

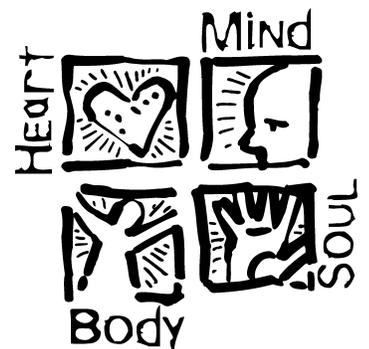


UNITED CHURCH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2018

WIDENING THE CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

While UCF has many strengths which congregants easily name, the one almost everyone names first (regardless of what they call it) is that of the "warmth", "fellowship", "relationship" or "sense of community" or "inclusivity/acceptance" found here.



Such feelings are generally nurtured when people are in one another's presence regularly, when they do a project or work together, or because they found themselves in the same place or involved in the same activities due to their children. It is quite common when I visit with people or hear stories, that people can tell me who invited them to church forty years ago; who taught or is teaching their children; who makes music with them, name all the people in the first Bible study they ever attended or laughingly remember who tipped a bucket of mop water down the steps.

The world is changing and more people may find out about us through our website or an ad; yet no one has ever told me they came here because of a piece of paper. As we are engaged in conversations about strengthening and growing our ministry, there are many of ideas about how to put and keep UCF in the public eye, rather than have it be an unknown jewel tucked away in a historic building. Those efforts will continue and likely be expanded.

(continued)

At the same time, each of us needs to think about how to use our most commonly named strength – our capacity for building and maintaining relationships – not just for greeting people when they enter our sacred space, but when we are out in the world. As we know, God's gifts are given not for us alone.

When we do find new folk among us, we need to listen more than tell. Someone in a life stage we have previously enjoyed or have yet to enjoy may not experience it as we do or as we expect to. They may not have the same interests we do now or did when we were in their situation. Embracing new and different people may well be our entrance into embracing an ever-changing world – a gift that newcomers have the potential to bring to us.

As we enter the holiday season, let us use this great gift God has given us to the benefit of those who have not yet found community. There will be many opportunities in the days ahead for extending invitations with which we and they are most comfortable.

In faith,

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



From the Music Director



I'm happy to report that we are off to a great start in our Music Ministry this fall. We've had many Sundays with lots of singers in our choir making it easy to get back into the swing of things quickly. The Joyful Sign Choir has joined us to add to our ministry, and the Handbell Choir is already playing regularly and getting ready, like the rest of us, for the fast-approaching holiday season.

We're looking forward to November and singing songs of thankfulness as we prepare ourselves for jumping into another Advent. Please be sure to say hello and welcome our Guest Organist, Jane Lorraine, on November 25 as she leads the choir and accompanies the congregation while I'm away. As always, I thank you for your continued support, especially your words of encouragement for the excellent work that all of our music ministry volunteers do every week. I'm always happy to pass on compliments to the choir, but nothing lifts their spirits quite like hearing from you directly how much their music and ministry means to you.

-Jared Shepard
Director of Music Ministries

News from the Board



The Board:

- After discussion at its September meeting, finalized a contract by email for the removal of the carpet in Beard Lounge and the refinishing of the hardwood floors in that room. Work will be completed during the last week of November.
- Continued planning for UCF's hosting of a meeting of the Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse on Saturday, November 3. The doors open at 8:30, with registration. There may be a pre-presbytery education event –more about that later. Worship will begin a little after 10:00AM and will be led by The Rev. Bill Carter, Presbyterian pastor and jazz pianist. The entire meeting is open to anyone who wishes to observe. (If you are able to assist with a simple lunch or as a greeter in the morning, please contact Janet P. or Cindy R.)
- Heard a report about middle to high schoolers attending an area youth group event.

UCF OUTREACH TO BROWN MEMORIAL

Sometime ago, an Adult Forum speaker spoke about the Syracuse Westside Urban Mission (SWUM) based out of the Brown Memorial Methodist Church. She painted a picture of a neighborhood plagued with crime, poverty, drug abuse, illiteracy — a mere 15 miles from UCF. SWUM was created to 'run the church' as it had no pastor and to hire a 'community worker' who would minister and provide support to the neighborhood. In 2015, Dr. BJ Norrix was brought in as pastor for both Brown Memorial and Erwin UMC. With a pastor in place the SWUM program was discontinued.

Some ministries of Brown Memorial:

- Worship attendance is up from 15 to 45 over three years
- We are now serving 75 to 140 people dinner every Sunday
- We are working with 15 - 20 youth in our afterschool homework help program
- We are running a clothing closet
- We are the home of the neighborhood food pantry
- We have 25 adults in a "life skills class"
- We have 15-20 youth in a "youth life skills class"
- We are forming an "after high school" group

UCF is part of a 15 church team providing Sunday dinners. The next is planned for November 18th.

Some details about the dinners:

- We prepare for 120 meals — leftovers are distributed to the community.
- The meals are prepared in the kitchen at UCF on Saturday mornings, delivered and served by UCF volunteers at Brown Memorial (with assistance from the folks at Brown) on Sunday afternoons.
- A worship service is held after the dinner for those served meals.
- The cost for serving a dinner is approximately \$250-300.

How to get involved?

- Sign-up sheets will be out ahead of the next dinner - volunteers are welcome to prepare on Saturday or serve on Sunday.
- Speak with Kathy B., or Rich or Diane B.

Thanks for your interest and continued support of this outreach program!

Update on the Feeding Program in Paulette, Haiti Try out your French...

Thank you letters, photos and receipts have come this fall via email from our Haitian partners, FEED, and the principals of the two K-6 schools we support in Haiti through HEMP, Cayuga-Syracuse Haiti Educational Partnership, thanking our new partner, the Vibrant Village Foundation, and us for providing lunches for all the children in these schools. HEMP sponsors 50 children in each school. All children in both schools now receive daily lunches with fish or chicken, an answer to our prayers for more protein. Vibrant Village's contributions also have provided sustainability for the lunch program. In 2017 Scott went to discuss the water situation with a Vibrant Village representative and instead, "got food"! Here are excerpts from both principals' letters:

"Avec l'arrivée du repas dans les écoles, la vie de l'école s'améliore considérablement. Les enfants viennent à l'heure et toujours avec l'espoir qu'ils vont bien manger. Ce repas permet aux enfants de travailler davantage et étudier à la maison!... Une fois de plus, merci pour ce don qui pousse les élèves à venir en classe chaque jour, étudier et faire leurs devoirs. Que Dieu de l'Univers vous bénisse tous et vous protège et America. Je souhaite que le partenariat avec FEED dure longtemps pour le bien des enfants!"

"With the arrival of the meals for the schools, life at school has gotten considerably better. Children come on time and always with hope that they are going to eat well. The meal permits children to work hard and study at home. One more time thank you again for this gift that encourages students to come to class each day, to study and to do their homework. May the God of our universe bless you all and protect you and America!" My wish is that the partnership with FEED lasts a longtime for the good of the children!"

Children from the Ecole Nationale with sign saying, "Thank you for the meals!"



Announcements

THANKS



Thank you to everyone who participated in any way in the Blood Drive in memory of Stu on Saturday October 13. It was an overwhelming success.

- Mary Jane W. and Tori W. A.

WINTER EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Buildings & Grounds has to replace our 30 year old snow blower. If anyone has an idea or a line on a suitable machine, please contact the Church Office at 315-637-3186 or John H.

MINIMALISM: RECLAIM LIFE WITH LESS!

Liz Bremer from '*Put Simply Organizing*' will be talking with **TABITHA WOMEN Wednesday, November 14th at 7:00.** We will also be planning for our holiday adopt-a-family that evening. All United Church women are invited. After all, is there anyone of us out there that cannot do with less? Contact Cindy R. for more information (Beware! She may unload some of her "stuff" on you!).

UPDATES

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We supported last year and are again supporting this year the "Blessings in a Backpack" program at Delaware School in the city. This year the funding from generous donors means that bags of weekend food will be provided for all 550 Delaware students! It is a big project for the Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church and we are happy to be a part of the program. The children believe that the community cares about them!

FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of Paula and Gail, I would like to thank the entire congregation for their support of the program. As a result, the attendance and enthusiasm of our youth continues to thrive. Of course, there's always an opportunity to help and continue to watch us grow.

"Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very *good!*" (Genesis 31 NLT) How does our use of the word *good* compare to God's? That is the question that our 6th through 12th grade group is exploring through scripture and contemporary times. They also had a great time meeting and interacting with the youth group of Manlius.

Our K through 5th grade group is learning about what it means to be diligent. Who in scripture acts with diligence? Who has that trait in our community and the world? We also celebrated with our 3rd graders who received the gift of a Bible from the church on Reformation Sunday.

The questions that our youth are exploring are worthy of adult thought and may yield great family conversations around the dinner table.

- Donna C. on behalf of K-12 Education

NOVEMBER'S TOPIC IN THE "UNENDING SEARCH" IS FOOD INSUFFICIENCY

Please join us on November 4 for our Bible Study regarding Scripture's requirements for providing food for the hungry, including harvesting practice and response to the poor.

November 11th Vito L., Donor Relations manager for the Food Bank of CNY, will be our speaker.

November 18th will be a video dealing with hunger in America. These are timely topics in our season of Thanksgiving.

OPPORTUNITIES

SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

There will be a Christmas tree outside of Beard Lounge with tags from the Salvation Army on it. Taking a tag from the tree and buying presents for people varying in age from newborn to their 90's helps to ensure that the holiday season will be brighter for families facing economic challenges. Bring the new unwrapped gift with the tag attached and put the gift under the tree. The gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 9th. I will take the gifts to the Salvation Army. If you have any questions please contact me, Mary Jane W.

GATHERINGS

GRAZING WITH GRATITUDE!!!

For good friends and good eats! Our fall pot-luck is **Friday, November 16th at 6:00pm!** Sign up is in the hall on the way to fellowship. Questions? Contact Mary Jane W. or Cindy R. Brought to you by your Membership Committee.

REMINDERS

SAVE THE DATE: BRASS, BELLS & SYRACUSE CHORAL CONCERT AT UCF

We are in store for a treat on December 9th at 3:00 PM when the Syracuse Brass under the direction of James Spencer, the United Church Handbell Choir conducted by Jared Shepard and an encore performance of the Syracuse Chorale with artistic director, José "Peppie" Calver, fill our sanctuary with the sounds of the season.

Come hear such works as Rutter's *Gloria*, Philip Harper's *Yule Dance*, *Carol of the Bells* by Lovatt-Cooper, *Christmas Overture* by Nigel Hess, Philip Sparke's *Veni Emmanuel* and other selections as friends of UCF help raise funds for needed school books for Haitian children in Paulette for our Cayuga-Syracuse Haiti Educational Mission Partnership (HEMP). <http://www.theucf.org/ministries/outreach-mission/haiti-education-partnership/>

Share this info with your friends and family and ask them to set this date aside for a glorious concert and free-will fund-raiser. More info to follow in December!





N O V E M B E R

Sunday, November 4

The Lord's Supper – All Saints Sunday, Dedication of Memorials

Daylight Savings Time Ends

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am Nursery Care

10:00 am Worship (K-12 in worship)

11:00 am Fellowship

Wednesday, November 7 – 2 pm Bible Study

Saturday, November 10—Board Retreat 9 am—12 pm

Saturday, November 10— Steeple Coffee House 7:30-9:30 pm (doors open at 7:00 pm)

Sunday, November 11

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:45 am Adult Education – The Unending Search

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am Nursery Care

10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Sunday School (K-12 begin in worship then depart for Sunday School)

11:00 am Fellowship

Monday, November 12 – OFFICE CLOSED (Veteran's Day)

Tuesday, November 13 – 7PM Worship & Spiritual Life – Women's Lounge

Wednesday, November 14 – 7PM Tabitha – Women's Lounge

Thursday, November 15 – 7AM Men's Covenant – Women's Lounge

Friday, November 16 – 6PM Membership Committee Potluck

Sunday, November 18

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebration of Baptism

8:45 am Adult Education – The Unending Search

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am Nursery Care

10:00 am Worship (K-12 in Worship)

11:00 am Fellowship

3:00 pm Brown Memorial Dinner

Tuesday, November 20 – December/January NL Deadline

Wednesday, November 21 – 2PM Bible Study

November 22 & 23 – OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 24 – Steeple Coffee House 7:30-9:30 pm (doors open at 7:00 pm)

Sunday, November 25

8:45 am Adult Education – The Unending Search

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am Nursery Care

10:00 am Worship (K-12 in worship)

11:00 am Fellowship

Tuesday, November 27 – 7 pm Board Meeting



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