This Lent, picture yourself in the Passion of Jesus

Ever imagine yourself in someone else’s shoes, what your life would be like?

Well, come Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, we’ll begin doing that with our next worship series: “Entering the Passion of Jesus: Picturing Ourselves in the Story,” which was inspired by Amy-Jill Levine’s book by the same name.

The Passion includes the events of the last week of Jesus’ life. This Lent, we will “freeze-frame” moments of that week, so we can put ourselves in that picture.

It begins with a 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service that includes the imposition of ashes.

Pledges for 2020 exceeded those for 2019 by nearly $14,000 ($13,889) for a total of $217,360.

A full financial report and the 2020 budget will be presented at the potluck lunch after worship March 1. Come and hear what we accomplished in 2019 and new plans for 2020.

You’ll hear about the planned Outreach Program expansion.

You’ll also get an update on General Conference, which is May 5-15 in Minneapolis and will be critical to the future of the denomination as delegates will consider various plans.
From our pastor...

Spiritual exercises, book and Holy Land trip all related

Greetings!

Have you ever had several things in your life intertwine?

It seems this is happening to me this month.

First, I am participating in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius praying and studying the Gospels leading through Lent.

Second, our Lenten journey will be based on the book by New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine called “Entering the Passion of Jesus.”

Third, I am traveling to the Holy Land Feb. 11-25.

All of these things are ways in which I can dig into Scripture and grow closer to Jesus.

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius have been a beautiful experience of deep and creative prayer.

St. Ignatius invites us to imagine we are in the Scripture story. He suggests imagining we are a character or bystander within the story.

I have found this exercise to make the meaning of the text more powerful.

In seminary I was taught to examine Scripture through a scholarly lens. This is helpful in interpreting the text to learn the meaning in Jesus’ time and for today. It helped me understand the text.

The exercises of St. Ignatius have helped me grow in faith because it’s not about interpreting but how the story connects me with Jesus.

Similarly, the book “Entering the Passion of Jesus” asks us to enter the Scripture. We will enter the life of Jesus and his disciples in Holy Week. This will allow us to reflect more deeply on this life-changing week.

As I travel through the Holy Land I pray the Bible will come to life in a new and exciting way.

I will take a lot of pictures to share throughout Lent as we enter the passion of Jesus.

I plan to post an image and short reflection each day on our Facebook page UUMCSyracuse starting Feb. 12. I hope you are able to travel along with me.

Please pray for me that I may be open to the possibilities Jesus has in store for me on this journey now through Easter.

My prayer continues to be, “Use me, Holy God, so that I may be a part of leading University UMC to be a congregation that thrives!”

I believe these three things are all coming together now because we are on the cusp of something that will change so many lives, including mine.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Alicia

Alicia Wood

Teach-in topic: ‘Speaking Truth about Gender’

Church & Society’s next teach-in is on “Eve Was Framed: Speaking Truth about Gender.” It’s March 3 and presented by Diane Swords and Roslyn Rasberry.

Sharing and dialogue will be 7-8:30 p.m. Snacks will be available at 6:30 p.m.

What experiences have you had (or observed) related to treatment based on gender?

Have you felt that you couldn’t talk about it or couldn’t quite put your finger on what just happened?

This could be your chance to share experiences and insights!

80 visitors worshiped with us in 2019

University Church has an unusual number of visitors each year.

Some are simply passing through.

Others are in Syracuse visiting their children in one of the universities and colleges.

Many are drawn to our worship by visiting our webpage and wanting to check us out.

In 2019, a total of 80 persons visited worship. Of those, eight (10%) have become or plan to become members.

Nineteen (24%) have returned two or more times.

The Welcome Team follows up each visitor who fills out a yellow slip with a telephone call or visit and a small gift.

Thank you to all who welcome visitors and help them feel welcome and become acquainted with our congregation and mission.

— Barbara Fought/Nelson Price

Pecans still for sale

One-pound bags of pecan halves are still available for $12 each or two for $20 from Deb Virgo at 315-415-7840 or dlvirgo@gmail.com.

She also will sell them after worship Feb. 16 and will deliver.
SU Food Studies students learn about pantry and our guests

Syracuse University’s Falk College maintains a course of study in Food Studies.

One of its class offerings is the study of Food Insecurity.

Participating students learn how folks living in poverty feed themselves and how governmental decisions affect food costs, food subsidies and eventually food access for all Americans.

Not only do the students, with their professors, learn the history of Food Insecurity in America and how society, government and religious houses fed each other, they travel around Syracuse engaging, learning from and understanding Emergency Food Access systems.

A couple times a year I teach a class in this area of study.

Typically about 20 students walk to UUMC from SU with their professor.

I move them through UUMC’s basement as if the students were one of our Food Pantry guests, describing our Fridays, the folks who visit us, the volunteers who work with us.

I talk about UUMC’s history of social justice and the tireless commitment to fair and just food access.

I reference our expenses, our relationship with the CNY Food Bank, our acquirement of nutritious dense foods and our additional auxiliary programs.

Syracuse University students hear about our Food Pantry from Outreach Coordinator Galyn Murphy-Stanley on Wednesday.

And I talk about our guests — their stories, their words, the foods folk like and don’t like, how our guests might have arrived to UUMC.

Toward the end of our time together I invite them to join us on a Friday or Sunday for a volunteer experience, and I also speak about some of the other ways they could help folk who need food.

It’s always an interesting couple of hours, especially answering the students’ questions about the people who access food pantries. In the end the conversation becomes more about the people, who, how, why, versus the efforts of the pantry itself.

It’s a renewing conversation as I’m reminded that behind the management of the system, the acquirement, the effort, we do this work because of the people who rightfully, fairly deserve the best from us.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley, Outreach Coordinator

Here are the members of your Lay Leadership Team for 2020

Leadership for UUMC in 2020 with the year members’ terms expire:

**Governing Board:** Body Ministries Leader, Nelson Price, 2022; Mind Ministries Leader, Cynthia Steinem, 2022; Spirit Ministries Leader, Ann Owens, 2022; Chair, Joyce Flynn, 2020; Finance Chair, Ronald Denby, 2021; Trustees Chair, Steve Bacon (if elected at next trustees meeting), 2021; Staff-Parish Relations Committee chair, John Hunt, 2022; Lay Leader, Barbara Nunn, 2022; Representative to Syracuse UM Churches Leadership Team, Mark Fullerton, 2020; Recording Secretary, Melanie Fullerton (no vote); Lay Member to Annual Conference, Ted Finlayson-Schueler; Pastor Alicia Wood.

**Staff-Parish Relations Committee:** 2020, Seth Austin, Ellyn Gale; 2021, Karen Quick, Ed Tillapaugh; 2022, Jayne Humbert, John Hunt, chair; Lay Leader Barbara Nunn; Lay Member to Annual Conference, Ted Finlayson-Schueler; Pastor Alicia Wood..

**Nominations Committee:** 2020, Sue Bates, Beth Drew; 2021, Carol Boll; 2022, Gwen Tillapaugh-Fay, Doug Randall, Starke Donnally; Lay Leader Barbara Nunn, Pastor Alicia Wood.

**2020 Representative to Syracuse UM Churches Leadership Team:** Mark Fullerton/Nelson Price (alt.)
DEATHS

- UUMC member and former James Street UMC member Lois Lum died Jan. 24 at the age of 98. Her service was at UUMC Jan. 30. Here is a link to her obituary: OBITUARY

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 struggling 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, January 12

- Praying for those struggling with addiction, illness or poverty.
- For all those suffering from the terrible wildfires in Australia.
- I pray for the ones who woke up today for the last time, the ones whose next step will be eternal life. Rest in peace.
- For God’s guidance in all things.
- For the people of Iran
- Prophet Jesus: Comfort the bereaved, for they need assurance about your awesome presence.

Sunday, January 19

- Kristen Tooley: Barbara Flynn, stage 4 colon cancer, about to start chemotherapy.
- Continued prayers for those recovering from addiction.
- Mamie: Good morning: Have a wonderful week. God bless everyone. May his will be with you.
- Willie: For better health of my loved ones and for people in my life who have lost a loved one.

Sunday, January 26

- Alvin Fridie called in from Ohio, would love to have people visit his niece, Jo-Ann May.
- Prayers for all people with mental health issues, that new and better treatments become available. Prayers for all who are awaiting organ transplants.
- For Don’s continued recovery at Menorah Park.
- Peter: Lest we forget: Dr. King’s dream is alive when we support each other’s rights, especially the children’s and resist war.
- Sue: Brice and Ella, my family, See PEOPLE, Page 5
People & Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4 those with health issues.

• Prophet Jesus: Bless and praise you for gifts of opportunities present to me.
• I want to bless God for the church, family and the pastor. Pray for those sick around the world. May God save us all from evil.
• Please pray for my great-nephew Colin, who is struggling with breathing problems.
• Prayers for the family of Chris Churchill, who died on Monday.
• For insight, hope and resilience as I search for a new job. Prayers of healing for my uncle. Reconciliation between my mom and younger brother.
• The family of Lois Lum
• Angela: The family of Lois Lum. Happy birthday to my mom on Tuesday!

Sunday, February 2

• Elise: Prophet Jesus: Praise you for progress being made this week and keep going!
• Kellie and Lynn: Prayers for our cousin Todd, who was diagnosed with throat cancer.
• Gwen: Continued healing for Lee Potter recovering from surgery.
• Happy 33rd birthday to Gordon Bartow and prayers for those quarantined due to the coronavirus.
• May we all bend more for justice and use our strength to bend systems and institutions that need realigning.
• Alice: Prayers for my sister, Anne
• Bruce: For a friend, Jim, for his return home from rehab.

THANKS & PRAISE & JOYS

Sunday, January 12

• Alice: A joy! My sister, Anne, had a CAT scan on Friday and in showed improvement! Thank you for your continued prayers.
• Thanks be for Joeviet Cooper for her birthday will be Jan. 17.
• Kim: Prayers of the thanks that my daughter’s cancer is shrinking.
• Thanks for the life of Lenora Mon kemeyer. “She persisted” in getting out to community events and supporting justice and peace.

Sunday, January 26

• Dear God, Thank you for all the gifts you have given me. Help me to “know what time it is.” Time to give is in the present.

Sunday, February 2

• Peter: Joy for family getting together, for babies growing and for the Poor People’s Campaign saying “Everybody’s Got a Right to Live.”
• Kim: Thanks for God’s continuing healing cancer.

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given: By David and Ellen Bacon in memory of loved ones.
By Seth and Holly Austin in memory of their friend Jane Keenan.
By Pastor Alicia and Angela Palmieri in honor of the January birthdays of their mothers, Peg Leonard and Ann Owens.
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sneddon by their daughters
Flowers were given to Ralph Best, Rita Souleris, Steve Bacon, Aimee deBerjeois, Don Koten and Sheila Murphy.
Flowers were delivered by Margo Koten.

March birthdays

2 – Jerry Cargo, Emelia Weah
3 – Julia Ross
4 – Grace Bradshaw
5 – Doug Hemphill, Bob Coutts
6 – Aimie Sarkodie-Mensah
Best
9 – Kirsten Magowan, Keith Wellner
11 – Rita Souleris
13 – Alicia Wood
16 – Nichola Weah
17 – Johnathan Weah
19 – Stuart Hosler
20 – Donald Koten, Vito Sciscio li
22 – Craig Myers
24 – Lisa Weah
25 – Michael Fay
26 – Barbara Nunn
27 – Denise Marshall, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler
30 – Renee McKay

Women’s Guild

The Women’s Guild will meet at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Chappell Room. Nneka Eke will speak on “Trip to Nigeria.” Jill Sarkodie-Mensah is hostess.
**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9**

**Sunday the 9th**
- 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Worship.
- 10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
- 10:45 a.m. Christian Education, K-5th, Chappell Room
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room

**Monday the 10th**
- 5 p.m. Disciple II Fast Track Bible Study, Chappell Room

**Tuesday the 11th**
- 7 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday the 12th**
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

**Thursday the 13th**
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Pettengill Center

**Friday the 14th**
- 10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16**

**Sunday the 16th**
- 9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship.

**Monday the 17th**
- 10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
- 10:45 a.m. Christian Education, K-5th, Chappell Room

**WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23**

**Sunday the 23rd**
- 9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
- 10:45 a.m. Christian Education, K-5th, Chappell Room
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room

**Monday the 24th**
- 7 p.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

**Thursday the 27th**
- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Pettengill Center

**WEEK OF MARCH 1**

**Sunday the 1st**
- 9 a.m. Bagels & Coffee, The Gathering Room
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Communion
- 11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room
- 10:45 a.m. Christian education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room
- 11:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting/Potluck, Fellowship Hall
- 6 p.m. Disciple II Fast Track Bible Study, Chappell Room

**Thursday the 5th**
- 7 p.m. Teach-in: “Eve Was Framed: Speaking Truth about Gender”; snacks at 6:30 p.m., Pettengill Center

**Friday the 6th**
- 10 a.m. Food Pantry, Clothes Closet, Diapers, Fellowship Hall

**Ash Wednesday the 26th**
- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship
Remembering Our Baptism
January 12, 2020
(5 photos)
Rally after Women’s March
January 18, 2020
(5 photos)
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
At Carrier Dome, January 26, 2020
(3 photos)
Morgan & Ruby
February 2, 2020
(2 photos by Carol Boll)