

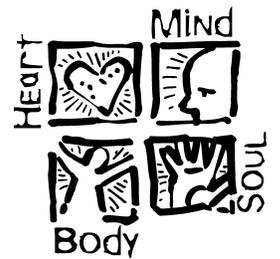


# UNITED CHURCH NEWS

DEC 2018 / JAN 2019

## MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BEARING JOY INTO THE WORLD AND LETTING IT GROW WITHIN US THIS ADVENT

Whatever your passion, whatever your gift, whatever feeds you spiritually, and however you are best-suited to "feed" our neighbors, there is more than one way for you and your household to make Advent truly a season of preparation for the coming of Jesus among us once again.



**Worship and Music:** Each Sunday offers reflections on the possibilities of God being born among us, special music, and prayer.

- \* On December 16, the Word will be Proclaimed through Music at our morning service.
- \* We offer two very different services on Christmas Eve (Be sure to invite a neighbor, friend, or co-worker.)
- \* There is also the additional community service – Advent Lessons and Carols at IC on Dec 2.

**Spiritual growth for households:** The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee is providing Advent Devotional booklets with reflections and suggested prayers, as we seek to experience the season more deeply. Devotionals can be found on a table in the hallway to the Sanctuary. Please take one for your household. The Congregational Care Committee will be delivering them to our homebound and ill members.

### **Education:**

- \* In "The Unending Search", conversation in the month when we remember Mary and Joseph fleeing with the baby Jesus to Egypt for safety, will explore theological reflections on immigration..
- \* Our younger members will be exploring the Christmas story at age-appropriate levels in their Sunday School classes.

**Fun for children of all ages:** In Advent, we mark Joseph and Mary's travel to Bethlehem for the birth of the Christ Child. We are reminded of this when we see the empty crèche on the piano. This year, we have resumed a tradition. The Joseph and Mary figurines will move throughout the Narthex and Sanctuary from week to week until they finally arrive in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. See if you and your household can find Joseph and Mary each week.

(continued)

### UNITED CHURCH STAFF

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**Caring for one another:**

- \* Connect with our homebound and ill members. Remember to include them on your holiday greeting list. We printed a list of folk to remember in our November newsletter or you can work from the prayer list in the bulletin each week. Warm a heart and let people know we are withy them in spirit even when they are away from our worship time. (Addresses are on tables in the entryways.)
- \* There will be caroling to some of our homebound members on Dec. 16 after the Christmas Social.

**Caring for our neighbors:**

- \* On December 2, we will receive the Joy/Thank offering which benefits both Baptist and Presbyterian retired church workers of limited means.
- \* As we do every Advent, we encourage people to bring a gift for the Food Pantry EACH WEEK for our annual "White Christmas Offering" tissues, TP, paper towels, and bar soap -- products that cannot be purchased with food stamps.
- \* On Christmas Eve, we will dedicate our Christmas Offering to benefit disaster relief efforts for the California fires.

**More Music and Mission Together:**

- \* On December 8, the Steeple Coffeehouse host their "Holiday Christmas Party", proceeds benefiting UCF's mission efforts.
- \* On December 9, at 3:00PM, the Syracuse University Brass Ensemble and our own Handbell Choir, this year accompanied by the Syracuse Chorale, will offer their annual concert. Proceeds benefit our education ministry in Haiti.

**Fellowship:**

- \* On December 16, following an especially music-filled service, we will gather around tables in Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas Social.

This diverse array of activities has the capacity to deepen our spirituality, help us carry out our calling as disciples to serve our neighbors and enhance our joy. Make this season at UCF a gift to your household.

Perhaps, as importantly, these occasions are all accessible, non-threatening and varied opportunities to invite friends, neighbors and co-workers to join us – to experience the life we have together and to learn from experience what a warm and hospitable congregation we are. Make an invitation to UCF a gift to someone you know whose life can be made richer and more joyful by all that we share here.

In faith,





## From the Music Director



When I prepare for December, it is always with high excitement for all of the occasions to make music at UCF. This year, we will mark the first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd, with our usual participation in the Advent Lessons and Carols at Immaculate Conception Church in Fayetteville. We will be joined by our Joyful Sign Choir who elegantly represent our text as we sing it. This year, it will be an adaptation by John Rutter of "I Wonder as I Wander."

On Sunday, December 9, we will have our usual presentation of Brass and Bells. This celebration will include the UCF Handbell Choir, The Syracuse Brass Ensemble, and the Syracuse Chorale, directed by Dr. Peppie Calvar. In addition to our usual program of Christmas handbell music and festive brass ensemble music, the Syracuse Chorale will join SUBE and me at the organ for John Rutter's "Gloria." This dynamic choral work features the pipe organ extensively throughout so this will be a unique opportunity to hear our historic Johnson pipe organ in a concert setting.

The third Sunday of Advent, December 16, will highlight a choral service at morning worship. The UCF Adult Choir will offer a cantata of English carols arranged by British composer Jonathan Willcocks entitled, "On This Day, Rejoice." We are happy to be joined by my friend from the Setnor School of Music, Syracuse-area pianist and teacher Robbie Padilla who will collaborate with us on the piano that day.

We are also rehearsing the special musical pieces that make our candlelight Christmas Eve service so meaningful.

I hope you all have a pleasant holiday season filled with music and events that help to make this such a special time of year together, and I look forward to seeing you in church or at any of these occasions.

-Jared Shepard  
Director of Music Ministries

***Oh Come, All Ye Faithful...***  
**to the**  
**Brass, Bells and Choral Holiday Concert**  
**on Sunday, December 9th at 3:00 PM!**

*UCF's annual fundraiser for the Haiti Educational Mission Partnership*

You are invited to share this special afternoon of music with the Syracuse Brass Ensemble, special guests, the Syracuse Chorale, and the United Church of Fayetteville Handbell Choir playing and singing some of your favorite holiday pieces! Enjoy a variety of seasonal music that will leave you inspired and wanting more. Jared will join the Brass and Chorale on the organ for Rutter's *Gloria*. Hold on to your seats as the Brass Ensemble sounds out the exciting opening of this piece dedicated to the memory of the composer's son.

Invite family, friends and neighbors and arrive early as it will no doubt be crowded. The free-will offering will allow us to purchase books and workbooks for the 150 pre-school children in Paulette, Haiti. Non-perishable food items are also appreciated for the F-M Food Pantry. If you are unable to come, checks may be made out to United Church of Fayetteville with "Haiti" on the memo line.



# Announcements

## THANKS

Thank you to everyone who took the time to write notes of blessing and affirmation to all our children. You have given them a gift that will keep on giving for many years to come.

- Linda

## UPDATES

### FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

"White Christmas Collection" for Advent: To help our neighbors in need this Advent Season we are collecting white paper products to donate to the Fayetteville/Manlius food pantry. Social programs like SNAP and WIC and food pantries help those in need with food items but their budgets do not cover paper products, soap or personal care items that people need. When you are out shopping this Advent season please consider getting a few items to donate to the "White Christmas Collection". Suggested items; toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, napkins, hand soap, dish soap, laundry detergent, personal hygiene items (tampons, maxi pads), toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors, shaving cream). Collection boxes will be in the hall near the food pantry contribution barrel until December 24<sup>th</sup>. As is our tradition, we ask people to try to bring something for the Food Pantry each week during this holy season.

- Outreach Committee

### FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

As we begin the Advent season, our youth continue to grow closer to one another and our larger church family. This is a season to be grateful for the many blessings that God has bestowed upon each of us and an opportunity to share God's love to all of His children. The Sunday school theme for this month is gratitude. We are grateful for the hard work of Gloria Manuel who has been decorating the hallway bulletin board with pictures of our children. The Sunday School mission project this month is to lead the White Christmas Drive. They will encourage all of us to bring in paper products such as toilet paper, paper towels, and tissue boxes to be placed in a decorated box near the food pantry collection unit. The participation of these young people brings joy to all of our hearts. Please support their efforts and stop by to see their photos.

- Donna C.

# ...More Announcements

## FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As the year comes to a close, please remember to complete your 2018 UCF pledge. Donations should be received no later than Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> to be credited to the current year.

This is also the time of year to be sure to process invoices and vouchers promptly, so that any expenses are covered in this year's budget, rather than being counted against next year's budget.

Thank you,  
Scott M., Assistant Treasurer

## DECEMBER'S "UNENDING SEARCH" TOPIC

December's topic for the Unending Search will be Immigration. This is timely as well as historical as we think of Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus in their flight to Egypt.

- December 2 - A biblical look at immigration, response to it, and issues surrounding it
- December 9 – Katie Holmes CYO speaking on refugee issues
- December 16 – Denny B. and panel on refugee resettlement

## GATHERINGS

**Tabitha Women** will be having their annual Christmas pot-luck on **Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.** This is always a hilarious gathering with great food, good conversation, and the tasteless white elephant gift exchange. We invite all women of UCF to join us for a festive and frolicking fun evening! For more information, contact Cindy R.

The fabulous and always delightful annual **Christmas Brunch will be held following worship on December 16<sup>th</sup>.** Be sure to look for the sign up! It is most helpful for the Fellowship Committee's planning and set up if you let us know how many from your family will be attending and what you will be bringing. This is a wonderful celebration of seasonal joy shared with our church family and we look forward to seeing you there!



**The Congregational Care Committee will be caroling** to a few of our home-bound immediately following the **Christmas Brunch on December 16.** As there are only four members on the committee, we really need some warm-bodied support! Professional vocal training is not required (or the committee would be eliminated) and we even provide carol booklets! Young and old are welcome, and we'll have you back to church within an hour. The joy we provide to our dear ones is exponentially returned to us singers. Please join us!



Mark your calendars! A **January Jubilation! luncheon pot luck has been scheduled for Sunday, January 13 following worship!** Hopefully we all will have recuperated from the holiday and will be ready to enjoy a simple lunch and some great fellowship. And you'll already be at church! Sign up in the hall on the way to fellowship. Brought to you by the Membership Committee. See Mary Jane W. or Cindy R. for more information.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

There is 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 from newborn to their 90's ensures 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 Mary Jane W.



### POINSETTIA AND MUSIC PROGRAM DONATIONS

A gift given in memory or in honor of a loved one will help to defray the cost of special music and other musical services in our worship throughout the year. Likewise, your donations of poinsettias make our church sanctuary beautiful and are a meaningful way to remember your loved ones or honor someone with whom you have shared the joys of Christmas.

To make a donation in memory or honor of loved ones, please fill out a form located at the entrances to the sanctuary and return it to the office by December 9 with your payment – by mail is fine! (310 East Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066)



Make checks payable to United Church of Fayetteville with POINSETTIA and/or MUSIC in the memo line. Donations will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletins. You may take home your poinsettia following the Christmas Eve services or after.



### OUTDOOR NATIVITY

We are looking for anyone interested in helping to erect our Outdoor Nativity on December 16th after the Christmas Social. We will be assembling the wooden walls and roof and other pieces along with the silhouettes. Please reach out to Malcolm or Pam B. Thank you!



## ...More Announcements

### STEEPLE COFFEE HOUSE

12/8/18 – Holiday Show – Performing: Cathy Cadley, Hanna Richardson, Bob Price, and Marcus Curry.

1/12/19 – Bob Price (former White House pianist) and Marcus Curry (CNY performer legend), joined by special guests.

1/26/18 – Israel Hagan (guitarist/singer)

Suggested entry donation for each of these events - \$15/person. Discounted tickets (\$10/person) will be available after service the Sunday prior to each event. Questions: 663-7415, see Steeple Coffee House on Facebook, or go to [www.theucf.org](http://www.theucf.org) and click on Steeple Coffee House.

### STEWARDSHIP 2019

*"I have one life and one chance to make it count for something... My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference." - Jimmy Carter*



We began our 2019 Stewardship Campaign with former President Carter's words reminding us of our own obligation to our faith and one another. We have shared a hopeful vision for our church and pledged a portion of the money at our disposal to work toward that vision.

To date, we have received 70 pledges taking us to approximately 85% of our goal of \$168,758. There are some from whom we have not yet heard. We have been sending out reminders in hopes of receiving the missing pledges. The Board will be finalizing the budget for the coming year in the next weeks and will be making any necessary decisions in order to present our congregational budget for approval in January. If you have not yet pledged, please do so as soon as possible. Emailing to [treasurer@theucf.org](mailto:treasurer@theucf.org), mailing it to the church or bringing it in person are all ways to turn in your pledge. And thank you again to all who have turned in a pledge. It makes a difference when we have the information as early as possible.



### **Sunday, December 2**

**The Lord's Supper – 1st Sunday of Advent**

**8:45 AM Adult Education – The Unending Search:**

**Immigration – Part 1 of 3: A biblical look at immigration, response to it, and issues surrounding it**

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

9:45 am Nursery Care

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

11:00 am Fellowship

7:00 PM Lessons & Carols at Immaculate Conception Church

Tuesday, December 4 – 7 PM Worship & Spiritual Life – Women's Lounge

Wednesday, December 5 – 2 PM Bible Study – Women's Lounge

Friday, December 7 – 7 PM First Friday Youth Group (Grades 6-12) – offsite

Saturday, December 8 – 7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House — Holiday Show – Cathy Cadley, Hannah Richardson, Bob Price, Marcus Curry

### **Sunday, December 9**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8:45 AM Adult Education – The Unending Search:**

**Immigration – Part 2 of 3: Katie Holmes CYO speaking on refugee issues**

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

**3:00 PM Brass and Bells**

Wednesday, December 12 – 6:30 PM Tabitha – Christmas Pot-luck Women's Lounge

### **Sunday, December 16**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**8:45 AM Adult Education – The Unending Search:**

**Immigration – Part 3 of 3: Denny B. and panel on refugee resettlement**

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 - Christmas Social

Tuesday, December 18 – 7 PM Board Meeting – Women's Lounge

Wednesday, December 19 – 2 PM Bible Study – Women's Lounge

Thursday, December 20 – 7 AM Men's Covenant – Women's Lounge

### **Sunday, December 23**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

**10:00 AM Worship (K-12 in worship)**

11:00 AM Fellowship

### **Monday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve (Family)**

**5:00 PM Worship**

**Christmas Eve (Candlelight)**

**7:00 PM Worship**

December 25-January 1 — Office Closed

### **Sunday, December 30**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day**

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

**10:00 AM Worship (K-12 in worship)**

11:00 AM Fellowship



Tuesday, January 1 – Office Closed (New Year's Day)

Wednesday, January 2 – 2 PM Bible Study – Women's Lounge

Friday, January 4 – 7 PM First Friday Youth Group – Grades 6-12 (offsite)

### **Sunday, January 6**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

**The Lord's Supper**

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

**10:00 AM Worship (K-12 in worship)**

11:00 AM Fellowship

Monday, January 7 – Deadline for Annual Report

Tuesday, January 8 – 7 PM Worship & Spiritual Life – Women's Lounge

Wednesday, January 9 – 7 PM Tabitha – Women's Lounge

Saturday, January 12 – 7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House Bob Price (former White House pianist) and Marcus Curry (CNY performer legend), joined by special guests.

### **Sunday, January 13**

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

12:00 PM Membership Committee Pot Luck Luncheon

Tuesday, January 15 – 7 PM Board Meeting – Women's Lounge

Wednesday, January 16 – 2 PM Bible Study – Women's Lounge

Thursday, January 17 – 7 AM Men's Covenant – Women's Lounge

### **Sunday, January 20**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

**10:00 AM Worship (K-12 in worship)**

11:00 AM Fellowship

Monday, January 21 – Office Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

Tuesday, January 22 – Deadline for Newsletter

Saturday, January 26 – 7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House – Israel Hagan (guitarist/singer)

### **Sunday, January 27**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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 Annual Meeting**



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