Church & Society Team continues work on sanctuary, poverty at several levels

The Church & Society Team has continued its efforts on many fronts in recent weeks.

We continue to support Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition and the Workers Center around the needs of undocumented residents.

Good news is that Hector Navarro and the Mexican 4 picked up in Minoa have been released.

UUMC signed on to a sanctuary resolution to be considered by the 2018 Upper New York Annual Conference.

The Volunteer Lawyers Project is setting up limited office hours at UUMC for free immigration consultation, by appointment.

Church & Society continues to learn about poverty at the family, community and systems levels, and we are planning a “teach-in” about poverty in Syracuse.

Members attended a forum presented by leaders of Greater Syracuse Hope and a workshop by “The Open Table,” a collaboration between faith groups and the county’s Children and Family Services that provides team support to youth transitioning out of foster care. Local UMCs will be invited to take part.

To end poverty, racism, the war economy and environmental harm, we need to change the systems that keep making people poor.

The Poor People’s Campaign is under way in New York, 34 other states and Syracuse.

At three local coalition-building meetings Syracuse Peace Council, CNY Solidarity, ACTS and people experienced with oppression began.

Holy Thursday service has Communion; sanctuary open Good Friday for prayer

We’re about two and a half weeks from Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday, March 25.

That’s a Community Breakfast Sunday, so come at 9 a.m. and eat before worship.

A Holy Thursday service at 6 p.m. in The Gathering Room March 29 will include Communion.

Good Friday, March 30, our sanctuary will be open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Information on Holy Week observances at other Syracuse UM churches is available at syracuseumministries.org

Our Easter service begins at 10:30 a.m. as usual. Bagels will be served at 9 a.m.

Choir to present Schubert April 8

Our choir members are hard at work preparing for their special musical presentation during 10:30 a.m. worship on April 8.

It’s Franz Schubert’s Mass No. 2, known as “Schubert’s Mass in G.”

It’s written for organ and strings, which will accompany the choir.

Schubert wrote it in less than a week — March 2-7 in 1815.

Invite a friend!
Longing for spring’s light, warmth resembles our Lenten journey

Greetings!

Do you remember two weeks ago when the temperature was over 60 degrees for a few days? Do you remember seeing the grass on your lawn? Do you remember last Friday’s snowstorm?

It felt as though we were fooled into thinking spring would be early this year.

The season of Lent has begun. A season of remembering Jesus ministry, life, death and resurrection.

In the Northeast of the United States this is a season of long, dark nights and short days. I see Lent as season of reflection and turning toward the light of God.

Given the weather this time of year, sometimes it’s hard to not get down given the darkness and the cold.

Sometimes it’s challenging to turn toward the light of God because the physical darkness may bring emotional or spiritual darkness.

Many of us are sick of winter and long for spring. What we long for in spring is more daylight, more warm days and colorful flowers. We long for the resurrected Jesus.

This resembles our Lenten journey. We are asked to reflect and listen to the way in which God is calling us in this season of life.

We are asked to reflect on Jesus’ journey toward the cross. Where are you on your journey?

As you reflect and listen, how is God asking you to turn toward the light of love and acceptance? How do we feel the newness that Jesus brings to our lives.

We as human beings experience suffering at one time or another through life.

We may suffer physically or emotionally or both.

Jesus suffered on the cross. For three days, his friends and family grieved the loss of their beloved Jesus.

On the third day, Jesus arose! He had fooled death!

What may we need to grieve this Lenten season so that we may be made new in Jesus Christ? How may this season of reflection refocus our attention on the resurrection and change that comes when we count on Jesus Christ?

Lent 2018 concludes on Easter Sunday, April 1. Easter is on April Fool’s Day. Ironically, Jesus had the best April Fools in history!

When we take this journey we are surprised how God’s light, Jesus’ death, the Holy Spirit guides and affects our lives over and over again.

Peace,

— Pastor Alicia

Our collaborative work will continue, but change is here

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quests for UUMC as an evaluative/education site.

We work collaboratively with the five food pantries in our southeast district. We have gained lots of props, services and attention from external forces.

Without gloating, I feel secure in our position with the Food Bank, our congregation and Syracuse’s people. However, change is upon us. We will continue to work together to ensure that all Syracusans have consistent access to good, healthy food.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

UUMC supports local Poor People’s Campaign; Truth Commission set for April

CONTINUED from Page 1

preparing for a Truth Commission and direct action this spring. UUMC strongly supports the local Poor People’s Campaign by hosting Barbara Smith of the state steering committee as keynote for Syracuse Peace Council’s Birthday Dinner on March 24.

There will be a local Truth Commission in mid-April, where people’s testimonies of systemic oppression will show the interconnected evils of racism, militarism, economic and environmental harm, change the narrative about poverty, lift up new leadership and call for policy changes in a moral revival to transform the political and economic structures.

— Peter E. Swords, Co-chair, Church & Society Team
Outreach Ministry

Food Pantry coverage area to expand, helping Grace

About once a quarter, area Food Pantry coordinators come together for a meeting. Michele Jordan, director of Interfaith Food Consortium, organizes these events.

She finds a different location each time, often at one another’s pantries. Information is shared, problems are picked apart, happy news and the completion of deadlines are celebrated.

I enjoy these meetings immensely. I thoroughly look forward to connecting with my peers who do similar work. I always feel renewed after these meetings.

Last month I attended such a meeting. I attended not only as a participant but as a presenter.

Earlier in February UUMC’s Governing Board approved a request from Food Bank of CNY to be part of its documentation to city of Syracuse officials on food and water distribution for Syracusans in a disaster.

I was asked to share this subject and also communicate the need for support from neighboring pantries if we were faced with such an event.

Prior to my conversation, representatives from Grace Episcopal Church’s Food Pantry explained their financial situation as bleak.

They are a much smaller pantry (serving a third as many folk as we and Temple Concord do on any given week) and their paid coordinator position was terminated last year due to lack of financial resources.

Their pantry volunteers have been informed that the church has very limited funds to support the pantry into the future. Changes need to be made.

Grace’s representatives asked that other pantries in our quadrant absorb a portion of their district. I agreed that UUMC can do this.

In the short future, UUMC’s pantry will be responsible for individuals who live on Seeley Road east to Audubon Parkway with Salt Springs Road as the southern edge of that area.

This small addition will probably be minimally noticeable in our numbers, and the Food Bank has been very generous with our food budget this year (with the new award of Music for Mission grant we’ve easily exceeded $11,000 for our 2018 food budget). These additional folks will not be an imposition and will (hopefully) give Grace a buoy.

Temple Concord revealed that they are struggling as well. The temple has begun asking their Food Pantry to pay rent (which the volunteer coordinators have been encouraged to request some support for from the Food Bank).

I spent a lot of time talking about our resources and the many grants I apply for and often win. Hopefully our friends will pursue these resources into the future.

Jordan predicts a bleak future for most of the smaller pantries and/or congregations/centers that are staffed mostly with older volunteers.

The North Side of Syracuse exists with two very large Food Pantries and a third smaller one at the Northeast Community Center.

She sees the Food Bank possibly morphing into a “mobile pantry” methodology to service more densely populated communities and rural areas (think the Bricks/Pioneer Homes & Lafayette).

Michele sees these presentations as Syracuse’s future emergency food access methodology.

Obviously, UUMC is in a very different position. Our pantry is financially in a great place, with successful ongoing auxiliary programs, young volunteers and re-
Restart ministry marks 10 months; several ways you can help this effort

Restart is a ministry of the Syracuse United Methodist churches that provides furniture and household furnishing to people who are going through some kind of a life “restart” in our community.

Restart has been going strong now for about 10 months, and we are always looking for additional help with this ministry. We hope that you will consider working with us in one of the following ways:

Volunteer: The Restart Team generally meets on the first and last Thursday of each month to pick up furniture and furnishings from donors and to drop items off to clients. Helping with this effort generally involves a few hours, and we typically meet at Erwin First UMC between 5-5:30 p.m. We also occasionally have popup situations where we need people on short notice.

Donate Furniture and Furnishings: The Restart ministry will pick up furniture from donors, or you can drop off items at Erwin First by contacting Evelyn Disinger at 315-857-7634 to plan on a date and time for the off load. We are looking for gently used furniture (including mattress sets), household items (i.e. kitchen items, coffee table, end table, lamps, bookcases, dressers, beds, couches, side chairs, and table & chairs, etc.). We also need gently used linens (please note on them what size they are i.e. twin, full, queen, etc.), towels, washcloths, blankets, comforters, etc.

Cash Donations: The Restart Ministry uses cash donations for direct ministry expenses — mostly to rent trucks for pickup and delivery. We also do purchase some furnishings, such as sheet sets and other incidental items that clients typically need. Cash donations should be made to Erwin First UMC, with a note that the donation is to the Restart ministry.

Referrals: If you know someone who is going through some challenging times and would benefit from our ministry, you can refer them to Restart. We are definitely interested in serving those who already have other connections to our congregations, so please do feel free to refer clients.

If you would like to volunteer, we recommend that you be added to the Restart email list so we can update you with the latest scheduled evenings for volunteering.

To be added to the email list or to volunteer, please contact Evelyn Disinger, edisinger@stevensinteriors.com or call her at 315-857-7634.

If you have items to donate, or have clients to refer, please contact Carol Karins, gammy_carol@yahoo.com or call her at 315-380-4407.

UUMC may become a disaster relief site for Food Bank of CNY

Food Bank of CNY is putting together a disaster plan for the area, and UUMC may become a disaster relief site.

The Food Bank identified UUMC’s strengths, which include:
• a large, sound building with ample storage space that’s close to highways and located on major roads close to the interior city of Syracuse
• personal or delivery vehicles can be pulled against church property
• an established “Intake” process that can be quickly altered to process/identify folk quickly
• maps and an understanding of our neighborhoods, neighbors and community
• ability to organize and have volunteers available to cover 24 hours of consistent relief efforts
• successful relationships and contact people with many in our community who can be called upon to support us and the Food Bank
• a well-used, organized Emergency Food Service System (our Food Pantry) that can manage and move product quickly and wisely.
• Methodists are almost always the first involved in disaster relief efforts

The CNY Food Bank’s plans are in their infancy, but thoughts are leaning toward UUMC. Our Governing Board has given its approval.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Outreach Coordinator
One of the unsung volunteers who helps our Sunday service run smoothly is Stephen Shepherd, a Syracuse University graduate student.

On alternate Sundays, Stephen runs the PowerPoint slide show that’s prepared by Ted Finlayson-Schueler.

Here’s a bit about Stephen:

Q: Where are you from?
Stephen: I am from Westmoreland, New York

Q: Where did you attend high school and college?
Stephen: I went to Westmoreland High School, Class of 2012. I attended the University of New Haven and received forensic science and chemistry bachelor of science degrees, Class of 2016.

Q: What are you studying now?
Stephen: I am currently in the chemistry master’s program at Syracuse University and expect to graduate this May or August. I hope to officially enter the world of science communication in the near future.

Q: Who’s in your family?
Stephen: I still have both parents, Carla & Bob Shepherd, who care for my old puppy, Daisy Dukes. I am an only child.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?
Stephen: I am a community theater actor and the host and producer of two podcasts — “Stage Right Radio” on WAER HD3 and “The Orange STEM” on dailyorange.com. I am a brother of the co-ed professional chemistry fraternity Alpha Chi Sigma and consider myself an unofficial chicken wing connoisseur.

Q: How’d you find UUMC?
Stephen: I am a confirmed United Methodist, and I stumbled upon the building when looking for my current apartment.

Q: Why did you agree to staff the PowerPoint presentations, alternating with Jules Colantonio?
Stephen: I wanted to be more involved in the church but didn’t have much time to devote to UUMC outside of Sunday services. Plus, now at least half the time, I have “reserved” seating!

Q: Anything else you’d like to add?
Stephen: Thank you all for welcoming me into such a compassionate church!

Blessings in a Backpack program going strong; remember second-year payment commitment

The Blessings in a Backpack program that UUMC participated in last year with Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church is doing well. We are now feeding 220 students at Delaware Elementary School. The program provides food for students from homes with food insecurity to tide them over the weekend during the 38 weeks of the school year.

The program got a $1,500 grant from Music for the Mission. Reminder: The program required a three-year commitment, so if you paid for one year in 2017, your second-year donation is needed this year so we can get that money to Bellevue Heights in June.

Be sure to put “Blessings in a Backpack” on the memo line of your check and on the offering envelope.

Jaime Alicea, superintendent of the Syracuse City School District, sent a note thanking us for our contributions and saying the program now helps nearly 400 families districtwide.

Contact Sharon Smith at ssladybug157@aol.com or at church if you have questions.
People and Prayers

DEATH
• Longtime member Ann Burrows died Feb. 15 at the age of 85. Her service was Feb. 24 at UUMC.

CONTINUING PRAYERS
• Prayer that the second and third floors of our building be rented.
• Sue: My family and all those struggling with health issues

PRAYERS REQUESTED:
• For those in military service: Matt Fischer

Sunday, February 11
• For Donna, strength and healing through surgery this week. For a friend making major decisions for relocating her family.
• Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Patti Fasulo, the family of David Grosso, Jeanne & Shane, Connie & Ted, families of the latest shooting
• I pray to God that myself and those that I love can let go of their insecurities and feel how valued and how loved they are.
• Jayne Humbert: Peace to all affected by the shootings.
• Sue: My family, Kathi Davis after eye surgery
• Alice & Ronald: My sister, Adele, preparing for back surgery
• Jim Tallman: Be with the family and friends of the 17 people who died in Florida last week.
• Ann: All that are still here and alive (family and friends)
• Nate: For the normal return of my sight after my eye surgery. My left eye is not doing as well as I had hoped.
• Pray for my friend Linda and Susie
• Angela Palmieri: Nancy, who has cancer; Beverly
• Prayers for all of us impacted by all the shootings in Parkland, Florida
• Prayers for Pastor Alicia’s success in interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry.
• Prayers for healing for my father.
• Prayers for healing for my family of Stephanie, who is having surgery; Shannon, also having surgery

Sunday, February 18
• For Donna, strength and healing through surgery this week. For a friend making major decisions for relocating her family.
• Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Patti Fasulo, the family of David Grosso, Jeanne & Shane, Connie & Ted, families of the latest shooting
• I pray to God that myself and those that I love can let go of their insecurities and feel how valued and how loved they are.
• Jayne Humbert: Peace to all affected by the shootings.
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• Pray for my friend Linda and Susie
• Angela Palmieri: Nancy, who has cancer; Beverly
• Prayers for all of us impacted by all the shootings in Parkland, Florida
• Prayers for Pastor Alicia’s success in interview with the Board of Ordained Ministry.
• Prayers for healing for my father.
• Prayers of healing for our country scarred by gun violence; prayers of healing for our natural environment and collaboration to halt climate change.
• Doug: Dear God, please inspire the children to lead on the issue of gun violence in our country.
• Courtney: Hope my ankle gets better soon
• Albertina: For my aunt in Africa and prayers for all sick individuals who are in the hospital.
• Dear Lord, help this country, and especially our elected representatives, to realize that the death of our children is too high a price to pay for our insane gun culture.
• Donna: Would like prayer for my surgery on Wednesday
• Mike Rodda: The family members of those shot in the Florida high school on Wednesday
• Jeff: Prayer for continued job search; family in S. Carolina (Dad and stepmom) Washington, D.C.; families of victims in South Florida
• Prayers for Congress and the American people to have thoughtful, reasonable and constructive debate on gun control that will lead to decreased gun violence and substantive change in mindset and response to this problem
• Prayers for families who lost their children in the school shooting
• Prayers for Merilyn Krackhardt; pray that our government will finally get serious about gun control

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People and Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 6

- **Peter:** Thanks for all the people responding to the terror and threats of guns by uniting to call for change to protect all our children with real security.
- **Courtnay St. Andrew:** I hope my ankle gets better soon and thank God for the food I had today.
- **Jeffrey Foley:** Prayers to find an apartment soon.
- **Sherri Cullen:** Patti Fasulo & family, Kathy Dewey, Connie & Ted, Athena & Dave, Ann & Jeff Therrien
- **Mike Rodda:** Anthony Pavia and family, Pastor Alicia, on March 3
- **Mamie B.** Father, continue to renew my spirit, thanks to my family here at UUMC. Keep me in prayer as I continue studying and passing grades.
- **Peter Swords:** For our leaders to learn where our real security comes from – from God’s love and care; not from power and weapons! Let’s all protect all our kids.
- **For all those who are hurting in despair; a prayer that we all acknowledge our blessings and thank God**
- **All those whose lives were altered or touched by the school shooting in Florida and action or inaction of others**
- **For physical and emotional fortitude; healing for my father; guidance and wisdom as we search for a good school**
- **Prayers for the children who set an example for the adults**
- **Take care of my son and my daughter**

**Sunday, February 25**

- **Morgan:** Continued prayers for Gerry Mastronardi for health concerns.
- **Courtney St. Andrew:** I hope my ankle gets better soon and thank God for the food I had today.
- **Jeffrey Foley:** Prayers to find an apartment soon.
- **Sherri Cullen:** Patti Fasulo & family, Kathy Dewey, Connie & Ted, Athena & Dave, Ann & Jeff Therrien
- **Mike Rodda:** Anthony Pavia and family, Pastor Alicia, on March 3
- **Mamie B.** Father, continue to renew my spirit, thanks to my family here at UUMC. Keep me in prayer as I continue studying and passing grades.
- **Peter Swords:** For our leaders to learn where our real security comes from – from God’s love and care; not from power and weapons! Let’s all protect all our kids.
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- **For physical and emotional fortitude; healing for my father; guidance and wisdom as we search for a good school**
- **Prayers for the children who set an example for the adults**
- **Take care of my son and my daughter**

**Sunday, March 4**

- **Sue:** My family; a joy for receiving good news from doctor.
- **Peter Swords:** For all world leaders to listen to the people who want peace and to join the worldwide nuclear weapons ban.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: I give thanks for new thoughts and prepare me towards great blessings!
- **Prayers for Eva Cooper and her family in their move to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.**
- **For those who are dealing with health issues**
- **For Syrian refugees**
- **Those incarcerated or otherwise separated from friends and family**
- **For all the students traveling this spring break – please pray for their safety**

THANKS & PRAISE

**Sunday, February 18**

- **Dean:** Thankful for the healing process and patience as it continues.

**Sunday, February 25**

- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: I praise you for giving me 49 years on earth and bless the ones who live this age!
- **Prayers of thanks for longer days and warmer weather**

April birthdays

1 – Matthew Steenberg
2 – Ted Holmes, Jereline Weah
5 – Ralph Best, Diamond Weah
6 – Connor Fay
8 – Russ Young
11 – Sheila Murphy
13 – Doug Coutts
14 – Martha Nicholas
16 – Julie Pedro, Ryan Steenberg, Eleanor Frank, Jeff Huard
17 – Dale Fryer
19 – Dr. Richard Phillips, Gale Youmell, Abby Hyland
20 – Corrine Upcraft
22 – Princess Weah
24 – Carol Dawes
25 – Cheryl Brown
29 – Ginny Knight, Janet Sciscioli
30 – Vera Gaskin, Dennis Triggs

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:
- By Mike and Gwen Tilla- paugh-Fay in memory of loved ones.
- By Danielle Adams in loving memory of her brother, Todd Adams.
- By Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill in memory of loved ones.
- By Nancy Hough in memory of Stephen Chen and Katherine Huang.
- By Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill, Ed and Lee Potter and Marg McDivitt.

Flowers were delivered by Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill, Ed and Lee Potter and Marg McDivitt.

Flowers from Ann Burrows’ memorial service were taken by members of the church.
**Week of March 11**

**Sunday the 11th**
- 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
- 9:30 a.m. “Listen” video study, Laubach Room
- 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 12th**
- 7 p.m. Handbell Choir

**Tuesday the 13th**
- 5:30 p.m. Church & Society Team
- 5:30 p.m. Governing Board

**Wednesday the 14th**
- 9 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
- 7 p.m. “Listen” video study, Chappell Room

**Thursday the 15th**
- 9 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 7 p.m. Choir rehearsal

**Friday the 16th**
- 10 a.m. Friday Community
- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Book Study, Chappell Room

**Week of March 18**

**Sunday the 18th**
- 9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room
- 9:30 a.m. “Listen” video study, Laubach 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

**Week of March 25**

**Palm Sunday the 25th**
- 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education for K-12th, Pettengill Center
- 9:30 a.m. “Listen” video study, Laubach Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:45 a.m. Christian Education

**Finance Corner**

**Pledging Update**
- 2018 total pledges: $209,472
- Paid to date: $20,008
- Non-pledge contr.: $2,719
- Pre-paid 2018 pledges $43,622

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

**Volunteers Needed:** We’re looking for people who’d enjoy being ushers, greeters or liturgists. Contact Ann Owens at annowens1134@gmail.com.

**University United Methodist Church**

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

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www.facebook.com/UUMCSyracuse
Twitter: @UUMCSyracuse
Sunday, February 25, 2018
Snapshots from the Day
(15 photos)
Feed God’s People: Body, Mind, Spirit
Feed God's People: Body, Mind, Spirit