J.J. Warren headlines celebration marking eight years as a reconciling congregation

It’s time to celebrate, and this Sunday, July 14, is the day to do it!

We’re marking eight years as a reconciling congregation and as a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network during 10:30 a.m. worship.

The dynamic J.J. Warren will make his third appearance at UUMC as our guest speaker.

Warren, a senior at Sarah Lawrence College and a certified candidate for ministry in the United Methodist Church, delivered an impassioned statement at General Conference in February in favor of full inclusion in the United Methodist Church.

Since then he has spoken at more than 30 events in six states. He was published as one of 24 United Methodist thought leaders in Where Do We Go from Here and has signed his own book deal, titled Reclaiming Church.

Warren will host a question-and-answer session after the service in The Gathering Room.

There also will be cake there as part of our celebration.

In addition to hearing Warren, the congregation will be treated to a musical selection from dear friends of the church, former UUMC organist Nathan Sumrall and John Ginn, who now live in Louisiana.

Also, Communion will be celebrated during the service.

Marg McDivitt: ‘heart of University Church’ over the years

Marg McDivitt, six-decade member of UUMC, has moved to an assisted living facility in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, near her two children, Mark and Jane.

A native of Auburn, Marg joined UUMC in 1958 when the Rev. Dr. Donald Wright hired her as a staff member to work with the 40 or so young adults coming to the church.

She had taught 41 fifth-graders for one year in the North Syracuse School District right after graduating from Potsdam State with an education degree.

After the first week or so at the church, she spotted her future husband, John, in the choir. She met him at Green Lakes State Park by riding down on a toboggan with him at a young adult outing. They began dating, and Marg left her church job a few years later when they married. They were married 51 years.

She taught first grade Sunday School for many years. Marg recalled that Sunday School was two hours, which included a worship service for the children.

Marg eventually worked outside the home again, and after earning
A week in the life of a pastor includes two milestones

Greetings,

Have I told you lately, I love my job? Upon reflection, I realized this week has been so wonderful and emotional. Then I realized this is my experience every week.

When I began this adventure as a pastor, I did not fully understand the beauty of walking with people on their journey of life.

This week I had the joy and pleasure to sit and talk with Marg McDivitt before she moved closer to her children in Massachusetts. She has been a member at University Church for over 60 years.

I have personally enjoyed getting to know Marg these past few years. We have laughed and have been serious together. Our last visit was special because two additional church friends took Marg and me out to lunch. Our lunch date once again gave me a chance to journey with our church friends. What a gift!

It was hard to say goodbye to Marg after lunch. I have to admit I cried as I drove away. I feel blessed to have been a small part of Marg’s journey.

The day after I spent with Marg, I had the honor of meeting Ruby Mastronardi, Morgan and Dan’s new baby girl. I was thrilled to hold and talk with their sweet little Ruby.

It was great to catch up with Morgan, her mom and Dan. Life has changed for them once again. All good things. Ruby will be baptized at University Church this autumn and join our church family.

The Scripture Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4 comes to mind. “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.”

In one week in the life of a pastor, I said, “Peace be with you until we meet again” and “Welcome.”

Thank you for allowing me the gift and blessing of sharing your journey with mine. I continue to be honored to be your pastor as I begin my fifth year with you.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Alicia

CONTINUED from Page 1

two master’s degrees, she taught preschool deaf children for BOCES for 25 years.

Among her many other UUMC contributions, was collating The Chimes years ago when carbon paper was used to make copies. She also wrote articles. In recent years, she volunteered to help assemble, fold, address and stamp copies for mailing.

Marg was a member of the Altar and Women’s Guilds for decades, always involved in decorating the sanctuary for Easter and Christmas. She also helped sew the multicolored stoles and was on the Worship Committee.

When reflecting on UUMC’s place in her family’s life, she said, “The church became our second home.”

As for the members, she said they are “part of my family, basically. So many people I really care about. ... I wouldn’t be in any other church in Syracuse. We’re doing it right.”

Longtime member Rita Soufleris said of Marg, “She’s just been the heart of University Church.”
On this day after our nation’s people celebrate our Independence, I look back on this past month and think about another American institution we celebrated, our volunteers.

Friday, June 28, UUMC staff hosted a pizza lunch party for all of our wonderful volunteers. Several of you were able to attend. Several were unable.

New volunteers joined established volunteers. Young volunteers celebrated beside older volunteers. We shared a nice meal together after a busy morning.

“Volunteering has a long and proud history in America..... roots in service extend all the way back to the first colonies, when volunteers provided for others in times of strife. From the very beginning of our nation, in wartimes, times of tragedy and times of need, Americans have banded together to help each other. The 62.6 million volunteers in America today have deep roots for their ‘doing good’ spirit.” (The Women’s Memorial papers)

The volunteers at UUMC look very different from when I first arrived five years ago.

We supported 25 university student volunteers this spring semester.

We have folks who work with us who are moving through hard transitions in their lives like rehab or parole.

We have men and women who volunteer each week who struggle to feed and house themselves but are ready to do the work of supporting another.

We have children who collect large donations and stay to stock those donations onto our shelves, then work with our guests for the morning.

We have our older volunteers who are my rocks, who have entered a gentler time in their lives and can support, evaluate and give time to me and our collective efforts at UUMC.

Our work is hard. It’s endless, maybe not even noticed by the larger world, but so very important.

Proudly, my two younger children have been able to join us this summer on Friday mornings.

After her internship my older daughter drops in to see the friends (our volunteers and guests) she established when she worked at pantry in the recent past. They each arrive ready to work, greeting each volunteer, truck driver, guest and staff member.

Quickly each teenager learned the routine and now recognizes and solves the problems and often laughs and chats in quiet conversation with the guest they are supporting in that minute.

Brynn, my 18-year-old daughter, recognized a classmate at pantry today. The classmate was surprised and a bit embarrassed to see Brynn and tried to disappear. But Brynn quickly approached her, gave her a hug and in whispers both girls disappeared from the room.

In moments the classmate returned with a beautiful box of strawberries, her face beaming.

Her mom said to me strawberries were her daughter’s favorite.

Later, when Brynn had a break between guests I thanked her for getting the strawberries for her classmate.

Brynn, cool as a cucumber, said, “I know they are her favorite, but her mom says they are too expensive. She never gets to have them. Now she has her strawberries.”

In the end our food pantry is never going to solve our national problems with food insecurity.

We are unlikely to move folk away from needing an A MEAL.
CONTINUING PRAYERS

- Barb and Bob Weaver: Alayah Green and family, Carus Olcott Jr., Mary and Carus Olcott Sr., Mary Ellen Will
- Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Heidi Wise, Billy and Family, Patti Fasulo, Jeanne, Patti Walker and family, Melanie, Annette and her family and mom, Marc Therrien.
- Erika: Maria Storto, Anne Marie, Barb and Bob Weaver

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

Those in Military Service:
- Chance Lawson, Austin Payne

Sunday, June 16
- Safe travels for all this summer.
- Praise God for his merciful blessings to us each day. Bless his name for his will and raise his name for the blessing of our fathers today. Happy Father’s Day.
- Safe travels as Debbie Daby is returning from the Special Olympic Games.
- Kathy: For support for my dad while caring for my mom.
- Ann Owens: Connie, a friend who is battling pancreatic cancer.
- James Appleton, may each day bring healing.
- Prayers for Leigh Safford, who is celebrating his birthday with a party at Fahey Rehab on Thursday, June 20 at 2 p.m.
- For the protesters in Hong Kong
- Peaceful resolution of conflict throughout the world.

Sunday, June 23
- Sherri Cullen: Thankful for my family and friends.
- Jerome: God bless our people so that the world can come to peace, and countries will be at rest. Prayers for Liberia. May the people and the government be at peace so that nation can prosper as a whole.
- For Jim T. as his finances get fixed.
- For children in detention on the border and that leaders will work quickly to make conditions more humane.
- For peace between Iran and the U.S.
- For all Methodist churches to welcome all people.
- Prayers for Abby and her family as she continues to struggle with mental health issues. Prayers for Mary Snyder and her family. Mary is in ICU after a very serious bike accident.
- My sister Linda, who fell and broke her wrist. Congratulations to Angela. She is in the musical “Once Upon a Mattress” at Red House. Last performance this afternoon.
- June Cullings, Barbara and Bruce Wilson.
- My family, those with health issues, June Cullings.
- Sungsu Lee: Prayers for my Aunt Pauline and her family as her battle with cancer appears to be coming to an end.
- Jerome: Prayers for my son Nichola, who has his citizenship test and interview on Tuesday.
- Prophet Jesus: I ask you for Strength to pull me through this challenging week.
- Peace and health to all in the DRC, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Comfort and healing for Phylis Wright.

Sunday, June 30
- Please Lord, Peace and Love for Musa.
- Sue: My family, all graduates, those with health issues.
- Justice and safety for the mainly indigenous people coming to the U.S. border for refuge from violence and poverty and oppression, especially kids and families.
- For all those waiting on good news.
- For my son, who is struggling with life changes.
- Continued prayers for Leigh Safford, who has moved to the Cunningham Room 1228. Leigh now walks with the use of a walker which is great progress in his recovery.
- Safe travels, healing for Peter Swords, prayers for my sister expecting a baby in September.

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People & Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4
- **Stephen**: Prayers for motivations and discipline on my weight loss journey. Help me to break bad habits and make good ones.
- God’s blessing be with **Marg McDivitt** as she leaves for her new home in Massachusetts to be near her family.
- **Barb Cargo**: Healing prayers for **Rosemary Chappell** as she works on rehab for a broken leg at Fahey Rehab.
- **Rita Soufleris**: Prayers for **Rosemary Chappell** as she works on rehab for a broken leg at Fahey Rehab.
- **Prophet Jesus**: Bless my family with good health and peace in our home.
- I pray for family and friends.

**Sunday, July 7**
- **Sue**: My family, all graduates, those with health issues.
- **Ann Owens**: Safe travels for family members.
- **Prophet Jesus**: I praise you and give you thanks for employment opportunity in Baldwinsville and bless FedEx!
- **Sherri Cullen**: Thankful for my family and friends.

**Sunday, June 16**
- **Prophet Jesus**: I praise you and give you thanks for employment opportunity in Baldwinsville and bless FedEx!
- **Sherri Cullen**: Thankful for my family and friends.

**Sunday, June 23**
- **Kudos to Angela Palmieri** for her performance in “Once Upon a Mattress” at the Red House.

**Sunday, June 30**
- **Joy! Today is Ed and Lee Potter’s 63rd wedding anniversary!**
- **John Hunt**: Thankful for Nic’s successful test and interview toward U.S. citizenship!
- A joy! **Jim Tallman** will be marching in the 4th of July parade in Oswego next Sunday.

**Sunday, July 7**
- **Sherri Cullen**: Joy! Watching my grandson graduate from high school!

ACTS to monitor arraignments until new law in place

All are invited to join the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse and participate in working for solutions to social justice issues.

Over the years ACTS has focused on problems such as health care insurance, access to food in the inner city and equity in education for city school children.

The ACTS Criminal Justice Task Force has been actively focused on unfair practices in the cash bail and bail bond industry that unfairly impact people in poverty. ACTS trained 55 community members who have observed nearly 700 arraignments. ACTS, along with other organizations, has brought about current legislation to address inequities in the pretrial system.

In April, the State Legislature passed legislation overhauling the pretrial process that will include how bail will be set in our local courts. ACTS will continue to monitor local arraignments until the legislation is firmly in place.

Anyone interested in joining ACTS, please contact Ginny and Bob Dewey at 315-488-2285.

August birthdays
2 – Dr. Barbara Miller
Beth Drew, Ray Ashwood
4 – Michael Borenstein, Valerie Young
5 – Will Drew, Dan Hyland, Jonathan Hosler
6 – Kathleen Stevenson, Gloria Morgan, Ingrid Coutts
9 – Marjorie Carter
15 – Barbara Fought
19 – Jesse Miller
20 – Ben Borenstein
21 – Maria Fay, Carrie Hunt
23 – Nate Appleton
25 – Katie Flynn
27 – Bruce Borenstein
28 – Teddy Toe
31 – Roger Lund
Dear Friends,

On a night in 1990 I admitted a man to the medical ward with gastrointestinal bleeding. When I asked his family to either donate blood or find donors they claimed to be too poor and frail, but to me they seemed fully capable so I told them arranging blood was their responsibility.

I came by his room an hour later and was surprised to learn the nursing supervisor, Ram Shova, had taken it upon herself to bring two cross-matched units from our blood bank, and the first was already being infused into the patient.

I marched off and when I finally met Ram Shova on the surgical ward, I asked, “Why did you let that family off the hook?!” You know it’s their responsibility and that our blood bank has a limited supply. Are you related to them in some way?”

She just turned and walked away. The patient’s bleeding stopped that night and he recovered.

The next day, our nursing director, Ruth Judd from Australia, called me into her office and motioned to take a seat in front of her wide, wooden desk.

In a soft, almost off-hand tone she said, “Mark, I wonder how long you’re planning to work in this hospital?”

“I’m not sure, Ruth. Maybe for some years, I hope. Why?”

“Because you won’t make it through the year if you keep treating our nurses like you did Ram Shova last night. She realized that patient was critically ill and couldn’t wait for his family’s dithering. Someone had to do something. Do you know she’s one of our best nurses?”

It wasn’t my nature to gracefully accept a dressing-down, but I was new to the mission, so I apologized to Ram Shova the next day.

“It was nothing,” she replied, an ironic start to an enduring friendship.

Ram Shova was raised in a well-to-do Kathmandu family, her brother owned a large resort hotel and she graduated in the fifth batch of the mission’s pioneering nursing campus.

She’d spent her whole career working in Patan and its predecessor mission hospital Shanta Bhawan, and by the time I’d joined, she was a fleshy middle-aged woman with a round, ruddy nose, a melodic voice and a steely resolve.

When we established the country’s first hospital infection control committee, she was the natural choice for lead nurse. In Patan Hospital, where rats occasionally roamed the hallways and relatives camped under their patients’ beds, infection control was potentially daunting, but a group of us, with Ram Shova at its cutting edge, began taking down low-hanging fruit.

She had the moral standing to shepherd doctors, nurses and everyone else into handwashing, appropriate waste disposal and other changes of practice without producing much resentment or even grumbling. If she said it, it must be the right thing.

In the late 1990s, the hospital board appointed Ram Shova as its nursing director and me as its medical director. Of the four hospital officers, Ram Shova was the only non-Christian, but she’d sometimes be the one to remind us to begin our meetings in prayer.

Looking after 600 often-fractious employees, we learned to “test fly” any emerging ideas on the others in the leadership team.

I could count on Ram Shova to give me straight feedback and later to back it with her support, even if my plan proved unpopular among the rank and file.

Even more than with my fellow expatriates, who often seemed caught up in complaining about Nepal or bickering among themselves, with Ram Shova I shared a sense of mission.

When I left Patan Hospital in 2005, she was one of just a few Patan Hospital colleagues who remained in touch.

She and her husband, Purushottam, began to regularly invite our family for meals, and we reciprocated, though sometimes were caught off guard by their progressively restrictive Hindu diets.

At Christmas, they’d show up at our front door with presents for each of us, which was mildly embarrassing since we only gave gifts to our family members.

They had two children, a daughter, Jyoti, and a son, Ashish, who both studied in Asia to become physicians. Like many Nepali doctors, upon graduating they immediately began preparing for the qualifying examinations to enter specialty residency in the U.S.

Jyoti went first, became an internist, and later found a job as

See SHE, Page 7
Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:
By Gary and Marsha Wood in memory of loved ones
By Harry and Shirley Miller in memory of their parents
By Ed and Lee Potter in thanksgiving for 63 years of marriage today
By George and Rita Soufleris in memory of Rita’s sister, Marie Hutton
Flowers were given to Leigh Safford, Hilde Cooper, Dale Fryer, Phyllis Wright, Jerry Cargo, Peter Swords, Dot Logan and Rosemary Chappell.
Flowers were delivered by Harry Miller, Gail Tyndall, Lee and Ed Potter and Barbara Cargo.

Potluck and a movie

Join us on Sunday, July 28, at 5:30 p.m. in the Pettengill Center for a potluck dinner followed by an environmental film. Please bring a dish to share, along with your own place setting.

After our meal we will watch the documentary From Paris to Pittsburgh, which celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. Discussion will follow.

Contact Stephanie Hitztaler at shitztal@umich.edu if you have questions.

Aug. 4 is Garden Sunday

Please bring a potted flower or a cut flower arrangement to church on Sunday, Aug. 4.
It would be helpful to have the flowers by 10 a.m. Let’s create a flower garden in our sanctuary for this service only.

She was always grateful for what life handed her

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a hospital in Kansas. Ashish became a pediatric oncologist and began working in a remote area of Missouri, his first step to U.S. citizenship. Their parents avidly supported their decisions to “find better careers” in America.

In 2012, Ram Shova retired. In 2016, after 10 years in NSI, I was invited back to work full time in Patan Hospital. One hot afternoon that first summer, I noticed Ram Shova and her husband edging through our crowded clinic to see my colleague Dr. Ramesh.
She later phoned to say they’d gone to the new Nepal Cancer Hospital where doctors found adenocarcinoma cells in the fluid around her lung. A lifelong Kathmandu resident but never a smoker, she had incurable lung cancer.
Every month or two, I’d visit Ram Shova in an immaculate room of the cancer hospital or at her home. Chemotherapy extended her life expectancy from months to years.
It seemed a sad irony that at this stage, facing a deadly illness, her medically trained children were settled on the other side of the world.
But then, how many decades have I spent apart from my own mom? And years before, when my dad suffered a torn thoracic aorta, it took me days to arrange a plane ticket, by which time he’d already died.

Even when unwell, Ram Shova would say, “I’m so glad they’re in the U.S. They have their own lives to lead and I won’t let my illness disrupt their careers and their happiness. Anyway, I don’t need them back here at this stage; I have friends like you and Deirdre and the boys.”
I’ve forgotten how it started, but from my first visits, we began to pray together. When we invited her and Purushottam to our church for a healing service, they readily accepted and at the end of the program asked us for a Nepali Bible.
One evening last October I visited them at home and after about an hour of chat, with darkness deepening outside, I got up to go. “What about our prayer, Dr. Mark?” she reminded me, so I sat back down. At that moment, she began to turn her head rhythmically far to the right.
I thought she was looking across the room for her Bible, but when the movement repeated itself eight or 10 times, I realized something sinister was up. I suggested they go to the hospital that night and she later phoned to say they’d found metastases on the CT scan of her brain.
She always seemed grateful for whatever life handed her. We would read in the Bible about Jesus and pray to Him. She sometimes talked of putting herself ‘in the Lord’s hands’ and of eventually going to meet Him. I never urged her to clarify who her Lord was or where she was going. Over the last two months she moved from fatigued to bedridden to stuporous, in the end only able to smile at our arrival beside her bed. Jyoti and Ashish made it home for the final days before she passed away in her room two weeks ago (mid-May) and they performed the Hindu death rites according to Ram Shova’s previous instructions.
Children’s careers take a high priority the world over, and so it is that we’re splitting our usual 4-month home assignment into two blocks to accommodate Zachary and Benjamin’s schooling.
This summer, we’ll stay in southeast Pennsylvania to visit churches there and in neighboring states, and next summer we plan to be in Ireland, New England and New York. In July, we’ll be “home” for my mom’s 95th birthday, and she’ll be surprised to find her grandsons, now 6-foot-5 and 6-foot-1, towering over her.

Love,
Mark, Deirdre, Zachary, Benjamin


**Week of July 14**

**Sunday the 14th**
- 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 11:45 a.m. Q&A with J.J. Warren, The Gathering Room
- **Noon** Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

**Wednesday the 17th**
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room
- Friday the 19th
- 10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

**Week of July 21**

**Sunday the 21st**
- 9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
- **Noon** Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

**Wednesday the 24th**
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 5 p.m. Outreach Committee
- 7 p.m. Church & Society Thursday the 25th
- 6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room Friday the 26th

**Week of July 28**

**Sunday the 28th**
- 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
- **Noon** Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

**Wednesday the 31st**
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room Friday the 2nd
- 10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

**Week of August 4**

**Sunday the 4th**
- 9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship. Communion
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
- **Noon** Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

**Wednesday the 7th**
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room Friday the 9th
- 10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

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**Pastor’s Fund:** The Pastor’s Discretionary Fund needs replenishment. If you are able to help, please mark the fund name on the memo line of your check.

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**Finance Corner**

**Pledging Update**
- 2019 total pledges: $203,474
- Total Pledges Rec’d: $128,899
- Non-pledge contributions: $9,316
- Thursday Service: $316
- Trustees Bathroom Renovation Fund: $23,725

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

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**University United Methodist Church**

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

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**UM Night at the Ballpark**

United Methodist Night at the Ballpark is July 23 at NBT Bank Stadium, as the Syracuse Mets play Indianapolis. The UNY Conference-wide tailgate party starts at 4:45 p.m. – bring a dish to pass, your own drink and table service – with complimentary grilled hot dogs and coney’s provided. Game time is 6:35 p.m. Tickets are $10. Contact Mary in the office if you are interested.

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**A meal for someone**

**CONTINUED** from Page 3

“Emergency Food System” to feed themselves through a month.

But we can provide a meal or two for a person and a family. We can fill a belly, provide clothing, a clean diaper, a book, medical advice, nutritional education, a ride home, a registration to vote, a cup of coffee, a friend, a job coach, a community. And, strawberries.

Great thanks to all of our UUMC volunteers. We couldn’t do it without you!

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Outreach Coordinator

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Chimes newsletter Volume 19 No. 7 July 11, 2019 Feeding God’s People: Body, Mind, Spirit
Women’s Guild Luncheon
June 26, 2019
New Parking Lot Fence
One June 23, we said goodbye to our canton, Dale Fryer, who was a choir member and all-around helper and good guy at UUMC. He moved to the Albany area to care for his mother.
Chris, far right, is a volunteer who helps restock our food pantry each week. He attended the Volunteer Luncheon June 28 and is shown with, from right, Outreach Coordinator Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Galyn’s daughter Aydan, custodial staff member Richard Goodsan and Pastor Alicia.
Interfaith Pride Service
Atonement Lutheran Church
June 19, 2019
Cake in Appreciation of
UUMC musicians
June 2, 2019

Photo by Dale Fryer