

THE CHIMES

Nov. 7, 2020

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**For Sunday online
Worship at 11 a.m.!**
go to:
[www.facebook.com/
UUMCSyracuse/](https://www.facebook.com/UUMCSyracuse/)

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

Alicia Wood, Pastor
Tom Boll, Editor

Thanksgiving Food Project adjusts to pandemic protocol

For years, we've headed downstairs after worship on the Sunday before Thanksgiving to pack bags with Thanksgiving meal items that would be picked up on Tuesday, along with turkeys or chickens and other items, by our Food Center guests.

But with the pandemic, we can't do that this year. Instead, the Thanksgiving Food Project will be handled outside, as is our Friday Emergency Food Distribution. This will take place 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Nov. 20,

What's needed from the congregation? Donations of money to supplement the food Outreach gets from the Food Bank of CNY. Write "Thanksgiving Food Project 2020" on the memo line of your check or go to the church website and use a credit card. \$1,725 has been given so far.

Also, we need 300 Thanksgiving cards signed — one for each family. We have 63 signed so far. They're at the church or you can get your own. **See Page 6** for a message suggested by Joyce Flynn, project organizer.

UUMC welcomes new tenant: an organization aiding city students



Pastor Alicia, with Academy of Excellence CEO/Founder Joshua King, Chief Diversity Officer Talina Jones, left, and Chief Operating Officer Samantha J.C. Pierce.

UUMC has welcomed a new tenant: Academy of Excellence. It's an organization of two dozen educators working to meet city school students' needs, including providing technological hardware and building complementary curriculums to what the city school district is using.

The academy is occupying the lower level of the education wing for a rental fee of about \$19,000 yearly.

Future can't be predicted but caring for others is certain



Alicia Wood

One thing I know for sure is that the future is uncertain.

Sometimes we stay in situations because we know what to expect in the situation even if the situation is not healthy for our body, mind or Spirit.

The fear of changing our situation or the uncertainty of the change may paralyze us.

Yet, the future is always uncertain.

I'm hoping by the time you receive this newsletter the results of the election are known.

This morning I heard the county executive in Allegany County in Pennsylvania talk about counting ballots. He said

something like, "The poll workers are working hard to ensure their neighbors' votes will be counted."

I was struck by the comment because he acknowledged *their calling* to the civic duty of caring for their country and neighbors. I will add, they are counting in extraordinary times given the spike in the spread of the coronavirus.

As Christians, this is the baseline of our theology. We are to care for and love our neighbors. (Matthew 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:25-37, John 13:31-35) It is named in each of the four Gospels.

We are acting out our love and faith of God when we do this. Maybe this is why I was so struck by the county executive's statement.

My prayer is that we have the results of the election by the time you receive this so that the healing can begin.

We are in desperate need of healing from the coronavirus and as a united country. One thing I know for sure is that the future is uncertain.

What must be certain is, as Christians, how we treat people in all aspects of life.

Change happens. As change happens, we are called to remain the same in our faith as we love God and love all our neighbors worldwide as ourselves.

I pray you stay healthy in body, mind and Spirit.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Alicia

Stone to honor life and ministry of Peter Swords

Those who want to honor the life and lay ministry of Peter Swords may contribute to the purchase of an inscribed stone that will be laid at the entryway, among others, of the Peace Council building on East Genesee Street.

Peter was a strong advocate for peace, nuclear disarmament, justice and especially, children. He wanted a better world for them.

Peter served in many capacities at UUMC. He co-chaired the Church & Society Team and sang in the choir.

The cost of the stone is \$1,000; \$300 had been contributed as of Oct. 31.

Checks may be made out to UUMC, noting on the memo line "Peter Memorial."



Peter Swords signs the signature stole in April 2011, as UUMC was contemplating whether to become a reconciling congregation.

Thanksgiving, Christmas food distribution schedule readied



**Galyn
Murphy-
Stanley**

We continue to move through preparations for our holiday food distributions and have created a great schedule that allows our community to access holiday foods in the same COVID safe manner we've been using on Friday mornings.

Our holiday food distributions will happen on Friday, Nov. 20, for Thanksgiving, and Friday, Dec. 18, for Christmas.

Currently we plan on hosting an additional food distribution on Wednesday, Dec. 30, to ensure it's not too long between guests' ability to access foods.

Although both the Thanksgiving and Christmas 2020 food distribution will look very different and the congregation's physical involvement is very limited, we hope that you all can support this expensive endeavor financially and with a Thanksgiving card that can be added to one of the 300 Thanksgiving boxes that will go out to our community.

Please feel free to connect with me re: any questions or concerns at:

outreach@uumcsyracuse.org.

In peace,
— Galyn Murphy-Stanley,
Outreach Coordinator

October 2020 Emergency Food & Diaper Distribution

Date	Households	Adults	Children	Seniors	Bagel Breakfast	Pet Food
10/2	305	533	700	47	55	2
10/9	255	500	450	52	62	1
10/16	250	422	512	72	62	1
10/23	237	412	468	72	64	2
10/30	193	300	380	53	48	1
Total	1,240	2,167	2,510	296	257	8

- Total individuals served with Friday's Emergency Food Distribution: **4,973 (1,129 more than in September)**
- Total number of families served who have children: **807**
- **266** babies received diapers; this equals **13,300** diapers distributed in 2 hours
- Total guests who visited UUMC for Sunday breakfast: **257**
- We received a large donation of Mickey/Minnie Mouse facemasks from MedDonation. These will be distributed until the supply is exhausted.
- First-year students from Upstate Medical University provided free blood pressure and diabetes screening for all of our interested guests and volunteers. About 25 participated.
- Myself, our volunteers and guests are interviewed regularly by SU students and different media groups in and around Syracuse. As our Food Center is a true demonstration of a successful interfaith collaboration between several food pantries, that we've experienced phenomenal growth in COVID and that we are successfully meeting the needs of a very large population of a wide variety of folk, we are a compelling story for media groups.

Advent Book Study

This year's Advent weekly book study will be "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent" by Amy-Jill Levine. Two sections of the study will be offered on Zoom: 1 to 2 p.m. Fridays, starting Nov. 27, and 6 to 7 p.m. Sundays starting Nov. 29, the first Sunday in Advent. The book costs \$13 to \$15 from various retailers. Email Mary in the office at office@uumcsyracuse.org to register for one of the sessions.

People & Prayers

DEATH



UUMC member Phyllis Wright, widow of former UUMC pastor the Rev. Donald Wright, died Oct. 12 at the age of 90 at The Nottingham. Here is a link to her obituary: [OBITUARY](#)

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

For Those in Military Service:

- **Chance Lawson, Austin Payne, Ian Enderle, Nic Weah, Asani Mauridi**

Sunday, October 11

- **Jackie Sadowski:** For our country
- **Lee and Ed Potter:** For all the people suffering from the pandemic
- **Gail T.: Barbara Silverman**
- **Stephanie Hitztaler:** Our country
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** For justice and support for the poor
- **Robin Searles:** Prayers for Pastor Justin Hood and Skaneateles UMC to move our congregation forward!
- **Robin Searles:** I broke my leg, so prayers for my spouse who has to wait on me!
- **Erika Vitthuhn:** For my mom with family and for **Maria Storto**
- **Susan Bates:** Please pray for my high school friend **Ann**, who had surgery on Friday for lung cancer.
- **Nelson Price's** birthday

Sunday, October 18

- **Nelson:** For the **Lufunfula** family and court appearance Nov. 3

- **Gail Tyndall:** Her mom, **Barb Silverman**
- **Jackie Sadowski:** Healing prayers for daughter's friend with cancer.
- **Lynn Baker:** Prayers for her mom, **Brenda Baker**, who is having surgery.
- Those affected by California wildfires and Hurricane Delta
- **Martha Sutter:** Happy Birthday, **Carol Boll**
- **Sharon Smith:** Pray for my friend **Darren**
- **Erika Vitthuhn:** Please pray for my friend **Maria**. Her brother **Mario** went to the hospital. He has diabetes and his sugar dropped severely so and he passed out.
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** Please pray for safe travels for my **Uncle Charlie**, 84, driving back to Maryland tomorrow morning from a visit here.
- **Kenna LaPorte:** Please pray for my family as we continue to grieve the loss of my father, **Alton LaPorte**, who died on Sept. 19. And Happy Birthday, **Nelson**
- **Leanna King:** Please pray for me as I am suffering awful depression.
- **Barbara Fought:** Please pray for health for my friend, **Christie**
- **Barbara Fought:** Let's remember those who need healing in **Alicia and Peg's** family – **Teri and Fred**
- **Starke Donnally**, at home recuperating
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** Pray for engagement of all students, especially kids studying virtually
- **Stephanie Hitztaler:** Praying that we may all have peace surrounding the upcoming election.
- **Barbara Fought:** For **Joe Viet Cooper** and the family as they welcome a new baby girl into the family. Joe Viet has named her after her grandma, **Eva!**
- **Barb Weaver:** Please pray for my dad, **Carus Olcott Sr.**, and his caretakers.
- **Connie Myers:** For those who are lonely and looking for connections especially in this time of social distancing.
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** For my friend **Shira Lea**, who is facing a layoff, and looking for a new job for the first time in over 8 years
- **Kenna LaPorte:** Happy Anniversary, **Barbara and Nelson**
- **Lee Potter:** Keep **Ed Potter** in your prayers. He is feeling a bit under the weather today.
- **Ann Owens:** Prayers for my sister **Mary** in Colorado for protection from the fires.
- **Sue:** Those struggling with health issues.
- **Bruce:** Prayers for my father.
- **Kirsten Magowan:** Prayers for my sister whose boyfriend, **Al Potter**, was killed in a car accident in North Carolina.
- **Barbara Fought:** For those wrestling with career decisions or what to do with their lives.

Sunday, October 25

- **Jessica Clark:** I pray for the ones who have the virus to get better

- **Sandy Hough:** Good morning. Pray that everyone is safe and well.

See **PEOPLE**, Page 5

People & Prayers

CONTINUED from Page 4

Sunday, November 1

- **Bruce Webster:** I pray for a peaceful election.
- **Barbara Fought:** Please continue to pray from my friend, **Christie Young**, who has been hospitalized for more than a month in Arizona.
- **Kim Kromer Murphy:** Please pray for my neighbors, who are struggling
- **Barbara Fought:** For **Russell Young**, who broke a bone in his foot and two toes, for **Ken-na LaPorte** to find an internship or placement and for **Jeanne F-S** recovering from surgery.
- **Jessica Clark:** I pray for the ones who lost their home from house fire
- **Jeanne Finlayson-Schueler:** That every vote gets counted
- **Sharon Smith:** For **Darren**
- **Mike Rodda:** Family of **Nancy Haggerty**, aunt who died in July
- **Sue Bates:** Those with health issues
- **Lee Potter:** Remember, we are all Americans and we need to respect one another

- **Doug & Linda:** Pray for **Duncan**
- **Jackie Sadowski:** **Kim Sadowski**, negative for coronavirus and **Barb Gilbraith**, health issues
- **Tim: Bill**, diagnosed with cancer
- Pray for **Ginny Bartow**, who is having surgery on Monday.
- **Barb Gilbraith** is having dizzy spells
- Pray for **Starke's** recovery
- **Sue Bates** is not feeling well
- **Ginny Bartow's** friend in San Diego needs our prayers
- **Jeanne F-S:** Pray for students doing remote learning, including **NyKira**.

JOYS, THANKS & PRAISE

Sunday, October 25

- **Gail Tyndall:** A joy, my nephew has reunited with his family.

Sunday, November 1

- **Steve Bacon:** Marriage of **Taylor Bacon and Alexandra McChesney**
- **Ann Owens:** Birth of **Elliott May**, grandniece born on Halloween
- Thanks that **Jayne's** knee recovery is going well

Order pecans from supplier, donate to Outreach

Selling pecans as a fundraiser has become a holiday tradition at UUMC. But, no surprise, we will take a break this year.

Some of you still have pecans in your freezer. But if, like me, you finished them months ago, you can order them from our supplier.

Mascot Pecans has pecans at about the same price as last year. Feel free to order directly from them:

www.mascotpecan.com. Their phone number is 800-841-3985.

A large part of their business is geared toward fundraisers, so I'm sure they'll appreciate your business. I think you'll see their retail prices aren't much higher than "UUMC prices."

The pecan sale has been a fundraiser for Outreach for several years. As you are enjoying your pecans this year, please consider making an extra donation to Outreach to support the ministry of helping people in our community.

— *Deb Virgo*

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 Upcraft

More thanks from Bellevue for 'Blessings'

Dear University UMC Members,

We are very grateful for the "bonus" check we just received from you!

Right now, 60 percent of the Delaware students are in the building. Forty percent are learning virtually.

Many of the homebound kids have their "blessings" delivered, along with homework packages.

Others pick up our packages.

They are still loving the food.

A common chorus is: "Where's my bag?" Everyone gets one.

Your generosity hits the spot in this difficult, confusing time.

Thank you!

Sincerely yours,

Jeanie Brown

Bellevue Heights UMC.

Charge Conference is 6:30 p.m. Nov. 30 and is online.

Finance Corner

Pledging Update

2020 total pledges: \$217,360
 Total Pledges Received \$179,022
 Non-pledge contributions \$28,766
 UUMC PPP Loan (CARES Act)
 \$36,365

SUMM PPP Loan (CARES Act)
 (Pastors' Salaries) \$31,888
 Trustees Bathroom Renovation
 Fund \$27,825
 Thanksgiving Offering \$25

Sounds of the Spirit Visual Fund

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



University United
 Methodist Church

Feeding God's People: Body, Mind and Spirit

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Our Food Center @ 324 University Ave. Director and Volunteers



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THANKSGIVING FOOD PROJECT CARDS:

Please write "Happy Thanksgiving" on the envelope

Suggested greeting for inside the card: *University United Methodist Church (UUMC) & Grace Episcopal Church have both been part of this Community for the past 150 years, and we are thankful, especially this year, that we can be here with you, and for you. Please enjoy this Thanksgiving meal!*

Your friends at Grace and UUMC

As weather changes, worship to move

Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship will move downstairs to the Pet-tengill Center in the near future to save money on heating.

Scenes from our Friday Emergency Food and Sunday Breakfast Distributions (and a baptism)







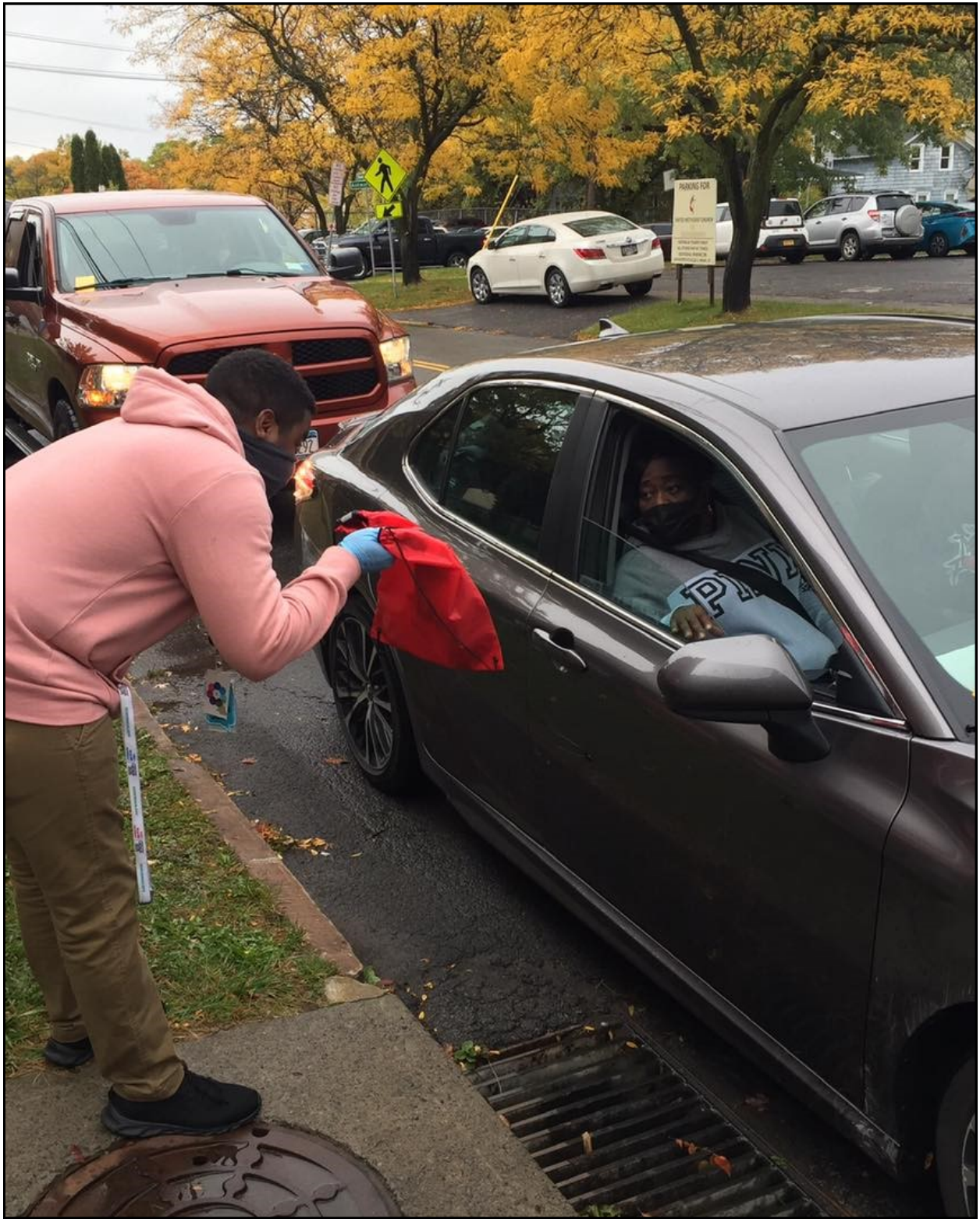
























Mickey and Minnie Mouse facemasks were given out by our Food Center.













