From Pastor Alicia:
Many reasons for hope in 2020

Outreach: New year brings plans for big changes

Altar Guild thanks volunteers for help during Advent

People & Prayers

Zimmerrmans: Where do you call home?

Altar Flowers

Birthdays

Finance Corner

Who are you? Find out in Epiphany worship series

We’ve celebrated the birth of Jesus and have started a new year and a new decade.

And we’ve just celebrated Epiphany, which marks the arrival of the magi to visit the infant Jesus.

This year, with Ash Wednesday beginning Lent on Feb. 26 and Easter not arriving until April 12, the season of Epiphany lasts for eight Sundays.

So what’s next?

A worship series that helps us figure out God’s place for us.

Here are the themes for the remaining seven Sundays:

Jan. 12: “Connect with Your Belovedness.” Remember our baptism and that we belong to God.

Jan. 19: “Know Your Name.” What description do we want to be known by? Who has God called us to be?

Jan. 26: “Listen for Your Call.” God has called us not just by name, but to a special purpose.

Feb. 2: “Embody Beatitude Living.” Do we embody a love for justice and kindness in our everyday lives?

Feb. 9: “Live with Integrity.” Are all parts of our lives working together for good?

Feb. 16: “Create Right Relationships.” How do our relationships with others define us?

Feb. 23: “Proclaim Transformation.” So, after this Epiphany journey: Who are we?

Plan allows traditionalists to leave denomination

A 16-member group of United Methodist bishops and other leaders has offered a proposal that would preserve The United Methodist Church while allowing traditional-minded congregations to form a new denomination.

The separating group would get $25 million in United Methodist funds and would keep its local church properties.

Details are in a nine-page “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation” released Jan. 3 along with an FAQ and press release.

The proposal requires approval by the 2020 General Conference, May 5-15 in Minneapolis.

The plan looks toward a restructuring of the remaining global United Methodist Church into regions, with flexibility to adapt church policies, including on LGBTQ inclusion.

Representatives of traditionalist, centrist and progressive advocacy groups joined with a handful of bishops from the U.S., Africa, Europe and the Philippines to reach the agreement. They promised to support it and no other.

— Excerpted from UM News report
Many reasons to be filled with hope entering the new year

Happy New Year!
As we enter 2020 I am hope-filled!
I never imagined living in 2020, and it feels strange to even say 2020.
Nevertheless, I am hope-filled!
I am filled with hope as a congregation. I’m seeing excitement about worship and our outreach in the city.
I’m seeing people grow deeper in faith and scripture in Bible studies.
I see joy in the faces of people who come into our church every day.
I see hope in the agreement in our denomination called the Protocol. This agreement has not yet been adopted. It will be presented at our General Conference in May for a vote. My prayer is that this or another compromise will be adopted so that we as a denomination may more forward to serve everyone more fully in the life of the church.
I am hope filled for our city as conversations continue about race, housing and health care.
Through ACTS, the Poor People’s Campaign and other organizations, the tough conversations are happening around the city with many differing voices.
Sometimes, it’s easy to get discouraged. There are so many influences around us to bring us down, to invoke fear or make us feel as if there is just too much to do.
I believe this is why we have Jesus to lean on and to talk with. Jesus showed us the way but then did not leave us alone.
Matthew 11:28-30 shares that Jesus asks us to lean on him: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
When I am overwhelmed, I read from the Book of Esther. Esther 4:14: “Perhaps you were born for such a time as this.”
I ask myself, what quality do I have that I might offer to bring peace, compassion or even goodness to a situation?
We all have some quality that will bring joy to another’s life.
I bring a heart that is hope-filled into 2020.
What quality or gift might you bring into our church, city or country to make it a better place?
I’ll be praying for you as we work together.
Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Alicia

People & Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 5
for healing for my sister Veda Lyon going home from the hospital today following hip replacement.

- Elise: Prophet Jesus: Bless this congregation and send your spirit comfort.
- Kim: For the family and friends of Bob Large, who died on Christmas day.
- Jerome: We thank God for arriving us into 2020, prayers for everything to be better and that the United States doesn’t enter another war. Pray that my family is successful as well as everyone else.
- Peter: For the Syracuse community, which pulled together a rally yesterday on one day’s notice to say “No” to war and to bring together diverse groups to make peace.
- Ann: Lois Lum at Iroquois Nursing Home Room 200
- Pray for Scott dealing with complications from cancer.
- For Don Koten as he continues his recovery at Menorah Park
- Praise for a beautiful Christmas! Mercy and grace for the big challenges that lie ahead for this new year — both on a global and personal level. Prayers for all those suffering from the consequences of global climate disruption.
- Please help all those struggling with addiction.

THANKS & PRAISE & JOYS
Sunday, December 15

- A joy: Ernie and Bobbie Hemphill would like to announce the birth of their first grandchild, a girl, on Dec 12.

Sunday, December 22

- Dear God, I thank you for all you have given
Outreach Ministry

2020 possibilities: Food Hub function, reorganized basement

As the New Year is upon us, I'd like to share some of the new things that University United Methodist Church’s Outreach team is very likely to embark upon in 2020.

We are currently working with the Food Bank of CNY, the Interreligious Food Consortium and our neighbor Food Pantries to redraft the parameters, jurisdictions and policies that guide Food Pantry use and access for our guests in the Southeast quadrant of the city of Syracuse.

Although we are very much in the draft stages of this project, we are quickly moving toward a cohesive Food Pantry model which is diverse, respectful, easy to access, accommodating and empowering.

This will become a model for Emergency Food Access in Central New York, one that is required to better support our community and ourselves as the face of hunger changes across New York state.

Referencing the Canadian model of “Emergency Food Access,” UUMC could become a sort of Food Hub, embracing all East Side residents and consumers who are hungry, need community, small meals, neighborhood resources, education, spirituality and basic consumable needs (diapers, toiletries, clothing, etc.).

Additionally, we will aim toward lifting folks out of poverty. In this we will look to allies in our community to find social workers, advocates, educators and case managers who will join our efforts at UUMC.

Our draft vision includes reorganizing the basement of UUMC.

Using the historic “Music Center” as the future Food Pantry, the current food pantry would house the influx of fresh foods (produce, bread and dairy).

Two classrooms would become the clothing closet and storage room, and the kitchen would provide the light meals.

Finances, energy and resources would be applied from the Food Bank of CNY and additional community/national grants to ensure appropriate funds and reimbursement for this project.

Although this plan is herculean in the initial stages, the result will be a consistent, stronger, powerful anchor to our community and neighborhood providing resources and alliances for fellow providers, guests, volunteers and staff.

I will continue to keep you updated on this evolving project.

We are very excited to create a better experience for residents for our side of the city and ensure that UUMC guests are thoroughly supported in a fair, generous, bountiful manner that is consistent and in line with personal growth and empowerment.

Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Outreach Coordinator

Altar Guild thanks those who helped decorate sanctuary, deliver plants

Each year at UUMC the church is decorated, poinsettias are arranged in the sanctuary and flowers are delivered or given to shut-in members and special friends of the congregation.

Members of the Altar Guild would like to thank those volunteers who make this possible.

This year the persons include: Holly and Seth Austin, Carol and Tom Boll, the Faley Family, Joyce Flynn, Bobbie and Ernie Hemphill, Doug Hemphill, Jayne Humbert, Margo Koten, Shirley and Harry Miller, Barbara Nunn, Deb O’Connor-Slater, Ann Owens, Lee and Ed Potter and Jordyn W.

Those receiving poinsettias were: Nate Appleton, Marilyn Benedict, Ralph Best, Rosemary Chappell, Hilde Cooper, Elise Curry-Schemichen, Ginny Dewey, Stark Donnally, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler, Ted Guerico, Don Koten, Lois Lum, Roger MacDonald, Jo-Ann May, Lois McTarnaghan, Ann Milner, Carol Moyer, Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Bill Potter, Dorothy Logan, Leigh Safford, Mary Slack, Rita Souleris, Peter Swords, Jim Tallman, Erika Vithuhn, Gary Wood, Phyllis Wright and Jordyn W.

A bag of baked goods was delivered to Martha Potter, and sugar-free candy was taken to Keith and Phillip Wellner.

A poinsettia was given to Joyce Flynn as a thank you for coordinating the Thanksgiving Bag Outreach Project.

— Bobbie Hemphill
People & Prayers

DEATHS

UUMC member Erkki Alestalo died Christmas Eve at the age of 66. His service is Saturday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. at UUMC. Here is a link to his obituary: OBITUARY

Bill Potter, longtime member of UUMC, died Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Upstate Medical University at the age of 89. Maurer Funeral Home in Liverpool has arrangements. There will be no calling hours or service.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

• Barb and Bob: Alayah Green, Mary and Carus Olcott Sr., John Quiggle, Frank Clish, Mary Ellen Will, Fay Kingery.
• Sue: My family, those with health issues
• Sherri Cullen: Kathy Dewey, Annette Reed and Grace Antonio, Maria and her mom, Xavier Swann, Emma Peters, Braxton Stewart, Rania and her daughter, Jean Cullen.
• Erika: Barb and Bob Weaver, Maria Storto.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

For Those in Military Service:

• Chance Lawson, Austin Payne, Ian Enderle

Sunday, December 8

• Alice: For my dear sister Anne.
• Grounding during this season. Prayers to keep hope alive, and for peace, even during hectic times. Prayers as I finish my job and look for a new one, and safe travels for my friend Nichole and her family as they make the long journey to New Zealand.
• For people who find themselves alone at Christmas.
• Alayah Green, Mary and Carus Olcott Sr. Also: please pray for safe travels for Barb and Bob as they travel to Florida.
• Erika: Maria Storto, Ann Leduc, Barb Weaver and Bob Weaver on their way to Florida. They leave tomorrow.
• Elise: Prophet Jesus: I praise you for a wonderful task: finding help to find a new career.
• Angela Palmieri: The family of Merilyn Krackhardt
• For a tenant so we have income to do even more ministry and outreach, in our community and beyond.
• For Don and Sue Schmidt. They lost their son this week.
• Prayers for Don as he recovers from his fall. He is at Menorah Park.
• For peace of mind and harmony spirit for all this holiday season.
• Congratulations to Bruno for his new job.
• Peter: Prayer goes out to Timmy G.
• All people dealing with loss during the season of peace and hope
• God bless all people who help me and my family ride to church. I say thank you to all of them.
• For all those in prison this holiday season — some overseas — some in the U.S., some ill and malnourished, many discouraged, give them hope and resilience.
• Peter: For new leadership top to bottom, bottom to top that makes peace sustainability, justice and nurturing all the kids No. 1
• Continued prayers for Jim Tallman as his wrist continues to heal

Sunday, December 15

• Alice: Please hold my sister high.
• For Jeanne, Ted and family at the passing of Jeanne’s mother. As well as for Outreach Coordinator Galyn Murphy-Stanley on the death of her father.
• Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Barb and Bob Weaver safe, Mary Slack, and Jeanne F-S.
• Blessing and prayers for the new baby Hemphill and parents Doug and Ping and a joy to have Nichola Weah back after being away in the military.
• Dan Ryan dealing with health issues.
• Joshua: For the whole family to be together.
• Peter: Joy, peace and love. Thanks, God, for the chance to kneel in front of the child and let’s think of all the children as we do so.
• John and Carrie Hunt: Alleluia! Nichola is home!
• My family, all struggling with health issues.
• Gail: Barbara Silverman, Mary Lee Tyndall, John Tyndall
• Ann Owens: My Aunt Joan, who fell and broke her hip this week.
• Elise: Prophet Jesus: Bless the hungry, for their stomachs be satisfied with your grace.

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CONTINUED from Page 4

- Kathy: For my personal growth, my son’s health, prayers for Bob and Barb Weaver, got to Florida safely.
- For UUMC members Ellen and David Bacon
- Sharon: Please be with my friend who is struggling with addiction, also those who are traveling.
- To feel all the emotions of Christmas, sadness and grief and joy and awe. To trust God in all things to hold hope.

Sunday, December 22
- Keep Jim Tallman in your prayers as he continues to heal after his fall a couple of weeks ago.
- Peter: For all our kids to have health and safe homes and good models for them to refuse evil and choose good with our help.
- Mamie: Good morning and season’s greetings to all. May the Lord bring jovial additives to all and family be mindful of all things and people around you. God bless all!
- For Deb Virgo and for those spending Christmas without a loved one or are lonely.
- Prayer for Scott struggling with cancer
- Alice: For my sister, Anne, that she can tolerate this new chemo.
- Kiza Kashindi: I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with love, peace, hope, joy and happiness.
- Alphonsina: I’m so happy to be here with people of God.

Thanks be to God.
- Elise: Prophet Jesus: Bless the lonely and those who are depressed — they need your comfort and cheer this time!
- Peace of mind and a joyous heart to all this Christmas season and into the new year
- Prayers for broken families that they may find peace and healing this Christmas season; prayers of healing for Stephen T., who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer; prayers of thanks for good health of all our family this holiday season
- Maggie, on the death of her mother; my family, those with health issues
- Continued prayers for Darren, also for all people traveling
- My friend Maggie and her family
- For those who are alone this Christmas
- Connie: For those who grieve at Christmas and for those traveling for Christmas
- Keep Jim Tallman in prayer as he continues to heal after his fall a couple of weeks ago

Tuesday, December 24
- I want Richard and family to find peace and favor with God.
- Kathy: Prayers for my parents, prayers for Bob and Barb Weaver, John Macpherson.
- Prayers for those struggling with addiction.
- Wishing everyone a blessed and merciful Christmas and be safe for the New Year family, God bless!
- I pray to find my way back to Christ again.

Sunday, December 29
- For peace
- Lois Lum
- A safe journey for my son, Scott, going to Thailand on Jan. 1.
- Alice: For my sister, Anne. Blessings in the New Year!
- Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay: The joy and love of Christmas with family home together.
- Ann Owens: Lois Lum. She is at Community Hospital with congestive heart failure.
- Sue: My family, those with health issues.
- As we welcome the Christ child, help us humans to welcome all children as all of God’s world
- Dear God, In these final days help us to understand the supreme importance of honesty as no solutions are impossible without it.
- Keep all that are struggling with addiction in your prayers. Safe travels for all.

Sunday, January 5
- Jen M, undergoing breast surgery tomorrow.
- Sue: Chuck recovering from surgery, those with health issues, my family.
- Jim: Joy that Pastor Alicia was on TV talking about new UMC protocol to be presented at General Conference.
- Gwen T-F: Continued prayers See PEOPLE, Page 2
Sadness, blessing of missionary life: Where do you call home?

Editor’s Note: This is excerpted from a recent Prayer Letter from Dr. Mark and Deirdre Zimmerman, United Methodist missionaries in Nepal. UUMC supports their work.

Dear Friends,

“Compared to what’s coming, living conditions around here seem like a stopover in an unfurnished shack...[The Spirit of God] puts a little of heaven in our hearts so that we'll never settle for less.”

— 2 Corinthians 5:4-5  
The Message

It was a bright, breezy day, a relief from the usual heat and humidity of August, with air that promised an end to monsoon and the arrival of autumn.

In fact we still had over a month of heavy rains to get through but today, with bright white clouds scudding across a blue sky, it felt good to be cycling through the city streets.

From our calm residential neighbourhood, I crossed a busy artery running towards the center of Kathmandu and headed into the ancient streets of Patan.

Morning rush hour had passed. Now shopkeepers adjusted their displays and swept dust out of their open-fronted shops into the road, and a variety of women and senior citizens made their way on foot to farm fields, homes and temple porches for their daily activities.

The narrow streets were further constricted at intervals by the seemingly perpetual roadwork for a 20-year-old project to bring a reliable water supply to the city, as well as great piles of building materials as the last earthquake-damaged homes are replaced with modern multi-story buildings. The noise and activity struck me as a stark contrast to the lush green farm fields of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where we had just spent two months on home assignment during the summer.

There the roads narrowed only in appearance as over the passing weeks the tight rows of surrounding corn stretched from 2 to 6 and then 8 feet high, muffling the sounds of the occasional passing car or the clopping hooves of our Amish neighbors’ horse and buggies.

Bumping and swerving my way through various obstacles, I dropped down a steep hill to the broad expanse of the Ring Road, eight lanes of smooth Chinese construction that require careful navigation given the speed at which vehicles hurtle down whatever lane suits the driver, irrespective of its designated direction.

Twenty years ago, crossing the Ring Road (then two lanes) would bring you into rice fields dotted with red painted mud-and-stone farmhouses, the fields stretching back to the foothills of the surrounding mountains...an environment with many similarities to that Lancaster countryside.

Not anymore: the concrete jungle only becomes brasher and more unkempt on the outer limits of the expanding urban conurbation that now fills the Kathmandu Valley.

Pulling uphill from the Ring Road, I continued for another 10 minutes. Finally I spotted my destination: a new four-story building painted bright grass-green, with steel shop shutters pulled down over the front of the ground-floor rooms.

Through the open windows the strains of a Nepali hymn wafted down onto the street below: I had arrived for the Christian dedication of Anil & Ramila’s newly constructed house.

Parking my bicycle amongst the motorbikes in a side passage-way, I walked to the back of the house where the heavily-built Rakesh was sitting in the yard, relaxing by a huge (now empty) cast iron wok sitting on a large gas burner.

Rakesh, our Nepali church’s resident cook-for-hire, had just completed the preparation of a large meal for the 150 or so participants. I climbed the stairs leading from the ground floor, occupied by a butcher’s and a small shop, past the next floor which would have renting ten-

See Zimmermans, Page 7
Zimmermans face many uncertainties as the new year arrives

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The living room and two adjoining bedrooms were filled to capacity with young and old members of the church sitting in rows on the floor as a church leader led them in praise and worship.

Entering the room, I felt the usual warmth of joining this group which keeps a special place for me (and my family), regardless of our strange and sometimes awkward ways as foreigners.

Closing the group worship with a time of prayer, the leader handed over to our pastor for a sermon. He started with a reminder that there was no room for jealousy between Christians, the source of our joy being not our own success, but rather the joy and achievements of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

It was a poignant comment: Our congregation is divided economically not so much by employment or income as by land ownership, usually relating to whether a family’s ancestral home is Kathmandu, or whether they have migrated in from other parts of the country.

Owning your own home not only guarantees you accommodation in this tightly-packed city but also secures you a steady income as a landlord renting out extra rooms and floors.

Anil and Ramila had endured a frightening experience during the 2015 earthquake when their inner-city home was boxed in by other collapsed buildings, but they were fortunate that Anil’s mother owned this small piece of ancient farmland, and over the last couple of years they had pulled together the funds to build a modern building close to the Ring Road.

Being foreign residents in Nepal, and irregular visitors in our own countries, we are constantly asked where we are from or, in the Nepali literal translation, “Where is your home?” When we are traveling in the U.S. or Ireland, we think about going “home” to Nepal; when we are living in Nepal, we think of our families and favourite places “back home.”

It is a question that is especially challenging for our boys, and one that Zachary in particular is likely to face frequently after he leaves Nepal for college next summer.

One poignant definition of “home” for those living cross-culturally is that home is always where you are not. There is some truth and sadness in this for there is always a sense of missing something, no matter where you are. But there is also much blessing, and of course hope, in the lack of a definitive or singular home.

Our missionary life has led us to being warmly welcomed into many homes, in many communities. This summer Tammy and Jay Metzler confined themselves to the ground floor of their beautiful farmhouse to allow our family with its mix of teenage and middle-age emotions to settle in style into the upper floor.

Traveling around Pennsylvania and neighboring states, we were ushered into the best rooms in the homes of strangers, and slept on the familiar beds and couches of close friends and family.

And at the end of it all...we returned to the warmth of friends and colleagues in Nepal.

There are several uncertainties for our family in the coming year. Where will Zachary go to college? How will he adjust to the major social and cultural transitions involved?

Where will Benjamin go to school for the A-level courses he is due to start in August?

Where is the best place for Mark and me to be located and where will “home” be for our family as we support the boys through their upcoming changes?

Over our years as a family, we have repeatedly experienced God’s abundant provision for us, be it in the face of a sudden eviction from a Nepali apartment, or in answer to an urgent need for accommodation as we started home assignment one wintry evening in Pennsylvania.

So we look to Him for answers to these difficult questions, and ask for your help in that. And of course, we rejoice in knowing where our True Home is, no matter on which side of the world we find ourselves.

Sincerely,

Deirdre,

Mark, Zachary and Benjamin

**Altar Flowers**

Altar flowers were given by: Don and Margo Koten, in memory of their parents, D. Irvin and Dora Koten and the Rev. George and Margaret Schnabel.

The Altar Guild in memory and honor of UUMC loved ones.

Flowers were given to Stephen Shepherd, Lois Lum, Jules Colantonio and Don Koten. Flowers were delivered by Lee and Ed Potter and Ann Owens.
Finance Corner

Pledging Update:
2019 total pledges: $203,474
Total Pledges Received: $196,612
Non-pledge contributions: $20,318
Thursday Service: $327
Trustees Bathroom Renovation Fund: $25,625
Thanksgiving Bags: $3,258
Thanksgiving Offering: $706
Christmas Offering: $1,056

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

Week of January 12
Sunday the 12th
9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Worship.
10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Lau-bach Room
11:45 a.m. Christian Education, K-5th, Chappell Room
For : Body, Mind and Spirit
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Wednesday the 22nd
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
7 p.m. Church & Society
Thursday the 23rd
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Petten-gill Center
Friday the 24th
10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

Week of January 19
Sunday the 19th
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10:45 a.m. Christian Education, K-5th, Chappell Room
11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chappell Room

Women's Guild Meeting
The Women's Guild will meet 1:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at Shirley Miller’s, 705 Scott Ave. Jean Ryan of the state attorney general’s Consumer Fraud Unit will speak.

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Women's Guild Meeting
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February birthdays
2 – Bette Helwig
7 – Domanick Weah
8 – Tom Boll
9 – Starke Donnally
19 – Jan Garman
20 – Aidan Brackett
21 – Taylor Bacon
23 – Roseanne Samuel
25 – Elise Curry-Schemichen

University United Methodist Church

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Chimes newsletter Volume 20 No. 1 January 9, 2020
Feeding God’s People: Body, Mind and Spirit
Bringing in Christmas
December 8, 2019
(3 photos)
Advent Potluck Luncheon
December 8, 2019
(10 photos)
Barbara Fought and Carol Boll contributed photos
Neighborhood Christmas Dinner
December 16, 2019
(10 photos)
Christmas Eve Pageant
December 24, 2019
(15 photos)