

Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

from Alfred C. Plant

Lent: How Blessed Are We?

It has been a month since Matthew 5:2-12 was read as part of the lectionary. But for some reason, the Beatitudes have been living in my spiritual atmosphere ever since. As we entered Lent at the end of February, I felt called to delve into the connection between the teachings and the season.

My default view of Lent is heavily influenced by the events that mark its beginning and end. Jesus' trials in the wilderness and the dramatic path to Calvary have always forced me to consider how I would cope if I had to endure anything like either circumstance. I cannot imagine how I would do when faced with sacrificial deprivation, sorrow, pain and death.

Like most other very familiar passages, I have heard the Beatitudes so often that it is difficult to really *hear* them. Beatitude means "supreme, utmost bliss and happiness", something we don't expect until Easter morning. But I am more and more sure that doing all we can to be among the "blessed" will guide us into a more fulfilling Lenten journey, the journey of following Jesus' call to discipleship.

"Blessed" is one of those words (along with its sibling "blessings") that have lost its flavor through overuse. At least one translation uses "happy" in its place, but that seems rather lightweight to me. "Happy" is a comfortable jacket that keeps me warm enough in the spring and shelters me from light rain but is easily stained and torn as we travel through life's challenges. It is barely three dimensional. "Supreme, utmost bliss", on the other hand, is an enveloping sphere whose edges can't be seen most of the time. It is like spending time at Chautauqua. You are surrounded by a near infinite variety of wonderfulness: from symphonies to sparrows, from the lake to limitless challenging and soothing interactions. Just consider being blessed in that way, only more so! It is orders of magnitude beyond my definition of "happy". We need the supreme bliss that Jesus promises. It is essential to the balanced spiritual diet that we all require to be his sisters and brothers. Bliss takes away fear's power, removing all obstacles that attempt to prevent us from

living God's way.

So, let us contemplate these holy teachings. Let us take them deeply into our entire being – body, mind, spirit – so that we might more fully be God's children, Jesus' siblings. And, then move out from our comfort-focus and do that which God created us to do. This hurting world needs us to be the channel of God's healing grace so we all may be whole and free.

I invite you to read Matthew 5:2-12 from your favorite Bible (or Bibles) and then meditate on the version below.

Blessed are...

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And Jesus taught them, saying:

Blessed are those who lack arrogance and pride and are not ashamed of their dependence on God. Their heavenly future is assured.

Blessed are those who grieve that creation resists surrendering completely to God's plan. God holds them tenderly and promises that all will be well.

Blessed are those who relate to all with gentleness and humility. In God's realm, they will lack nothing.

Blessed are those who ache for God's values to be creation's only nourishment. They will be fully satisfied.

Blessed are those who are unconditionally compassionate. God's compassion is their eternal gift.

Blessed are those whose hearts love only God. They will see God.

Blessed are those who have dedicated themselves to reconciliation. They are God's heirs, and my siblings.

Blessed are those who suffer because of their commitment to God's will. They know that heaven is theirs.

Blessed are you when you suffer for doing God's work in my name. Celebrate, for God's approval outweighs the whole world's denunciation—as the prophets who have preceded you will testify.

Let us open ourselves to the gift of supreme, utmost bliss (which has always been available) – throughout Lent and all of our days.



Prayer Lists: March - May 2020

March Prayer List WNYACIC

Peoples Community UCC, Buffalo
Charles Henderson, pastor
St. John's UCC, Dunkirk
Zoe Milliman, pastor
New Light Christian Church, Buffalo
Nadine Schrodt, pastor
Western Area Council
Center for Christian Growth of WNY
Plymouth Crossroads, Lancaster
Jennifer Thorpe, director
Global Partnership Prayers – Nicaragua, Hong Kong,
South Africa, Honduras, India

April Prayer List

Pilgrim-St. Luke's/El Nuevo Camino UCC, Buffalo
Nancy Rosas, pastor
St. John's UCC, Eden
James Reidling, pastor
Lockport UCC, Lockport
Harriett Tubman Christian Church, Buffalo
Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center
Coalition for Economic Justice
Western New York Peace Center

May Prayer List

Faith UCC, Boston, Ted Brelsford, transitional pastor
Gary Burdick, Pastor Emeritus
Covenant UCC, Gasport
John Tipton, pastor
Friedens UCC, North Tonawanda
Thomas Hardy, pastor
St. John's UCC, Strykersville
Jess Kacalski, pastor
Church & Ministry Committee (UCC)
Network of Religious Communities



National Youth Event 2020

Save the dates for the National Youth Event 2020! United Church of Christ's National Youth Event will take place at Purdue University in West Lafayette Indiana July 22-25th, 2020. This four-day event is celebrated as the largest denominational gathering. Often bringing in 4,000 participants, this time together is centered on faith, leadership, service and social justice to empower our youth.

Who: Young people who have completed 6th through 12th grade.

What: United Church of Christ's National Youth Event

When: July 22-25th, 2020

Where: Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana

Cost: \$435 starting March 1st

More information can be found at:

<http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/>



Western Area Treasurer's Report

Each year, the Area receives interest income from our Endowment Fund. This income is crucially important in funding the ministries of the Western Area. 30% of the income is made available for use by the Department of Community Ministry to provide grant money to local ministry initiatives. 30% supports the outdoor ministry of Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center and 30% funds the work of Plymouth Crossroads as they provide a stable home for boys who might otherwise be on the streets. 2.5% of the Endowment was disbursed to the United Church Home Society to help fund their Senior Wishes program. This year, 7.5% was set aside for use to close an anticipated operating budget deficit for 2020.

The main source of income for the day-to-day ministry of the Western Area is derived from the Covenantal Shares paid by our member churches. Because expenses come throughout the year, we especially appreciate those churches that either spread out their Covenantal Share giving throughout the year or who pay their entire share early in the year. As of February 13, the following churches have already paid 100 percent of their 2020 Covenantal Share: Grace UCC, St. John's in Eden and St. Johns in Strykersville. The following churches have paid part of their 2020 Covenantal Share: Arcade UCC Congregational; Ebenezer UCC; Lockport UCC; and St. Paul's UCC (Shawnee).

In addition to the Covenantal Shares, the New York Conference is requesting all congregations pay \$2 per member (based on numbers reported in the 2019 Yearbook). These Per Capita payments are payable to the Western Area, which then sends the entire amount to the New York Conference. As of February 13, the following churches have already paid their 2020 Per Capita in full: Arcade UCC Congregational; Grace UCC; Lockport UCC; and St. John's UCC (Eden). Ebenezer UCC has paid part of its 2020 Per Capita.

ENDOWMENT REPORT

As noted in the last issue of *In the Vineyard*, the total value of the Endowment on September 30, 2019 was \$434,655.32 (\$27,395.63 in the American Funds, \$44,229.68 in the United Church Funds General, and \$363,030.01 in the United Church Funds Endowment). As of December 31, the total value had increased to \$459,577.49 (\$29,302.95 in the American Funds, \$45,411.33 in the United Church Funds General, and \$384,863.21 in the United Church Funds Endowment).

The September 30 total value is used every year to determine the amount to be withdrawn and disbursed the following January. The January 2020 withdrawal of \$21,790 was taken from the United Church Funds General Account and transferred to the Western Area's checking account. Please refer to Rev. Morgan's treasurer's report to see how that amount was disbursed in late January.

from Lois Vidaver, Kenilworth UCC

Winter Learning Extravaganza

About fifty people representing 19 United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ churches gathered at Kenilworth UCC on Saturday, February 22. Ministries of the Western Area such as Dunkirk Camp, Western Area Youth, Center for Christian Growth, Senior Wishes, Dept. of Community Ministries, Plymouth Crossroads, Network of Religious Communities and Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, were highlighted briefly in the morning, then discussed more fully during afternoon breakout sessions. Rev. Gary Ferner, Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call, concluded the event with a presentation describing UCCNY's covenantal partners, followed by Q and A.



DUNKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

2020 Summer Camp season is now open for registrations.

Register by **April 15th** and receive a **\$25 Early Bird Discount.**

NEW Referral Discount

Refer a new First-Time camper and when they register and make their \$150 down-payment, you will receive a **\$25 discount** per new camper registered.

2020 DCC Camps Schedule:

June 5-7	Women's Weekend
June 28-July 1	Pilgrim Mini Camp
June 28-July 4	Senior High Camp
July 5-11	Theater Camp
July 12-18	Family Camp 1
July 19-25	Outdoor Adventure Camp
July 26-Aug. 1	Family Camp 2
August 2-8	Junior High Camp and Pioneer Camp
August 9-15	Soccer & Swim Camps

REGISTER NOW: www.dunkirkcc.com
For more info, call 716-366-1900.
\$25 Early Bird Discount ends April 15, 2020.

Save The Dates:
Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center
Annual Work Weekend
Saturday, May 16, 2020
And
NEW!! Fall Work Weekend
Saturday, October 24, 2020
Lodging available. Meals provided.

9th Annual Friday Free Lunch Program

Faith United Church of Christ cordially invites you to attend their **Annual Friday Free Lunch Program!** Every Friday from now until April 3, 2020, they will open their doors to the Community from **11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.** to partake in food, fellowship, and fun!

**1300 Maple Rd – Corner of Maple/Hopkins,
Williamsville, NY 14221**

All are welcome - Bring a friend!

If you wish to volunteer to help, please contact Sandra Hamann via email at

sandrashamann@aol.com or call 716-741-3851.

Annual Basket Raffle

Saturday, April 25, 2020

Doors open at 11am

Auction begins at 1pm

(Winner need not be present to win)



Held at

Epiphany United Church of Christ

9365 Clarence Center Rd
Clarence Center, NY 14032
Office: (716) 741-1441

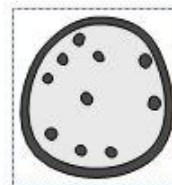
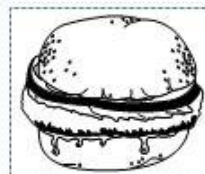
\$5.00 sheet of 25 tickets
Includes door prize

\$25.00 for 6 sheets of 25 tickets
(that's one sheet FREE)

Premium Prizes \$1.00 each or 7- \$5.00

Presale Begins March 26th

roast beef sandwiches, pizza & snacks
will be available for an additional cost



from Rev. Gary Ferner

Churches in Transition

These are the Western Association churches currently in Transition:

- Epiphany UCC, Clarence Center
- Trinity UCC, Gowanda
- Pilgrim Memorial/First Congregational, Jamestown
- Lockport UCC
- St. James UCC, Hamburg
- Arcade UCC

Where Are They Now?

Tina Bacon, Epiphany UCC

Huge Rummage Sale

Ebenezer United Church of Christ
630 Main St., West Seneca, NY 14224



May 1st and May 2nd

(8am – 3pm)

Includes a

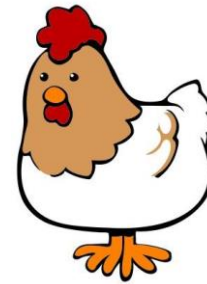
BAKED GOODS SALE on Friday

and

HOT DOG ROAST on Saturday

*Donations are gratefully appreciated. Please call the office at 716-674-4566 to make arrangements. (Please note....old TV's and computers will **NOT** be accepted.)*

Admission fee - \$1.00



CHICKEN BARBEQUE

Includes 1/2 chicken, buttered spuds, baked beans, roll & brownie

Saturday, May 16, 2020

12:00pm (noon) until sold out

\$10.00

Eat-in or Take-out

First Congregational UCC
132 N. Main St., Angola, NY 14006
716-549-2115

Prepared by Toni & Tony



March 6, 2020

East Aurora First Baptist
591 Porterville Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052
Hosting World Day of Prayer, 10am

First Congregational UCC Angola
132 N. Main St., Angola, NY 14006
Hosting World Day of Prayer for Zimbabwe, 7pm



HAM & SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER

Sunday, March 22, 2020
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM or sold out
First Congregational UCC
132 N. Main Street
Angola, NY 14006
716-549-2115

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

Includes: Ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetable, applesauce, roll & butter, dessert and beverage
\$ 10.00 / person - Children under 5 Free

Free Community Meals at Trinity UCC, Gowanda

30 Erie Ave., Gowanda, NY 14070
Doors open at 3:30pm,
Meals are served from 4-6pm

- March 14- pork & sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, applesauce, veggie bread
- April 11 - meatloaf, au gratin potatoes, veggie, bread
- May 9- chicken alfredo over linguine (pasta), salad, bread

All meals include beverage and homemade desserts.

Our dinners are all you can eat but we limit one dessert per person.

Karen Hawkins Memorial Giving Table available which holds many clothes for men and women... if you need it, then it is yours.

UCC NATIONAL CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION NEEDED

It is that time of year when all churches are asked to submit their church data from 2019 for the UCC National Directory.

If you choose to do your data submission on-line please

[CLICK HERE](#)

If you wish to submit your data by mail, please contact Sue Frost (see below) for the appropriate paperwork.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO Sue Frost at confclerk@uccny.org or call the Conference Office - 315-446-3076.

The Data Hub will be available until March 4, 2020 at midnight.

THANKS!

from Sue Allen, RN, Good Shepherd Community of Faith

Good Shepherd Community of Faith Monthly Self-Care Workshop

Our monthly Self-Care Workshop for March will focus on FEAR/ANXIETY/WORRY. Can you relate? What causes us to worry or be fearful? How do we best handle these stress-provoking feelings in such a stress-filled life?

Join us in this time of interactive fellowship. Tuesday, March 24, 2020. 6:30-8pm. Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220.

All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

Questions? Contact Sue 716-697-1657.



The Call to the Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting of the New York Conference, United Church of Christ 2020 Vision: By Faith Not Sight

To: Churches and Ministers of the NEW YORK CONFERENCE, UCC

From: Dona Roll, Moderator of the Conference

The Fifty-seventh Annual Meeting of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ will convene at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 2 Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, New York, 14202, beginning at 2:00 PM on Friday, June 5, 2020, and will be in session until after the Closing Service of Worship on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

(Information on the Continuing Education opportunities and workshops TBA.)



from Angie Staniszewski, Kenilworth UCC



Peace Light

The Peace Light is a flame that originates at the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Palestine. Each year, a child from Upper Austria fetches the Light from the Grotto where Jesus was born. The Light is carried in two blast proof miners' lamps on an Austrian Airlines jet from Tel Aviv, Israel to Vienna, Austria. From there, it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe, who take it back with a message of Peace to their own countries. Austrian Airlines then flies the miners' lamps containing the Peace Light from Bethlehem to New York City, where it is received and distributed to communities across the nation with the same message of Peace. On Tuesday, December 17, Kenilworth UCC received the Peace Light.

As the Peace Light is a symbolic moment, extinguishing it does not diminish its message; think of the candle as infused with the Spirit of Peace. The goal is to infuse as much Spirit of Peace as possible, so Kenilworth would like to share this with all the other churches of the Western Area. Please contact Pastor Lori Keller Burns at the Kenilworth UCC office, 716-835-4120, or via email, lorikeller1@msn.com, or via cell phone, 630-430-5678, to make arrangements to receive the Peace Light.

from Sue Allen, RN, Good Shepherd Community of Faith

Fraud Protection Workshop at Good Shepherd Community of Faith

How can you be a smart consumer? How can you protect yourself from being ripped off by retailers, contractors, scammers, and fraud telephone calls? Learn what new threats are facing consumers and how to be become better protected. Learn how to identify theft tips and warnings. Discover when to use your credit card and when to use debit card.

These topics and so much more will be covered as Karen Davis, Senior Consumer Fraud Representative, NYS Office of the Attorney General, joins us on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 6:30pm – 8pm, at Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220.

All are welcome. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact Sue: 716-697-1657; bsuea@yahoo.com.

from Sue Allen, RN, Good Shepherd Community of Faith

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program Offered at Good Shepherd Community of Faith

The arthritis foundation exercise program is a nationally certified gentle exercise program especially designed for people with arthritis. It includes exercise for range of motion, endurance, strength building, and flexibility set in a fun format. Exercise can be done either sitting or standing and participants are encouraged to exercise at their own pace.

Everyone is welcome to this time of gentle exercise together at Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, on Thursdays from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM.

For more information contact Sue 716-697-1657 or email bsuea@yahoo.com.



-Save the Date-

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

Saturday, May 30, 2020

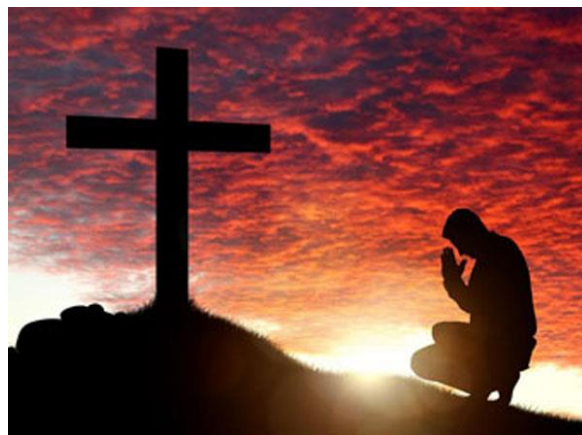
10 AM to 2 PM

Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220

If you are interested in sponsoring a station at our HEALTH FAIR, please contact Sue at bsuea@yahoo.com

Let us know what you would be bringing to the event to make it a SUCCESS!!!

Our hope is for this to be an interactive, informative, fun-filled event for all ages.





**Full-size Allen organ –
two keyboards, two octaves pedals.
Free to anyone who will move it.
It is in good working order. Contact
Karen Muldoon, 716-689-2059**

from Kay Woike

Mission Co-workers Available to Speak

There is still time to schedule mission co-workers, Dr. Monica and Rev. Tom Liddle to speak to your congregation or to a church, community, or clergy group in your area.

Dr. Monica and Rev. Tom Liddle are completing their second term of service with the Protestant Church of East Timor, treating patients and training medical staff at Clinic Emmanuel in Lospalos (Monica) and serving the local church there and providing continuing education to pastors and lay leaders (Tom.) They are available to speak in Western NY May 5-8 and 12-14 (Monica only.) They will be speaking at the Spring Area meeting.

Contact Kay Woike for more information or to invite the Liddles to your church or area:

kaywoike@verizon.net; call or text: 716-308-7719.

The Commission on the Global Church

The Commission on the Global Church- New York Conference – UCC is for the sharing of information and the discussion of issues related to the involvement of churches of the New York Conference with churches and missionaries in other lands and in support of their missions there. Subscribe to the group UCCNY Global by visiting the homepage:

<https://groups.io/g/uccnyglobal>

from amos acree

Chautauqua Institution Summer Season - 2020

An educational and social experience is yours when you spend a week (or more) at Chautauqua Institution during its summer season. Both the UCC and Disciples of Christ have housing units which help lessen the cost of attending. I can't speak for the UCC home availability, but I know that the Disciples Houses have some vacancies for the first six weeks of the season, which starts on June 27.

Week 1 (6/27-7/4) 4 rooms available

Week 2 - (7/4-7/11) 2 rooms available

Week 3 - (7/11-7/18) 2 rooms

Week 4 - (7/18-7/25) 4 rooms

Week 5 - (7/25-8/1) 2 rooms

Week 6 - ((8/1-8/15) 3 rooms

Weeks 7, 8, 9 are currently filled, but may have some cancellations.

For UCC information, visit the website - www.cuccs.org or contact Registrar Grace Lipman at gracelipman@gmail.com, 561-714-6779.

If interested, contact the Chautauqua Association of the Disciples of Christ at 716-581-3212 or chautauqua.doc@msn.com. Tom and Kathy Brownfield are the Administrators.

Save the Date...

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg

Saturday, April 18

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Schedule an appointment today!

Visit ConnectLifeGiveBlood.org

Enter sponsor code 000603 or

Call ConnectLife at 716-529-4270

Questions? Contact LaDonna Painter

716-715-7310; aunt11lala@aol.com

Photo ID is required to donate.



You may also learn more or sign up for donor registration.

Walk-ins welcome.



ST. PETER'S PRESENTS: MEAT RAFFLE

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1475 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca 14224, will hold a Meat Raffle on Saturday, May 9, 2020. 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, one drink and one 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.



FOOD AND WINE PAIRING FUNDRAISER AT BRAVO CAFÉ, ST. PETER'S UCC, WEST SENECA
St. Peter's United Church of Christ will hold its 11th Annual Food and Wine Pairing fundraiser on Sunday, March 29, 2020. The event will be held at Bravo Café, 5781 Seneca Street in Elma 14059, with doors opening at 4:30 p.m. and dinner and pairings beginning at 5:00. Bravo's owner has designed a menu that will pair a gourmet meal with the perfect wines, including appetizers, entree and dessert. Tickets are \$55 each, not including gratuity, and are available only in advance at Bravo, or by calling 716-674-1233 or stopping by the church office at 1475 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca 14224.

Notice

The Northeast Region of the Christian Church for 2020 is in the beginning of its planning stages. It will be scheduled in September (September 18 and 19) and the location will be Danbury, CT. As the planning continues, information will be shared with Disciple churches and people.





Drum4Health at Good Shepherd Community of Faith

Drumming connects the rhythm of our own heartbeat to the rhythm and heartbeat of the earth.

Deep within the essence of who we are, there's a sound, a vibration, an emanation that expresses life from every cell. It resonates in harmony with all living creatures-- an inner voice ready to emerge as a vital heartbeat that inscribes a personal signature.

The rhythm of life is a symphony-- the expression of our soul revealed by the conductor within.

Carolyn Zimmermann will be our guest and lead us as we Drum4Health on Saturday, April 25, 2020, 10am, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220.

Come! Allow your inner drummer to come out and play.

For more information contact Sue at 716-697-1657 or email at bsuea@yahoo.com.

Did You Know?

By receiving “In the Vineyard” electronically, you are now able to easily click on links/email addresses within the newsletter which will take you directly to the information you need!

CHRONIC PAIN/FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUPS

Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14220 (across from South Park High School) is offering chronic pain, including fibromyalgia, support groups. These groups are an opportunity for sufferers to share their journeys as well as what works for them and what does not. We will truly SUPPORT one another with our caring presence. Also, up-to-date information will be provided, and guest speakers, knowledgeable in the field of chronic pain/fibromyalgia, will be invited occasionally. We will discuss causes, the latest studies and their findings, and comfort-providing practices.

One group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 1:00 p.m. The other is held the second Saturday of each month, at 10:00 a.m. Meetings run about 1-1/2 hours. Groups will be led by Rev. Dr. Barbara Hulsing and Sue Allen, Retired RN.

For further information about the support groups, contact Barbara at 716-574-0164 or barb.hulsing@gmail.com.

PUERTO RICO EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

It all started on December 28th... The South and Southwest region of Puerto Rico has been experiencing telluric movements since December 28th, 2019. Many congregations are serving as shelters. There are three ways to respond at this time.

1. Monetary donations should be earmarked Puerto Rico response and sent to:
UCC Disaster Ministries, c/o Financial Services
700 Prospect Ave East
Cleveland, OH 44115

-or-

<https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCC/hrist/Disaster>

2. Church World Service Hygiene Kits, and Flood Clean-up Buckets can be assembled and taken to a drop-off point near you. For instructions on assembly and/or a location for drop-off, email Sue at uccnywcm@gmail.com

3. Click here to volunteer for Hurricane Maria recovery:

ucc.org/disaster-disaster-volunteers



Plymouth Crossroads Bluesfest at New Location

The 8th Annual Plymouth Crossroads Bluesfest to fight teenage homelessness, featuring some of Western New York’s hottest blues bands, will be held at a new location this year. Arrangements have been made to move the festival to the Lake Erie Italian Club Outdoor Pavilion, located at 3200 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14218. The event takes place on Saturday, June 13, 2020. Doors will open at 2:00 with the blues music playing from 3:00-9:30PM. Some of the biggest names in local blues music are lining up to appear and support this worthwhile cause. The event also includes a basket raffle. Food and beverages will be available for sale.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Plymouth Crossroads in Lancaster, which is a 501(c)(3) transitional housing shelter that provides a safe place to call home for abused, runaway and homeless young men ages 16-20. Plymouth has helped over 165 young men to not fall under the statistic of becoming homeless since its opening in 2011.

Presale tickets are available for \$10 before June 6 at 12:00 noon, and may be purchased online at <http://www.plymouthcrossroads.org>, or by calling 716-393-3906. Tickets at the door will be \$15. Event is rain or shine. Sponsorship opportunities are available for local businesses. Donations are also requested for the basket raffle.

from Dona Roll

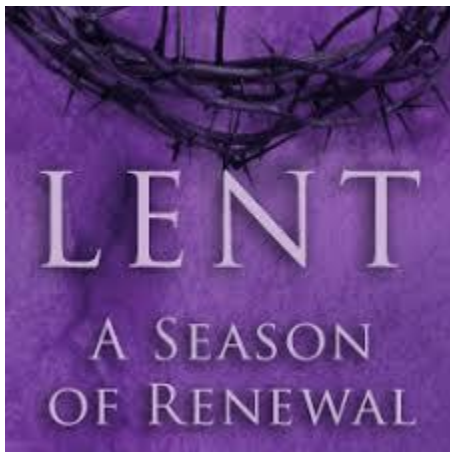
2020 Palm Sunday Cantata

Our 2020 Palm Sunday Cantata will be presented by the Pioneer Association of Churches Combined Choirs and Friends on Sunday, April 5 at 3pm at the New St. Mary’s RC Parish, 417 Main St., Arcade 14009. Always a meaningful beginning to Holy Week, you are invited to take a musical journey with us from the sorrow of Jesus’ last days to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.

March 2020 Calendar Notes

- 4 UCC National Church Directory Information Deadline, midnight.
- 5 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, 11:30am prayer, 12-2pm lunch, Dennys, 4610 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, 14225 — contact Kathy Najuch for details: 716-835-4120 or E-mail - uccnywes@verizon.net
- 5 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 1pm.
- 5 Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220, 6:30-7:30pm. Weekly program – every Thursday evening. All welcome.
- 6 9th Annual Friday Free Lunch program begins, Faith UCC, 1300 Maple Rd., Williamsville, 14221, every Friday through April 3, 11:30am-1pm. Call 716-741-3851 for more information or to volunteer.
- 6 World Day of Prayer, East Aurora First Baptist 591 Porterville Rd., East Aurora, 14052, 10am; First Congregational UCC, 132 N. Main St., Angola, 14006, 7pm
- 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
- 14 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 10am.
- 14 Free Community Meal, Trinity UCC, 30 Erie Ave., Gowanda, 14070. Doors open at 3:30pm, Meals served 4-6pm.
- 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. Participants invited to bring their lunch; coffee, tea and water are provided. Various members lead devotions and provide dessert.
- 19 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 1pm.
- 21 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 22 Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner, First Congregational UCC, 132 N. Main St., Angola, 14006, 12pm-6pm or sold out. Dine in or take out.
- 24 Self-Care Workshop on Fear/Anxiety/Worry, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220, 6:30-8pm. All welcome.
- 29 St. Peter's UCC 11th Annual Food and Wine Pairing, Bravo Café, 5781 Seneca St., Elma 14059, doors open 4:30pm, dinner and pairings begin 5pm.



April 2020 Calendar Notes

- 2 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, 11:30am prayer, 12-2pm lunch. Dennys, 4610 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, 14225 — contact Kathy Najuch for details: 716-835-4120 or E-mail - uccnywes@verizon.net
- 2 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 1pm.
- 5 Palm Sunday Cantata by Pioneer Association of Churches Combined Choirs and Friends, the New St. Mary's RC Parish, 417 Main St., Arcade, 14009, 3pm.
- 9 Education Committee, Resource Center, North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 1pm
- 11 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 10am.
- 11 Free Community Meal, Trinity UCC, 30 Erie Ave., Gowanda, 14070. Doors open at 3:30pm, Meals served 4-6pm.
- 13 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information call 716-882-7705.
- 16 North Towns Clergy, Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, 14223, 12pm. Participants invited to bring their lunch; coffee, tea and water are provided. Various members lead devotions and provide dessert.
- 16 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 1pm.
- 18 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 18 Blood Drive, St. Matthew's UCC Fellowship Hall, 5289 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, 14075, 10am-2pm. Photo ID required.
- 20 WNYACIC Council, St. Stephens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo, 14225, 7pm
- 25 Drum4Health, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 10am.
- 25 Annual Basket Raffle, Epiphany UCC, 9365 Clarence Center Rd., Clarence Center, 14032. Doors open at 11am, auction begins at 1pm.
- 28 Fraud Protection Workshop, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220, 6:30-8pm. All welcome.

May 2020 Calendar Notes

- 1-2 Rummage Sale, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., Seneca, 14224, 8am-3pm.
- 7 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, 11:30am prayer, 12-2pm lunch, Location TBA – contact Kathy Najuch for details: 716-835-4120 or E-mail - uccnywes@verizon.net
- 7 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 1pm.
- 9 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 10am.
- 9 Free Community Meal, Trinity UCC, 30 Erie Ave., Gowanda, 14070. Doors open at 3:30pm, Meals served 4-6pm.
- 9 St. Peter's UCC Meat Raffle, 1475 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca 14224, 6pm.
- 11 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information call 716-882-7705.
- 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 Chicken BBQ, First Congregational UCC, 132 N. Main St., Angola, 14006, 12pm-sold out.
- 18 Deadline for submissions to the first quarter *In the Vineyard* summer 2020 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. Participants invited to bring their lunch; coffee, tea and water are provided. Various members lead devotions and provide dessert.
- 21 Chronic Pain/Fibromyalgia Support Group, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220, 1pm.
- 30 Mental Health Fair, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220, 10am-2pm.

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

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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 Summer issue in by May 18, 2020.

