

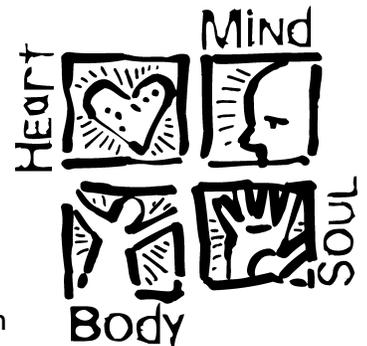


UNITED CHURCH NEWS

JUNE 2018

CELEBRATING, CONNECTING, REFLECTING, DESIGNING

Our congregation gathers even in summertime. To be sure, there are more vacations, more time spent at camp, and more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. All those things mean it's even more important to be here when we are in town – so that we might stay strong as a community. We are often forgetful that our presence means a great deal to someone else or even more than one person on any given Sunday. Each one of us is missed when we are away and enjoyed when we are present.



There are summertime experiences at UCF that also take advantage of the season's schedules.

- We ordain and install officers for leadership over the next few years – always a powerful moment in our life together.
- Graduate Sunday celebrates the educational achievements of our members, family and friends.
- Those young people whom we miss who have gone off to college can often be seen in worship and visited with in Fellowship Hall.
- We enjoy outdoor worship and a picnic in Ryder Park.
- The grounds burst with life and new life. This summer, an *ad hoc* garden team will be working to refresh our landscaping. See what you can spy that is new each week.
- On June 8, there will be a "start- your- summer- off- right" potluck.
- For the first time in a few years, we had a request from parents for a summer nursery, so we will staff it for the first month of our summer worship schedule as an experiment and continue if it gets the anticipated use.
- As the choir goes on its summer hiatus, we have opportunity to hear some congregational musicians, duos, trios and quartets, smaller bell groups, instrumentalists, and styles of music that we might not encounter during the regular programming year.

(over)

In addition:

- All the typical planning and prep work for another year of programming, including budgeting,
- Stewardship education, and calendaring takes place behind the scenes.
- Work will continue on the directory, which includes household photos this year. Have you submitted yours or had one taken, yet? Have you sent in updated contact info for yourself and anyone in your house – including young people off to college? If not, do so soon.
- Concurrent with the directory and the Gifts and Interests Survey (Have you sent yours in? If not, do so soon.) and focus group discussions around various aspects of education,
- The Board continues its preparatory work for "Refresh Our Ministry" congregational conversations in the autumn. Your participation in the directory, in the survey and in the upcoming conversations will make our ministry richer and more dynamic, but only if you take part.

Yes, God is present everywhere and can be worshipped anywhere. But in this place, we are shaped for the ministry we do together. Much of what we do during the "programming year" is shaped during this time of recreation and reflection when we can pause and listen for the guidance of the Spirit in ways that we cannot during our more hectic seasons. Your presence in this place is invaluable – so let us all be here whenever we can this summer for the good of us all.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda".



From the Music Director



As we think about the many joys that summer affords in CNY, one that comes to mind is the outdoor service at UCF. My thanks to all of those who help us get organized and set-up to sing and make music in the park. In particular, thanks to John Price for playing the guitar and providing the audio equipment for the keyboard.

I would also like to thank our choir, who, following the outdoor service, take a much-deserved rest from music ministry this summer. Our choir season encompasses over 40 consecutive weeks of presenting anthems, solos, and choral services. We typically learn and perform between 50 and 60 pieces of choral music every year. This amounts to roughly 4-5 hours of music that is prepared for each year. (As a somewhat useful point of comparison, a master's degree candidate typically must prepare two hours of music for performance over the course of two years.) Each week involves 1.5 to 2 hours of group preparation, and most of our singers spend time at home brushing up on parts, practicing the text, or listening to recordings so that they can bring even more insight into their work as part of a music ministry. Though the choir is in many ways a ministry to the singers and to each other, they all give selflessly of their time and talent so that our worship service can be enriched by their musical expression of prayer. It is my opinion that this is something they do very well, and from the many supportive comments that we hear after (and sometimes during) the service, I think that most of you agree. If I may ask a single favor of any of you, it is that when you are touched by the work of the choir, that you take a moment to thank a choir member. It may not seem like much, but I can assure you that your encouragement will be in their hearts as a source of inspiration for many more rehearsals and worship services to come.

-Jared Shepard

Director of Music Ministries

News from the Board

At its May meeting, the Board:

- continued its welcome and orientation of incoming members;
- heard about conversations with K-12 parents and upcoming plans for an adult education discussion;
- endorsed a contribution to Meals on Wheels from the Hunger Fund;
- renewed the disbursement plan for Steeple Coffee House mission funds;
- heard about Tabitha's providing lunch for IFW's senior care program and 20 UCF friends and family celebrating with Denny Baldwin at the annual ILAD dinner;
- approved an additional two weeks study leave for Dr. Even in 2018 so that she can research educational materials and programs with regard to congregational education, stewardship and vibrant ministry;
- received the disappointing news that the contract on 308 E. Genesee has fallen through due to a family tragedy for the potential buyer. She and her family are in our prayers.
- received the heartening news that five interested individuals will be viewing the house in a two week period.
- voted to pay off the mortgage to 308 E. Genesee, ending future expenditures on interest, while we wait to conclude the sale of the house.
- had a fruitful discussion about congregational gatherings to share ideas and passions with an eye toward refreshed ministry and mission. More info to follow.



Reasons to Come to UCF

“Warmth

Creative, thoughtful worship opportunities

Sermons

Commitment among and to one another

Support in laughter and in tears

History of activism

Outreach, filling a need whenever possible.”



Announcements

UPDATES

Winter/ Spring 2018 Happenings in Paulette, Haiti

Our Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery Haiti Educational Mission Partnership (HEMP) has supported several initiatives for our 120 pre-school children, our 100 students in K-6th grades, about a dozen 7th graders and our teachers during the months of January through May 2018.



Medical Clinic with Haitian Dr. Clonel, nurses and medicine with our children

In May we shared a thank you note from our Haitian friends for the pre-school manuals distributed from the proceeds of the Brass and Bells concert. This winter we reported on the awesome partnership we now have with the Vibrant Village Foundation. Their grant of \$24,000 to our FEED

Paulette Team goes to purchase the food and fuel to cook lunch every day to add protein to the children's diets. (See former newsletters on our website, www.theucf.org under Resources.)

Thanks in large part to UCF, Pebble Hill and Park Central funds were provided so far this year to:

- fix the latrine doors at FEED Headquarters.
- repair the medical motorcycle.
- conduct a three-day medical clinic to treat children and the elderly.
- increase salaries for the seven teachers at the Baptist School who received only \$40 a month. Half of our 100 FEED students attend each of these schools.
- increase the number of students who can attend seventh grade with \$420 scholarships for secondary school.
- provide the funds for medical care for one very ill student and her grandmother to travel to a hospital in another town. (You don't get treated unless you pay!)

HEMP is grateful for the support that churches, students, the Vibrant Village Foundation and individuals provide!

Outreach Update

May was a busy time for outreach activities by our congregation with Tabitha Circle serving lunch for senior care givers at IFW as they gathered for their monthly training meeting. The senior care givers provide care to home bound elderly in Syracuse.

We celebrated one of our own, Denny B., as he was recognized for his involvement and leadership efforts with IFW's and the community over the last several years

This past Sunday we celebrated work, as a congregation, tending to our historic worship space and grounds and serving our community. The UCF grounds were raked and trimmed, kitchen cupboards were cleaned, entry ways were refreshed, sandwiches were made for the Samaritan Center and about 1000 diapers were sorted and wrapped for the Central New York Diaper Bank. Working along side other UCF congregants with a common goal and seeing the results of our efforts was very rewarding.

Thanksgiving Offering Update!

You may recall that we sent about \$2600 to Charity:Water for our Thanksgiving Offering, and it should provide water to about 86 people (not just once, but long-term). We have received another update that 100% of the funds are going to Mozambique where Charity:Water is partnering with World Vision, Inc. to work on 76 sites. Why Mozambique?

"Mozambique underwent a civil war that led to extreme poverty and severely unhealthy living conditions. In addition, floods and earthquakes exacerbate the growing water crisis. With the 22nd highest child mortality rate in the world, every year 82,000 children in Mozambique don't make it to the age of five. Recently, Mozambique has made incredible strides toward development, and providing access to clean water is a major priority."

Thank you for your contribution toward saving lives and allowing children to go to school rather than walking miles to retrieve water! In about 21 months we should receive a final report on the precise project and location you supported, and the lives you impacted.

- The Outreach Committee

Christian Education

Is it possible that June is already here bringing the last month of the Sunday School year for Children and Youth? I want to thank Tracy W. for teaching the Seeker group of students this year. Her dedication will be missed as she is not able to teach this group next year. We are still trying to plan a trip to Matthew 25 farms to plant potatoes. We will share that date as soon as we have it. I am also grateful to Jared Shepard for the time and talent he shares with our youth preparing music for worship. They always sound like angels to me. Although the weekly classes are coming to a close, summer will be a time for planning for the fall. If you have any ideas for adult education, or if you would be willing to help out next year with our Sunday School classes, please let me know. Hopefully, I will see all of you at our picnic. Such a fun way to wrap up a great year!

-Paula M.

OPPORTUNITIES

Seeking Fellowship Hosts

We are now seeking Fellowship Hosts for June and for the summer months. Please see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. If each UCF family, who are able, can check their calendar and sign up for one Sunday over the summer we should quickly fill these weeks. As always, in the summer months, Fellowship can be anything you wish to provide and can be set up indoors or out in the garden. Coffee or lemonade and a plate of cookies would be lovely. Many thanks to all who have helped with Fellowship this year. We've had a lot of fun.



Interfaith Works Opportunity — ONE-TO-ONE: Volunteer As A Nursing Home Visitor

You can make a grand difference and find your own life deeply enriched!

"One-To-One" will match you with a nursing home resident for personalized weekly visits, reducing a resident's loneliness and isolation. More than half of nursing home residents in Central New York receive no visits from anyone, so just imagine the impact you can have! This is a new program of Interfaith Works of Central New York which will equip and support you. Please contact Interfaith Works.

Studies show that volunteering on a regular basis reaps many benefits including even prolonging your lifespan. As you give of your time, you can expect reduction of stress, lessened risk of disease, and an easing of chronic pain.

GATHERINGS

Potluck

Come one, come all, young and old to a church potluck on June 8th at 6:30pm. Bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert to pass. Any questions, contact Mary Jane W. or Cindy R.





Sunday, June 3

9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord's Supper

- 8:45 am Adult Forum
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Nursery Care
- 10:00 am Worship (*Children in Worship*)
- 11:00 am Fellowship

Adult Forum Discussion after Worship

Adopt-A-Highway

Wednesday, June 6 – 2pm Bible Study in Women's Lounge; This Week: Judges 13-21

Friday, June 8 – 6:30pm Potluck

Sunday, June 10

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 8:45 am Adult Forum
- 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 am Nursery Care
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship

Tuesday, June 12 – 7pm Worship & Spiritual Life in Women's Lounge

Sunday, June 17

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 am Outdoor Worship at Ryder Park
Picnic to follow.

Tuesday, June 19 – 7pm Board Meeting

- Deadline for July/Aug Newsletter

Wednesday, June 20 – 2pm Bible Study in Women's Lounge; This Week: Remaining Judges, and discussion of Bible readings for the Summer.

Sunday, June 24

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Summer Schedule Begins

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:30 am Fellowship



Adult Forum June Schedule

June 3 America's Diversity Explosion by Joe J.

It has become increasingly clear that we are living in a challenging time. Our America is in the process of becoming the most ethnically, racially and culturally diverse nation in the world. That poses a fundamental question. What does that suggest for America's future? E PLURIBUS UNUM or E PLURIBUS CHAOS?

June 10 A Conversation with New Town of Manlius Police Chief, Michael J. Crowell

Manlius Police Department serves roughly 32,000 people and responds to 20,000 calls per year. The nature of those calls can provide insight into the deep human need of our neighbors and may suggest ways for individuals and congregations to be involved in the healing of our community. As time allows, Chief Crowley will also address issues that are often not brought to public attention through media reports: cooperation with/and referrals to other organizations, standards for use of force, de-escalation (tactical communications), school safety, gun safety and public shootings. Bring your questions.

June 17 Education Summer Hiatus Begins