



Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

from Angie Staniszewski

UCC General Synod 32

General Synod 32 was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Several Western area people were in attendance as either delegates or visitors.

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer was re-elected as General Minister and President, but not without controversy, due to his straight, male, whiteness. Rev. Dorhauer also believes the time has come for a female to fill that role, and encouraged females to listen to God's call, as well as committing to not seeking another term.

The most controversial resolution was "Stewardship Of Exhibit Space As A Mission Of Justice," which proposed that no group demeaning any part of the body of Christ or working against civil and human rights for LGBTQ people or any other constituency shall be allowed exhibit space in General Synod halls and that the mission of "Faithful and Welcoming Churches" be rejected. Faithful and Welcoming Churches (FWC) is a very conservative group of UCC churches whose literature is hurtful to LGBTQ brothers and sisters. There was much discussion among visitors and delegates throughout the days leading up to the vote on this resolution. People were torn between the hurt FWC has caused some people and the UCC's very own message of "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here."

There are several other resolutions of note that should be discussed by our churches and the Western Area. A summary document has been attached to the Western Area website and can be found at <https://wnyuccdoc.wixsite.com/wnyacic/general-synod-32>. This document only has a brief description of each resolution to give everybody a general idea of what it is about. I strongly encourage you to view the detailed resolutions on the UCC Synod website, where you can also view videos of the plenaries and worship services. There is a link to this on the Western Area website, which also contains a more detailed synopsis of this Synod, and Synod in general. You can either scroll through the entire page or get to a specific category more quickly by clicking the underlined text under

"What Happens at Synod." The smartphone display of this page has just been cleaned up; so please revisit this if your previous visit was unpleasant.

I visited the Center for Analytics, Research and Data (CARD) booth. These folks do more than just publish the Yearbook and Directory. There is all kind of data and information available; they will help with special research projects. Their website is www.ucc.org/research.

I also learned of two great learning opportunities that maybe several churches could collaborate in. Rev. Anne Robertson, author of "Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series," is coming out with a new Bible Study called "Exploring Justice, The Ten Commandments." This will be a three-part curriculum, just like "Exploring the Bible." And the time has come for all churches to engage in the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) mental health curriculum. Churches need to be the leaders of society and must be educated.

There was also much fun at Synod. Dona Roll was travelling throughout the convention hall and exhibit hall with the Statue of Liberty, in search of New Yorkers to get their pictures taken as the face of Lady Liberty. But she also asked any, and all, other people in her path if they wanted their pictures taken. Although not all accepted the offer, all were amused.



from Jeff Mason, treasurer, WNYACIC

Treasurer's Report

The main source of income for the Western Area is derived from the Covenantal Shares paid by our member churches. The 2019 shares are based on the 2018 membership reported by each church in the Western Area. At \$6.00 per member, ours is the lowest rate in the state. The following churches made Covenantal Share payments between May 10 and August 14 : Church of the Nativity (Town of Tonawanda); Ebenezer UCC (West Seneca); Epiphany UCC (Clarence); Good Shepherd Community of Faith (Buffalo); Kenilworth UCC (Tonawanda); Lockport UCC; Pilgrim St. Luke's UCC (Buffalo); St. John's UCC (Dunkirk); St. Matthew's UCC (Hamburg); St. Paul's UCC (Shawnee); and United Baptist Christian Church (Lewiston).

In addition to the Covenantal Shares, our United Church of Christ congregations are being asked to pay a new Per Capita, which is \$2.00 per member, as reported in the 2018 Yearbook. Per Capita payments are payable to the Western Area, which then sends the entire amount to the New York Conference. The following UCC churches made Per Capita payments between May 10 and August 14: Church of the Nativity; Epiphany; Good Shepherd; Kenilworth; and St. Matthew's.

Letters will be sent to each church in September to update them on their 2019 giving and to let them know what their amounts will be in 2020.

To avoid confusion, UCC churches are reminded when they send a check to indicate whether it is for Covenantal Shares or Per Capita. If paying for both in a single check, please indicate the breakdown so you receive the correct credit. Thank you!



Annual Fall Bazaar

At First Congregational UCC Angola

Saturday, October 26th

Booths open 10am-4pm, Dining Room 11am-3pm

First Congregational UCC, 132 North Main St.

Angola, NY 14006

Come and see our booths!

Theme baskets, Craft Vendors, Farmer's Market, Christmas Wonderland, Book Nook, Timeless Treasures, Jewels & Gems, Becker's Bistro, Baked Goods, RADA Knives

Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center 2019 Fall Camp Schedule and Schedule of Events

WEEKEND CAMPS

Directors, Mike Hanes & Scott Benaglio

STAR WARS CAMP – Sept 20 – 22

HARRY POTTER CAMP – Sept. 27 – 29

FALL ADVENTURE CAMP – Oct. 18 – 20

FALL ADVENTURE II – Nov. 1 – 3

WEEKEND RETREATS

October 4 – 6

Wine Trail Weekend – Directors, Anne Wilmot & Rachel Cummins

Join us for a weekend of Wine Pairing, Wine Tasting & Touring as well as a Prime Rib Dinner and Entertainment

Cost \$195 (must be 21 years old to register)

November 8 - 10

Scrapbooking Weekend – Director, Jennifer Vacanti

Cost \$100

SPECIAL EVENTS

Halloween Happening – October 12

Cabin Sponsors needed to decorate a cabin and provide candy to trick or treaters. Overnight accommodations provided on Saturday. Lunch & Dinner (after the party) provided on Saturday.

Please call 716-366-1900 for more information or to register for any camps or events.



Spaghetti Dinner

St. John's UCC of Strykersville Hosting

Annual Spaghetti Dinner

St. John's UCC at 602 Centerline Road in Strykersville, NY 14145, will be having its annual Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday October 9th. from 4 -7pm. Spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, bread, and pies... all for \$10.00 dollars. We also have gluten-free spaghetti and rolls and desserts. Come and join us!

Prayerlist – September-November 2019

September

St. Stephen's UCC, East Amherst.
Ned Holderby, pastor
St. Matthew's UCC, Hamburg.
Lynn Morgan, pastor
St. Paul's UCC (Shawnee), N. Tonawanda.
Ronald Lord, pastor; Bonnie Kane,
Rebecca Pittler, Christian Ed
Grove Street Christian Church, Tonawanda.
James Girling, pastor
Western Area Support Staff - Kathy Najuch
Budget & Finance Committee
Commission on Ministry - Disciples of Christ
In the Vineyard Editorial Board;
Shannon King, editor

October

St. Peter's UCC, N. Tonawanda.
Jonathan Lawrence, supply pastor
Zion UCC, Tonawanda.
Elizabeth Duffy, pastor,
Susan Clark, Christian Ed.
Community Christian Church, Rochester.
Steven Price, pastor
Conference Regional Support Staff;
Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley,
Rev. Gary Ferner
Non-Parish Clergy
Lighthouse Youth Ministry
Paradise House

November

First Congregational UCC, Angola.
David Donner, Transitional pastor
Salem UCC, Tonawanda.
Jeremy Lopez, pastor,
Dyanne Ingram, Christian Education,
Alice McDermott, pastor emerita.
Faith UCC, Williamsville. Dawn Marie Meier, pastor
Christ Salvation Mission (DoC), Buffalo.
Virginia Williams, pastor
General Office, Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ), Indianapolis, Indiana
Teresa (Terri) Hord Owens, General
Minister and President
New Light Christian Church
Karen Ministry
Plymouth Crossroads



from amos acree

In Memoriam

The Reverend Debbie Baxter

The prayers and concerns from the Western Area go to the family of the Rev. Deborah J. Baxter. Rev. Baxter died on July 24 after a long illness. She is survived by her mother Betty (nee Gertis) Baxter, and sisters Laurie Peterson and Sarah Moss. She was the aunt of Breanne Callahn and Elia Moss. A funeral service was held on July 27. Memorials may be sent in her memory to the Erie County S.P.C.A. or Ninjas Fighting Lymphedema Foundation (www.winourfight.org).

Rev. Baxter served several churches, including her last call, Phoenix UCC. She was also active in many other Western Area ministries. You have departed in peace, blessed one, and our eyes have seen the salvation which our God has promised.

from Lois Vidaver

News from Our Outdoor Ministry

Rather than honor a Volunteer for this Year of 2019 at the Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center, John Kiewit announced at the Annual Picnic dinner on August 25, that long-term volunteers who have served for many years in many different capacities would be recognized. Thus, Rev. Gary Burdick and Jay Rich were celebrated for their dedication to the Camp's outdoor ministry.

The many attending the event were greeted by a new gazebo overlooking Lake Erie that appeared out of the mist like Brigadoon. Filming of "A Quiet Place 2" took place on the grounds the week before and the Brooklyn/LA crew left a lasting remembrance. The movie appears in theaters in March of 2020.

from amos acree

Disciples Open New Chautauqua Housing Unit

Chautauqua Association of the Disciples of Christ have built a new facility to replace one of their two housing units at Chautauqua. The Greybiel House, used for over 100 years, finally had to be replaced. After some unexpected problems at the beginning of the project, the new housing unit was completed (miraculously) for opening week of the 2019 session.

This new facility is a year-round facility and is available for off-season conferences and events. It is a five-story facility with a basement, first-floor kitchen, dining room and conference room, plus three floors of bedrooms, with several different layouts. It even has an elevator! It is an accessible facility, with heating and air conditioning.

It cost approximately \$2 million, and fund raising events are still going on. They hope to have such an event the week between Christmas and the New Year so make plans now to participate. More information will be forthcoming.

The fundraising has surpassed more than half of the cost of the facility, and a mortgage was obtained from the Disciples of Christ Church Extension Office. We encourage church groups and other organizations to look into holding meetings and conferences there. For more information, contact Thomas or Kathy Brownfield, co-administrators at Chautauqua.doc@msn.com or call 716-581-3212.

from amos acree

“Abide with Me” General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

From July 13-17, delegates and friends from the Disciples of Christ around the world gathered in Des Moines, Iowa, to participate in the biennial General Assembly. In addition to business sessions, worship, and education, mission projects throughout the area were undertaken. Some of the results included approval of a Full Communion

Agreement with the United Church of Canada; a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Merger Agreement, with sermons by Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale and Rev. Mark Briley, who explored the past, present, and future of our Church.

Disciples served in missions all across the greater Des Moines community that week. They also debuted a MissionFest in the exhibit hall, in which congregations shared the unique community ministries they've launched at home. The exhibit hall was also full of other mission projects anyone could participate in, like writing letters to elected officials, donating blood, and tying blankets.

It was also announced that some of the country's biggest politically progressive religious leaders would be going to El Paso to take part in a responsive action against current U.S. Immigration policies in the first 'Moral Monday in the Borderlands.' The event was scheduled for Sunday, July 28 and Monday, July 29. This was announced before the recent domestic terrorist attack in El Paso.

Moral Monday is being led by nationally renowned progressive Disciple of Christ faith leader Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, who has advocated the use of civil disobedience in order to create political change to issues of faith and conscience. Previous protests have covered voting rights, environment, and racial justice issues. Some have resulted in arrests.

Organizers say local clergy, faith leaders, and members of Congress were invited to participate and more than 215 confirmed participation in the event, which culminated with a large, non-violent protest.





**The Center for Christian Growth (formerly
The Resource Center) Presents Crossroads
Antiracism Workshop**

**Saturday, September 28, 2019
North Presbyterian Church**

300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville 14221

This workshop discusses racism, not only as a matter of individual prejudice, but as a systemic, institutional program of powers. Come join this conversation about racism and power.

**Registration 8:30am, Workshop 9am-4pm,
Lunch 12pm**

Registration deadline September 20, 2019. For more information, call Kirsten Albrecht-Carrié or Debbie Katz at 716-631-0979.



**Arcade UCC's Annual Fall Festival:
Basket Raffle, Chowder Sale and
More!**

Arcade UCC, 297 Main St., Arcade, 14009, will be hosting their annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 19 from 11am-3pm, featuring:

- Theme baskets raffle
- Homemade chicken and beef chowder
- Baked goods
- Quilt raffle, mountain bike raffle
- Handmade crafts
- And more!



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, November 10, 2019

2-4pm

6363 Transit Rd., Suite 550

Lancaster, NY 14043

(In the Tops Plaza at Transit and Rehm)

\$40 per person

Bring your own beverages

(Must be 21 to consume alcohol)

****Raffles and Wine Pull****

Registration opens in October

at www.plymouthcrossroads.com

All proceeds benefit Plymouth Crossroads.

For questions, please contact

Michele Harrington, 716-393-3906.

michele@plymouthcrossroads.org

**New Covenant UCC Celebrates 45th
Church Anniversary**

New Covenant UCC at 459 Clinton St., Buffalo 14204, will celebrate their 45th church anniversary October 17-20.

October 17-18: Revival

October 19: Black Men Worship! (musical)

October 20: Worship with guest preacher, Rev. Walter L. Parrish III from Baltimore, Maryland, followed by afternoon banquet at Salvatore's

All are invited to join us as New Covenant celebrates 45 years of Christian service.

from Rev. Kay Woike

SUPPORT JUSTICE FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES

Justice for Migrant Families is non-profit, volunteer organization in Western New York committed to assisting and advocating for undocumented families and asylum seekers. It connects families to free legal assistance, organizes volunteers to visit folks at the Batavia Federal Detention Center, provides presence and support at their court hearings, raises and provides funds for emergency needs, and seeks housing for those released from the Batavia facility who have no family in this country. Previously Vive was able to house these persons, but due to the huge influx of Congolese asylum seekers that arrived from the southern border in July it no longer has space.

Currently there is a need for people to offer short term (1-4 weeks) or long term (1-3 months) housing for people being released on parole or bond while awaiting their court appearances. Free or inexpensive housing is also being sought for a family of 6-7 persons, preferably, but not necessarily, in the Williamsville School district. If you or someone you know can help, contact Kay Woike (kaywoike@verizon.net; 716-834-9781.)

Contributions are also needed to assist asylum seekers with transportation, phone calls and other needs. Checks can be sent to Justice for Migrant Families c/o Trinity Church, 371 Delaware Ave. Buffalo 14202. For more information about JFMF or to make a donation online, go to www.justiceformigrantfamilies.org.



Blessing of the Animals

**Saturday, September 7th at 1:00pm
at Payne Avenue Christian Church**

1459 Payne Avenue

North Tonawanda 14120

Outside in parking lot, weather permitting.

Otherwise, will be held inside.

Bring an item for a cat or dog who is in need!

Everyone is welcome to attend!

For more information call Payne Avenue Christian Church at 716-260-1217.



Youth - Mark Your Calendars for... State Youth Event 2020

The 35th annual New York State Youth Event in 2020 is scheduled for March 6-8. It will be once again held at Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY. It is a time of worship, workshops, great food, games, skits, and new friends with opportunities for hiking, relaxing and just hanging out around the fireplace! More information will be available on the conference website (uccny.org).



from Wendy Backman, Executive Director at United Church Home Society, INC.



Senior Wishes Expands Into Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans Counties

Alvera received her first massage at age 100. Jim, a Korean War Veteran, attended a BPO concert for the first time since eighth grade, and Annie celebrated her heritage at the Gullah Festival in South Carolina. Senior Wishes, WNY's only program dedicated to enriching the lives of deserving seniors by granting meaningful wishes, is now expanding to serve residents of Genesee, Wyoming and Orleans counties, in addition to Erie and Niagara counties.

Established in 2013 by the United Church Home Society (UCHS), Senior Wishes' mission is to honor and recognize the lifelong contributions of our oldest citizens by granting meaningful wishes that will enhance seniors' lives.

According to Wendy Miller Backman, Senior Wishes Executive Director, "Senior Wishes was created to recognize that our aging seniors still have things they want to do, places they want to go, or people they want to see. We transform those dreams into a reality."

The program has granted over 200 wishes in Erie and Niagara counties, and strives to grant more wishes to seniors by expanding into more counties. Wish requests may be big or small. Previous wishes have included air travel to visit long-missed family, cheering on a favorite team in person, and revisiting an abandoned hobby.

Wish recipients must be 65+ and a resident of Western New York with an annual income under \$38,000 for a household of one or under \$44,000 for a household of two. Permanent residents of care facilities are exempt from the income qualification. Vacations, medical items, household repairs, bill payments and travel outside of the continental U.S. are excluded.

To learn how to apply for a wish or nominate a senior, visit www.seniorwishes.org or call 716-508-2121.



St. James UCC Center for Refuge

St James UCC at 76 Main St., Hamburg, 14075 offers a Center for Refuge. The Center for Refuge's current offerings include:

Refuge from Chaos: Family Support for those with a loved one in active addiction or seeking recovery. Beginning in March, they relaunched this important outreach that they share with Addict2Addict & Family2Family. Leslie Saunders will be leading this time of sharing and listening on the Second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. As someone in recovery and as a parent with an adult child who struggles with substance use, Leslie brings a wonderful combination of perspectives. Please help us spread the word.

Refuge & Focus: Opportunities to learn and engage in self-care and renewal. Colleen Schroeck, a certified Yoga instructor at the 200 Level, is leading Yoga classes at St. James. There are two adult class offering times to select from - Wednesday Adult Class at 7:00pm and Saturday Morning Adult Class at 9:15am. A Mommy and Me class offering is in the works. It is based on preregistration and having enough participants. This class is for Mommies with their children ages 2.5 - 5. To sign up for a class, please contact Colleen at: breathewellyoga@gmail.com.

from Karen Zmich, Manager, United Church Manor

United Church Manor Opens New Picnic Area



On July 10, Reverend Gary Gossel and Ruth Schwandt dedicated the newly-opened Picnic Area on the grounds of United Church Manor. This new amenity is connected to the Manor’s beautiful outdoor seating area, which includes the Paul C. Heckel Memorial Fountain. This new amenity was made possible by funding from our annual Theme Basket Luncheon. Picnic tables and a large charcoal grill were also purchased and are available for use by Manor residents and their families. Immediately following the dedication, all were treated to an old-fashioned picnic with hot dogs and hamburgers.



Dedication by Ruth Schwandt & Rev. Gary Gossel

East Aurora Christian Church - Covenanting Service

On Sunday, October 13, East Aurora Christian Church, 464 Main St., East Aurora, 14052, will be covenanting with the Rev. Jan Mahle as its called pastor. Rev. Mahle has been working the last two years as the transitional pastor, and now has been called to serve as the permanent pastor. The service will be held at 2pm on Sunday, Oct. 13. It will be followed by a reception. All are welcome.

Through the Eyes of a Teen

from Clinton Bacon-Schneider, Ebenezer UCC

“This August a group of kids from Ebenezer UCC went on a mission trip to Common Place in Philadelphia. We had lots of fun and did a lot of work in the community. One lesson I took away was to be grateful for what I have, because some people don’t have as much.

“We helped at the J-Rock day camp throughout the week. That week, they were performing two plays, ‘The Crayon Strike’, and ‘Shrek the Musical Jr’ (a play that I helped with before at school). People constantly complain about music departments not getting enough funding, but J-Rock barely had any. Regardless of budget, they worked with what they had. There was one woman hand sewing most of the costumes herself. She was extremely cheerful the whole time and talked with us about things like movies, school, and church.

“We did other things like gardening, helping a local Philadelphia pastor with a kids’ program he does in the park, and also fun things like Dave and Buster’s and seeing the Liberty Bell. Overall, it was a fun trip and I’d gladly go back.”

from Karen Zmich, Manager, United Church Manor

United Church Manor Annual Theme Basket Luncheon

In just a few short months, the Manor’s annual Theme



Basket Luncheon will be here. The event will be hosted at The Columns Banquet Facility, 2221 Transit Rd. in Elma, 14059, on Saturday, November 2. The event includes the raffling of beautiful

baskets, a silent auction, and a delicious buffet lunch. Your ticket to the event includes the buffet and a chance to win one of 20 door prizes. Individual tickets are \$35; however, table of ten sponsorships are available at a significant discount. Tickets are available on the Manor’s website (ucmanor.org), from any board member or staff person, or by calling (716) 668-5804. Thank you to our 2019 event sponsors, including Dansa D’Arata Soucia LLP, Ebenezer United Church of Christ, Litwin Castle Insurance Agency, Fox Run at Orchard Park, Kirst Construction, National Fuel Gas, and the United Church Home Society (UCHS, Inc.).

WANTED: Baskets – empty (or filled). Please call the Manor office at (716) 668-5804 and we would be happy to pick up.



Ebenezer UCC
630 Main St.,
West Seneca, 14224
Halloween Family Fun Night
Saturday, October 26th
4:00 – 7:00pm

- Enjoy crafts for all ages!
- Potluck Dinner!
- A performance by:
Benjamin Berry – Hula Hoop Fun
- Photo Booth
- Trick or Treating

Free of Charge – Everyone is welcome!
 Please sign up outside the CE Office or
 call Pastor Krista at 716-572-5642



GriefShare Support Group

GriefShare is a 13-week series on facing grief and understanding the process you go through when facing loss, especially of a loved one. Anyone who has lost a friend or family member is invited to join with Sue Robel and Rev. Gossel as they facilitate the group. We will meet on Tuesday nights from 7-8:30pm, beginning September 17th, and ending December 17th. We will not have a session on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Please let either facilitator know of your interest and be sure to share this with others who may be hurting from the loss of a loved one.

If you have any questions, please contact:
 Ebenezer United Church of Christ,
 630 Main St., West Seneca 14224, 716-674-4566.



Apple Harvest Festival at
Ebenezer UCC

Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, will be holding their Apple Harvest Festival on Friday, September 27 from 3:30-7:30pm. Come and enjoy:

- Basket raffle
- Shopping at the Mrowka Family Farm Market (apples, grapes, pears, plums, etc.)
- West Seneca Art Society Show & Sale
- Ebenezer “Original” Sloppy Joe Sandwiches
- Homemade Apple Crisp
- Baked Goods with a Seasonal Flair
- Homemade Soup (frozen, by the quart)
- Seasonal Treasures & Decor

from Larry Paul

Endowment Fund at Mid-2019

The Endowment Fund of the Western New York United Church of Christ and Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Covenant held \$433,087.94 on June 30, 2019.

That was some \$20,956 greater than the assets held at the end of 2018 – despite the distribution during the first part of this year of \$22,300 to our various ministries. These included Plymouth Crossroads, the Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center and several area Community Ministries programs, including the Senior Wishes program of the United Church Home Society.

“We did OK in the first half of 2019,” Jeff Mason, fund treasurer said. “But now we must see how the stock market does in the second half.”

Below is a breakdown of assets at 2019 mid-year compared with year-end 2018:

| | <i>Mid-Year 2019</i> | <i>End 2018</i> |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1) United Church Mutual Fund | \$406,103.16 | \$366,777.15 |
| 2) American Funds | \$ 26,984.78 | \$ 45,354.65 |
| Grand Total | \$433,087.94 | \$412,131.80 |

Community Nurse Notes

Healthy Meals: Where to start?

Planning and preparation are keys to consistently cooking healthy food on a budget. Instead of worrying about each day's menu and each meal's serving size, planning ahead means you have pantry, fridge and freezer items ready to whip up healthy, well-balanced meals. Saving yourself or your family from relying on take-out or restaurant meals will ease your budget and help you meet your health goals.

***Schedule** a weekly trip to the grocery store or explore curbside pickup or online ordering with delivery to save time.

***Shop your pantry first.** Base your weekly recipes on what you've already got on hand to save time and money.

***Prepare** a grocery list that has specific recipes in mind and stick to it.

***Come** home with more than a bag of good intentions! Chop those vegetables up and store in containers ready for use. Plan to use them on nights when your schedule is most pressed for time.

***Establish** theme nights to help with planning and variety. Have a healthy pizza night, a slow-cooker day, or a soup and sandwich night.

***Pick up** broccoli slaw for salads. Broccoli slaw is pre-cut, tastes great, and keeps well.

***Make** a simple vegetable soup. Freeze soup in zip-top bags lying flat on a cookie sheet. This will stack easily, and the soup is healthier than canned soup.

***Cook** shelf-stable spaghetti squash and serve with pasta sauce for a quick Italian dish.

***Precook** staple ingredients for a veggie bowl. Include a grain, such as quinoa, couscous, or brown rice. Precook a vegetable, such as roasted broccoli. Or dig into the frozen veggies you keep stocked in your freezer.

***Supplement** precooked grains and veggies with an easy protein, such as boiled egg or cheese. Voila! You have a healthy meal!

Meal planning and prepping will save you time and money in the long run. If you find it a challenge to carve out a space for that, consider turning it into a treat. Take your meal prep time to listen to that podcast you've been saving or the audiobook you borrowed from the library. Invite a friend over

to fellowship in the kitchen with you while you both tackle your meal preps, or even claim the meal planning and prep time as much-needed alone time! Whatever your strategy is, your budget and your health will thank you.

(Adapted from "Church Health Reader" – Faith Community Nurse magazine, Church Health Center – www.chreader.org)



Ebenezer United Church of Christ Rummage Sale

630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224

October 18 & 19, 8am-3pm

Baked Goods Sale on Friday and

Hot Dog Roast on Saturday

A \$1.00 fee will be collected as admission to the sale.

Donations are gratefully appreciated. Please call the office at 716-674-4566 to make arrangements.

Please note...old computer and TVs will NOT be accepted.

Paradise House Needs a New Home

Harriet Tubman Christian Church has been housed in Paradise House for 26 years, but now Rev. Anne Paris, its co-pastor, is retiring and the building at 144 Mills Street is in the process of being sold. We are now looking for another building to house 19 women who have successfully been working a program of recovery from their addictions and reconciling with their children who were taken from them when they were arrested.

We have all the furnishings for a recovery program and the new building would also house Harriet Tubman Christian Church. Over the 26 years we have been open, we have helped about 2600 women and their children. The City of Buffalo has honored our 501©3 endeavor, renaming Stanislaus Street, "Rev. Anne P Paris Way".

We hope all true Disciples and UCC will help us to continue this important social outreach to the inner city. Our address is: Paradise Opportunities Inc., PO Box 84, Buffalo, New York 14212.

New Ministries

In the Vineyard asked, “What new thing is your church doing this year?”

from Rev. Dr. Philip Rohler, Pilgrim Memorial Church, Jamestown

“The Congregation has formed a Moving Forward Committee. Commissioned for one year, the Committee will assist the Church leadership and the Congregation to reflect on the current ministries and help them discern where to streamline and where to enlarge the work. The Committee will collaborate with the Pastor to develop a Fall study and sermon series entitled, ‘Our Identity: Our Mission.’”

from Rev. Elizabeth Duffy, Zion UCC

I was asked to write an article about the “new things” we’re doing at Zion UCC, and truth-be-told, it’s hard to pick one. If you look at our church within the last nine years, we’ve tried many “new things.” As we live and grow into who we are as a community of faith, we try new things, some of which succeed, some of which fail, all the time.

Our most recent “new thing” is our Sanctuary renovation that is currently going on. The reality is that we need more space in our chancel area. Our choir is growing, and our Sunday School program is growing, and we decided that instead of squeezing everyone into a narrow space, we would renovate the chancel area to create a large space at the front of the church.

Needless to say, this is something the church leadership has been mulling over for a couple years, but this year it became evident that we needed to bring this idea to the Congregation and start the renovations.

As we renovate this new space, we’re constantly balancing two thoughts that are equally important to us: 1. What configuration is going to benefit the church for the next 20 year? 2. How do we maintain the history of the space to honor the work that was originally put into the Sanctuary?

When doing a “new thing” in a church, we have found that it’s important to honor these two thoughts. We are a growing church looking into the future, but we also need to maintain our history, and these two ideas do not need to be mutually exclusive.

One of our finest brainstorming events was a couple years ago, when we first started “dreaming” together as a church to decide what we need our worship space to look like and what programs we need to offer as a community of faith. We had a large group of people, from teenagers to our senior members and everyone in-between who attended this brainstorming event one evening. And the most fascinating discussion came over whether or not we wanted to keep our pews (or replace them with chairs), and the group that was most against removing the pews might surprise you... it was the teenagers. Our teens love this church – it’s truly a sanctuary to them, and the thought of putting chairs into the worship space instead of pews is not something they are comfortable with – it would take away the sense of “holy” to some of them.

The youth might love the contemporary worship music, but they also love the pews – they’re an eclectic bunch (aren’t we all). This is just one example of how we balance the new and the traditional. We look forward to the future while honoring the past. We grow and change while remembering our history.

So, we’re doing some new things here at Zion UCC. Currently it’s renovating the Sanctuary. Next it will be ensuring our church is Accessible to All (A2A), and there’s a list of things to come after.

God is always doing a new thing with us; we’re just trying to keep up.



Coffee in the Sanctuary



In March 2019, *In the Vineyard* asked, “What new thing is your church doing this year?”

Ginny Taber of Faith UCC, Boston reported that the church would be providing a free coffee for parishioners to enjoy during worship. Here is an update:

“Generally speaking the Coffee Bar was well received. Many folks get their coffee (or tea) and gather for conversation outside the sanctuary. We had to implement a special song the organist would play to get people to move into the sanctuary on time. It’s a new mindset to many, myself included. I was always taught that food and beverage were not to be taken into worship. If a cup of coffee that we provide brings people to church rather than Tim Hortons, then we have something good going.

“For Summer, we have cut back on how much coffee is made but added ice water, lemonade and ice tea. We needed to post a schedule for individuals who sign up for a week to be responsible to make coffee, etc. and clean up. We also posted instructions on how to use the new coffee maker and a timeline so folks will be able to arrive early enough to prepare everything. We put out a small decorated can to collect donations and that seems to be covering costs.

“As Fall approaches, hopefully some parents that drop their children off to Sunday School will stay and enjoy their coffee here, rather than the local coffee shop. Maybe even get involved with the Christian Education program! Wouldn’t that be great! All from a cup of coffee....”



2019 Vendor/Crafter Fair
Saturday, November 16th,
10am - 4pm
Payne Avenue Church
1459 Payne Ave.
North Tonawanda 14120

Spaces are still available! Contact
Becky, 716-998-9052

This will be a great way to start your
Christmas Shopping!
Offering many different vendors, a
Door Prize, 50/50 raffle and
refreshments available for purchase.
Hope to see you there!



St. Matthew’s UCC Fall Craft Show
Saturday, September 21, 10am-3pm
St. Matthew’s UCC, 5289 McKinley Pkwy.,
Hamburg, 14075

Quilts* Jewelry *Beach Glass Art *and more!
We will also collect nonperishable food items for our
local food pantry.

Questions? Contact the church office or LaDonna at
716-715-7310.



St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1475 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca, 14224, will hold a Meat Raffle on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Meat is supplied by Camillo's Sloan Meat Market. Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Presale tickets are \$7 per person; tickets are \$8 at the door. A table of eight can be bought in advance for \$50. Ticket includes admission, beer, pop and sandwich. 50/50 raffles will be held throughout the evening. Guests are invited to bring their own snacks and a cooler for their winnings. No outside alcohol is allowed. A limited number of tickets is available. Further information on this or any other activity of St. Peter's may be obtained by calling the church office at 716-674-1233 or visiting the church's web site at www.st-petersucc.org.



ST. PETER'S PRESENTS 2019 MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1475 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca, 14224, will present its 2019 Mystery Dinner Theater, "Til Death Us Do Part," on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12 in the church's fellowship hall. Guests are invited to follow the clues behind a mysterious death during a pre-wedding family get-together where the guests of honor have been delayed by a severe storm.

The evening features a sit-down dinner by Cenzo's Catering, basket raffle, and a cash bar. Doors open for the basket raffle at 6:00 p.m. Dinner begins at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are available in advance only, and must be purchased by Tuesday, October 1. Cost is \$37.50 each, or \$290 for a table of eight purchased with the same reservation form/check. Ticket

reservation forms may be obtained from church members or the church office. No reservations will be accepted without accompanying payment.

Further information on this or any other activity of St. Peter's may be obtained by calling the church office at 716-674-1233 or visiting the church's website at www.st-petersucc.org.



You Are All Invited To A Celebration of Rev. Richard Hemann's 90th Birthday

On Sunday September 29, 2019
At Ebenezer United Church of Christ
630 Main St., West Seneca NY 14224
Reception 2pm – 4pm

Gifts gratefully declined
If you wish, donations may be made
in Reverend Hemann's name to:
Ebenezer United Church of Christ
630 Main St., West Seneca NY 14224
or
New Light Christian Church
126 N Brier Rd., Amherst NY 14228

from Ginger Comstock

NY/HELP Honduras Projects are Progressing

The Sewing Project is making strides. Seven villages now have women who have learned to sew and are ready to teach other women in their village. New treadle sewing machines have been bought for each of these villages. And just recently, sturdy wooden sewing furniture, a table, straight chair and a white board, have been delivered to the villages. This furniture was made by students at CEVER, the vocational school in Yoro.



Another current project is the building of a new middle school for the lower villages so more students will be able to go beyond 6th grade. The Honduran government recently approved the project and site. Some students have actually started 7th grade with a teacher working in someone's home! But they really need a school. We hope to start a seventh grade classroom soon and eventually have a six-room building near the elementary school in Mescales.

These projects depend on donations by people like you. Without such donations, NY/HELP would not be able to help the people in the mountains of Honduras.

Donations can be sent to NY/HELP Honduras and mailed to:

NY/HELP Honduras
c/o Arcade United Church of Christ
PO Box 95
Arcade, NY 14009

Put in the Memo field of the check which project you want the money to go toward.



September Calendar Notes

- 5 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, Italian Village, 6354 Transit Rd., Depew 14043, RSVP to Cheryl Farr Keipper by Sept. 2 at 585-547-3605 or 585-409-8293.
- 7 Blessing of the Animals, Payne Avenue Christian Church, 1459 Payne Ave., N. Tonawanda, 14120, 1pm
- 9 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information call 716-882-7705.
- 12 Education Committee, Resource Center, North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 1pm
- 16 WNYACIC Council, St. Stephens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo, 14225, 7pm
- 19 North Towns Clergy, Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, 14223, 12pm
- 21 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 21 Fall Craft Show, St. Matthew's UCC, 5289 McKinley Pkwy., Hamburg, 14075, 10am-3pm, call 716-715-7310 for more information
- 27 Apple Harvest Festival, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 3:30-7:30pm
- 28 Crossroads Antiracism Workshop, North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, Registration 8:30am, Workshop 9am-4pm, Lunch 12pm. Call 716-631-0979 for more information. Registration deadline September 20.
- 29 Celebration of Rev. Richard Hemann's 90th birthday, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 2-4pm

October Calendar Notes

- 3 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, Italian Village, 6354 Transit Rd., Depew 14043, RSVP to Cheryl Farr Keipper, 585-547-3605
- 9 Annual Spaghetti Dinner, St. John's UCC, 602 Centerline Rd., Strykersville, 14145, 4-7pm

- 10 Education Committee, Resource Center, North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 1pm
- 11&12 Mystery Dinner Theater, St. Peter's UCC, 1475 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca, 14224, Doors open at 6pm for basket raffle, Dinner at 6:45pm
- 13 East Aurora Christian Church Covenanting Service for Rev. Jan Mahle, 464 Main St., East Aurora, 14052, 2pm
- 14 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information call 716-882-7705.
- 17 North Towns Clergy, Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, 14223, 12pm
- 17-20 New Covenant UCC Celebrates 45th Church Anniversary, 459 Clinton St., Buffalo, 14204
- 18&19 Rummage Sale, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 8am-3pm, call 716-674-4566 to arrange for donation drop-off
- 19 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 19 Fall Festival: Basket Raffle/Chowder Sale, Arcade UCC, 297 Main St., Arcade 14009, 11am-3pm
- 21 WNYACIC Council, St. Stephens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo, 14225, 7pm
- 26 Annual Fall Bazaar, First Congregational UCC Angola, 132 North Main St., Angola, 14006, 10am-4pm
- 26 Halloween Family Fun Night, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 4-7pm, free!
- 14 Education Committee, Resource Center, North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 1pm
- 16 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 16 Vendor/Crafter Fair, Payne Avenue Church, 1459 Payne Ave., N. Tonawanda, 14120, 10am-4pm
- 18 Deadline for submissions to the fourth quarter *In the Vineyard* issue – send to inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com
- 18 WNYACIC Council, St. Stephens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo, 14225, 7pm
- 21 North Towns Clergy, Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, 14223, 12pm

In the Vineyard is published quarterly by the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant (WNYACIC).

Editorial Board

amos acree Larry Paul
Pierre Albrecht-Carrié Alfred C. Plant
Editorial Assistant -Lois Vidaver
Editor – Shannon King
Distribution-Kathy Najuch
45 Dalton Dr., Buffalo, NY 14223-2310
716-835-4120
E-mail - uccnywes@verizon.net
Visit the new WNYACIC website:
<https://wnyuccdoc.wixsite.com/wnyacic>

November Calendar Notes

- 2 Annual Theme Basket & Silent Auction Luncheon for United Church Manor, 2221 Transit Rd., Elma, 14059. Doors open 10:30am, Buffet Luncheon at 12pm
- 7 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, Location TBA, RSVP to Cheryl Farr Keipper, 585-547-3605
- 9 Meat Raffle, St. Peter's UCC, 1475 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca, 14224, 6pm
- 10 Painting with a Purpose, 6363 Transit Rd., Suite 550, Lancaster, 14043, 2-4pm, For information call 716-393-3906 or michele@plymouthcrossroads.org
- 11 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca,

Send newsletter items to:

inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com

In the Vineyard, published four times a year, invites you to send us your comments and opinions, expressions of faith and announcements of events. We welcome information regarding the health and welfare of our clergy and others in the Western Area. Please write us when you know of a birth or celebration, a serious illness or a death in our church family – please include your name and telephone number.

Please have submissions for the upcoming Winter issue in by November 18, 2019.

