

# THE CHIMES

May 8, 2020

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**Pastor Alicia online:**  
**10 a.m. Tuesdays:**  
**Coffee with the Pastor, Zoom** [https://  
zoom.us/j/9526127163](https://zoom.us/j/9526127163)  
**Password: 7277**  
**Noon Wednesdays:**  
**Children's Moment,  
Facebook Live**  
**10 a.m. Thursdays:**  
**Brief Reflection, Face-  
book Live**  
**Friday Mornings: From  
the Pantry, Facebook  
Live**

Articles for *The Chimes*  
must be submitted by  
noon on the deadline day  
and can be sent to:  
[media@uumcsyracuse.org](mailto:media@uumcsyracuse.org)

Alicia Wood, Pastor  
Tom Boll, Editor

## Shutdown continues; worship, meetings still conducted online

The life of UUMC has been steady state through the month of April, with the Governor's Office keeping the state in near full-shutdown mode.

The governor's plan for reopening the state includes four phases, and worship services, while not specifically named, are likely in the final one, Phase 4.

And when that time comes, it's not automatic that UUMC will resume worship immediately.

We need to have the materials — sanitizing products, personal protective equipment — that would allow us to reopen safely for the congregation, staff and guests.

In the meantime, worship has continued online, with Pastor Alicia preaching, Music Director Aimee deBerjeois coordinating the music and members and friends participating in the liturgy.

Ted Finlayson-Schueler has continued to assemble the slide show for worship, only now he's including the videos of musicians singing and playing instruments and participants

reading Scripture and liturgy.

He turns it into a movie that Steve Bacon then uploads so it can be streamed on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. It also is available on YouTube and as a downloadable file.

On Facebook Live, comments can be made during and after the service and prayer requests are made known.

Pastor Alicia has instituted The Gathering Room on Facebook Live after worship for anyone who wants to chat with her.

Soup & Sermon Chat, which met in the Chappell Room before the shutdown, is meeting virtually via Zoom after The Gathering Room.

Staff and other organizational meetings have continued to be held online.

Our Outreach Program has streamlined the outdoor Friday Food Pantry system, with 135 families served May 1. Outreach Coordinator Galyn Murphy-Stanley said that method will continue until the Syracuse city schools are allowed to hold face-to-face classes.

## UUMC Food Pantry gets new name, more support

Our Food Pantry has a new name and new support as its reach expands as was planned before the pandemic.

The official complete name is: The Food Center @ 324 University Ave. Hosted by University United Methodist Church in cooperation with

Grace Episcopal Church and Temple Society of Concord.

Temple Concord has closed its pantry and transferred its inventory to UUMC. (See photo on Page 5)

Grace Episcopal will be doing that in the future.

# As we stay apart, note our blessings and live in gratitude



**Alicia Wood**

Greetings,  
I come to you full of gratitude. As we began to self-isolate and hold worship services online I worried about your health and the life of the church.

The life of the church has continued with worship, fellowship and Bible study online.

Our Outreach continues primarily through feeding our neighbors in Syracuse. We can only do these things through you and your ongoing donations.

I am personally overwhelmed with gratitude by your generosity. We are currently down only 10% in our donations comparing Spring 2019 and 2020. This is good news!

Today, I come to you with so

much gratitude!

I know we are living into a new normal. We are staying in more and visiting less. We are shopping differently.

Some of us are trying to figure out how to experience faith and our church family in our new reality.

Some of us are feeling isolated. Depression may loom.

Part of our frustration, sadness and even lament may come out of our desire to *do something* or help in some way.

The truth is you are doing so much by staying safely at home and slowing the spread of COVID-19, making your phone tree calls and by continuing to donate to the ministries of University UMC.

We are able to continue our vision because of you to "Feed God's People: Body, Mind and Spirit."

As we do our best stay positive while we stay away from one another, I suggest we dust off or start up our gratitude journals.

I know when I sit and think about all that is not going the way I would like I get discouraged and feel down.

I find writing three things I'm grateful for each day, without repeating, I'm able to notice the blessings in my life.

I'm even able to catch God moments in my life or the times when I feel God's presence with me.

This week the Scripture that kept ringing in my ears has been Psalm 46:10: "Be still and know that I am God."

So, I am trying to be still more often and live in gratitude even in self-isolation.

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Alicia

## Considerations for when services can resume

When religious services can be held we'll follow the guidelines from the Governor's Office and Office of the Bishop.

The following are some additional considerations:

- Continue online worship so those not ready to come are able to participate
- Continue to offer Coffee with the Pastor, Children's Message and Thought of the Day online
- Provide hand sanitizer for those entering and leaving the building
- Require face masks for everyone

- Encourage leaving, entering by one door only
- No Passing of the Peace with hugs, handshakes
- Spacing in sanctuary for social distancing
- Rethink how to serve Communion
- Setting out, rather than handing out bulletins
- Revamping the offering
- Rethink fellowship before, after worship because of social distancing
- What kind of singing will be permitted?

**Tenant Search Continues:** The tenant expressing strong interest in the past year has decided not to rent our upper floors.

## People & Prayers

**CONTINUED** from Page 4

- store staff and staff of other "essential" enterprises. Meat processing workers.
- Please keep **Peter and Diane Swords** in your prayers. Peter is in the hospital doing "chemo lite" before T-cell reintroduction. Send cards to 30 Lilac Dr #1, Rochester NY 14620-3240
- **Gail Tyndall** asks prayers for **Jeff**, who is in his 30s and has been diagnosed with advanced colon cancer.

## Celebrate how UUMC staff meets needs during pandemic



**Galyn  
Murphy-  
Stanley**

In this month's article I'd like to highlight University United Methodist staff.

Since we don't see you, the congregation, and you don't see us, UUMC staff, nor do

most of you hear from many of our staff members and since all of our staff have stretched themselves to meet the needs of the UUMC building and the current activities within, I'd like to shine a light on my colleagues and hope you all celebrate them with me.

Mary Slack, our office coordinator, has always been the glue that holds us together. She takes care of all of us and the endless details that keep the bills paid, all of us informed and everyone organized.

Mary continues to be the first person folk connect with at UUMC. Although Mary often works from home, she daily monitors emails, phone messages and mail to ensure folk have information to access our current services, that communication is happening and bills are being paid.

Mary also supports our Sunday bagel breakfast and works outside every Sunday morning, rain or shine, to ensure our guests have a good morning with breakfast and coffee.

Tim Neiss, UUMC's building superintendent, has one of the most diverse skill sets of anyone I know and uses these skills daily to keep the UUMC building in great shape. Tim still works within UUMC each weekday.

He supports me with food distribution activities and truck

deliveries, unloading pallets and getting foods into the basement for storage.

Tim spends every Friday morning loading food boxes into cars and sending each guest off satisfied with the foods they've gotten. Additionally he focuses on the building, the mechanics, sanitation, security, safety, construction projects and upkeep of UUMC and the land it sits upon every day.

Richard Woodford and Bill Dunn are both working on separate construction projects in the basement of UUMC readying for our Food Center expansion project. Additionally, both support Food Bank truck deliveries, food distribution and donation/food organization.

Bill often maintains fluid traffic patterns outside of UUMC during Friday's distribution and occasionally works alongside the Syracuse city police.

Richard often does much of the heavy lifting on Fridays and works with our Food Bank truck drivers to unload pallets of foods and get them placed properly for distribution. Both men are also regularly cleaning and sanitizing.

Tim, Richard and Bill have absorbed most of the work that our weekly volunteer work force completed. Richard also arrives every Sunday morning to support our to-go breakfast giveaway and ensures everyone has their fresh morning coffee.

Tom Boll works endlessly to keep us connected in a time where we are to remain separate. Tom is present at most every event UUMC hosts to photograph and document so it can be shared with you all. Although he

is mostly working at home, Tom is consistently gathering information from all of us, the larger community and Methodist activities globally to ensure we are all knitted together with valuable information that keeps us informed, linked and connected. He ensures all prayer requests are documented and all spiritual events are celebrated, communicated and ready for invitation and posting.

Rachel Kgama, our executive administrator, seems to split her week between UUMC and working at home. Rachel has added to her never-ending administrative and financial activities with food distribution every Friday.

Rachel often works in UUMC's Fellowship Hall topping off our food boxes with dairy, refrigerator and freezer items. Once bread and produce are loaded, Rachel ensures the boxes get up to the street and out to the people. Rachel consistently works to keep us all paid, bills paid, contracts signed and accounts sorted to keep UUMC flush and functional.

Pastor Alicia has also added our Friday food distribution to her work duties. Pastor happily greets each guest in queue whether in their car or on the sidewalk and collects the valuable statistical information needed for the Food Bank.

When we have diapers available for our guests, she will pick up that task of gathering and dispensing diapers and requested formula for every baby.

Pastor also broadcasts live on Facebook some of our activities on Friday morning that can

See **TWO**, Page 5

# People & Prayers

## PRAYERS REQUESTED:

### For Those in Military Service:

- **Chance Lawson, Austin Payne, Ian Enderle**

*Editor's Note: The prayer requests were collected from our online services, The Gathering Room after the services and during the week.*

### Sunday, April 12

- **Zenetta Vigers:** Prayers for **June Cullings, Donna's mom**, in a Hospice Center in Florida; for all to continue strength and smiles and sharing of love through this pandemic
- **Barbara Fought:** Let's pray for medical workers
- **Martha Sutter:** Pray for those feeding the hungry.
- **Jim Gerace:** Prayers to all for emotional and spiritual strength till past this pandemic and for medical help and ultimately maybe a vaccine to support everyone
- **Eileen Schell:** Pray for my friends working on the front lines of COVID-19: **Dan and Jennie** and all of their co-workers.

### Sunday, April 19

- **Ann Owens:** My sister **Mary**.
- **Lynn Baker:** **Cousin Todd and Jeanne F-S**
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** Prayers for my neighbors, who just had a baby; my aunt in the nursing home, and my stepfather, with COPD, at home.
- **Connie Myers:** **Rick**, extended family member, died of COVID
- **Carol Boll:** For those in limbo during this time.
- **Susan Bates:** My brother **Chuck** and the essential work-

ers

- **Stephanie Hitztaler:** For continued healing and strength for my dad, and strength for my mom as she takes care of him.

### Sunday, April 26

- **Zenetta Vigers:** **Patricia Masterpol**, who died yesterday with coronavirus, and for her husband, **Richard**, and her family!
- **Barbara Croll Fought:** One of my students, **Courtney**, and her family – one has confirmed coronavirus and my student and her mother think they probably do as well, as they are both sick. She gave me permission to ask my faith community to pray for them. We should also be praying for **Galyn** and all she is doing and coordinating, especially since she is going through a time of grief.
- **Gigi Kinney:** Please pray for families whose small children are struggling with separation from grandparents and other friends.
- **Susan Bates:** Please keep my aunt in your prayers. She is currently in the hospital after surgery on her left hip and elbow.
- **Sharon Smith:** Pray for the health workers
- **Holly Austin:** Please keep up the prayers for the new little one (almost 2) placed with us last week. She's very medically fragile but doing better every day!
- For **Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler** as she undergoes treatment for lymphoma

- For **Sue Nielsen** and her quick recovery. Sue is a family friend of **Connie Myers and kids**. She broke her hip and had replacement surgery last week
- **Ted:** Please pray for my friend **Maria and her husband, Johnny**, in Yonkers. They both have tested positive, and he is in the hospital.

### Sunday, May 3

- **Sharon Smith:** Pray for students and teachers that won't be able to be together since school is closed for the year
- **Barbara Fought:** **Peter and Diane Swords**. And let's pray for a tenant... time to go to power prayer.
- **Susan Bates:** My niece, who is an essential worker and a single mom of five. She is extremely stressed right now.
- **Barbara Fought:** A woman who has been attending regularly, **Kenna LaPorte, and her family**. Her dad is in the hospital.
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** My neighbors, who just had a baby a month ago and are fighting a lot.
- **Barbara Fought:** Also this week – keep in mind our college students and grad students – who are doing final projects, papers and exams.
- **Peter Swords:** For success with T-cell treatment, which comes Tuesday, and for **Diane**, who's staying in the apartment a mile away – no visits until treatment is done in a couple weeks
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** Grocery  
See **PEOPLE**, Page 2



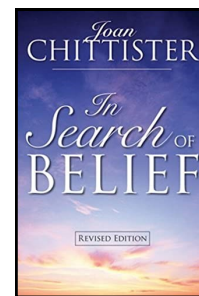
Photo by Susan Keeter, Grace Episcopal Church

As part of the East Side pantry consolidation, Temple Concord recently closed its pantry and its several carloads of food were moved to UUMC by those pictured above. From left: Kerri Aitken (Grace Episcopal); Dan Olsson, Pam Olsson, Dennis Dudek, Karen Karoglanian (Temple Concord); Gayln Murphy-Stanley, our outreach coordinator; Bonnie McCabe, John McCabe (Temple Concord); and George Stanley, Galyn's husband.

## June birthdays

- 5 – Angela Tillapaugh
- 7 – Audrey Benton,  
Jerome Weah Jr.
- 11 – Caroline Tompkins
- 15 – Rachel Boll
- 16 – Rev. Edwin A. Potter,  
Charles Chappell III
- 17 – Sophie Fisher,  
Leah (Threatte) Bojnowski  
Stephanie Hitztaler
- 19 – Rev. Dr. Kris Best
- 20 – Leigh Safford
- 22 – Ted Finlayson-Schueler,  
Martha Sutter,  
Deborah Bradshaw
- 25 – Steve Bacon
- 28 – Aaron Sarkodie-Mensah
- 29 – Elisa Skeeter

## Book study starts May 17



A 10-week online book study will begin May 17.

The book is Joan Chittister's "In Search of Belief," which is about The

Apostle's Creed.

The study will meet 6 to 7:30 p.m. If you are interested, please email Pastor Alicia — [pastor@uumcsyracuse.org](mailto:pastor@uumcsyracuse.org) — to receive the Zoom invitation. If you are interested and that time is inconvenient, still email her. Other groups might be able to be formed.

## Women's Guild

The Women's Guild did not meet in March or April. A decision on the May 27 meeting has not been made. It's scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on "Books We Enjoy" with Janet Sciscioli the hostess.

## Two volunteers also help with food pantry

**CONTINUED** from Page 3 also be viewed later. In all of these activities Pastor Alicia is doing what she loves, which is connecting with people.

We do have a couple volunteers, Joe Marusa and Bruce Simmons, who consistently join us every Friday and work hard to ensure foods are equally, fairly and quickly distributed for all of our guests.

Several staff and other contributors have been asked to step aside to maintain quarantine until the COVID crisis is over. Our Friday morning taxi driver, Sunday morning child care providers, two cleaning people, our organist, music director and entire volunteer work force have not been in UUMC since mid-March.

I, along with my colleagues, strive to complete the tasks, duties and requirements once completed by others and stretch our

own job descriptions to successfully meet UUMC's COVID efforts.

Please know that although we currently are working very differently we work daily to ensure the needs of our building, our congregation and our community are met.

I am very proud of my co-workers and am deeply grateful that they have all folded into their workday the very important work of Emergency Food Distribution.

Please celebrate Rachel, Mary, Tim, Mary, Bill, Richard, Tom and Pastor Alicia.

I could not do the work I do without them, and UUMC would not be the happy, healthy, functional church it is if not for their capable, hardworking hands.

Peace,

— Galyn Murphy-Stanley,  
Outreach Coordinator

**Finance Corner**

**Pledging Update**

2020 total pledges: \$217,360  
 Total Pledges Received \$ 81,443  
 Non-pledge contributions \$14,639  
 Easter Offering \$195  
 Trustees Bathroom Renovation  
 Fund \$24,625

**Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund**

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



University United  
 Methodist Church

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Return service requested

Dated material



**Housing Visions' Winston Gaskin Homes project involves upgrading the first affordable housing developments of the organization. Win, a UUMC member, was one of the founders of Housing Visions.**



**Food Pantry guests are receiving a pair of face masks made and donated by UUMC members and friends and others received from Onondaga County and worry stones, below, made by Meridith L. and her mom.**

**Richard Woodford works on the floor of the old Food Pantry.**

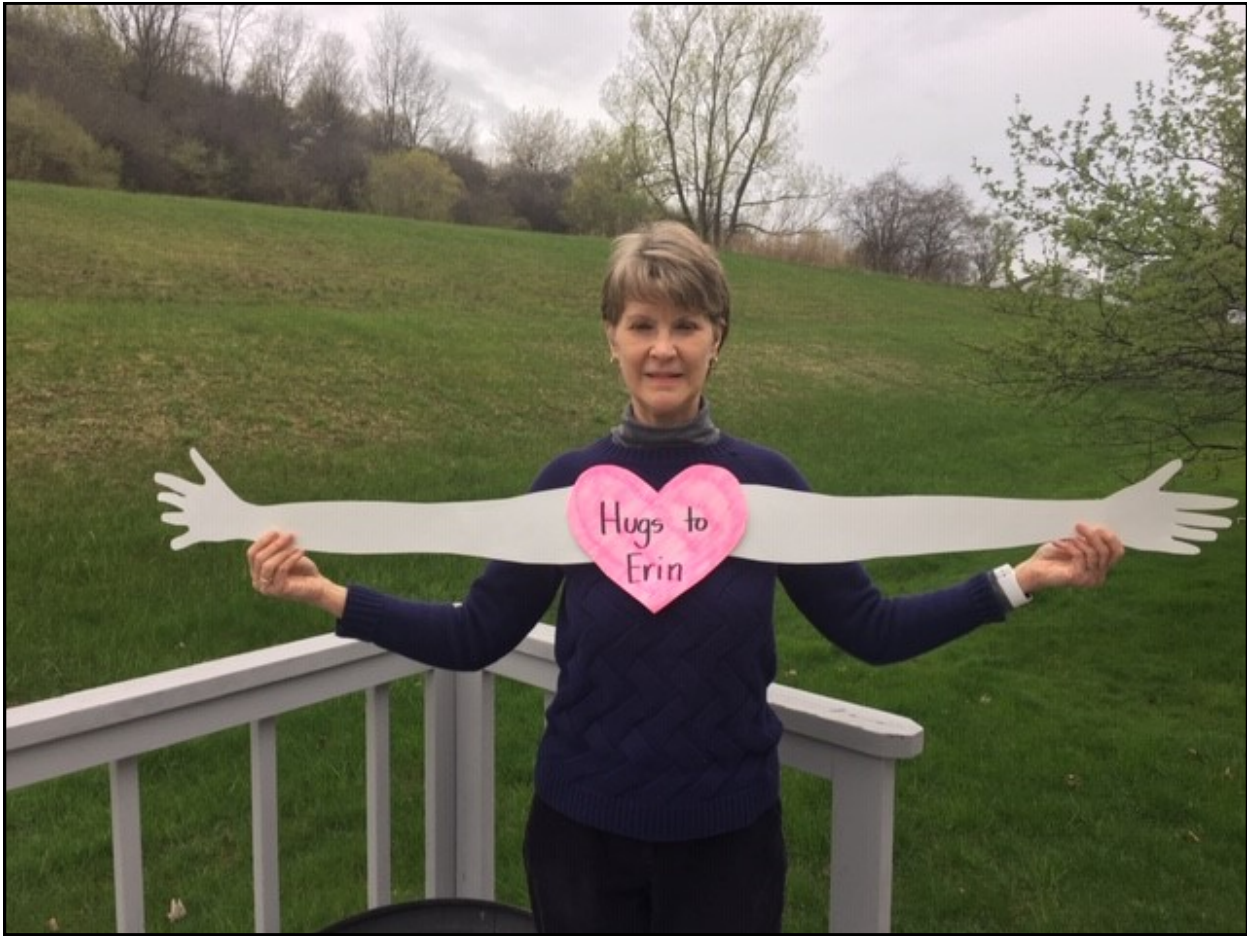


In the following photos you'll see UUMC staff working to get food to our pantry guests. But first, you'll see masks donated by Melissa Faley, worry stones painted by Oliver and Vera, a 'hug' made by Barbara Fought for her niece, the renovated old pantry room, where Grocery Rescue produce eventually will go, the old Music Room now Food Pantry room, diapers from the Diaper Bank awaiting distribution and masks from Onondaga County. Our pantry guests were given masks and worry stones along with their food and milk. Milk has come from the Salvation Army/American Dairy Association. Potatoes came from the Rescue Mission.

















### Do Your Part: Help Stop the Spread

- Anyone could be a carrier of COVID-19 and not know it.
- You play a role in protecting the community against COVID-19.
- This face covering will help reduce the likelihood of you spreading the virus to others.
- This face covering does not replace the N95 used when caring for those with COVID-19.
- This face covering is one way to combat the virus. Social distancing, handwashing and other CDC recommendations should also be followed.

**WARNING**  
To avoid suffocation, keep this plastic bag away from babies and children. Do not use this bag in cribs, beds, carriages or play pens. This bag is not a toy.

**USPS TRACKING #**  
9375 4100 1950 0000 0000 0004

[www.PHE.gov/facecovering](http://www.PHE.gov/facecovering)

### Do Your Part: Help Stop the Spread

- Fabric touching skin: 100% cotton. Face covering contains silver and copper.
- If skin irritation occurs, immediately stop using the face covering. If irritation persists, consult your primary care provider.
- Be mindful when wearing this product if you have lung disease, like emphysema, or chronic heart difficulty breathing while wearing it.
- Machine wash warm up to 35 times before discarding. Tumble dry high. Do not use bleach, chemicals or disinfectant to wash this product.

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