

THE CHIMES

February 6, 2019

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**Next Chimes
deadline:
February 27**

Articles for The Chimes must be submitted by noon on the deadline day and can be sent to: uumctb@twcny.rr.com or put in Box No. 12 in the church office.

*Alicia Wood, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor*

Help out Welcome Team by chatting with visitors before and after worship

Ten first-time visitors came to UUMC on Jan. 27. And the Welcome Team was scrambling to chat with all of them. So everyone at worship is needed to help greet those sitting near them who appear to be new and encouraging them to fill out that yellow slip.

And yes, sometimes we make mistakes and inquire "are you here for the first time" to a person who has been attending for years. But isn't that better than a newbie going away without much acknowledgment?

None of the 10 visitors that Sunday left contact information. That's common. Apparently that is too much of a commitment for most first-timers.

When people do leave an address, the Welcome Team follows up with a visit, phone call or gift that

very day. Pastor Alicia sends a letter as well.

The most common responses from visitors to "how did you find us" is that they searched online and found UUMC. Other common responses are they drove by the church or they were attracted by our rainbow banners.

Ten visitors on one day was very unusual, as we have not been seeing a lot of new people recently. However, our statistics show that in 2018, 76 local residents visited at least once and left some information. And this doesn't count out-of-towners or relatives. About a dozen have become engaged in activities and continue to attend.

One new couple said they heard about the church from someone who attends — and it turned out the refer-
See **TALK**, Page 5

Crucial Special Session nears; teach-in, vigil planned

The future of the United Methodist Church will be greatly impacted by the outcome of the Special Session of General Conference Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis.

Delegates will act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward, which was appointed by the Council of Bishops, after examining paragraphs in The Book of Discipline on human sexuality.

A teach-in/potluck after church Feb. 10 will educate us on the proposals and process.

Whatever the decision, Bishop Mark Webb is hosting regional gatherings "to process the new reality." Closest one to us is 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 20 at Liverpool First UMC.

You can pray in advance for the Special Session and the delegates. During it, Immanuel UMC, 303 Kasson Road, Camillus, will have a prayer vigil from 9 a.m. Feb. 23 to 9 p.m. Feb. 26. In person: the church will be open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Virtual: Go to their website www.churchofthebells.org.

Churches still relevant, as UUMC's effect on people's lives shows



Alicia Wood

Greetings!

I am blessed to have attended the 34th MLK Jr. celebration at Syracuse University.

The event included dance and singing performances. The keynote speaker was Trevor Noah. He is known as the host of "The Daily Show." Trevor is a smart and witty comedian from South Africa.

His speech was more of a conversation with newscaster Jennifer Sanders.

Although he is known for making people laugh, his conversation at the event was powerful and prophetic.

Trevor talked about his life story, which he wrote about in his book "Born a Crime."

He shared with the audience the impact his mom's teachings had on his personal and professional life.

Trevor's mom, the true star of his book, believed in learning everything possible to be prepared for the impossible.

For example, she went to typing class during the South Africa apartheid even though she would never be allowed to be a secretary as a black woman.

She also told Trevor to never let others take his joy away after someone had belittled them on the street. She walked into their house happy.

Trevor asked, "Aren't you upset with what they just said to us?"

She answered, "I will not let anyone take away my joy in my house. Let them talk. I will not let their talk affect me."

How might this impact us as a church? For me, it describes our call to be prepared for the impossible because with God all things are possible.

We are reminded of this in Luke 1:37: "For nothing will be

impossible with God."

We are called to do God's work and share God's love in ways we may not have imagined yet but God has.

Second, let us not be affected by the outside world saying churches are no longer relevant. University Church is more relevant than ever!

I have been asking folks how University Church has affected their lives. So many people are excited to share their story about our church.

This church and congregation are changing lives! Sharing God's love!

This year let's continue to live into these words from Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

I look forward to stepping onto the staircase with you!

Peace,

Pastor Alicia

UUMC is making a difference in people's lives: One man's testimony

Here's what **David Benjamin** had to say: "I really like this church because it helps me with volunteering.

"Even though I get my food here, I also try to help out. And the people are wonderful here. There's Julius and the other guys.

"And I'm so glad I was able to help Robert with

getting a brand-new jacket for him because his was in shreds. And he's an excellent volunteer.

"I liked that when I was able to make it for Sunday breakfast because the breakfasts are awesome. And the people are wonderful. And the pastor's nice."

Altar flowers

Altar flowers were given:

- ◆ By Bob and Ginny Dewey in memory of their parents.
- ◆ By Ralph Best in memory of his wife, Betty Best, and his parents, Jack and Betty Best.
- ◆ By Pastor Alicia Wood and Angela Palmieri in honor of the birthdays of their mothers, Peg Leonard and Ann Owens
- ◆ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sneddon by their daughters

Flowers were given to the Mai Family, Ted Guercio, Phyllis Wright, Henrietta Curry and Ronald Denby and Alice Makul.

Flowers were delivered by Margo Koten, Ed and Lee Potter and Nelson Price.

Preparations made for those who dealt with shutdown



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

Our daily conversations have stayed close to the affected areas of the federal government's recent partial shutdown, the adjustment of the SNAP dispensation calendar

and eventual cutoff of SNAP monies to all benefactors in the nation.

The shutdown has ended, but there's a threat it could resume in mid-February.

We generated a plan of action for federal workers who might arrive to access food, we organized our food resources and we are actively filling our store-rooms.

We've conversed with the Food Bank, which has assured me that they will support our efforts. The Central NY Food Bank has also provided this directive for all Food Pantries in their 13 counties that make up the central and upstate region of New York state:

Dear Partner Agency,

We want to provide you with information regarding the impact of the partial government shutdown on federal nutrition programs as well as your agency's day-to-day operations.

Due to the partial government shutdown, your agency could see new guests seeking assistance. We encourage you to take a few moments to welcome and familiarize them with the process for receiving food assistance at your agency. For food pantry partner agencies, please follow your normal intake process.

Supplemental Nutrition Assis-

tance Program (SNAP)* February benefits will be deposited into current Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients' EBT accounts on or before Sunday, January 20, 2019. When speaking with guests who receive SNAP, please inform them about this early issuance and stress with them that this is not a bonus allotment. It is their February allotment and they should budget their spending of it accordingly. At this time, there is no guarantee of benefits for March.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)* has sufficient funding for benefits and operations to stay open through the end of February.

School-based child nutrition programs are funded through March, including school breakfast, lunch, and afterschool meals.

We (at the Food Bank) will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

If your agency has seen an increase in demand as a result of furloughed federal employees connecting with your agency for resources and your agency is struggling to meet that need, we are available to assist you in providing food for these individuals.

We welcome you to please share any stories of guests that have been affected by the government shutdown to assist in our advocacy work.

Thank you again for all that you do to help provide fresh and nutritious food to those in need.

— Food Bank of CNY

***The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest federal nutrition assis-**

tance program (once known as "Food Stamps"). SNAP provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families via an Electronic Benefits Transfer card. This card is used like a debit card to buy eligible food in authorized retail food stores. To be eligible for SNAP households must meet certain income limits.

***Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children provides federal grants to states for supplemental food, health care referrals and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, to non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Vouchers are provided to applicable families enabling the disbursement of nutrient dense food for women, infants and children.

We at UUMC will continue to support our community to the best of our ability as long as there is need.

I introduce this directive and information to demonstrate the shared vision of the Food Bank of CNY and to provide information as to what will be lost in the immediate future for guests and folk who visit UUMC each week.

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley
Outreach Coordinator

**Pastor
Alicia
recently
visited
longtime
member
Dot
Logan.**



People & Prayers

CONTINUING PRAYERS

- **Barb and Bob Weaver:** Alayah Green and family, Carus Olcott Jr., Mary and Carus Olcott Sr., Charlotte Edick and family; Alberta Hoseney and Family
- **Erika:** Barb and Bob Weaver, Maria Storto and family, Katie Green and family.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- For those in military service:
Matt Fischer

Sunday, January 13

- Thank you, God, for everything you did for me. I need church prayers for my studies.
- Prayers for everyone struggling with mental health issues, homelessness and poverty. Prayers of thanks for this church family, which is committed to helping those in need and working for social justice.
- That a situation at work is resolved and favorable tomorrow.
- Please bring sanity to our Congress and executive branches of our country.
- Safe travels for **Carol Boll** as she travels to Singapore to make great memories with her daughter **Bethany**.
- Prophet Jesus: Bless the federal workers with fortitude, because the government shutdown must end.
- **Sue:** Marie Summerwood, my family and those struggling with health issues.
- **Kathy:** For all who need shelter from the cold and a safe place to live.
- **Mamie:** Happy New Year to my church family. Keep me in

your prayers for passing this last class (math) God Bless You All!

- **Myers Family:** Please pray for my family. Please pray for my health and my soul. I just need the dark clouds removed from my life. Thank you.
- Joy for what I have and where I am going. Prayer in continuing to find a job.

Sunday, January 20

**CHURCH SERVICE CANCELED
BECAUSE OF WEATHER**

Sunday, January 27

- Prophet Jesus: I praise you for continuing healing for my sick husband.
- **Rocco Brickman**, who has health issues
- Prayers for the Congolese family whose house burned on Friday.
- For those who are struggling to stay warm this winter, may they find shelter and means of heating their homes.
- **McKay:** Please watch over my family to ensure their safety and sanity during this time.
- All is possible when we trust in God. The Congolese people as a dream have a new government.
- **Peter:** Condolences for the family of **Brianna Herrera**, who lost her life in a bus accident this week. She was a former student of Diane Swords in Dialogue.
- **Tom Boll:** For the family of Brianna Herrera, the SU student killed in a bus accident Thursday night. Bri was a student in my class last semester.

- Pray for my friend **Mya** who got killed. I got her in my heart, Justice for her.
- **Kathy:** Pray for making me more financially stable.
- **Lois Lum**

Sunday, February 3

- **Owen:** Pray for me, for love and understanding of the things I can't change.
- Pray for **Robyn Lanzone** in her second battle with cancer. Lord, please work a miracle and may the doctors find a treatment that heals this young mother.
- For my son who is struggling with life-changing events, for the family of a former co-worker, **Steve Fudar**, who recently died
- **Ann Owens:** **Judy McGarvey**, continuing health issues.
- **Morgan:** Continued prayers for **Gerry Mastronardi** as he continues chemo therapy.
- **Willie Kern:** That my family and friends have great health.
- **Don and Margo Koten:** For our friend **Paula**, whose cancer has returned.
- **Elise:** Prophet Jesus: Bless my mother, **Henrietta**, to heal and recover from a major stroke, today.
- **Carmen Dyer-Glaser:** Please let **Kaye Lawless** be in peace for the next month or so.
- My family, good test results on Friday.
- **Sherri:** **Kathy Dewey**, **Patti Fasulo** and her mom, **Billy** and family, **Patti Walker** and family, **Heather Brieady**.
- For the children on the U.S.-Mexican border.

See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

Pledging/giving update

Financial giving commitments dropped this year under 2018. The totals dropped from \$209,472 to \$203,474.

Sixteen pledges were increased.

Most of those who did not pledge are facing hardships and will give as they are able. We urge any who can to make a commitment.

Commitments of time to be in ministry are significant.

We have 20 volunteers every week in the pantry. Count the members in the choir, there are 24. The breakfast sees 15-20 volunteers twice a month. The Care Team is visiting home-bound members and those in the hospital. You see the results of the worship team's efforts each Sunday.

Lives are being affected and changed in our church family and in the community. And many more.

If you are not involved deeply, talk to Pastor Alicia for opportunities to volunteer in ministry, whether it be through those already underway or those that may be evolving. Perhaps you see a ministry opportunity to start. Feel free to begin the conversation!

— Nelson Price

In case of severe weather, it's pastor's call on closing

The building closing policy, as decided by the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, states that the building will be open unless the pastor decides to close for extreme weather. It is expected that staff will try to get to work without penalty for any weather-related delays.

People & Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

- The situation in Congo
- Thank you for a church home, God that can prepare us a home with you

THANKS & PRAISE & JOYS

Sunday, January 13

- **Kellie:** Thank you for the prayers during **Lynn's and our moms'** surgery that went well, and rehab is going well for both.
- **Dan and Kirsten Magowan:** A joy! A new grandson, Owen William Woodburn, 11 pounds, 3 ounces, born Jan. 11 to our daughter **Mary**

Sunday, January 27

- **Sherri Cullen:** Welcome to my new grandson, **Gage**, born Jan. 22.
- **Ellyn Gale:** Congratulations and joy to my niece **Taylor Fiore** and **Tim Knoeller** for the birth of their son, **Theodore Francis Knoeller**, on Jan. 18.

Sunday, February 3

- **Barb and Bob Weaver:** Joy! Our granddaughter, **Alayah Green**, has finished her chemo treatments at Upstate and got to ring the bell! She is now in remission. We are so blessed!

Talk to neighbors, colleagues about UUMC

CONTINUED from Page 1

-ral came from another young couple who has only been attending a couple months. That's an example for all of us.

We can all probably be a bit more proactive talking to neighbors, friends and colleagues about why we go to church, the activities in which we're involved or the way that UUMC is making a difference in people's lives.

And our worship attendance is growing. Annual figures show that attendance, compared with

the previous year, increased 12 percent in 2016 and about 6 percent in 2017. While the Sunday worship attendance total for 2018 was about the same, with the addition of the Thursday service, it showed a 9 percent increase.

Thanks for all you do in being a welcoming presence and helping people feel the love and welcome of God.

— Barbara Fought,
Welcome Team

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 Soufleris
13 – Alicia Wood
16 – Nichola Weah
17 – Johnathan Weah

19 – Stuart Hosler
20 – Donald Koten, Vito Sciscioli
22 – Craig Myers
23 – Bill Potter
24 – Lisa Weah
25 – Michael Fay
26 – Barbara Nunn
27 – Denise Marshall, Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler
30 – Renee McKay

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2019 total pledges: \$203,474
 Paid to date: \$32,593
 Non-pledge contr.: \$871

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

Donations received \$95,991
 Expenses paid \$88,891
 Current balance \$7,100

Ash Wednesday service

Lent begins on March 6, Ash Wednesday. UUMC will have a worship service at 7 p.m.



University United
 Methodist Church

Feed My People: Body, Mind, and Spirit

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 Phone: 315-475-7277 Fax: 315-475-8995
www.uumcsyracuse.org Email: uumc@twcny.rr.com
www.facebook.com/UUMCSyracuse
 Twitter: @UUMCSyracuse

Put
 Stamp
 Here

Return service requested

Dated material

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 10

Sunday the 10th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Christian Education, K-6th, Pettengill Center

10:30 a.m. Worship. Handbells.

10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Laubach Room

11:45 a.m. Teach-in/Potluck on United Methodist Special General Conference, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday the 12th

5:30 p.m. Governing Board

Wednesday the 13th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 14th

6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 15th

10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 17

Sunday the 17th

9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room

9:30 a.m. Christian Education, K-6th, Pettengill Center

10:30 a.m. Worship.

10:45 a.m. Christian Education for adults with disabilities, Lau-

bach Room

11:45 a.m. Fellowship, The Gathering Room

11:45 a.m. Trustees

Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

Monday, February 18

Office Closed—Presidents' Day

Wednesday the 20th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 21st

6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 22nd

10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24

Sunday the 24th

9 a.m. Community Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

9:30 a.m. Christian Education, K-6th, Pettengill Center

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

Tuesday the 26th

5:15 p.m. Outreach Committee

Wednesday the 27th

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday the 28th

6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 1st

10 a.m. Friday Community

WEEK OF MARCH 3

Sunday the 3rd

9 a.m. Bagels & coffee, The Gathering Room

9:30 a.m. Christian Education, K-6th, Pettengill Center

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

Noon Soup & Sermon Chat, Chapel Room

Ash Wednesday the 6th

9 a.m. Staff Meeting

7 p.m. Worship

Thursday the 7th

6 p.m. Worship, The Gathering Room

7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Friday the 8th

10 a.m. Friday Community

Women's guild

The next meeting of the Women's Guild is 1:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at the home of Rita Soufleris, 5195 Pointe East Drive, Jamesville.

Nelson Price will speak on "Nelson and Martin: 2 Media Events," which is about the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

Epiphany Sunday

Jan. 6, 2019 (3 photos)







Honoring the Mais

Jan. 13, 2019 (5 photos)



UUMC honored Phuoc and Dien Mai during the service and with a reception afterward. They were the first refugees settled by UUMC working with InterFaith Works under the current refugee program. They ran their Mai Lan Restaurant for 25 years before closing it last fall.









Rally after Syracuse Women's March
Jan. 19, 2019 (4 photos)
Photos by Pastor Alicia









Carrier Dome
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Jan. 27, 2019 (1 photo)



Being Creative in Church

Jan. 27, 2019 (6 photos)

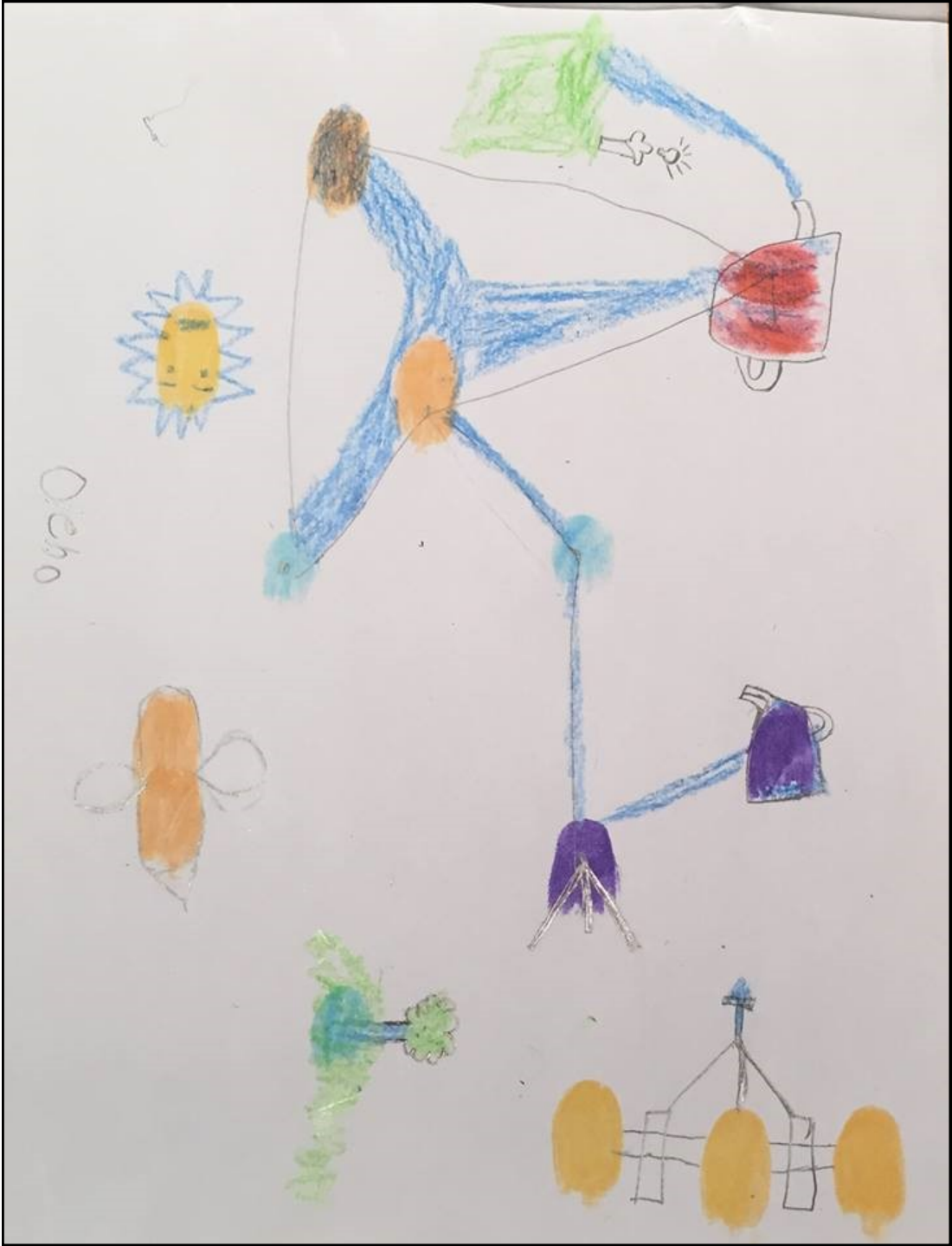






Natasha
Adolphe





Dicho

Julienne Adolphe

