May 2, 2019

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Next Chimes deadline: May 31

UUMC, Bellevue Heights choirs to sing in Food Bank of CNY benefit concert

Our senior choir and the choir of Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church will be performing in concert at 7:30 p.m. May 16 at UUMC to benefit the Food Bank of Central New York.

Each choir will perform pieces on their own, and then they will combine on two works.


Bellevue Heights’ choir’s lineup is as follows: “Shout Hallelujah to the Risen Lamb,” by Victor C. Johnson; “Come Build a Church” by Ken Medema; “Choose Something Like a Star,” by Randall Thompson; and “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.”

The two pieces they’ll sing together are “Distance Land” by John Rutter and “Inscription of Hope” by Z. Randall Stroope.

A free-will offering will be taken to aid the Food Bank.

The worship series that starts Sunday is: “Oh, the Places You’ll Go” by Dr. Seuss.

Various groups will be recognized on upcoming Sundays.

They are: May 5, college graduates; June 2, UUMC musicians; June 9, Sunday School teachers; June 16, high school graduates; and July 14, reconciling decision anniversary, J.J. Warren preaching.

One special addition: For our services on Mother’s Day, May 12, and Father’s Day, June 16, please send us photos of your mom and dad — or people who were like a mom or a dad to you.

They will be scrolled on the screen at the end of the services on those Sundays. Send pictures of your mom to UUMCmompics@gmail.com and pictures of your dad to UUMCdadpics@gmail.com.

Judicial Council upholds parts of Traditional Plan

The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church recently ruled parts of the Traditional Plan passed at General Conference unconstitutional but kept other sections and also kept an exit procedure for congregations that want to leave the denomination.

Here’s part of a summary provided by UNYFI, Upper New York Conference United Methodists for a fully inclusive United Methodist Church:

“The ban on same-sex wedding ceremonies and openly gay clergy remains in place, but so does the church’s stance on all people being deemed of sacred worth.

- New minimum penalties of a one-year suspension for first offense and a loss of orders for second offense for clergy who celebrate same-sex unions.
- Expanded definition of “self-
We’re the right people with the right gifts for this crossroads time

Greetings!

This year Easter was also my daughter’s birthday. It’s the first time in 22 years her birthday fell on Easter.

While in elementary and high school she always had her birthday off because it would fall during Spring Break, until her senior year. Her last year of high school she had to attend school on her birthday because of the way Spring Break fell. This year it was fun to celebrate both Easter and her birthday in one day.

Sometimes things change. We still celebrated Easter. And we still celebrated her birthday, but this celebration was different.

At times we hold on to some traditions while moving toward a new way to celebrate them. The United Methodist Church is currently trying to figure out what traditions to hold on to while still celebrating God and God’s children.

As we live into the life of University UMC and the global UMC, let us remember it is not a mistake that we are the people able and ready for this task.

We may be sad or frustrated or curious about the future of the United Methodist Church.

One thing is for sure: We are the right people, at the right time, with the right gifts for this crossroads because “Perhaps this is the moment for which you have been created.” (Esther 4:14)

We are in the season of Eastertide. This is the time in between Easter and Pentecost. Easter reminds us of the core of our beliefs of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

It is not always fun when things change. What if, this season we remain mindful of the purpose of the church.

Pentecost focuses on the significance of the church as a sign of God’s continuing presence and activity in the world with the ever-present Holy Spirit. Pentecost is thought of as the birth of the church.

Let us celebrate Pentecost in a new way this year.

I look forward to each of us playing our part through the rebirth of the church!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Alicia

Thanks for help with Easter celebration

Again this year it is time to thank volunteers who participated in preparing the church for our Easter celebration.

Nancy Hough collected contributions for the flowers.

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

Others who were involved in preparing the sanctuary and/or making deliveries were: Ralph Best, Tom and Carol Boll, Judith and Brad Bowers, Barbara and Jerry Cargo, Starke Donnally, Melissa Faley, Barb Gilbraith, Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill, Kirsten and Dan Magowan, Barbara Nunn, Ann Owens, Lee and Ed Potter and Jackie Sadowski.

Those receiving flowers were: Nate Appleton, Marilyn Benedict, Ralph Best, Mike Cammione, Rosemary Chappell, Hilde Cooper, Ted Guercio, Nancy Hough, Don Koten, Merilyn Krackhardt, Dot Logan, Lois Lum, Jo-Ann May, Marg McDivitt, Lois McTarnaghan, Ann Milner, Carol Moyer, Eddie Nunn, Tom Owens, Leigh Safford, Erika Vitthuhn, Barb and Bob Weaver, Ben Wiles Jr., Phyllis Wright, and Ed Yarwood.

Members of the church staff also received flowers in appreciation of service to the church. — Bobbie Hemphill

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 Fisher,
Leah (Threate) 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

Women’s Guild: The next meeting is 1:30 p.m. May 22 at Marg McDivitt’s house, 106 Sheraton Road, Syracuse. Topic: “Books We Enjoy.”
As you know, I listen to podcasts. On of my favorites is “How Stuff Works.” Weekly the hosts present an explanation on a variety of how things work from tsunamis, to bail bonds to addiction.

One of the older recordings was recently re-released: “How Homelessness Works.” I was thrilled with this podcast as it breaks down the journey(s) that often happen to many homeless folk.

Through the podcast the listener is immediately introduced to startling statistics. At the last census, 2010, a variety of collection methods resulted in finding that 3 million to 3.5 million or 1% of Americans exist in homelessness.

This assessment employs the international definition of homelessness: one doesn’t have a home or a physical address. One lives outside without a permanent residence, in a hotel, in a car or in a homeless shelter.

But let’s back up. How do people become homeless? We could overgeneralize and blame the person exhibiting the most obvious, the loudest — the addict or the person struggling with mental illness.

However, the math of 2010 provides us with different information. The problem is the disparity between the national poverty line and minimum working wage.

Recognizing that $17,000 was the poverty line for family of three and minimum wage for Americans was $7.25 per hour. If a person works 40 hours every week for 52 weeks a year, the gross earning are $15,080 per year. Here you have a full-time working individual falling below the poverty line.

In 2010 with minimum wage, 87 working hours will get you to the poverty line. Statistics show that 15% of homeless adults have jobs, and most arrive to homelessness never suspecting they would lose their home as they have worked all of their life.

Folk who live marginally paycheck to paycheck on minimum wage do not have the resources to support any additional expense. If there is a surprise expense, a car breaks, someone gets sick or an adult is unable to go to work, homelessness becomes the reality.

The next problem is affordable housing. Typically, 30% of one’s annual wage is dedicated to housing. Often low-income housing options consume a lower percentage of an annual wage.

However, since 2003 the national trend has been to demolish low-income housing complexes due to gentrification of “downtown” neighborhoods (remember our neighbor on East Fayette Street, Kennedy Square apartments?). These housing opportunities are rarely replaced.

Folks who live in these complexes with reduced rents often have nowhere to move as these buildings close. There are not enough affordable housing opportunities.

Urban legend mentions that Ronald Reagan closed down several mental health and psychiatric hospitals in California while governor. As president his continual effort was defunding federal mental health facilities, eventually hospitals closed. With these closings the residents become homeless folk who struggle with their untreated mental illness on the street. Due to changes in thought on institutionalization, these facilities and/or their capacity of care have rarely opened again. This leaves 20% to 25% mentally ill homeless adults.

Within the remaining American homeless population, two-thirds are drug abusers. Veterans make up a huge amount of our homelessness. Veterans who live with mental illness or PTSD often self-medicate. There is lots of overlap with mental illness, addiction and homelessness.

Additional statistics show that half of all homeless women are escaping domestic violence. Women seeking (women’s) shelters have to leave any male children over age 12 at the door, therefore contributing to our children statistic. Half of all homeless children also suffer domestic violence. 20% of these kids are sexually abused. Homeless families make up the largest amount of homeless Americans.

The history of homelessness runs deep and has existed in America since the colonists arrived. But our history shows that we as a nation did not have dedicated money or services to care for/provide services for the homeless.

Now when we do, we don’t provide or support but strip away monies for anti-homeless programming. By re-aligning wealth, small programs can build, maybe we can change our history.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator
Nneka Eke talked about her four-month research trip to Nigeria when the Connections group of students and young professionals gathered on Sunday, March 24, for lunch.

Last fall she spent four months with extended family in the Niger Delta, the oil-producing region of Nigeria, and studied the ways in which women’s labor is integrated into and impacted by the oil industry.

This area is one of the most polluted places in the world, she explained.

Nneka traveled there for research for her dissertation to earn a Ph.D. in political science at Syracuse University. She also collaborated with a Nigerian non-governmental organization (NGO) working on environmental issues.

She participated in conferences on oil pollution in the Niger Delta and the status of a cleanup of the region that was advocated for by the United Nations.

Some of the most rewarding work she did with the organization was lead women’s leadership trainings in three different communities.

Nneka said she knew that researchers should not just “take” but also give back, so she organized a skills acquisition training for some of the women who participated in a focus group for her research.

Women who attended learned to make their own soap, bleach and perfume and were provided with some supplies so that they could either sell or make them for their own use.

One of the most moving parts of her trip, she said, was going to the Badagry slave museum and walking the route the slaves took to the ocean and the Point of No Return, where slave ships left Nigeria off the coast of the Atlantic. — Barbara Fought

Food Bank grant will go to buying local produce, reusable bags for guests

The Food Bank of CNY always strives to meet several agendas that fall under the umbrella of providing fair, quick, equal access for all upstate and Central New Yorkers in accessing food.

Our most recent award of $1,200 from the Food Bank is titled Seed Grant Award. This is an award we have won in the past with a different name.

The primary mission of this grant is to link suburban/rural farmers with inner-city food pantries.

I love this grant as it brings beautiful, local produce into UUMC for our guests.

I connect with Brownson Family Farms (green grocer, Kirkville) and Owen Orchards (orchard products, Weedsport).

These farms come to the Westcott Community Center's farmers market on summer/fall Wednesday afternoons.

I pick up products that the farmers have selected for me and bring them into UUMC for Friday mornings.

In years past I have split whatever the Food Bank awards us in half. This year I will split the award in thirds. The remaining third will purchase recyclable/reusable bags for pantry guests.

We use a lot of plastic grocery bags in our Food Pantry for a variety of things. The state has banned single-use plastic grocery bags. See PANTRY, Page 7.
An Easter affirmation

The following is the affirmation we spoke in worship on Easter. It’s an adapted version of John Pavlovitz’s “The Kind of Christian I Refuse to Be”:

I am a Christian. Actually, it’s more accurate lately to say that I am still a Christian.
I say this now with some trepidation. I say it with great fatigue. I say it somewhat begrudgingly.
For far too many people, being a Christian no longer means being humble or forgiving or service or healing.
It no longer requires compassion or mercy or turning the other cheek or loving your enemies or your neighbor as yourself.
It no longer requires Jesus.
Yes, I am a Christian, but there is a Christian I refuse to be. Please stand in body or spirit and join me in affirmation:

Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Who lives in fear of people who look or speak or worship differently than I do.
Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Who can’t find the beauty and truth in religious traditions other than my own.
Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Who uses the Bible to perpetuate individual or systemic bigotry, racism, or sexism.
Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Who tolerates a global Church where all people are not openly welcomed, fully celebrated, and equally cared for.
Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Who is generous with damnation and stingy with Grace.
Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Who can’t see the image of God in people of every color, every religious tradition, every sexual orientation.
Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Who is devoid of the character of Jesus.
Leader: I refuse to be a Christian
People: Unless it means I live as a person of hospitality, of healing, of redemption, of justice, of expectation-defying Grace, of counterintuitive love. These are non-negotiables.
Leader: Yes, it is much more difficult to say it these days than it has ever been, but we still do say it.
All: We are still Christians — but we refuse to be Christians without Jesus.

Sacred Sites Tour

UUMC is a stop on the New York State Landmarks Sacred Sites Tour and will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 18 and noon to 3 p.m. May 19. Dennis Triggs will play music on the organ starting at 1 p.m. May 19.

Jayne Humbert seeks volunteers to give tours. To sign up, go here: https://signup.com/go/sdmzxCA. Jayne will offer a training session after worship May 12.

RESTART Needs

Furniture in good condition and small kitchen appliances are needed for the RESTART program, which helps people restarting their lives. Contact Jackie Sadowski at 315-463-8025 for information. A display poster on the program is in The Gathering Room for review.

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund

Please consider donating to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. This fund helps to pay for several kinds of things that pop up in the life of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity.
DEATH
- Dean Moyer, retired clergyman and UUMC member, died April 3 at the age of 87.

CONTINUING PRAYERS
- Barb and Bob Weaver: Alayah Green and family, Carus Olcott Jr., Mary and Carus Olcott Sr., Charlotte Edick and family; Alberta Hoseney and Family
- Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Heidi Wise, Billy and Family, Patti Fasulo, Patti Walker and family, Annette and her family and mom.
- Sue: Pat, my family, those with health issues.

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

Sunday, April 7
- Healing and opening of hearts and minds of extended families.
- Please pray for Susie Brewer's family. She died this last week.
- In God we trust to have peace in DRC.
- Blessings on the life of Dean, who passed, and peace for Bruce.
- That God's love will prevail to all, so that individuals will not feel that the way to express disagreement is through disparaging or shouting.
- Prophet Jesus: I praise you for giving Dean Moyer wings to fly to your kingdom!
- Barb and Bob: A prayer for safe travels for Barb as she goes to Virginia to visit her daughter and to South Carolina to visit her dad.
- Erika: Maria Storto, Anne Marie Laeduc, Barb and Bob Weaver.
- Alice Makul: My sister, Anne, who has pancreatic cancer. Chemo begins on Tuesday. God's love is awesome. Share your praise of love with someone else less fortunate. Shout if you sense an awesome God.
- In memory of Dean Moyer.
- Doug: Prayers for the Moyer family and for those with heavy hearts today.
- Keep in your prayers all who loved and will miss Rev. Dean Moyer. Pray for the Syracuse University family on loss of their beloved dean of Newhouse.
- For those grieving the death of Lorraine Branham, dean at the Newhouse school at SU.
- Esther Pardue and Sue Bates
- James Robinson: Friends and family jobs
- The Sarbocca Family needs prayers, in need for a miracle prayer work for those who are in the wrath of addiction. My lips to God's heart.
- Dale Fryer: Family of Dean Moyer

Sunday, April 14
- Prophet Jesus: I praise and give thanks for service of healing for my husband.
- Ralph Best: For Shirley Woodard, she has post-polio syndrome. She has lost use of her legs and now her right arm has been affected.
- Alice: My sister, Anne, as she continues with chemotherapy.
- Leigh Safford is continuing to recover at Fahey Rehab, pray for his recovery.
- My family, Pat, those struggling with health issues.
- James Robinson: I would like to pray for my son in the Navy and my daughter in Virginia to be safe. Also for me and my family.
- Today please pray for all the older members in our church, and that God keeps them and gives them a long life. Please pray for Bruce as he is without his father.
- I pray for wisdom, health and grace.
- The world is falling apart, reflect that please.
- Dear Lord: Forgive us if we leave silently when we could be joyfully praising your name, as we are unaware we have failed you and others.
- Cindi: That I received a kidney. That I continue to give all of my troubles to God.
- For my health

Sunday, April 21
- My children, mother, sisters and brother and always friends and world peace and health.
- Erika: Anne Marie, Maria Storto, Barb Weaver
- Alice: My sister Anne, who has pancreatic cancer.
- Kathy: prayers for all who are alone on Easter.
- For those grieving the terrorist incident today in Sri Lanka.
- Good Morning, Family: This week please pray for my final See PEOPLE, Page 7
People & Prayers

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• test to get my high school diploma!
• Good Morning, Lord: You have been with me when I gave up on myself. Your grace is a blessing and continues to show up for me through the praise I live for!
• Jeannie: For the people of Sri Lanka and Yemen.
• For the people of Sri Lanka and the peace that can come from interfaith cooperation.
• Paris and Notre Dame, the people of Sri Lanka. Katie Flynn and her big, sweet heart.
• Today, Easter, I pray for all widows, widowers and orphans to God to weep their tears in my country.
• Prayers for Leigh Safford, who is steadily recovering at Fahey Rehab.
• For Jane Keenan, beloved friend and mentor, who has just been diagnosed with terminal liver disease.
• For granddaughter Semarah, born April 19, six weeks early, 4 pounds, 2 ounces, in NICU at Crouse Hospital
• Please continue to lift me and my family up in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sunday, April 28
• “Because he lives” is saying Jesus still lives, that God came to love on earth to show us how to live, and that he cares for all of us.
• Those connected to the synagogue shooting in San Diego yesterday.
• Alek Kuephping and family. Alek was shot last night in Syracuse. Many know her.
• Jayne: For relief from war and ebola in DRC-Congo.
• For those filled with hate, may love come to their lives.
• Erika: Barb and Bob Weaver, Anne Marie, Maria Storto.
• Alice: My sister Anne, as she fights pancreatic cancer.
• My family, the family of Tracy Sumeriski, as she is laid to rest today, health issues.
• I feel strong that all people should be treated equally. Because Jesus is risen.
• Alice and Lillian Woods and their family on the death of their mother.

• Lord, please protect my son, Wilson, from mood disorder. Thanks.
• I pray that Jeff and I find a better place to live.
• Prayers for Leigh Safford’s continued progress in recovering from a belly illness. He is recovering at Fahey Rehab. Leigh offers thanks for the plant provided by UUMC.

THANKS & PRAISE & JOYS
Sunday, April 7
• Happy 92nd birthday to Ralph Best!

Sunday, April 14
• Good Morning, Family: Praise the Lord for mercy and grace and life. Joyful is this glorious morning. Life is priceless and worthy to be praised.
• Joy and thanks for “Adoption Day” for Emma Swords-Shenk and 4th birthday of Isaac McGinnis-Swords both on April 10!

Sunday, April 21
• Bruce: Thank you, everyone, for your love and support!
• Ann Owens: Happy 87th birthday to my dad, Ross Wells.

Altar flower donations and dedications

Altar flowers were given:
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 fifth birthday with her new heart and the arrival of a new grandchild.
By Lynn Baker and Kellie Wood
By Dorothy Logan to the glory of God and the loving memory of the Rev. and Mrs. Wesley T.

Logan Sr. Dorothy remembers all the saints of UUMC who through the years have served as God’s hands on earth.

Flowers were given to Sheila Murphy, Roger MacDonald, Ralph Best, Dorothy Logan, Ann Owens and Martha Sutter.

Flowers were delivered by the Altar Guild and Barbara Cargo.

Pantry guests will get reusable bag for food

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bags as of March 1, 2020.
So we are moving toward contributing to a greener planet and offering our guests a reusable shopping bag that will be distributed in the new year for them to bring back and forth to UUMC to fill with their food collection.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator
Finance Corner

**Pledging Update**
2019 total pledges: $203,474
Total Pledges Received $73,652
Non-pledge contributions $6,785
Thursday Service $152
Easter Offering $1,162
Trustees Bathroom Renovation Fund $11,225

**Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund**
Donations received $95,991
Expenses paid $88,891
Current balance $7,100

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**Week of May 5**

**Sunday the 5th**
9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, K-6th, Pettengill Center
10:30 a.m. Worship. Communion.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

**Wednesday the 8th**
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

**Thursday the 9th**
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7 p.m. Drumming Circle
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
10 a.m. Friday Community

**Week of May 19**

5:30 p.m. Governing Board
Thursday the 16th
6 p.m. Worship.
7 p.m. Drumming Circle
7:30 p.m. Choral Concert with Bellevue Heights UMC Choir
Friday the 17th
10 a.m. Friday Community

**Week of May 26**

Sunday the 26th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, K-6th, Pettengill Center
10:30 a.m. Worship.
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

Monday the 27th

**Week of June 2**

Sunday the 2nd
9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room
9:30 a.m. Christian Education, K-6th, Pettengill Center
10:30 a.m. Worship. Communion.
10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

Wednesday the 5th
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 6th
6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
7 p.m. Drumming Circle
7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
10 a.m. Friday Community

Friday the 7th
10 a.m. Friday Community
Palm Sunday
April 14, 2019 (7 photos)
Holy Thursday Service
April 18, 2019 (4 photos)
Photos by Jeanne F-S
Good Friday
April 19, 2019
The children heard about Jesus’ transformation on Easter and then watched as Pastor Alicia dropped a pill in a bowl of water and the pill changed into a rabbit (below).
Earth Day Neighborhood Cleanup

April 27, 2019 (3 photos)
The Scripture for April 28, was about Jesus appearing to the disciples after his resurrection. The passage in John says, “Then he breathed on him and said, “Received the Holy Spirit.” The children heard about that during children’s time and then used their breath to blow feathers out toward the congregation.