As Thanksgiving holiday nears, bag giveaway needs your support

Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and we are once again sharing our bounty with our friends and neighbors in and around our church.

We anticipate 150 families will need Thanksgiving bags this year, as the economic divide widens, other food pantries in Syracuse have closed and more people experience food and housing insecurity.

We are inviting everyone to join in this effort by contributing in one or more of the following ways:

- **Sponsor A Family**: Pick a turkey from the turkey tree in the sanctuary and buy a small turkey and all the items on the provided shopping list for a complete Thanksgiving dinner.

- **Food Donations**: frozen turkeys, canned veggies, winter squash, sweet potatoes, canned fruit, muffin/sweet bread mix, cake mix, canned frosting.

- **Monetary Donations**: cash or checks made out to UUMC with “Thanksgiving Bags” on memo line. It costs $28 to buy all the items.

- **Volunteering**: Sunday, Nov. 24 – Bag Packing after worship
  Tuesday, Nov. 26 – Bag Distribution at UUMC, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, please call Joyce Flynn at 315-673-2761. Thank you in advance for any help you can give!

Advent theme is ‘Joy,’ as ‘Joy to the World’ is 300 years old

A late Thanksgiving, Nov. 28, means Advent begins just three days later, Dec. 1. Our theme this year is “Heaven and Nature Sing,” as “Joy to the World” turns 300. That first Sunday’s message is “Hopeful Joy,” allowing joy to creep in no matter what our circumstances.

Looking ahead to 2020: an update on pledging

On the last Sunday of October, 42 UUMC family members committed to contribute $157,276 to our many ministries, and 40% (18) increased their pledges.

There were four new pledges totaling $13,024.

Several 2019 pledging families (18) have not yet committed for 2020, but illness and moving away will affect the outcome.

Total budgeted income from pledges in the current fiscal year is $203,474.

Here is how the giving picture looks: $10-$500 (9 pledges); $501-$1,000 (1 pledge); $1001-$2,000 (9); $2001-$5,000 (10); $5,001-$10,000 (11); and above $10,001 (2).

— Nelson Price
From our pastor...

Little acts of kindness can change people’s days and lives

Greetings!
What makes you feel special?

Last month, for Pastor’s Appreciation Week, the Altar Guild gave me the flower bouquet from the altar after worship.

This seems like such a small act, but I found it thoughtful and emotional. How sweet that people thought of me.

I placed the bouquet of flowers on my dining room table. The flowers remained beautiful for two full weeks.

Every time I walked by the yellow, purple and white flowers I smiled, remembering that the Altar Guild thought of me.

I know some of you have received the flowers that were a part of our Sunday worship. I hope they made you feel as special as they did me.

Sometimes small acts mean so much.

Our Altar Guild has been giving flowers from our altar in worship for decades. For decades! Sometimes the love and care that go on behind the scenes of church are the true acts of kindness we learn about in the Bible.

Colossians 3:12 says, “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Our Altar Guild, along with the Care Team and Welcome Team, visit friends new and old every single week. Many visits are in person. Some visits are over the phone.

Small acts of kindness may not seem earth-shattering but may change someone’s day or even their direction in life.

Let’s keep in our hearts and prayers ways we may do little acts of kindness to people each day.

Thank you, Altar Guild, Care Team and Welcome Team, for your unending acts of kindness!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Alicia

Teach-In will explain economic systems, equip you for campaign

Church & Society has organized a teach-in on economic systems at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 4 titled “Socialism, Communism and Capitalism—What are these ‘isms’ all about?”

The Teach-In will be led by SU Economics Professor Jerry Evensky.

To frame the Teach-In, an economic system is a system of production, resource allocation and distribution of goods and services within a society.

It is the decision-making structure of a nation’s economy, characterized by the entities and policies that shape it.

It may involve production, allocation of economic inputs, distribution of economic outputs, firms and the government to answer the economic problem of resource allocation.

What motivates us for this Teach-In?

Our prosperity is affected by the economic system in play where we reside. For example, does the system skew money to the wealthy or to the middle class or to lower income folks?

To draw more votes, politicians like to muddy the waters when it comes to economic systems.

The Teach-In will help clarify the muddy waters so you can better evaluate whether a candidate’s position will satisfy you.

Attendees will be more capable of crisply discussing voting positions with family and friends.

Also, our civic duty is to vote and to be an informed voter.

Following are questions likely to be answered during the Teach-In:

- Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders have very similar platforms. Why does Bernie call himself a democratic socialist while Elizabeth firmly states she is a capitalist?
- What is democratic socialism? How does it differ from socialism?
- What economic changes would be made to create a democratic socialist economy in the USA?
- Canada proudly provides universal health care for all. Is Canada’s economic system socialism?
- Is the economic system of Sweden socialism or capitalism? Why?
- Is the economic system of Venezuela socialism?
Thanksgiving bags, fundraising concert are two big efforts

As we inch closer to the holiday season, I’d like to share more information on Outreach’s two biggest efforts for November 2019.

On the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 26, University United Methodist Church will host its annual Thanksgiving Bag giveaway. This is a Herculean effort easily giving 150+ families a pre-packed Thanksgiving food bag. These bags include a frozen turkey, canned fruit, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, instant mashed potato mix, cake mix, frosting, bread mix, canned cranberry sauce, mac & cheese mix, canned sweet potatoes, canned gravy, fresh fruit, butter, eggs and a roasting pan.

Attempts are made to offer many “extra” items to embellish the pre-packed supplies. This year we will offer pecans, dried cranberries and dried figs and hope to have lots of fresh root vegetables for folk to choose from to enhance their meal.

The intention of this offering is for folk to use these foods at home or wherever they are traveling to create their Thanksgiving meal with their family, friends or neighbors.

This is a wildly popular program that has some restrictions, as we cannot offer meal bags to all of Syracuse.

Often, we have folks from outside of our food pantry district or individuals who call us requesting a Thanksgiving bag.

Sometimes folk who do not have a residence would like a bag. People will occasionally ask for more than one bag or a bag for a friend or family member.

Although we cannot offer these people a bag, we inform them of other Thanksgiving offerings in the city.

UUMC’s Thanksgiving Bag ministry is unique and harkens to a time where families created a meal together at the holidays.

I believe that many of our Thanksgiving bag recipients do still do this. However, I feel just as many may store the food items for a day when their food supplies are not so abundant.

Either way, this is an amazing opportunity to connect with folk and ensure our pantry guests have food items they desire during the Thanksgiving holiday.

This Saturday evening, Nov. 9, University United Methodist Church will host its first collaborative a cappella concert at 7 p.m.: “Sing for their Supper,” a fundraising concert for Grace Episcopal Food Pantry, the Northeast Community Center Food Pantry, Hendricks Chapel Food Pantry and UUMC Food Pantry. Tickets are $10.

Harmony Katz is a 60-member adult a cappella group. There are both male and female performers whose membership with Harmony Katz is a recreational activity.

However, Harmony Katz travels internationally to perform, and they have several CDs for sale. Harmony Katz’s mission is to donate their time, energy and song for food pantries. They also donate and generate posters, tickets and pamphlets for each event. Our own Paul Bartow is a member.

We will embellish this event with concession sales, educational displays of each of our four participating pantries, Harmony Katz CD sales and Syracuse Cultural Workers, who will be selling some of their wonderful peace and social justice items.

We hope to make this an annual event at UUMC that will bring some additional monies into our food pantries and knowledge of the work that we do.

We hope to see you, your friends, your family, your colleagues there.

Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Outreach Coordinator

Editor’s Note: The following is a letter from Marine recruit and UUMC member Nichola Weah. A second letter is on page 4:

Good Morning, Ladies and Gents,

It’s Nic writing from Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

I hope everyone in the church is healthy and whole. I miss seeing the smiles, conversation and love that everyone who walks in through the church door feels.

So far things are going good and yes, boot camp is like just the way you’ve probably heard or seen.

Time is flying by, but every day we are learning, working, cleaning and running. Prayers for my platoon and me would be greatly appreciated. Life challenges everyone, but we all have God on our side. Can’t wait to see you all in a few months.

Thank you all. I’d love to hear from you. Also, there is an app called Sandbox that you can write letters through and I’ll receive it in 24 hours or less.

Nic

Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator
Thanks for ‘Blessings in Backpack’ donation

Dear University UMC Members,

Delaware Elementary’s students certainly have many steadfast friends at your church!

Your generosity and compassion continue to amaze us.

We received your enormous check for $3,500!

You have helped deliver those children from food insecurity over the weekends.

As Antwan said in his thank you note,

“Dear Donors,
Thank you so much for our amazing Blessings in a Backpack. We love them because when I’m hungry, the Blessings stop me from being hungry, and when I’m at home and I don’t have no food, the Blessings help me.”

Yours in Christ,
Jeanie Brown
Co-Chair

December birthdays

3 — Karabo Ratala
4 — Chrysa Charno
5 — Vera Onninen
6 — Samora Thebe,
Danny Magowan
7 — Virginia Dewey
8 — Eleanor Huard
12 — Alex Huard
13 — Rev. Harold Garman
15 — Dr. Bruce Simmons, Debra
Virgo, Claudette Brown-Smythe
17 — Christopher Huard
19 — Barbara Cargo
22 — Rachel Kgama
25 — Kevin Ucraft

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given by:
Beth Drew in honor of today’s marriage of her niece, Molly McTarnaghan, and Matt Sheasby.
Martha Sutter in memory of the October birthday of her mother, Laurine Sutter.
Barb and Bob Weaver, Ericka Vitthuhn in memory of Barb’s mother and Ericka’s grandmother, Ruth Olcott Prell.
Jackie Sadowski in memory of friends and family.

Flowers were given to Don and Margo Koten, Mamie Baxter, the family of Harper Rae Williams, Barbara Nunn, Pastor Alicia, Larry Myers, Connie Myers, Elise Curry-Schemichen, Janet and Vito Sciscio and the family of Leylanii Shand.

Flowers were delivered by Ed and Lee Potter.

See Harriet, come to Spirit Film discussion

Each month, members and friends of UUMC gather to discuss the spiritual, moral, ethical and faith issues in a commercially released film.

The October selection was Ad Astra, a space odyssey film with amazing comments on our human condition.

This month’s selection is Harriet, the life story of Harriet Tubman, now showing at Destiny and ShoppingTown.

See the film and then join us at the Fought/Price home at 6305 Hamlet Crest (The Hamlet across from Christian Brothers Academy on Randall Road), 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 23.

Email nprice@twcny.rr.com or just come. All are welcome.

ACTS holds forum for DA candidates

The Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance recently jointly presented the Onondaga County District Attorney Forum.

The Oct. 22 event was held at the Southwest Community Center. Candidates Chuck Keller, William Fitzpatrick and Gary Lavine were each given opportunity to present their platforms, ideas and agendas. It was a most informative evening.

ACTS has been working in the cash bail system that currently penalizes people who live in poverty.

— Ginny Dewey

What is oligarchism and does Russia have it now?

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• If the economic system of China is communism, how come one of its citizens is among the wealthiest in the world?

• What is the economic system of Russia? Is it now oligarchism? What are the characteristics of oligarchism?

This Teach-In is expected to be lively and a lot of fun.

Put it on your calendar.

— Harry Miller, co-chair

New members welcomed

Karen Quick, John Hunt, Julie Oscars, Kim Kromer Murphy, Connie Myers, William Seward, Peter Gale and Jonie Binzer joined the congregation on Oct. 27.
DEATHS

• Eddie Nunn, husband of Barbara Nunn, died Oct. 7 at the age of 72. His service is 1 p.m. Nov. 9. Here is a link to his obituary: EDDIE

• Ginny Knight died Oct. 22 in Medina, Ohio, at the age of 85. She and her late husband, Wes, were longtime faithful members of UUMC. Here is a link to her obituary: GINNY

• Robert (“Bob”) and Dorothy (“Dottie”) Bolton both died Oct. 10. Bob was pastor of UUMC in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He founded the Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center, which had offices in our building for many years. Here are links to their obituaries BOB and DOTTIE.

• Pamela DeHoog, daughter-in-law of the late Rosemary DeHoog, died Saturday at the age of 52. Her service was Nov. 6 at UUMC. Here is a link to her obituary: PAMELA

CONTINUING PRAYERS

• Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Heidi Wise, Billy and Family, Patti Fasulo, Jeanne, Patti Walker and family, Melanie, Annette and her family and mom, Grace; Marc Therrien; Maria and her mom; Becky healing from surgery

• Erika: Maria Storto, Ann Leduc, Barb and Bob Weaver

• Barb and Bob: Alayah Green, Mary and Carus Olcott Sr., John Quiggle, Frank Clish.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

For Those in Military Service:

• Chance Lawson, Austin Payne, Ian Enderle

Sunday, October 6

• My family, Mary, those with health issues.

• For those presenting to the Supreme Court this week concerning LGBTQ rights

• Rita: Prayers for Mike Camaione. He is finally on the list for a new kidney.

• Strength and wisdom for our political leaders.

• Esther Pardue and Callie Gilbraith

• Elise: Prophet Jesus: Help me travel, for I need strength to complete difficult tasks.

• Peter: For our gifts at UUMC: They show how much better God uses our money than the government (and the Pentagon) does.

• Prayers for guidance for our country’s leaders and for our democracy. Also for a friend recovering from surgery and his partner, his caregiver.

• For the future of our nation

Sunday, October 13

• Prayers are requested for Ken Craig on the death of his life partner, Jean Shirley, on Oct. 12.

• Sue: My family, Mary recovering from surgery, all those with health issues.

• Gail: Barbara Silverman, Marylee Tyndall, Jordan, John Tyndall

• Blessings for my granddauther on this special day: Baptism Harper Rae Williams

• Peter: For guidance, for all of us through this week’s turbulent times in D.C. May we keep looking toward the light, for all of us to be free, safe and loved.

• Pray for the lives of all the military men and women.

• Mamie Baxter: God has been wonderful in our life. Things may happen in our life, but never give up on you. Continue to give and do our best. I am taking my life back. I am not powerless anymore. I am powerful and God’s child.

• Pray for the life of Eddie Nunn and pray for his family. Also for the Kurds and for peace in Syria.

• A prayer for Harley.

• Congratulations to Billy Kluttz on his ordination as a Presbyterian minister, but sadness that to answer God’s calling he had to leave the United Methodist Church because of its discriminatory practices.

• Ann Owens: Family members near the California fires.

• I would like to pray for my new home and my family.

• Jayne Humbert: Peace and comfort for Barbara Nunn

• Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Annette Reed and Grace Antonio

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CONTINUED from Page 5

- Prophet Jesus: Help me to take a stand against gross use of guns!
- Pray for Ecuador
- Please pray for my dear friends struggling with addiction and their families
- For God to help and protect female African American medical residents who are being systematically driven out of specialties of their choices and some who become so discouraged that they leave medicine altogether.
- Please, God, lay your hands on Bill Miller Sr. as his cancer is taking over his body and weakening him. Please give him your love and peace and courage to be at peace with himself. Give his family strength and faith that he will forever be loved and you are guiding him in his journey home.
- Pray for opportunity to go further my education and change of status.
- Husband worried he has cancer, severe financial issues, and need divine intervention to heal family.

Sunday, October 20

- Denise: Help in finding my true path for believing in the Lord, was baptized Catholic but received nothing, became a born-again Christian, still am, but something is calling me. Help me to have the path I’m to take revealed.
- The Kalkbrenner Family of Lyncourt whose house burned last Wednesday.
- To my lovely sister Furaha to complete one year yesterday.
- Pray that Astros lose the World Series.
- Barb Weaver, surgery on Wednesday
- Prophet Jesus: I give and praise for your gift, Aunt Toody, to lay in rest today in your home.
- Karen Quick: Please pray for a fruitful mission trip of Rev. Bill Mudge to Uganda.
- Sue: My family and Ann, who just had surgery.
- Aimee: Prayers for my new friend, Julie. Prayers for Skip, Marilyn, Chrissy, Gianna, Tommy and Jean.
- For the people of the Near East who are suffering war, hunger, death, family separation and much more due to U.S. policy and action.
- Martha: For a wonderful life for Ruby Hope and her family, Morgan, Dan and Stella.
- Jeanne: My mom, who has terminal cancer
- Good Morning, may the blessings come to all in grief today! May his grace remain in our homes, lives and spirits. God bless us all!
- For the financially oppressed.
- For peace in Syria and for the Kurds there

Sunday, October 27

- Alayah Green, Mary and Carus Olcott Sr. Thank you for all the prayers for Barb’s surgery. Everything went well.
- For friends of Ginny Knight, who died Tuesday in Medina, Ohio. She was a former very active member of our church.
- Kellie and Lynn: Prayers for Jo, Bonnie and Jack as they are battling health issues.
- In memory of the 11 who died at the synagogue in Pittsburgh one year ago today and with the survivors.
- Angela Palmieri: Mora Hile, who broke her hip.
- Prayers of gratitude for the beautiful fall and my beautiful children! Strength and fortitude.
- Good Morning, family. Father, watch over all sick and in need. Thank you, Lord. Please take away the procrastination for school so I can stand tall for the last place math. Give me the strength to follow through.
- A prayer for empathy for all
- For a person facing difficult issues at work.
- Peter: Help for kids in Syracuse who are homeless, so that our leaders in Congress will stop cutting HUD budgets and do the right things.
- My family, health issues.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: I give praise and thanks for 10 See PEOPLE, Page 7
People & Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 6
years of marriage, bless us, one year at a time!
• Dear God: Thank you for Eli-
jah Cummings, who led by example, and all those who are working the effort to lead
by following your example
• Barb and Del Gilbraith: Prayers for the Gessler family on the death of William Gessler
on Oct. 22
• Please pray for those dealing with addiction
• I pray, Lord, that you help me, Uncertain time ahead. I am alone
on this earth with no path of direction. Shall you show the way.
• Michelle Leubner: I would like prayers for my grandfather Wayne Grant. He is suffering from dementia.

Sunday, November 3
• Please keep the DeHoog family in your heart and prayers as they grieve. Give them strength, courage, love and faith. Please, Lord, give them your love and courage to get through this very trying time. I pray for their peace and that they find comfort in their memories and love of each other.
• For those suffering from fires and floods and for our earth and suffering from global warming.
• Those living with terminal illness.
• Mamie: Good morning family. I wake up every morning, praise God for your feet placed on the floor. Keep peace in your heart. God bless. Love!
• For Syria
• For those who grieve and mourn.
• For Timmy G.
• Alice: For God’s mercy to rain down on my sister, Anne.
• Peter: For the peace and freedom that came as the Berlin Wall fell 30 years ago and the healing diplomacy of the good people who helped both sides.
• Sue: My family, those with health issues.
• Prophet Jesus: Bless my family with comfort and abundance to keep us out of want
• That the second and third floors of our building get rented soon.
• Angela: People who died in the flood.
• Dear God, keep those who are miles apart from their family safe. I pray that you keep Nic safe while in boot camp. I pray for my two broth-

Editor’s Note: The following is a second letter from Nichola Weah (first one is on page 3):
Good morning, Wonderful People,

Sorry for being cheesy, but being down here takes the flavor out of you.

Currently we’re halfway through training. Time has gone by and sorry to say but sometimes during the 82-degree days I kind of miss the Syracuse cool/chilly weather.

The other thing that I miss also is the beauti-

ful, wonderful and awesome church family that I am a part of.

Here at boot camp is a new and different family. There is so much that happens here. We’re up from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. working hard; 16-hour days in the heat really does change you. Hopefully, the transformation is great. Can’t wait to see you all when I come back as a Marine!

Thank you and stay blessed,

Nic
Finance Corner

**Pledging Update**
- 2019 total pledges: $203,474
- Total Pledges Rec’d: $172,187
- Non-pledge contributions: $15,646
- Thursday Service: $327
- Trustees Bathroom Renovation Fund: $24,625
- Blessings in a Backpack: $3,500

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

### Week of November 10
- **Sunday the 10th**
  - 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship
  - 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
  - 6 p.m. Fast Track II Disciple Bible Study

- **Tuesday the 12th**
  - 5:30 p.m. Governing Board Meeting

- **Wednesday the 13th**
  - 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

- **Thursday the 14th**
  - 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Pettingill Center

- **Friday the 15th**
  - 10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

### Week of November 17
- **Sunday the 17th**
  - 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

### Week of November 24
- **Sunday the 24th**
  - 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship
  - 10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
  - 11:30 a.m. Stuffing Thanksgiving bags, Fellowship Hall
  - 11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
  - Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

### Nearly 1,000 reusable bags donated
As New York state’s ban on single-use plastic bags begins in March, our Outreach team and staff recognized that this would create a problem for our Food Pantry guests. Families and guests who access many of our Outreach resources depend on single-use plastic bags to carry their items home.

Laila Venkatesh, one of our valuable volunteers, brought in a bag she bought on a family vacation to a national park. Contact information for the manufacturer, Impact Photographics, was on the bag. A few emails later, 516 reusable bags arrived at UUMC. Free.

Then Mainstream Green, an environmental non-profit headquartered in Camillus, donated 460 more reusable bags. But please keep donating them. We can never have enough.
Congregation members and friends brought in items from countries that had special meaning for them on World Communion Sunday.
Baptism of Harper Rae Williams
October 13, 2019
(2 photos)
Baptism of Ruby Hope Mastronardi
October 20, 2019
(2 photos)
New Members Joining UUMC
Oct. 27, 2019
(3 photos)
Dedication of New Reconciling Stoles
October 27, 2019
(4 photos)