

**Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York**

***Across Six Feet of Separation***

*A poem for such a time as this  
by Hope Harle-Mould*

*Across six feet of separation*

the virus can't spread, but fear can run  
rampant—  
you afraid of me, me afraid of you.

*Across six feet of separation,*

our world careens in tumult, our minds in  
shellshocked muddle—  
too aghast to see the way ahead.

*Across six feet of separation*

my grandkids can no longer race into my arms—  
banned from even nearing my house.

*Across six feet of separation*

one daughter is laid off from her restaurant,  
one risks her health daily, nursing the disabled  
at her group home.

*Across six feet of separation*

our church can't enact its five-amazing-minutes  
of Passing the Peace—  
can't even gather to pray or hear holy words of  
promise.

*Inside six feet of separation*

a presence pulses with consoling calm and  
soothing balm,  
whispering near our ear, *"Be still...and know that  
I am God."*

*Inside six feet of separation*

is the assurance of things hoped for, the  
conviction of things not seen—

*"Fear not, I have redeemed you, I have called  
you by name, you are mine."*

Inside six feet of separation

are the outstretched arms of our Teacher,  
spanning the gap—  
*the Stillpoint of our turning world.*

Inside six feet of separation

there is a voice in the storm, commanding, *"Be  
still!"*—  
and in the ensuing silence...a peace so serene  
we weep.

Inside six feet of separation

a song fragment wells up within us,  
unbidden, transcendent—  
till suddenly we realize why...and sing  
unabashed and free.

Spanning six feet of separation

I warmly greet each passing stranger formerly  
ignored: *"Be safe!"*—  
and they reply, *"We'll get through this  
together!"*

Spanning six feet of separation

I use American Sign Language to tell people,  
*"Peace be with you,"*  
and as they mirror me, our hands caress across  
spider-web touch.

Spanning six feet of separation

I escape outside for a walk, blustery wind  
blushing my face,  
then inexplicably burst into run—joy  
irrepressible.

Spanning six feet of separation

I sense tree roots beneath my feet, linked by  
fungal networks to other trees,  
and I pause in awe at the anthem encompassing  
me.

Spanning six feet of separation

I see another world is possible—each soul a  
daughter or grandchild of mine,  
each moment a trust-fall of reconciling hope.

Across six feet of separation

generations of the faithful join us to leap the  
rift, as fearlessly we sing a new song:

*“We are held in holy hands, by a Love That Will  
Not Let Us Go.*



## **Prayer Lists: June - August 2020 WNYACIC**

### **June Prayer List**

St. John’s UCC, Buffalo. Elaine Utech, Supply  
pastor  
Trinity UCC, Gowanda. Supply pastors  
First Congregational UCC, Jamestown (now  
worshipping at Pilgrim Memorial UCC).  
Supply pastors  
St. Paul’s UCC, Wendelville, North Tonawanda.  
Ann Quinn, pastor  
First Grace United Church (UCC/DoC), Wellsville.  
Supply pastors  
Department of Community Ministries  
Chautauqua Association of Disciples of Christ  
Chautauqua UCC Society  
Global Ministries prayers for Haiti

### **July Prayer List**

Phoenix UCC, Amherst. Marcia Tolman, pastor  
Riverside Salem UCC/DC, Grand Island.  
Catherine & Jon Rieley-Goddard, pastors  
First Congregational UCC, Niagara Falls.  
Thunder Silk, Supply pastor  
Church of the Nativity UCC, Town of Tonawanda.  
Ruth Snyder, pastor;  
Kay Woike, pastor emerita;  
Dan Schifeling, pastor emeritus  
East Aurora Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).  
Jan Mahle, pastor;  
amos acree, pastor emeritus  
Department of Local Church Ministries  
Voice Buffalo  
Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center  
Global Ministries prayers for Sri Lanka

### **August Prayer List**

St. James UCC, Hamburg. Janet Hubbard,  
Transitional pastor  
Ebenezer UCC, West Seneca.  
Gary Gossel, pastor;  
Krista Ulrich, Minister of Visitation & Pastoral  
Care, and Director of Faith formation  
United Baptist-Christian Church, Lewiston.  
Vince Eisaman, pastor  
Northeast Region, Disciples of Christ.  
Thaddeus Allen, Acting Interim Regional  
Minister, Northeastern Region  
Women’s Fellowship UCC  
Western Area Nominating Committee  
Christian Women’s Fellowship (DoC)  
New Light Christian Church, Nadine Schrodt,  
pastor  
Karen Ministry  
Global Ministries prayers for Venezuela

## Western Area Treasurer’s Report

It seems all our reports begin with some variation of “in these challenging times,” and my report is no different. In this most unusual season in the life of the church, I feel blessed to say that our churches continue in faithful giving to the ministry and mission of the wider church. Although this time of year is always a little slow in terms of Covenantal Share giving, we are right on track with historical giving patterns.

I would like to thank those churches that have paid their 2020 Covenantal Shares, either in full or by regular installments. To date, 17 churches have paid some portion of their Covenantal Shares for this year. Since my last report, the following churches have paid 100% (or more) of their 2020 Covenantal Share: Cleveland Heights Christian Church, Covenant UCC in Gasport, First Congregational in Jamestown, Pembroke Community Church, Pilgrim-Memorial Church in Jamestown, St. Peter’s in North Tonawanda and St. Peter’s in West Seneca. Additionally, these are churches who have paid a portion of their Covenantal Shares who were not reported in the last edition of *In the Vineyard*: Church of the Nativity, and Salem in Bennington. Thank you all for your faithful support!

Although it is early in the fiscal year for many of our churches, please keep in mind that our Covenantal Share in 2021 will increase to \$8 per member. The number of members used to calculate your church’s share is the number of members which was reported to the Yearbook this spring. Please be sure that your church treasurers and financial secretaries are aware of the change as they begin to think ahead for next year’s budget.

Although you cannot measure spiritual health numerically, a heart open to God is a giving heart and that is true of individuals as well as churches. It is good to see these signs that even in difficult circumstances, God is at work in generous hearts throughout the Western Area.

## ENDOWMENT REPORT

As noted in the last issue of *In the Vineyard*, the total value of the Endowment on December 31, 2019 was \$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 annual disbursements from the Endowment take place in January, so \$21,790 was withdrawn from the United Church Funds General Account to make this possible.

If you have followed the financial news during the pandemic, you probably won’t be surprised to know the values of our Endowment accounts showed a significant drop in the March 31, 2020 statements. The total value was \$376,001.09 (\$23,535.61 in the American Funds, \$24,923.13 in the United Church Funds General, and \$327,542.35 in the United Church Funds Endowment).

The members of the Finance Committee held a Zoom meeting on May 7. The status of our Endowment was a major topic of discussion, since it appears the financial markets will see a lot of ups and downs over the next several months. The September 30 total value is used every year to determine the amount to be withdrawn and disbursed the following January. If our accounts remain low on September 30, 2020, this will have a negative impact on our January 2021 disbursements to Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center, Plymouth Crossroads, and the Department of Community Ministries.



# Master's Chicken BBQ

Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ  
1:00 pm till 5:00 pm until sold out

Drive Thru Take Out Only



Includes 1/2 Chicken,  
salt potatoes,  
coleslaw,  
roll and butter.

\$10.00 per dinner

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ

5289 McKinley Parkway  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
[www.stmattsucc.org](http://www.stmattsucc.org)



## In Remembrance of Reverend Jerry Lee McGlone

The Reverend Jerry Lee McGlone, age 71, died after a short illness on April 8, 2020, with his wife by his side. Jerry was born on December 17, 1948 in Athens, Ohio to Gratta and Cecil McGlone. A 1970 graduate of Ohio University in Athens, with a B.A. in history, he received a Masters of Divinity in 1973 from Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tennessee. He married Janet on May 29, 1971. Jerry went on to serve as the pastor of the First Christian Church in Shenandoah, Virginia and the First Christian Church in Narrows, Virginia. In the summer of 1984, Jerry became the pastor of Payne Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Tonawanda, New York, where he served until he retired on December 31, 2013.

Jerry was well known for his skill in the pulpit. His sermons could make you laugh, cry, and soar. He was also a trusted counselor and ministered to many in their times of need. Since his retirement, Jerry and Janet traveled extensively in Europe. In August 2019, he, Janet, and their son, Ian, took a river cruise in Egypt. He is survived by his wife Janet (nee Greene); children, Jennifer (Leigh) and Ian; a sister Loretta Stewart; niece Dee (Jason) Shenefield; nephew Michael Stewart; and great-niece Rachel Long.

For COVID-19 Happenings, contact  
Disciples of Christ  
at [disciples.org/dns/disciples-and-covid-19](https://disciples.org/dns/disciples-and-covid-19)

or UCC NY Conference  
at [davidgaewski@uccny.org](mailto:davidgaewski@uccny.org)



Due to current events, the family plans to hold a virtual service via Zoom in the next couple weeks. For details, please email the family at [ianmcglone@gmail.com](mailto:ianmcglone@gmail.com). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Payne Avenue Christian Church general fund or the Church World Service. Guest register available at [frettholdfuneralhome.com](http://frettholdfuneralhome.com)

## **Grants from the Department of Community Ministries**

*Submitted by Ted Brelsford, Transitional Pastor  
Faith United Church of Christ, Boston*

The Department of Community Ministries (DCM) has recently awarded grants totaling \$6,500 to St. Peter's UCC, North Tonawanda for their Rainie's Foster Closet ministry, and St. Stephens-Bethlehem UCC in ministry with Plymouth Crossroads.

The mission of the DCM is to provide grant money to help local congregations of the WNYACIC develop new ministries serving their local community or projects bringing them into closer connection with their community or neighborhood. The DCM also encourages members of WNYACIC congregations to partner with local community groups doing community ministry and will consider applications to fund such ministries provided there is direct participation by members of the congregation. Although grants are typically limited to a maximum of \$1500 per application, larger amounts are sometimes given when sufficient funding is available. At its March 26 meeting (via Zoom) DCM voted to award \$2,000 to St. Peter's UCC, North Tonawanda for Rainie's Foster Closet, and \$4,500 to St. Stephens-Bethlehem UCC in support of Plymouth Crossroads.

Rainie's Foster Closet at St. Peter's UCC, N. Tonawanda is an all-volunteer, donation-based, non-profit organization that provides clothing and other needed child/young adult items at no cost for foster children. This is the only ministry of its kind in the area and helps meet an urgent need. Foster children often arrive at their host family's home with only the clothes on their back. The state provision of \$35/month for clothing is inadequate to meet this need, leaving this financial burden to foster families. Rainie's Foster Closet provides a place where foster families and children can shop

free of cost and experience the care and compassion of the church.

The mission of Plymouth Crossroads is to provide safe shelter and services for runaway and homeless youth. They have strong partnerships with several UCC congregations including ongoing involvement and support from St. Stephens-Bethlehem. Plymouth Crossroads is the only transitional home for runaway and homeless males (ages 16-20) in all of Erie, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Niagara Counties. In recent years they have struggled with the elimination of HUD funding (formerly nearly 1/3 of their budget). On March 1, 2020 they were forced to suspend residential services until sustainable funding could be secured. This unusually large grant from DCM, made possible by a special gift from the closing of Alden UCC, will move Plymouth Crossroads toward their goal of reopening and will demonstrate local support in their applications to larger granting agencies.

The DCM accepts grants from WNYACIC congregations at any time and usually responds within six weeks of receipt of application. The committee is co-chaired by Rev. Ted Brelsford and Rev. Hope Harle-Mould. For questions or grant submission guidelines please contact Hope Harle-Mould: [hopeharlemould@gmail.com](mailto:hopeharlemould@gmail.com), 716-868-5533.

### **Position Opening at Faith United Church of Christ, Boston**

#### **Organist / Choir Director**

Faith United Church of Christ,  
Boston, N.Y. 14025

One Sunday service and warm up per week plus extra holiday services.

Rehearsals as necessary.

Salary Range: \$10,000 - \$12,000 per year depending on experience.

Call Mary at 716- 609-1824 or email [mmcewan@roadrunner.com](mailto:mmcewan@roadrunner.com).



**UCC/DC Mission Co-Workers  
Tom and Monica Liddle Available to  
Speak to Your Congregation Online**

New York Conference Missionary partners Rev. Tom and Dr. Monica Liddle, recently returned from serving as Global Ministries Mission co-workers with the Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL), were scheduled to visit and share their story with groups and congregations in the New York Conference in May. Due to the travel and meeting restrictions in place because of COVID-19 they are not able to travel to New York. However, working with Cathy Nichols at Global Ministries, we are able to offer a couple of options for you, your congregation, or a group in your church to meet the Liddles and hear about their work. First, you can schedule an online visit via Zoom where they can join your congregation or group during your Sunday worship or at any other mutually convenient time of your choosing. To schedule a Zoom visit, contact Cathy Nichols at Global Ministries: [cnichols@dom.disciples.org](mailto:cnichols@dom.disciples.org)

There is also available a taped downloadable presentation about the Liddles ministry that you can show to your congregation or a group anytime. Or members can watch it at their own convenience. The video can be accessed at <https://Vimeo.com/410634543>. It runs just over 25 minutes. There is another version that includes some questions and answers which can be obtained from Cathy Nichols. Questions? Contact [kaywoike@verizon.net](mailto:kaywoike@verizon.net)



**Rev. Phyllis Byrd Available to Speak  
to Your Congregation Online**

Rev. Phyllis Byrd, Global Ministries Mission co-worker in Kenya and NY Conference UCC missionary partner is also available to talk about her work via Zoom meetings with churches and groups. To schedule an event, contact Cathy Nichols: [cnichols@dom.disciples.org](mailto:cnichols@dom.disciples.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note this correction from the Spring edition of *In the Vineyard*:

Tina Bacon serves at Faith UCC, Williamsville, not Epiphany UCC as listed in the Church and Ministry report from the Spring 2020 *In the Vineyard* issue.

\*\*\*\*\*



**The *In the Vineyard* Editorial Board would like to welcome Rev. Hope Harle-Mould!**



**Pastor Josh Bower (left) shakes hands with Council Co-Chair, Rich Vogt (right) upon signing as Arcade UCC's new pastor.**

## **Arcade UCC Welcomes Newly Called Authorized Lay Minister Pastor, Josh Bower**

God is good, ALL the time! In 2013 the Arcade United Church of Christ celebrated its 200th anniversary. Reverend Robert C. Dievendorf chose Jeremiah 29:11-13 as our celebratory verse; "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, plans to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all of your heart". On August 26, 2018, Pastor Bob used that scripture in his final service prior to his retirement.

In 2019, the Arcade UCC Search Committee chose that scripture as their closing prayer on their profile. Rich Vogt wrote a prayer that the congregation could pray together, in worship every Sunday. Kim Common, a member of the Arcade UCC Outreach Committee, suggested that the congregation pray the prayer at 7 pm every night, in their homes, but as one voice. Never doubt the power of prayer! Through prayer and a series of events that we can only believe are God moments, Arcade UCC and Josh Bower were brought together.

April 15, 2020, Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational Council Co-Chair, Rich Vogt met with Josh Bower in masks and gloves, for a

historical signing, as he welcomed Josh as Arcade UCC's newly called pastor. They made it official with signatures and a handshake. The people of Arcade UCC are so excited to welcome Pastor Josh Bower to their church family and look forward to the years ahead with him!

Pastor Josh is a Member in Discernment (MID) with the Central Southeast Ohio Association. He will continue his online studies at Chicago Theological Seminary while working 3/4 time as an Authorized Lay Minister at Arcade UCC. Meet Pastor Josh Bower here:

<https://www.thevillagerny.com/a-virtual-minister/>

## **Plymouth Crossroads Update**

**Submitted by Linda Richards, Board Chair Plymouth Crossroads**

As a sign of our commitment to the Homeless Population in Western New York, Plymouth Crossroads did apply for, and received approval for Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funds which will allow us to open our doors for an 8-week window, supporting this population during the COVID-19 crisis.

We are ending our suspension once the funds have been received, and will proceed with a Phase One Approach, with 24/7 operations serving homeless males ages 16-20, using the PPP funds to staff our facility 24/7. This approach will allow us to open on a short term basis, awaiting the decision on several long term strategic funding responses.

We have notified OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services) of our intent to house homeless youth, within our target age range and gender.

Phase Two will be considered once the Long Term Strategic funding becomes available and a budget is prepared to sustain the program.

We look forward to working with referral agencies whom we have collaborated with over the past nine years, providing a safe and caring home to at risk youth in our area.

We will continue to provide updates on our Phase Two prospects after the 8-week COVID-19 Response is completed.

For any questions, please contact Linda Richards at 716-604-5247 or Jenn McAndrew at 716-393-3906.

## **Pandemic Reflections**

*from Ted Brelsford, Faith UCC, Boston*

### **The Pandemic, the PAUSE, and the Small Church Pastor**

Four days to figure out how to stream worship online,  
I downloaded a broadcasting app to make my MacBook acceptable for Facebook Live,  
then another app to smooth the sound capture after buying a USB microphone—  
last one on the shelf, right before Best Buy closed its doors,  
all of which may or may not have been needed.

Wound up recording instead of streaming live.  
Now posting to YouTube as well as Facebook.  
Previously an ardent Facebook resister, I feel I've been sprinting uphill,  
reading tips and "how-to's" on screen all the way.

Stopping once for a graveside service with nine.  
None of us had seen her in over three weeks.  
One of twenty-three similarly deceased so far at that facility.  
I thank God a nurse finally put a phone to her ear for me the day before she died.

Took four weeks to work out glitches in lighting, sound—acoustics, echo, reverb,  
volume, picture quality, posting procedures, musician placement.  
Make that seven weeks to get it all straight, just barely.  
I never signed up to be a TV preacher or video producer.

Seven weeks, then eight, and the end is receding instead of approaching.  
Relearning Zoom, upgrading to a paid account, coaching and coaxing others into cyber gatherings—  
real meetings in virtual space,  
with real, consequential conversations and decisions, while some lose connection, cannot see,  
or overwhelm us with a pixelated close-up of their nose.  
I never signed up to be a talk show host without tech support.

Work weeks are longer rather than shorter.  
One parishioner asked what I was doing with all my free time now.  
Giving is up rather than down, contrary to fears.  
Attendance is virtually indeterminate—  
267 one-second views, 11 likes, 3 shares, a reach of 153, what is an engagement rating?  
Some are experiencing worship with us for the first time in years,  
others who were never connected. Seems there is widespread appreciation  
for church in pajamas with coffee.

Alienation is obviously up. Social isolation, communal longing, emotional turmoil, cognitive confusion, frustration, impatience, all comingle irritably.  
My soul has developed a scratchy throat, the first hint of a cough.  
I wake up inside a fatigue headache. Or is it a hangover?

How long, O Lord, how long?

"Two or Three generations" said one epidemiology historian on the BBC.  
What is that, half a century?  
More or less the same conditions as present for twelve to eight months at least,  
they said in a PRC webinar.  
We will have settled into a distanced church by then, surely.  
How far distanced? How many dead?

Don't look distant, look here.  
The self-proclaimed contrarian comes every week now to put an encouraging saying on our church sign, offering also to make and distribute DVDs to fellow non-webbers.  
The spike-haired twenty-something woman asks to sit alone in the sanctuary, missing church.  
A small caring team ensures everyone receives a call once or twice a month.  
Someone offers to install acoustical panels at no cost, two others want to buy new video equipment.  
A driver wants to deliver food where needed, others want to provide it.  
A carpenter wants to fix something for someone, anyone.  
Offers of help outpace expressions of need.



An outdoor playground is being built on our church property.  
Neighborhood families ride bikes and plastic four-wheelers in our parking lot, smiling and waving as they pass through our adjacent parsonage driveway and patio.  
Who knew we had so many neighbors? Where were they before COVID?  
Our lot is also a staging area for drive-by birthday parties.  
The clothes shed cannot hold all the clothes.

We will not all die,  
but we will all be changed.

## Waiting for Hugs

*In the Vineyard* Editorial Board asked several questions relating to church life and the coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to the following folks who took the time to share their experiences in a variety of creative ways.

### **from John Brandon, St. Paul's UCC, Attica**

*How has it affected your church life?* "Church as a building is closed and we now have Video Church via Facebook." *Enriched it?* "It is helping us get set up for shut-ins." *Diminished it?* "Lost the weekly contact, music and choir." *What has surprised you?* "Giving has stayed stable."  
*Made you incredibly grateful?* "Given us more time to think how fortunate we really are, and how every day is a gift." *What are you most impatient for?* "...to get the dental appointment I missed and be able to go shopping for what I need instead of online."

### **from Pat Burgstahler, Kenmore UCC**

"Yes, we are experiencing a global pandemic, but there are many things for which we can be **grateful**. Kenmore UCC has been blessed with:

- a congregation which has continued generously supporting the church financially during this difficult time.
- members who have the ability to help us meet virtually so the business of the church can continue uninterrupted.
- a new pastor who has reached out to each member regularly in order to check on their needs and well-being.

- our plant sale which took place in spite of social distancing, masks, gloves and lots of extra effort on the part of the organizers and workers.

Our church family will be stronger because we have a better appreciation for the things we miss most – each other."

### **from Michelle Kemp, St. Matthew's UCC, Hamburg**

*How has your church life been enriched during this lockdown?* "I think as the body of Christ, we are all leaning on and depending more on God and each other in these uncertain times."

*What has surprised you?* "Pastor Lynn's (Rev. Lynn Morgan) knowledge and ability to create and record virtual devotions as well as a wonderful worship experience online where we can pray, learn, hear great music (and sing at home) together."

*What has made you incredibly grateful?* "We have a loving and caring church family who reach out to each other."

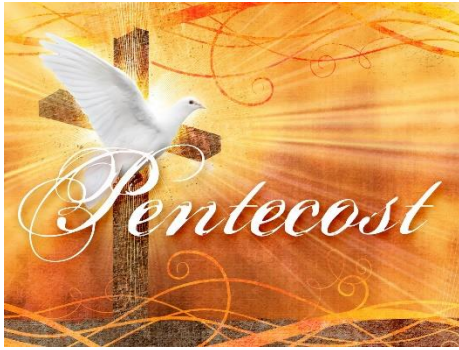
*What are you most impatient for?* "Hugs from my brothers and sisters in Christ."

### **from Rev. Jonathan D. Lawrence, St. Peter's UCC, North Tonawanda**

"'Online just isn't the same.' 'I can't wait until this is over and we can go back to normal.' 'This changes everything and we'll never go back to normal.'"

"I've heard variations of these statements in my work as a pastor and professor. This pandemic has pushed us out of our comfort zones and forced us to use technology to try to recreate the personal interactions that are so important in ministry, teaching, and daily life. There have been issues with tech failures and Zoombombing and other reminders that technology can't replace face to face connections. But people have been creative and found ways to make new kinds of connections – online ballet classes, socially distant weddings, even virtual choirs. This pandemic has also provided reminders that there were people who were already excluded for physical, economic, or other reasons before the pandemic. My hope is that as we make plans for "going back" we can also go forward in ways that use some of our new-found tools to be even more inclusive in how we interact.

"We may not be able to go back – and that's okay."



### **Come Down, O Love Divine**

**By Bianco da Siena**

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
and let thy glorious light  
shine ever on my sight,  
and clothe me round, the while my path  
illuminating.

And so, the yearning strong,  
with which the soul will long,  
shall far out-pass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace,  
till Love create a place  
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

### **Plymouth Crossroads Bluesfest Update**

The planned June Plymouth Crossroads Bluesfest had to be postponed until October due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. New information will be provided within the September-November *In the Vineyard* issue.



### **A LETTER FROM DUNKIRK CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER**

3602 EAST LAKE RD., DUNKIRK, NY 14048  
PHONE (716) 366-1900

May 19, 2020

Dear Campers, Parents and Friends,

It is with great disappointment that the Board of Trustees of DCC is announcing we will be suspending summer camp programs through August 2020. Our discussion was focused on what is best for DCC in 2020 and beyond. The primary reason is the health and safety of our campers and staff. We must also be fiscally responsible as we look to minimize any losses that might burden DCC in the future.

We had hoped that the recovery would be much further along at this point. While it is not clear what restrictions will be in place later this summer, we are seeing other areas' businesses opening up with some significant restrictions. Those requirements will certainly restrict our normal camp activities and add cost. It is in consideration of the current environment and the unknowns for the next couple months that has convinced the board to vote unanimously to close camp for the summer.

If you have already registered for the 2020 season, we will offer a few options:

- Roll over to 2021 season...we can hold your deposit and credit it to camps in the 2021 season. If you choose this option, there is no action needed on your part.

- Refunds...we will be offering refunds including deposits. Please contact the DCC office if you desire a refund, Anne Wilmot, 716-366-1900 or [exec.director@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:exec.director@dunkirkcc.com)
- Donation...if you can support DCC during this difficult time we can also convert your deposit/registration to a donation. If you want to convert to a donation, contact Anne Wilmot at 716-366-1900 or [exec.director@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:exec.director@dunkirkcc.com)
- Outside rentals should contact Anne Wilmot for status. The outside rentals will be handled on an individual basis. Please contact the DCC office for status.

What is next for DCC...The staff and key committees will look for ways to reduce expenses in 2020. Anne Wilmot will be contacting those who have registered to determine next steps. The programming committee and camp directors will be looking for ways to engage campers virtually and the board will also monitor CDC and state guidelines to see if there is the possibility of any on-site events later in the summer.

Lastly, we will begin work on a special DCC 2020 fundraising opportunity. **You may donate today at [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com)**

We have had many challenges in our 98 years of outdoor ministry including the Great Depression in our first decade and incorporation in 1989. There is a passion and a resilience in our history, and this is but another challenge for us to take on. With your help and support we will work to make the 2021 camping season the best ever.

Stay Healthy and Stay Safe!

Anne Wilmot  
DCC Camp Manager  
Cell...716-467-2305  
[exec.director@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:exec.director@dunkirkcc.com)

Jay Rich III  
President DCC Board of Trustees  
Cell...716-479-5252  
[jayrich5461@gmail.com](mailto:jayrich5461@gmail.com)

DCC Board of Trustees  
Bob Aures, [baures@roadrunner.com](mailto:baures@roadrunner.com)  
Rev. Gary Burdick, [revgvb@aol.com](mailto:revgvb@aol.com)  
Donna Donner, [granmabear5202@aol.com](mailto:granmabear5202@aol.com)  
Dave Hess, [my2boysrgr8@roadrunner.com](mailto:my2boysrgr8@roadrunner.com)  
John Kiewit, [johnkiewit1969@gmail.com](mailto:johnkiewit1969@gmail.com)  
Rev. Jeremy Lopez, [Jeremywlopez@gmail.com](mailto:Jeremywlopez@gmail.com)  
Rev. Lynn Morgan, [pastorlynn@stmattsucc.org](mailto:pastorlynn@stmattsucc.org)  
Nancy Pankow, [njpankow@roadrunner.com](mailto:njpankow@roadrunner.com)  
Jay Rich III, [jayrich5461@gmail.com](mailto:jayrich5461@gmail.com)  
Anne Wilmot, [exec.director@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:exec.director@dunkirkcc.com)



*from Rev. amos acree, MDiv, RN*

### **Faith Community Nurse Notes: Healing Ministries in Congregations**

With the pandemic ongoing, in spite of attempts to end many “procedures” that used to be “normal,” it is important to remind ourselves and our communities of faith that at least 50% of Jesus’ ministry was healing. Yes, the church does have many folk who are engaged in praying and visiting and supporting our companions when they are sick and in need of such. However, an overwhelming number have no special “ministry/committee” for wellness as well as sickness.

For many years there has been an attempt to inform churches to form a Health/Wellness Committee made up of folk with health care vocations or interest. Faith Community Nursing is just one of those ways. It shouldn’t depend only on the pastor to be responsible at all times for seeing that wellness programs and actions are being done.

As a member of the National UCC Faith Community Nurse Network, and a trained Faith Community Nurse who has in the past worked with churches to develop such a program, only a small handful of churches have had one. Other denominations outside the UCC/DoC have a larger share of their congregations with Faith

Community/Parish Nurse ministers who are Registered/Licensed Nurses.

As we are seeing in this Pandemic, very few organizations, religious or commercial, were prepared for what is happening these days. And since every fall there is generally a “flu outbreak,” there is definitely going to be more need for wellness ministries beyond COVID- 19.

I am willing to assist any congregation in putting together such a committee. Any health care workers in your congregation can be approached to assist, but others are welcomed as well. Yes, continue praying, making meals, visiting, whatever. But also, be prepared by encouraging members to assist your pastor in such ministries.



from Rev. amos acree

### Chautauqua Institution Summer, 2020

If you haven’t heard by now, Chautauqua Institution has decided to close the on-grounds summer 2020 programming. This affects especially the many denominational houses on grounds who depend on summer rentals to maintain viability, including the UCC and Disciple houses. It also eliminates the need for churches to provide social hours on Tuesdays during the season.

Chautauqua will provide some virtual programming this summer. You can check their website for more information. <https://chq.org/>

Churches and individuals are being asked to continue to donate to their housing units to ensure continued existence in coming years. If you or your church can, contact your denomination house administrators to see what you can do to assist in these matters. Chautauqua is a blessing for us here in Western New York.



Kenmore UCC hosts plant sale



Church and Ministry Meetings (from Marna Pritchard): Whether or not we meet in the coming months will depend on if we have business to address. We do not know that until about the week before the scheduled meeting. We do not commonly meet in July & August...again unless there is urgent business to act upon, then we may use Zoom.

RACHELS meetings: Canceled for the time being

WNYACIC Council meetings: June – Zoom meeting  
July – No meeting  
August – Zoom meeting

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Editorial Board**

**amos acree                      Alfred C. Plant**

**Rev. Hope Harle-Mould**

**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](mailto:uccnywes@verizon.net)**

**Visit the new WNYACIC website:**

**<https://wnyuccdoc.wixsite.com/wnyacic>**

**Send newsletter items to:**

**[inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com](mailto: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 Fall issue in by August 17, 2020.**

