Our stewardship themes for 2019: Sharing Abundance and Personal Gifts

The themes of our stewardship commitment for 2019 are: Sharing our Abundance; Sharing our Personal Gifts.

Some can share more of one — others more of the other. Some have an abundance of both financial resources and personal gifts.

For us to move with strength through the next few months, stretch is what will keep us healthy.

Stretch as in yoga for healthy bodies — stretch as in study and new beginnings and new encounters to keep our spirits healthy.

Our stretch goals are 10-10-10:
- A 10% increase in the number of new pledgers (10 this year, 11 next).
- A 10% increasing in the number of pledgers (69 this year, 76 next).
- A 10% increase in total pledge and ministry income ($209,000 this year, $230,000 next).

Equally important are the ways in which we share our personal gifts in fulfilling our ministries to the community, caring for each other as family, witnessing to our beliefs in justice and inclusiveness, sharing our personal stories and journeys — being Christ’s hands and spirit in this place at this time.

We are a community of faith. We are a movement. We invite you to join us wherever you are in your journey.

Please bring your completed Pledge Card to worship this Sunday, Sept. 30.

Worship series springs from view of God’s Creation as good

After we celebrate World Communion Sunday on Oct. 7, we head into a new worship series.

It’s titled “Sacred Earth, Sacred Worth” and explores Creation Spirituality.

It’s based on the Creation story in which God created all things and called them good.

The themes are: “Creation as a Blessing,” “Spirit of Compassion,” “The Paths of Life,” “Sacred Creative Vocation,” “Glorious Diversity” and Healing Relationships.”

Emailed version of The Chimes saves paper and resources

In the interests of going green and saving resources, we are looking to greatly reduce the number of paper Chimes we mail in favor of the electronic version, which is in color and often has many more photos.

If you wish to get the e-version, please email Tom Boll at uumctb@twcny.rr.com.

If you want to keep getting the mailed paper copy, we must hear from you by Dec. 31. You can email Tom at uumctb@twcny.rr.com or call the church office at 315-475-7277.
From our pastor...

Remember the Widow’s Offering as you consider your 2019 pledge

Greetings! Autumn seems to have come in with the harvest moon this week. We may be dreaming about making homemade soups, stews and chili.

Have you ever heard of Stone Soup? It is my Dad’s favorite soup. Stone Soup comes from the story of a town in which no one would share a meal with hungry visitors.

The visitors of the town decided to create Stone Soup in the town square using a few stones.

They invited the entire town to enjoy the Stone Soup but asked that each family bring a small portion of their food with them such as potatoes, carrots or green beans.

When the townspeople came to the town square they found a large pot with a few stones and a lot of different vegetables boiling away.

The visitors started to dish out the Stone Soup made with all the vegetables the townspeople had brought along with some bread donated by the local baker.

The entire town enjoyed a nice meal together. In sharing a small portion together, a large meal was made.

Our fiscal year will come to a close in a few months. We have known since the beginning of 2018 that 2019 would be challenging.

We have been praying about the perfect tenant signing a long-term lease for our second and third floors, but this has just not happened.

The Trustees are working with our real estate agents from Sutton to find an interested organization that will align with our mission of Feeding God’s People: Body, Mind and Spirit. Let’s keep praying.

I come to you, the congregation of this beautiful church, to say thank you. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your generosity. This beautiful and large church building is home to our worship and outreach because of you.

As we look to our prayerful pledge for ministry in 2019 I’d like to share with you my favorite scripture about giving from Mark 12: 41-44. This is the scripture about the widow’s offering.

In this scripture, the widow gave two small copper coins, which amounted to about a penny. The widow gave so little monetarily but so very much, given her financial circumstances. She gave all that she could.

I love this story because it reminds us that everything given is a great gift to the body of Christ.

This year as you are praying about your gifts/pledges, please read the Widow’s Offering in Mark and ask how will we give with the faithfulness of the widow’s heart?

As you pray and make decisions about your giving, please consider pledging your time and talents from the back of the card too.

Remember, just as the Stone Soup fed the whole town, a portion from many goes a long way.

Again, the church is grateful for your generous and faithful heart when it comes to the worship and ministry of University UMC.

Peace,
— Pastor Alicia

UUMC’s Paper Plate Project goes to Washington with Food Bank advocate to make an impact

On Sept. 11, approximately 125 paper plates were returned to the Food Bank of CNY.

These paper plates are special and important as they hold personal thoughts, opinions and ideas on poverty, food access and food pantry life along with the writers’ names.

The “Paper Plate” project is an advocacy tool put in place by the Food Bank.

Every pantry in 13 counties (Central and Upstate NY) is asked to participate in this project as it provides valuable information to the Food Bank political/legal advocates in their endless fight for more money, fairer access to food and food justice for all of us.

Early the next day, Becky Lare (Food Bank advocate) thanked me profusely for the abundance of plates.

She was leaving to meet with Rep. John Katko in Washington, D.C., that afternoon and was thrilled to bring the plates and review them with Katko.

We will continue to make this our annual summer project on Friday and Sunday mornings. If you participated this year, thank you! If you didn’t, we will have this available next summer. It will re-
As housing ownership changes, our neighbors will too

The city of Syracuse map identifies University United Methodist Church as being situated within the “Near Eastside” Neighborhood of Syracuse.

That neighborhood — our neighborhood — is bordered on the south side of our front door by Interstate 690, to the east by Interstate 81, by Madison Street to the north and Columbus Avenue on the west.

UUMC’s Food Pantry district overlays the neighborhood of our residence and includes parts of the Westcott, University Hill, Outer Comstock, University and Salt Springs neighborhoods.

Although the Near Eastside neighborhood is smaller than other neighborhoods in the South East quadrant of the city, our Food Pantry district is the largest.

From East Genesee Street to Erie Boulevard East there is a mixture of housing, religious houses and small businesses.

Housing is mainly multi-family and small apartment houses, although three large-scale apartment dwellings have begun admitting mostly student occupants.

Housing Visions Unlimited, Inc., which has its headquarters in the neighborhood, has partnered with the Veterans Administration Medical Center to renovate and build new housing on East Fayette Street, East Genesee and Pine Street for the homeless, particularly veterans, and low-income large families.

This not-for-profit, born at UUMC, has been successful using low-income tax credits to renovate properties and construct new buildings.

The census tracts encompassing this area, 35 and 36.01, are among the poorest within the city of Syracuse.

The 2010 census indicates that the demographics of the Near Eastside neighborhood are a result of deliberate government housing policies (fostered by agencies similar to Housing Visions) that in the past 15 years have meant positive development.

Our neighborhood is rich in abolitionist history and activity. Loguen Park was so named in honor of an African-American family that assisted escaped and newly freed slaves to settle in the local community.

A daughter, Dr. Sarah Loguen Frasier, in 1876, became one of the first African-American women medical doctors in the United States and the first to receive a medical degree from what is now SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Up the street from Loguen Park is The Gustav Stickley House where renovations are underway. Stickley, AKA the pilot of “American Craftsman” style, holds international appeal. Promises of tourism and new visitors to step inside history and witness the famed furniture maker’s home will be completed in 2020.

Although our neighborhood is full of tourism, green spaces, shops, eateries and mass transit, our native families are leaving the Near Eastside neighborhood.

UUMC’s immediate neighbors on Ashworth Place is occupied by 25 private homes. Many are of the traditional split-level design holding two or three families within each dwelling.

One family who are friends with UUMC owned and occupied two dwellings on Ashworth Place. The family has owned these homes for three generations.

Of the original family three adult siblings were the most current occupants.

They were unable to maintain the expenses and upkeep of both homes. Taxes accrued, repairs went unfixed, harassing solicitations persisted by real estate developers.

Eventually, the family took the offer of having back taxes paid in full along with one year of free occupancy at a new residence and gave up their family homes.

Although we are unaware of the plans of the buyer/developer, we know that he now owns many dwellings on Ashworth Place.

The family who left is safe, in a better financial and sound living situation, but is gone, leaving the family home they were each raised within.

We witness that these homes are being quickly, but modestly repaired and will probably become student occupied until the developer has enough conquests to knock down and then erect a large building on the entire street. What will the need be then? Whom will the property be filled by?

As 75 percent of the city’s housing stock reaches its 100th birthday, we cannot ignore the
People and Prayers

DEATH
- Longtime devoted member Mary Klepper died Sept. 25. In the past few years Mary provided for the potted plants outside our church. She wished to beautify the entrances, welcoming us and all to our house of worship. Her memorial service will be 3 p.m. Nov. 3 at UUMC.
- Former longtime member Vera Gaskin died Sept 14 after a very long period of illness. Her memorial service was scheduled for Sept. 21 at Central Baptist Church, Woodbridge, Va.

CONTINUING PRAYERS
- Sue: Bruce and Ella, my family and all those struggling with health issues
- Sherri Cullen: Betty Baldwin, Kathy Dewey, Patti Fasulo, Jeanne and Shane, Nora and her father.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:
- For those in military service: Matt Fischer
- Thursday, September 6
  - Susan: My mom, due to a recent injury from a fall.
- Sunday, September 9
  - Continued prayers for Erin Mauro as she continues treatment for breast cancer.
  - Today a prayer for our Jewish sisters and brothers, who are starting a new year by letting go of old destructive patterns, and working for healing of our earth and human rights for all.
  - Merilyn Krackhardt
  - Please pray for positive outcomes for our friend Ron Jancza, who begins a trial treatment for ALS this week.
- Thanks to God for the ministry of Clarence Jordan, who died this week. He raised millions of dollars to alleviate poverty in Syracuse.
- For sanity in Washington, D.C.
- Dean Moyer, as he has moved to comfort care at the Cunningham, Nate Appleton, Barb Nunn
- My dear sister Mary's family. Her husband, Terry, died on Tuesday.
- Welcome back Choir! Thanks to all who shared their musical talents with us during the summer.
- Robert: Ann Owens, for her loss
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I praise and give thanks for an answered prayer: I found a new home!
- Erika: Maria Storto and Family, Barb and Bob Weaver.
- In God we trust for the peace in my country.
- Pray for my Grandpa, who is in the hospital sick. God bless all church.
- Myers Family: Please pray for my family and my health inside and out. Thank you.
- Sunday, September 16.
  - Kathy Dewey, Patti Fasulo, Jeanne & Shane, Betty Baldwin
  - For those dealing with illness and disease
  - For all the flood victims
  - Alec: Please pray for my mom, who is recovering from a splenectomy this past Friday.
  - Morgan: Gerry Mastronardi, for more health concerns found last week. Erin Mauro, through her breast cancer treatments.
- That I make a good decision on my housing.
- Maria Storto and Family, Barb and Bob Weaver
- Danielle Adams, who is recovering from surgery.
- Thanks for people who speak up for justice, who notice the links between power-by-force and the oppression of poverty.
- Prophet Jesus: Guide me to face a challenging problem
- My family, Ella and Bruce, those struggling with health issues.
- For the family of Vera Gaskin
- Those affected by hurricane, typhoons and wildfires. Also urgent prayers for leadership in finding ways to cut carbon emissions.
- Pray for my aunt and uncle who just moved here from California.
- Sunday, September 23
  - Doug: Prayers for the Otis family, who lost Philip Otis on Sept 21.
  - Ferne Twomey, Dan and Christopher.
  - Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Patti Fasulo, Jeanne and Shane, Betty Baldwin, Prayers for the latest shooting victims and their families.
  - Sherri Cullen: Dan Ryan, dealing with some medical issues
  - Sue: My family, Ella and Bruce, those struggling with health issues.
  - Finding the right college for next semester.
- For all the people in the USA

See PEOPLE, Page 5
Our community is changing
CONTINUED from Page 3
physical and financial needs of these homes.

The choices our friends made are the choices of many Syracusans who live with financial instability.

As our city changes and develops to welcome the largest industries, the neighborhoods bow to accommodate the communities that live and work for those industries.

As Syracuse University, SUNY Upstate and the VA execute their own expansion plans, the faces of our neighborhood are certain to change and expand.

As UUMC’s Outreach team works to find new and different ways to connect with our changing community, we hope you join us. Great strength comes with great change.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Project to return next year
CONTINUED from Page 2
main open to anyone who wants to create their own special and important plate.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

Altar flowers
Altar flowers were given:
By Barbara Nunn, in memory of her mother, Bernie Hinds.
By David and Ellen Bacon in honor of the birthday of their daughter Nancy Bacon.
By former member Connie Wilson in memory of nephew Marcus Robertson.

Flowers were given to Evelyn-Weah, Dean Moyer, Betsy Wiggins, Phyllis Wright, Janet Sciscioli and Nate Appleton.

Flowers were delivered by Ed and Lee Potter and Barb Cargo.

UUMC to host training to deal with opioid overdoses

We’ve all heard about the Opioid Crisis and it often seems as if it’s happening to other people in other places.

But it’s happening right here in Syracuse, right here in our church and to people we know and care about.

Addiction does not discriminate. It can begin with pain management after a much-needed surgery and turn into something much larger.

Earlier this month at the Opioid Teach-In, we learned how important it is to be aware of the crisis and what we, as a Welcoming Congregation, can do to help people dealing with addiction.

One tool available to us is learning how to help someone suffering from an overdose.

In an effort to be as prepared as possible to assist those in need, UUMC has decided to purchase overdose reversal kits (Narcan) that will be available on each floor in the building.

The Outreach Committee, in turn, has asked Kevin Donovan from ACR Health to provide training to identify the symptoms of an overdose and how to use Narcan to reverse it until paramedics arrive.

Anyone interested in being part of the solution to this growing problem is invited to attend the free training 7 p.m. Oct. 29 in Fellowship Hall.

Please call Katie Flynn at 315-289-4540 if you have any questions and/or would like to attend the training.

November birthdays
5 — Lynn Steenberg, Ed Tillapaugh
6 — Monica Shworles
7 — Phyllis Wright
10 — Michael Grome
15 — Jim Virgo
16 — Jenny Hicks, Brian Finlayson-Schueler
19 — Robin Best, Connie Wilson
24 — Krystina Nilsson
25 — Roger MacDonald
30 — Kate Lytle

Peoples and Prayers
CONTINUED from Page 4
learning to live together.

• For Ronnie Daughton (& Sally) regarding Ronnie’s health issue.

• Maria Storto and family, Barb and Bob Weaver

• Alayah Green, Carus Olcott Jr., Mary and Carus Olcott Sr., Frank Clish

• Prophet Jesus: I plead to you for ending confusion about housing arrangements.

• Prayers for what to do with our rentable space at UUMC.

• Dick and Mary as they get settled here; Susie, suffering from cancer.

JOYS, THANKS & PRAISE
Sunday, September 16

• Joy that Barbara and Jesse Miller are here with us.

• Thankful that Ron Janca successfully began Lou Gehrig’s trial in Knoxville this week.

Sunday, September 23

• Dear God, Thank you for listening no matter what language I speak, helping to love in spite of our fears.

• Alphonsina: Thank God for everything he did for my sister Kiza.
**Finance Corner**

**Pledging Update**
2018 total pledges:  $209,472  
Paid to date:  $153,380  
Non-pledge contr.:  $12,827

**Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund**
Donations received  $94,579  
Expenses paid  $87,891  
Current balance  $6,688

**Spiritual Interpretive Dance**
The next meeting will be Sept. 30 at 11:30 a.m. in the back of the Sanctuary.

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**WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30**
**Sunday the 30th**
9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, Pettengill
9:30 a.m. “Born a Crime” Book Study, Chappell Room
10:30 a.m. Worship.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Monday the 1st
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
7 p.m. Church & Society
Wednesday the 3rd
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 4th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Pettengill
Friday the 5th
10 a.m. Friday Community

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**WEEK OF OCTOBER 7**
World Communion Sunday the 7th
9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, Pettengill
9:30 a.m. “Born a Crime” Book Study, Chappell Room
10:30 a.m. Worship. World Communion.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Tuesday the 9th
5:30 p.m. Governing Board
Wednesday the 10th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 11th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Pettengill
Friday the 12th
10 a.m. Friday Community

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**WEEK OF OCTOBER 14**
**Sunday the 14th**
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, Pettengill Center
9:30 a.m. “Born a Crime” Book Study, Chappell Room
10:30 a.m. Worship.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Monday the 15th
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 17th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
5 p.m. Outreach Committee
Thursday the 18th
6 p.m. Worship, Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Pettengill
Friday the 19th
10 a.m. Friday Community

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**WEEK OF OCTOBER 21**
**Sunday the 21st**
9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, Pettengill Center
9:30 a.m. “Born a Crime” Book Study, Chappell Room
10:30 a.m. Worship.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
7 p.m. Church & Society Team
Monday the 22nd
7 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday the 24th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 25th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Pettengill
Friday the 26th
10 a.m. Friday Community

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**WEEK OF OCTOBER 28**
**Sunday the 28th**
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, Pettengill Center
10:30 a.m. Worship.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Monday the 29th
7 p.m. Narcan Training, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday the 31st
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 1st
6 p.m. Worship, Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Pettengill
Friday the 2nd
10 a.m. Friday Community

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**WEEK OF NOVEMBER 4**
**Sunday the 4th—All Saints Day**
9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, Pettengill Center
9:30 a.m. “Born a Crime” Book Study, Chappell Room
10:30 a.m. Worship. Communion.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room
Wednesday the 7th
9 a.m. Staff Meeting
Thursday the 8th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, Pettengill
Friday the 9th
10 a.m. Friday Community

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Sunday, September 23
Community Breakfast,
Sunday School, Service, Potluck
(14 photos)