



UNITED CHURCH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020



MUSINGS FROM LINDA

This month I find myself with a smattering of thoughts – tidbits left over from the year past and thoughts about the days ahead – rather than a musings focused on any one theme.

While like all churches, we face challenges, we ended 2019 on a lovely note of traditional Christmas Eve services, celebrating Christ's birthday, enjoying the animation of our young people and encountering the holy.

We look forward to welcoming new members; celebrating the sacrament of baptism; appreciating the leadership of long-term members; welcoming some new people to leadership roles, and gathering as the community of faith in worship, fellowship and service, week after week. Together, we will share the joys and navigate the challenges we encounter as we seek to be ever faithful disciples in this time and in this place – appreciative of our history –which includes a pattern of meeting challenges and adapting to change.

We will be weaving together the experiences of last year, with thematic threads of another year in ministry. As we have long been involved in hunger ministries and concern for the poor, especially in CNY, various experiences and events will invite us to think more deeply about those issues and how we might effectively respond, taking into account our human and fiscal resources.

The season of Lent begins at the end of this month. That is later than we often begin the season, but no doubt it will be upon us before we know it.

We will continue with our use of a Lenten One Great Hour of Sharing calendar, which this year invites us to reflect on some of the realities of living in poverty – a reality that is much closer to us than we might think.

The Women's Wednesday Bible Study once again has invited me to join them for the season. This year we will be learning more about women in the Old Testament (Tamar in Genesis, Potiphar's Wife, Dinah and Deborah) and, hopefully, more about ourselves.

As a new offering, this year, I have developed a daily devotional for the season. If you would like to receive the daily email, with each devotion, please email me at lindaeven@theucf.org. (If you do not receive email and would like a print version, please speak to me directly.)

Blessings in these days of deep winter chill and may faith and fellowship keep us warm, strong and growing.

In faith,

UNITED CHURCH STAFF

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Thank you to everyone who supported and joined us for a busy and full Holiday season in 2019. Special thanks to our guest musicians who joined us as singers, bell ringers, and brass players. One of the many joys of creating music during the holidays is being joined by the friends and family of those who are a regular part of our ministry. It's great to have some new people with us at Christmas, but please feel welcome to join us any other time. In fact, we're pleased to have some of the ringers who joined us for Brass and Bells staying on with us through the season.

Right now the choir is working on music that leads us up to Ash Wednesday. As I was browsing our library looking for repertoire, I noticed a title that listed the composer as 'Manilow'. I figured it was more likely that there was another musician named 'Manilow' than someone had selected a Barry Manilow song for our library. In fact, it was the latter, and I found a copy of "One Voice" that the choir is presently working on. Along with this choice, we will be working on three anthems in the gospel style, some excellent contemporary choral anthems, and a chorale from a Bach cantata. Needless to say, we continue to look for and prepare worship music of great variety. Whatever the style, the requirements for good singing are the same: breath support, clear diction, and a commitment to authenticity and bringing our very best. We're blessed to have a group of volunteers that know that excellence is a habit.

Director of Music Ministries

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jared".

Updates

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM

Calendar Notes for Sunday School are as follows:

Feb. 7: First Friday activities

Feb 9: Sunday School is in session.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to volunteer to teach or assist. Please consider supporting our children in this way.

We wish you a safe and happy February break!

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Tabitha Women will be meeting Wednesday, February 12th for our January snowed out sandwich and movie night. We will be viewing "Ocean's 8" with Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, and Anne Hathaway. All United Church women are invited- bring a sandwich and we'll start at 6:30.

VALENTINE'S POT LUCK FEB 9TH

Sign up following worship on Sunday! Cannot promise a kissing booth, but there is sure to be some good chocolate!

Brought to you by the wee Membership Committee.

FROM THE MEN'S GROUP

Donuts, Coffee, Fellowship – Please join us on the third Thursday morning of each month at 7:00 to 8:30 AM for the Men's Covenant in the Women's Lounge. We gather to share our stories of events in the past month, participate in various programs, and have a good time. Drop in. Both the donuts and the fellowship are great. Give us a try. The next meetings are February 20th and March 19th. Questions: contact Dave Clutton at (201)232-2837 or email dsclutton@gmail.com.

A look back at December 2019 at UCF:



Left to right and down: Choirs' Party, Brass and Bells, Christmas Eve –“Brand New Nativity”, K-high school fun, learning and service!

...More Updates



CPR and AED Training

Bob Craft is willing to offer American Heart Association PR and AED training to interested individuals. The single class is four hours long and will be scheduled for an evening or a Saturday morning, depending on participant availability. There is no cost for the class, but there is a minimal cost for the certification card. Class size is limited. Contact Bob directly at ucfcpr@theucf.org if interested.

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee has been busy getting ready for 2020 and have agreed that our focus for the year will be Poverty. We are looking at different possible beneficiaries for the Spring Brass Concert and hope to confirm this shortly and will keep everyone posted. Upcoming volunteer opportunities include a breakfast at Isaiah's Table in Syracuse on Saturday February 29th - please see Kathy Bohnsack for more info. If you can't make it to serve, consider preparing something for the breakfast.

UCF has provided 14 mattresses to "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" for the beds they build for children who don't have one. This was the result of the Peacemaking Offering collected in the fall, with additional funds from Outreach - many thanks to the congregation for your generosity.

Save the Date: Spring Senior Fun day at Vanderkamp June 4th

The day will start at 9:30 as folks gather with coffee and goodies. Activities will begin at 10 with a prayer and introduction to the day. We have lunch and are ready for home by 4. Everyone is free to do what they choose and that may include just going off and reading a book or putting a jigsaw puzzle together! More information coming in April.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIRECTORY

THEY'VE MOVED!

Jackie Meyer

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Fayetteville NY 13066

&

Rev. Doug and Sue Merchant

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...More Updates

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

At its January meeting, The Board:

*reviewed the final financial figures for 2019.

*prepared for the annual meeting.

*authorized the

Memorial Committee to proceed with some projects in Beard Lounge, including rehabilitating furniture and procuring window treatments.

*confirmed dates for mission activities: Isaiah's Table February 29

Brown Memorial Dinner May 31 (meal prep May 30)

*provided funds for youth to go on retreat



LUNCH WITH LINDA

This month, I have set aside Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25 to share meals with folks.

Lunches are at 1:45 at Kirby's. Please let me know if you would like to spend some informal time together.

INQUIRER'S GATHERING Sunday February 2 after church

Dr. Even will hold an informal gathering for those interested in learning more about UCF, its history and its mission. It is also a chance to get to know one another better. While this gathering also serves as our new members' class, it is not required that attendees join. If you are interested in learning more about us, do come.

Bonus: If you decide at some later date you wish to join, you don't have to attend another gathering. Some people have already spoken to me, but if you would like to attend, please let Dr. Even know, (in person; 315.637.3186; lindaeven@theucf.org so she can be sure to have enough materials. Location will be in Beard Lounge.

**Sunday, February 2nd****The Lord's Supper**

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM Worship (K-12 remain in Worship)

11:00 AM Fellowship

Wednesday, February 5th

1:45 PM Bible Study – Women's Lounge

Saturday, February 8th

7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House — Austin MacRae

Singer/Songwriter

Sunday, February 9th

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM (G3-12 Food Pantry Visit on February 9th)

11:00 AM Potluck

Tuesday, February 11th

1:00 PM Congregational Care meeting – BL

7:00 PM Worship & SL-WL

Sunday, February 16th

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

10:00 AM (K-12 remain in Worship)

11:00 AM Fellowship -

Tuesday, February 18th

7:00 PM Board Meeting – Women's Lounge

Wednesday, February 19th

1:45 PM Bible Study – Women's Lounge

Friday, February 21st

6:30 PM Youth Activity-FH

Saturday, February 22nd

7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House- John Price & The Usual Suspects

Sunday, February 23rd

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal

9:45 AM Nursery Care

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

11:00 AM Fellowship

Wednesday, February 26th

Ash Wednesday

Saturday, February 29th

7:30 PM Steeple Coffee House- Wendy Ramsay & Friends