UUMC to host watch party for launch of national Poor People’s Campaign

The Poor People’s Campaign, a National Call for Moral Revival, is happening all across the land, including throughout New York State. When Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated 50 years ago, he was organizing a Poor People’s Campaign to bring about what he called “a radical revolution of values.”

We face many of the same injustices King was fighting. As people of faith, we believe systemic racism, systemic poverty, systemic militarism and systemic ecological devastation are immoral. We are called to join with the directly impacted, moral leaders, advocates and other people of conscience.

Starting May 13, the campaign undertakes 40 Days of Action to launch a massive movement to address the evils of poverty, racism, militarism and ecological devastation.

To help launch the national movement, many people will rally at the State Capitol in Albany May 14, and some will risk arrest.

In preparation for that rally, UUMC is hosting a Watch Party the evening before, 6 p.m. May 13, to view the livestream from Washington, D.C., with Rev. William J. Barber II. All are welcome, with refreshments to be served.

Every week for six weeks all kinds of people across the country will congregate at their state capitol to raise awareness about the unique and common ways they are affected by the evils.

College students who’ve helped out are set to graduate

College students quietly play important roles in the life of UUMC. Some are graduating.

They include Stephen Shepherd, Josh DeHoog, Maddie Buckley and Ben Meade.

Stephen has been handling advancing the slides during worship on alternate Sundays. He’s graduating with a master’s in chemistry from Syracuse University. Stephen was honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Public Engagement for his podcast “Stage Right Radio” on WAER HD3, where he goes behind the curtains of CNY stage productions.

When the new church directory comes out in the days ahead, think of Ben, because he took many of the photos of members for that last fall. The SU information management and technology major is from Ligonier, near Pittsburgh. In his 2 1/2 years at UUMC, Ben also has volunteered at the food pantry and helped with the slide show some Sundays.

Josh, grandson of Rosemary DeHoog, is graduating from Onondaga Community College. He’s been a mainstay of the Community Breakfast for years and is a master at making pancakes.

For information on Maddie, go to Page 7.
From our pastor...

Instead of craving more, we need to take time out to thank God

Good Day!

I was half listening to a morning show host interview an author of a new book.

The author said, “We are in a crisis of gratitude.” This statement really struck me. I stopped what I was doing to listen. We are in a crisis of gratitude.

It seems many of us have so much but instead of being grateful we crave more.

The book is titled “Suicide of the West” by Jonah Goldberg. I did not agree with all Goldberg said in the interview, but I do agree with taking time to teach one another to count our blessings.

As I took time to reflect, I realized this is not a new problem. Throughout the book of Exodus, the Israelites are quick to get frustrated. In Exodus 14 they just escaped slavery and within three days are grumbling to Moses.

Later, in Exodus 32, Moses goes to talk with God about further plans, and the Israelites feel he is gone too long. So they decide to worship a golden calf instead of God.

We are quick to become dissatisfied even today. When things are not going well for a day or two many of us are on Facebook or Twitter letting people know about our terrible life or situation.

Sometimes, if we look back in our news feed we see how a week ago something good happened.

How can we forget the good so quickly and focus on the negative? Is this our crisis of gratitude? Are we neglecting our part in thanking God for the good and being grateful for all we have?

For me, this does not diminish the importance of fighting for all people to have the basics such as safe housing, reliable food, clean water, health care and the same rights and opportunities.

I am not more blessed or special than anyone else. We are meant to share in our abundance so that all may be grateful, not just a few.

Jesus taught us to be grateful.

Matthew 26:27-28: A reading of the Last Supper from the New Living Translation says, “And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, “Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.”

As I sit in my new house today I will not focus on all the work I would like to see completed.

I will focus on continually thanking God for the beauty and safety around me. How about you?

Peace,
— Pastor Alicia

UUMC memories: Burned wrist, Connections Thanksgiving, ‘Hallelujah Chorus’

CONTINUED from Page 7

loved being a part of this church and getting more involved over the last two years.

Q: What are some of your favorite UUMC experiences?

Maddie: So many! Honestly, every single Community Breakfast has been memorable for me. Starting with my first one, where they stuck me on pancake duty with Josh. I remember I managed to fit only two pancakes on the huge griddle at once, burnt my wrist, and left both embarrassed and worried I wouldn’t be welcomed back.

Four years later, I have significantly improved pancake-making skills, a treasure trove of memories over that griddle and a “pancake shirt” with the stains to prove it.

Outside of breakfasts, some of my other favorite UUMC memories include Connections Thanksgiving dinners at Barbara’s house, singing the Hallelujah Chorus at Easter and serving as acolyte last minute when bad weather left us with a childless congregation.

Q: Anything else you’d like to add?

Maddie: I’m going to miss each and every person at this church more than you could know! I can’t wait to come back and visit and see the amazing work you continue to do here. Thank you all again! God bless you!
My younger daughter, Brynn, is a 17-year-old junior at Nottingham High School. Brynn, with her peers, manages the workload of advanced classes, athletics, jobs, driver’s education and a full and diverse social life.

In between these many commitments we visit colleges with Brynn. Sometimes her friends join us, and sometimes Nottingham will take a group of kids on a college visit.

Always on these visits we are fed and the foods available to students on campus come up in the college/university’s presentations on “College Life.”

Remarkably, with all of the issues, debates and interests Brynn and her friends have, college food is a common conversation.

Malcolm Gladwell released a podcast recently titled “Food Fight.”

The story points attention to college dining hall food offerings. Gladwell compares two very similar colleges: Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Both are small liberal arts colleges, both sit in small cities, classes and major offerings are similar, both have a history of moving from a women’s school to a coed mythology. Many students apply to both schools to pursue their college education.

A couple of the largest differences in these schools are financial aid supports and campus dining hall food offerings.

Bowdoin employs a notable chef to design, acquire and prepare local, whole, wonderfully diverse foods for students. Incoming freshmen are welcomed to an abundant campus-wide lobster bake. Homemade breads greet students each morning with farm fresh eggs, garden-ready herbs and local cheeses.

Bowdoin has a 14.3% acceptance rate and costs $47,744 per year. A small 19% of its students borrow money to go to school and an even smaller 14% are on Pell federal education grants (Pell grants are awarded to students seeking higher education yet fall below the national poverty line).

Bowdoin was voted the 2018 No. 1 Best Liberal Arts College in America. A total of 37.6% of the student body identify as “other than white.”

Students often resort to off-campus restaurants to feed themselves, all of which happily offer delivery services to campus housing.

Vassar has a 27.7% acceptance rate and costs $54,410 per year. Half of its students borrow money to go to school, and a record-setting 30% of its students receive a Pell grant. A total of 56% of the student body identify as “other than white.”

So, what’s happening here? Gladwell presents the real choices of establishing and committing to diversity in higher education, in educating poor kids and he presents his analysis through food.

Vassar President Katherine Hall recognized that to welcome and support a more diverse student body, more financial aid and grants would need to be awarded to make Vassar affordable.

To do so money would be pulled away from auxiliary services like dining hall food, building modern dormitories and visiting speaker series.

See MORAL, Page 4
Moral dilemma of food

CONTINUED from Page 3

Unapologetically, Vassar administration says, “We’re not in to food & housing. If you are, don’t come here.”

Vassar stands firmly by the mantra that the best education comes when students are mixed socio-economically and ethnically.

Social justice comes in many forms. Food Bank of CNY with UUMC and our many neighbor food pantries fight for food justice daily.

The food we eat defines us culturally, economically and regionally and demonstrates the personal resources we each have to acquire such food.

However, the moral dilemma of great food vs. sustenance often comes at a great price for far too many people.

To hear Malcom Gladwell’s podcast, go to: revisionisthistory.com/episodes/05-food-fight
— Galyn Murphy-Stanley Outreach Coordinator

Thanks for help with Easter service flowers

The members of the UUMC Altar Guild want to thank those who volunteered to help with flowers for the Easter service.

Marg McDivitt and Margo Koten ordered and/or picked up flowers to decorate the sanctuary, decorated the sanctuary and delivered flowers to shut-in members of the congregation.

Others who were involved in preparing the sanctuary and/or making deliveries were: Tom and Carol Boll, Judith Bowers, Barbara and Jerry Cargo, Beth Drew, Melissa Faley, Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill, Barbara Nunn, Ann Owens, Lee and Ed Potter, Nelson Price, Gail Tyndall and Deb Virgo.

Those receiving flowers were: Rosemary Chappell, Hilde Cooper, Mary Klepper, Dot Logan, Lois Lum, Roger MacDonald, Jo-Ann May, Lois McTarnaghan, Ann Milner, Carol Moyer, Dean Moyer, Nancy Nevin, Eddie Nunn, Tom Owens, Don Steenberg, Betsy Wiggins, Ben Wiles Jr., Mary Wilson, Gary Wood, Ed Yarwood and Joanne Zinsmeister-Yarwood.

Each member of the church staff also received a flower in appreciation of service to the church.

— Bobbie Hemphill

2 guest speakers scheduled

We’ll be treated to guest speakers on two consecutive Sundays coming up.

UUMC member Nichola Weah will speak May 27.

Tina Whitehead will speak June 3 on “Witness from Palestine.”

Tina will be speaking at the Palestinian Dinner the evening of June 1.

Tina has been volunteering in Jerusalem and the West Bank since October 2006. Her primary work has been with Sabeel, a Palestinian Christian peace and justice movement.

She has served as a lay delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference since 2004.

Blessings in a Backpack: If anyone wants to donate to the Blessings in a Backpack program, please write a check made out to UUMC with “Blessings” on the memo line. If you have questions, contact Sharon Smith at ssladybug157@aol.com.

June birthdays

5 – Angela Tillapaugh
7 – Audrey Benton
Jerome Weah Jr.
11 – Caroline Tompkins
15 – Rachel Boll
16 – Rev. Edwin A. Potter
Charles Chappell III
17 – Sophie Finlayson-Schueler
Leah (Threatte) Bojnowski
Stephanie Hitztaler
19 – Rev. Dr. Kris Best
20 – Leigh Safford
22 – Ted Finlayson-Schueler
Martha Sutter
Deborah Bradshaw
25 – Steve Bacon
28 – Aaron Sarkodie-Mensah
29 – Elisa Skeeter

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:
By Lynn Baker and Kellie Wood in loving honor of Patricia Wright.

By Rosemary DeHoog in loving memory of her parents, Frederic and Edythe Luther.

By the Flynn family in celebration of the life of Dick Hunt (a life well lived) and to share our joy as we celebrate Katie’s fourth birthday with her new heart.

By Sharon Smith in honor of her friend Linda Godfrey-Leonardi.

Altar flowers were given to Brad and Judith Bowers, Aimee deBerjeois, Betsy Wiggins, Joe Marusa, Bruce Moyer, Vito Sciscioli and Angela Palmieri.

Flowers were delivered by Barbara Cargo, Marg McDivitt and Ann Owens.
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, April 1 (continued from last month)
  • To help all those in financial needs, God provides. Heal our bodies and hearts.
  • Elise: Prophet Jesus: I give praise for your resurrection.
  • Weah Family: Good morning. Give praise to all and know in your heart you are a child of his will and blessings.
  • Sharon: Pray for Linda and her family, Susie and her family.

Sunday, April 8
• Please pray for my friends Linda and Susie.
• Morgan, Dan and Stella: Prayers for Erin Mauro, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Healing prayers for Guy Calozzi.
• Elise: Prophet Jesus: I praise you for the hard times because you are teaching me patience!
• Rhonda: Pray for people struggling with addiction and give them strength for sobriety and healing one’s inner self.
• For Lucille Terenzio’s healing after surgery and a peaceful and restful 10 days in the hospital.
• Shirley and Harry Miller: Please pray for my granddaughter Lauren and her husband, Joe. Joe’s father, Joseph Jaszrzo, was killed in a tragic accident at his work. Please pray for Joe’s family also.
• Peter: A need — for support for human rights here in Syracuse — and for the men and women and families who are affected by systems of oppression.

Sunday, April 15
• For Richard, a friend of Joyce and Katie, who was just diagnosed with cancer.
• Rhonda: For the sick and our military families and friends.
• Bev, who is cancer free.
• Peter: For Alicia Swords and Tim Shenk, and a new baby being born in the next week or so!
• Joe Marusa, who has surgery this week.
• Angela Palmieri: Bob Weaver, who has health issues.
• Margo and Don Koten: For the family of Beverly Blanchard. Bev died this past week.
• Jackie Sadowski: Ferne Twomey fighting second round of cancer.
• Laura: for those suffering from disease.
• For Theodore Simon, Alicia Baxter, Kara Reese, and the families of the Fitch Street fire.

Sunday, April 22
• Prayers of thanks for sunshine and warmth. Prayers of concern and support for two friends facing cancer treatments.
• Sympathy for Barbara Nunn on the anniversary of her son’s passing.
• Peter: For peace, justice and an end to the pollution from weapon production that has damaged our land and water.
• For Vito’s knee surgery this week and for his sisters, Diane and Alice’s, ongoing health challenges. Also, for family and friends of Carol Brooks, who died in Pennsylvania April 17. Carol was a member of and outreach nurse in our church.
• For peace in the Congo and an end to the killing.
• Sue: Brice, who is in the hospital. My family. Those suffering with health issues.
• For all those at Syracuse University as they face and learn from the reality of racism and other prejudices that are clearly present on campus and being brought to the national spotlight.
• My Grandpa for going on the honor flight, Bob Weaver.
• Rhonda: For peace and for the SU Campus and hope they can overcome and start showing more love and peace.
• For respect and compassion for all people, no matter what or where.
• Jackie Sadowski: Ferne Twomey.
• Joe Marusa, recovering from surgery, and his caregiver, Beth Drew.
• Robert Simmons: May God reach the hearts of all to nurture our earth and must keep one’s house in order.
• For my family, strength and peace.

See PEOPLE, Page 6.
People and Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 5

- **Sunfel Kumar Chitturi**: God may grant me wisdom, knowledge and understanding and establish me at Maxwell School, Syracuse University.

**Sunday, April 29**

- **Vito Sciscioli and Joe Marusa**, recovering from knee surgery.
- **Alphonsina**: God bless my country to have peace and freedom.
- Healing for **Shirley Kern**
- **Sue Bates**: Prayers needed as I go through a medical procedure on Friday.
- **Dan, Morgan & Stella**: Prayers for **Erin Mauro** for her upcoming surgery on May 9.
- **Bob & Barb Weaver**: Maria Storto and Family
- **Barb Cargo**: Healing prayers for **Phyllis Wright**, who is in intensive care at Crouse.
- For **Phyllis Wright** as she recovers from heart surgery.
- **Robert**: Peace, acceptance of differences and change.

**JOYS, THANKS & PRAISE**

**Sunday, March 18**

- **Jayne Humbert**: Joy for Emily Hensler in choir, who matched for residency at Brown University in Providence.

**Sunday, March 25**

- **Philip Souferlis** is 58 today!
- Thanks for the great march and dinner yesterday, showing that we can all say no to terrorism and racism and yes to common sense.

**Sunday, April 8**

- Congratulations to Brad and Judith Bowers’ 60-year anniversary.
- Thanks for the beautiful memories of my grandmother.

**Sunday, April 15**

- **Mardean Moyer**: Thank you for all your prayers, I look forward to seeing you all soon. Stay tuned.....

**Sunday, April 29**

- Congrats and prayers for Sophie Finlayson-Schueler and her wife on their marriage.
- Today is Janet Sciscioli’s birthday!
- A prayer of gratitude for the birth of Emma Swords Shenk! Prayers of wisdom and courage. Thanks also for the stabilization of my father’s health.
- **Peter**: Joy and thanks: Alicia and Tim brought home newborn Emma Eliana Swords Shenk this week — thriving at 5 days of age!

Three from UUMC part of Albany rally pressing governor to act on climate issues

April 23, the day after Earth Day, more than 1,500 activists and concerned citizens, including UUMC’s Peter and Diane Swords and Stephanie Hitztaler, rallied in Albany for climate justice.

We began our march in front of a plant in the neighborhood of Sheridan Hollow, a historically black and low- to middle-income community in Albany that has borne the direct effects of racial and environmental injustice in the form of a (now closed) trash incinerator housed at this very plant.

Today, this plant is slated to once again endanger the well-being of this community through its conversion to a power plant that runs on fracked gas.

At the state capitol we “stormed the halls of power” by engaging in a peaceful, yet powerful demonstration inside.

Our message to Gov. Andrew Cuomo: ban all new fracking infrastructure in the state, lead our state to 100 percent renewable energy and impose penalties on corporate polluters.

Please contact Peter Swords (pswords71144@gmail.com) or Stephanie Hitztaler (shitztal@umich.edu) if you want to be part of this movement for justice — for our state and our planet and all who call it home.

— Stephanie Hitztaler
Maddie Buckley is set to graduate from Syracuse University this month. You’ve likely seen her as she’s been involved at UUMC for four years.

Here’s more about her:

Q: Where are you from? Where did you attend high school?

Maddie: I’m originally from a rural area, Calvert County, in Southern Maryland, about 40 minutes outside of D.C. I’ve lived in two small towns, Owings and Chesapeake Beach. I attended Northern High School in Owings, which was memorable for its lack of windows — it has only four.

Q: Who’s in your family?

Maddie: I’m incredibly lucky to have grown up in a home with two very loving and supportive parents. I spent the first part of my life as an only child, but gained an older brother when I was 6 and he was 12 — my family adopted him after meeting him at our home church, and he’s hands-down one of my best friends in the world.

Q: What’s your major at SU? What activities have you been involved in there?

Maddie: I actually have two majors, magazine journalism and policy studies. I came in with only the magazine major. I added the policy studies major at the end of my second year.

Outside of the classroom, I have gotten involved in a variety of campus publications, even running one of the campus magazines for two years. I also hold two work-study jobs and have consistently been very active at Hendricks Chapel. Lastly, I was lucky enough to be one of the 2017-18 Remembrance Scholars, which has been one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve ever had.

Q: What do you have lined up for after graduation?

Maddie: Right after graduation, I’m looking forward to a trip to Europe with my parents that has been in the works for nearly a decade. I hope to move to NYC and start working in the communications field soon after returning stateside.

Q: What programs, activities have you been involved in at UUMC?

Maddie: My involvement at UUMC began at the Community Breakfast, where I have been making pancakes since my first semester on campus. I have also attended the Connections events for young adults since my freshman year. I started getting more involved in my junior and senior years, becoming an assistant Sunday School teacher and occasionally volunteering as liturgist.

Q: How did you find UUMC?

Maddie: My journey to UUMC was a unique one. I felt somewhat connected to the church from the start because of Community Breakfasts, which I learned about from the United Methodist chaplain up on campus.

My first two years at SU, I attended worship services at Hendricks Chapel each Sunday, led by our chaplain. Then, at the end of my sophomore year, the Upper New York Conference cut funding for our chaplaincy, and we lost both our chaplain and our weekly service. I cannot express how thankful I am to this day for the immense support and kindness that poured in from UUMC at the time.

Although I didn’t know many people in the congregation, your outrage at the budget cuts came through just as sharply as ours, and I believe that played a major role in us getting a part-time chaplain the following year.

This congregation also welcomed me and some of the other students from that group into your church family when we needed a new worship option for Sunday mornings. In many ways, UUMC reminds me of the United Methodist church I grew up in (just perhaps a bit more inclusive, which I love). For that reason, moving from small, student-only services back into a larger worship space and community felt like coming home. I’ve so

See UUMC, Page 2
WEEK OF MAY 6
Sunday the 6th
9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
10:30 a.m. Worship. Communion.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room; K-6th, Pettengill Center
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Noon-4 p.m. Sacred Sites Tour, Sanctuary
Tuesday the 8th
5:30 p.m. Governing Board
Wednesday the 9th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
6 p.m. Worship Team
Thursday the 10th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday the 11th
10 a.m. Friday Community
WEEK OF MAY 13
Sunday the 13th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room; K-6th, Pettengill Center
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Tuesday the 15th
5:30 p.m. Outreach Committee
5:30 p.m. Church & Society
Wednesday the 16th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 17th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday the 18th
10 a.m. Friday Community
WEEK OF MAY 20
Sunday the 20th—Pentecost
9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
10:30 a.m. Worship.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room; K-6th, Pettengill Center
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Wednesday the 23rd
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 24th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday the 27th
10 a.m. Friday Community
WEEK OF MAY 27
Sunday the 27th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Monday the 28th—Memorial Day
Church office closed
Wednesday the 30th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 1st
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday the 3rd
10 a.m. Friday Community
WEEK OF JUNE 3
Sunday the 3rd
9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
10:30 a.m. Worship. Communion.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room; K-6th, Pettengill Center
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Wednesday the 6th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 7th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Friday the 8th
10 a.m. Friday Community

Women's Guild
The next Women's Guild meeting is 1:30 p.m. May 23 at the home of Marg McDivitt, 106 Sheraton Road, Syracuse. This is our annual “Good Books” program, a favorite. Guests are always welcome. Please let the hostess know you will be there at 315-488-2201.
Teach-in on the Complexities of Poverty in CNY
April 13, 2018 (2 photos)
Neighborhood Earth Day Cleanup
April 21, 2018 (2 photos)
Snapshots from the Day
April 22, 2018
(9 photos)
Snapshots from the Day
April 29, 2018
(5 photos)
New members Dan, Morgan, Paul and Sue.