interview is complete I will learn if I

will be commissioned with the title of Provisional Elder in 2018 or be asked to try again for the following year. Please pray for me.

One of the questions asked was, "You have agreed as a candidate for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and the most effective witness of the gospel, and in consideration of their influence as ministers, to make a complete dedication of yourself to the highest ideals of the Christian life, and to this end agree to exercise responsible self-control by personal habits conducive to bodily health, mental and emotional maturity, integrity in all personal relationships, fidelity in marriage and celibacy in singleness, social responsibility, and growth in grace and the knowledge and love of God.

What is your understanding of this agreement?" My answer was simple. The Wesley Covenant Prayer. I don't speak this prayer every day but most days.

This January, how would life change for us if we were to invite God into our reflection and resolution? How would life change if we spoke the Wesley Covenant Prayer at least once a week as a

reminder of our covenant with our loving God. I'm excited to see how our lives and church will change.

This prayer is in the United Methodist Hymnal on page 617. I will include it here as well. Will you join me?

"I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen."

Peace,

— *Pastor Alicia*

Members assume new roles on committees; discussions for church logo initiated

CONTINUED from Page 1
Ministries Leader, Cynthia Steinem; Spirit Ministries Leader, Ann Owens. SPRC Chair Rosemary DeHoog.

Trustees: Steve Bacon, Dan Mastronardi. Bruce Simmons, Vicki O'Neill, Marjorie Carter, Danny Magowan.

Staff/Parish Relations Committee: Joyce Flynn, Ellyn Gale,

Don Koten, Seth Austin, Eileen Schell, Ed Tillapaugh, **Rosemary DeHoog, chair;** Jayne Humbert, John Hunt.

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Ted Finlayson-Schueler

Leadership Selection and Development Committee

(Nominations): Janet Sciscioli, Sue Bates, Harry Miller, Beth Drew, Mark Fullerton, Eva Jah.

Lay Leader: Barbara Nunn, who is a member of Governing Board, Trustees, SPRC and Nominations.

Syracuse Ministries Council: Nelson Price.

In other news, discussions have begun on selecting a logo for UUMC for publicity and branding purposes.

2017 was a year of meeting more needs for more guests



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

New Year's is always a little bittersweet for me.

My older daughter was born on New Year's Eve.

Aydan confessed to me once that when she was small she thought the whole world was celebrating for her.

Now, as she arrives to her 20th year, she looks forward to creating her own celebrations.

Usually we, her family, insert ourselves into her celebration for a couple hours.

In those moments I find myself amazed by her. How did this happen? How did she so quickly become the strong, capable, beautiful woman before me?

In this mindset, I recognize the larger celebration of New Year's Eve. I attempt to focus on the year's successes and Aydan's growth vs. what got away from me in that year.

2017 brought a very busy year to UUMC's Outreach Team. With several months spent waiting to see if funding would materialize from our largest grant award gifter — the CNY Food Bank — we created more resources and allies in the community with our neighbors.

We've added more and more contributors of food and supplies that buoy us at needful times and will continue into the future.

With our new federal and local administrations we've seen an ongoing increase in our pantry visitors.

- A total of **5,753** individuals



Some breakfast guests got free haircuts in 2017.

were serviced by UUMC's Food Pantry.

- Our community pancake breakfast fed **2,209** people.
 - Our new Bagel & Coffee breakfast has been wonderfully successful in bringing the congregation and the community together. In six months **247** folk have joined us for this new breakfast event.
 - Packed Thanksgiving bags went to **144** families, who were able to cook a Thanksgiving dinner with their family. Easily **350** individuals enjoyed foods from this ministry. New methodologies were tried to cut costs and save on labor.
 - Our next holiday celebration, Neighborhood Christmas Dinner, set a record with **180** folk joining us.
 - Our winter Game Day events were attended by approximately **30** people who enjoyed a small meal and a happy, social opportunity together.
- “Time to Climb,” “Blessings in a Backpack,” UUMC's design-

nation as a Practicum Site by Syracuse University, a Pet Food Pantry, Free Haircuts and a donated van were additions to Outreach in 2017.

We received special recognition and visits from the CNY Food Bank in 2017. UUMC Food Pantry was chosen to represent the city of Syracuse in their hunger assessment, which happens once every four years.

Cornell Cooperative Extension selected UUMC's pantry as a place to spend their grant award on capital improvements.

We have been featured in literature published by The CNY Food Bank and the CNY Diaper Bank.

Many students, politicians, professors, professionals, volunteers and Food Bank staff visit us to have an understanding of food pantries and what life is like for those who live in poverty daily.

Today's “Goats & Soda” article on National Public Radio is on their predictions for 2018. It writes that the “Poor will get poorer” and that “Aid groups will figure out how to get along without big cash.” With this bleak article in mind, it's clear our work continues.

As my New Year's Eve baby will grow, so will we. UUMC's Outreach ministry will continue to be strong and capable into the future, empowering, serving, meeting and connecting as many people as we can every day.

Our celebrations may be smaller and quieter than Aydan's, but they are still just as beautiful.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

People and Prayers

DEATHS

- **Cameron Baker**, 21, grandson of **Nancy Hough**, died unexpectedly Jan. 3.
- We've received word that **Norma Goel**, our longtime Neighborhood Outreach coordinator, died the last week of December.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

- **Erika: Barb and Bob Weaver, who are in Florida; Maria Storto and family**

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service: **Matt Fischer**
Sunday, December 24
- **Jo-Ann May, Mary Wilson** in Community Hospital.
- **Lorraine:** God's mercy for **Audrey**, beginning chemo.
- **Barbara Gilbraith: Peter Yuhas, Marilyn Krackhardt, Lois Lum and family.**
- For those celebrating the holidays the first time without a loved one.
- For **Lois Lum** and all those hurting from the loss of a loved one this Christmas season.
- **Barb and Bob Weaver, The Flanders Family.**
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: I praise you and give thanks for your arrival on a bitter winter.
- For children who are in foster care or have returned to their families after being in care, may they experience healing, safety and love.
- **Nancy H.:** Safe travels for **Alexis** coming from Japan.
- **Beth Drew:** For the extended **Gajer family**, whose mother, **Vivian Gajer**, died last night. (My brother's mother-in-law)

- **Angela Palmieri:** The family of **Allan Lum**
- **Kathy:** Prayers for **Chris** on his new job with new challenges. Safe travels for me on Tuesday night.
- Peace on earth
- I would like God to bless all in the church.
- **Stephen:** Hope all that are jobless find fulfilling employment as soon as possible. Peace throughout the world. Prayers for our military throughout the world.
- I pray that those who are alone on Christmas find the strength to bring themselves joy and find happiness in the little things.
- **Peter:** For more leadership to rise up from marginalized groups, to end poverty with community support

Sunday, December 31

- **William Belle:** Please pray for a recovery from a procedure
- **Lynn & Kellie:** Prayers for the victims and their families of the Bronx apartment fire
- Prayers for the family that was killed in Troy and their friends
- **Stephen:** For all those currently jobless to gain fulfilling employment in the new year
- **Allice & Ronald: Audrey**, as she begins chemo
- **Ed Tillapaugh:** Prayers for my daughter **Angela**, who is in Thailand for two weeks, for a good trip and a safe return
- **Mamie B.:** Good morning, Give God praise for he is worthy to be praised. Happy New Year to all. May God bless and keep you safe in this year.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: Bless

and comfort the hurting and confused because they need you for guidance for the new year!

- For my friend **Linda and her family**, for helping us with holiday travel
- To protect my boys until I can be home with them
- We pray that 2018 can bring more peace and joy into the lives of more of your people
- **Merilyn Krackhardt, Peter Yuhas**
- For all those traveling this weekend
- For a tenant for this church
Sunday, January 7

- For the family of **Ed Maurer**, son-in-law of **Barbara and Del Gilbraith**, upon his death on Jan. 4.
- Prayer for peace and healing for those dealing with anxiety
- **Sue Bates:** My family and those struggling with health issues
- **Ann Owens:** Family of **Dan Moore**, who died this week. He was a former pastor of James Street UMC
- Pray for **Pastor Alicia** as she completes her paperwork toward ordination today
- **Danielle Adams:** Healing prayers for my mother, who is experiencing complications after knee surgery.
- For the family of **Nancy Hough**, on the death of her grandson, **Cameron**
- **Mrs. Gram's** fundraiser go well next Saturday
- **Terry:** My mom, **Beth Day**, who is having surgery Jan. 16, and my sister, **Suzanne McTiver**, in her recovery.

Welcome Team's efforts have visitors returning

When we chat with visitors to the church, many say, "It's such a friendly church."

Frankly when I came nearly 25 years ago, I didn't find UUMC to be nearly as friendly as the churches of which I had been a part in the Midwest and South. But I think we've changed.

The Welcome Team has been tracking visitors for the past year. And the numbers show that our greeting of visitors on Sunday and our follow-up really does make a difference.

UUMC averages about three new visitors a Sunday – that means about 150 visitors in a year!

Most don't leave contact information, but of those who do, the Welcome Team tracked 86 visitors in 2017, from 63 house-

holds:

- 79% returned at least one more time after someone on the Welcome Team stopped by their home and dropped off a small gift to thank them for visiting;
- 43% have come to worship at least five times after such a visit;
- 28% of those contacted in some way (visit, phone call, email or note) have attended Sunday worship at least five times.

This means that almost one-third of all those we reach out to are coming back and getting more involved.

So keep up your friendly, welcoming presence.

—*Barbara Fought,*
Welcome Team

Altar Guild thanks volunteers for decorating sanctuary, arranging and delivering poinsettias

It has been a tradition at UUMC to deliver poinsettias to shut-in members and others associated with the congregation after the church service the Sunday before Christmas.

Members of the Altar Guild want to thank volunteers who delivered the flowers and also those who decorated the church for Christmas services and arranged poinsettias in the sanctuary.

The volunteers involved in some or all of these activities include: Steve Bacon and Bette Helwig, Tom and Carol Boll, Judith Bowers, Jerry and Barbara Cargo, Starke Donnally, Beth Drew, Barbara Gilbraith, Ernie and Bobbie Hemphill, Don and Margo Kotten, Marg McDivitt, Dean Moyer, Barbara Nunn, Ann

Owens, Ed and Lee Potter and Deb Virgo.

Those receiving poinsettias were: Marilyn Benedict, Ralph Best, Rosemary Chappell, Hilde Cooper, Ted Guercio, Nancy Hough, John Indick, Mary Klepper, Marilyn Krackhardt, Dorothy Logan, Lois Lum, Roger MacDonald, Lois McTarnaghan, Jo-Ann May, Ann Milner, Carol Moyer, the Mukasa family, Keith Nevin, Nancy Nevin, Eddie Nunn, Tom Owens, Don Steenberg, Keith Wellner, Ben Wiles Jr., Mary Wilson, and Ed and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

A bag of baked goods was delivered to William and Martha Potter.

—*Bobbie Hemphill*

Church & Society

CONTINUE from Page 1

body the love of God with people, especially "the least of these" and adopted the mission of the General Board of Church and Society: LivingFAITH SeekingJUSTICE PursuingPEACE.

In view of increasing threats of detention and deportation of immigrants, we agreed it would be important to us as a congregation to discern our role in addressing these needs.

Nelson Price wrote, and our UUMC congregation met in September to consider a Sanctuary Resolution. We voted 69-1 to pass the resolution and become a Sanctuary Congregation in support of other faith groups that might provide physical sanctuary. We continue representing UUMC in the Sanctuary Coalition and collaborating with the Worker Center.

As the federal budget threatened to cut health care and safety net programs while local needs increase, like child poverty rates, we talked with Pastor Alicia about a Children's Sabbath to focus attention on systemic issues. That same week, two UUMC carloads went to Binghamton for a mass meeting on the Poor People's Campaign.

We continue learning about systemic economic and environmental injustices and how to interrupt them in our community.

All are invited to join as we continue to learn from people's stories of struggle while partnering with organizations and leaders who represent them. Together, UUMC will be holding hope for social change in the "beloved community."

— *Peter E. Swords, Co-chair*
Church & Society

Finance Corner

Pledging Update—Year-End Figures

2017 total pledges: \$216,252
 Paid to date: \$209,572
 Non-pledge contr.: \$32,612
 Pre-paid 2018 pledges \$43,622

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

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

February birthdays

2 – Bette Helwig
 7 – Domonick Weah
 8 – Tom Boll
 9 – Starke Donnally
 16 – Robert Morris Jr.
 19 – Jan Garman
 20 – Aidan Brackett
 21 – Taylor Bacon
 23 – Roseanne Samuel
 25 – Elise Curry-Schemichen

—
 Please contact the church office if there are errors or omissions

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will meet at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at the home of Barb Cargo, 109 Humbert Ave., DeWitt.

Ed and Lee Potter will present a program on "Journey to the Islands of Scotland."

Interfaith World Harmony Day

Interfaith World Harmony Day will be observed 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 5 at Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevre Shas, 18 Patsy Lane, off Jamesville Road in DeWitt. The theme is "Voices in Harmony."

UUMC will present a tradition during the event. Please join us!

Game Day

We're looking for volunteers to host or support as we and guests watch SU vs. Miami at noon Feb. 17 on the screen in the Pettengill Center.



University United
 Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

1085 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13210
 Phone: 315-475-7277 Fax: 315-475-8995
www.uumcsyracuse.org Email: uumc@twcny.rr.com
www.facebook.com/UUMCSyracuse
 Twitter: @UUMCSyracuse

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Syracuse, NY
 Permit No. 2761

Return service requested

Dated material



WEEK OF JANUARY 14

Sunday the 14th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

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 15th—Office Closed

Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday the 16th

5:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

Wednesday the 17th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 18th

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 19th

10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF JANUARY 21

Sunday the 21st

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.

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 22nd

7 p.m. Handbell Choir

Wednesday the 24th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 25th

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 26th

10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF JANUARY 28

Sunday the 28th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

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 31st

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 1st

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 2nd

10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4

Sunday the 4th

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 7th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 8th

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 9th

10 a.m. Friday Community

Church Christmas Trees (3 photos)









Christmas Eve Pageant

Dec. 24, 2017

(19 photos)







































