

Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

from Alfred C. Plant

Lent: The Slippery Season

For me, Lent is the slipperiest liturgical season. Having grown up in the 1960s in a Disciples of Christ family, my earliest experiences of Lent were fragments and misconceptions gleaned from my neighbors and classmates who were Roman Catholic. Forehead ashes on Ash Wednesday and eating fish instead of meat were the most obvious signs. Anyone I might have asked wouldn't really know the whole story on why "those people" did these seemingly odd things, so there was a fog of mystery along with the them/us divide to make all this more impenetrable.

As time passed – ooh, the 70s! – the curtain parted bit-by-bit, and some understanding peeked through the fog, but it was strictly cerebral. It took even longer – the 80s! – to begin to learn that cerebral approaches to faith/spiritual matters were surface scratchers for the most part. So, Lent remained as easy for me to grasp as mercury from a broken thermometer (do you remember non-digital thermometers?).

I do not recall when we started to read the scriptures as laid out in the Revised Common Lectionary but doing that at least made the structure of the church year more obvious. But Lent's readings (Year C) have no obvious linear/historic progression until we arrive at the end: Palm Sunday, which flows into Holy Week and Eastertide.

It wasn't until a group of CC(DC) and UCC lay and clergy women adopted me (bless them for trusting this very traditional know-it-all man who led with his head and pretty much ignored his spirit and body) and showed me how to move toward the whole being God created me to be.

They guided me as I hesitatingly took the first steps into the infinite cosmos of spirituality that touches on what lies beyond our self-limited ways of being children of God. I trusted them as I revealed my vulnerability and discovered gentle strength that made my fortress of rigidity dissolve into nothingness. We took seriously the commandment to love God with our entire selves.

I learned that letting go was more efficient than grabbing/holding on, because the life that God gives us really is a journey (that is only a cliché if you just say it instead of truly living it). What is vital to me or you at this moment may be dust in the next. We may be able to discern the next step in the journey – and the general direction may have varying degrees of clarity – but the steps after that are only alive in the Source Of All Gifts. We will be blessed with them in the fullness of time.

So, I am reminding myself as I write this that it is best that Lent seems slippery! I am aware that I have a very long way to go. We must join Jesus in the wilderness, not knowing what will happen next or how we will survive and learn with all of our being how to endure on/with Faith alone.

Let us love alike, even though we don't believe alike. Love God with our entire being and love one another as Jesus loves us. Abandon selfishness and fear in our entire lives. Do and be so that barriers to the full potential of others (as well as ourselves) are removed. Let us lay ourselves entirely open so that God's full intention for Creation blossoms in each one of us.

We are the Body of Christ, united – through *all* ways we can experience life – in faith. Lent is the perfect season to embark on the next step of our journey together.

from the Center for Christian Growth of Western New York (CCGWN)

Safe Church Training

Saturday, March 16, 2019

10am-3pm

Marcia L. Tolman – Presenter

1st Presbyterian Church

149 Broad St., Tonawanda, NY 14150

(handicap accessible)

Lunch and 3-year Certification provided

The training is provided free to participants*

God calls us to make our churches safe places, protecting children and other vulnerable persons from harm. God calls us to create communities of faith where children and adults are safe.

A basic “nuts and bolts” training, Safe Church is designed to help reduce risks and increase accountability in the church. This training provides a minimum standard and is recommended for anyone in the church, either staff or volunteers, especially those working with children or youth.

What you will learn:

- Defining types of abuse and neglect
- Identifying risk factors
- How to increase accountability
- Implementing basic safety procedures
- Review appropriate discipline
- Understanding reporting requirements
- Establish appropriate behavior modeling

For more information: leslie@firstprestona.org

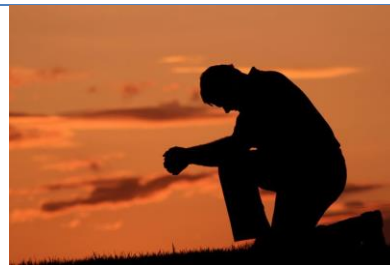
Pre-registration needed for lunch count.

*There will be a free will offering for churches to assist in offsetting the day’s expenses.

Registration

Use either the weblink or QR code below

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JWP837B>



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. We have bills to pay every month of the year, so we especially appreciate those churches that don’t wait until December to make a payment. As of February 19, the following churches have already paid 100 percent of their 2019 Covenantal Share: First Congregational (Jamestown); Kenmore UCC; Phoenix UCC; Pilgrim Memorial UCC; St. Peter’s UCC (North Tonawanda); and St. Stephen’s UCC. The following churches have paid part of their 2019 Covenantal Share: Arcade UCC; Ebenezer UCC; Lockport UCC; and St. Paul’s UCC (Shawnee).

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. As of February 19, the following churches have already paid their 2019 Per Capita in full: Arcade UCC; First Congregational (Jamestown); Kenmore UCC; Phoenix UCC; Pilgrim Memorial; St. John’s UCC (Eden); and St. Stephen’s UCC.

WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheons

The WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheons are held the first Thursday of each month. On Thursday, March 7, they will meet at The Amberleigh Retirement Community, 2330 Maple Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221. A tour will be given starting at 11:30am, followed by lunch at 12:15pm. Due to the special location and tour, reservations will be needed in advance for this particular luncheon. Please contact Pat Ludwig at 716-433-0976.

Future location for the upcoming April and May luncheons is yet to be determined.

BOUNDARY AWARENESS TRAINING
Western Association, NY Conference, UCC

Thursday May 9, 2019, 9am - 4pm

EBENEZER UCC
630 MAIN ST.,
WEST SENECA, NY 14224

Registration and Continental Breakfast beginning
at 8:30am

Lunch will be served onsite

Fee: \$75 if mailed by May 1,
\$100 thereafter

Make checks payable to: WNYACIC

Scholarships available -
Contact Rev. Bob Dievendorf at
dievenrc@gmail.com

For more information and to have a registration
form sent to you, send an
email to WesternBAT2019May@gmail.com or call
(716) 674-4566.



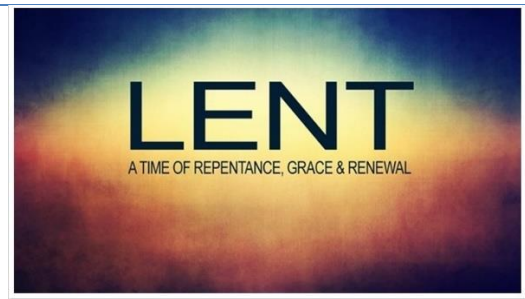
8th Annual Friday Free Lunch
Program

Faith United Church of Christ, Williamsville, is pleased to announce its **Annual Friday Free Lunch Program** and cordially invites you to attend!

Beginning on: **Fri. Feb 22**, and every Friday through **April 12**, we open our doors to the Community from **11:30am – 1:00pm** to partake in food fellowship, and fun! We are located at **1300 Maple Rd., (Corner of Maple/Hopkins), Williamsville, 14221.**

At this time, we wish to thank WNYACIC/ Dept. of Ministries for its financial support to make this Ministry possible.

All are welcome! Bring a friend! If you wish to volunteer to help, please contact Sandra Hamann at sandrashamann@aol.com or call 716-741-3851.



Lenten Mini-Workshops

Lent is the time in the church calendar to adopt a spiritual practice. You can decide on daily Bible readings, or try a different way to pray, or even work on a craft to share with your children. All these practices can deepen your relationship with God.

If you would like to experience a variety of practices this Lent, join the folks at the Center for Christian Growth (Resource Center), located in the North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, for our mini-workshops. This series will be held on Thursday, March 14, 21, 28, April 4 and 11 from 6pm-7pm. Come as your schedule permits and attend the workshops that pique your interest. Call 716-631-0979 for more information.

Mini-Workshops:

March 14: Join Rev. Jen Heckmann, pastor of Cleveland Heights Christian Church for **Hands-on Lent: Arts and Crafts** workshop.

March 21: Explore the method of **Lectio Divina** with Debbie Katz, co-director of the Resource Center. **Lectio Divina** is one-way reading scripture for your soul's sake.

March 28: Try praying with your entire body in **Praying with a Labyrinth**. Kirsten Albrecht-Carrie', co-director of the Resource Center, will lead this workshop on prayer using labyrinths both large and small.

April 4: If you like to sing, come and experience **Chanting the Psalms**. This mini-workshop is led by Rev. Leslie Latham, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tonawanda and Debbie Katz.

April 11: In preparation for Holy Week, join CCGWNY Board Moderator, Karen Mulchow's mini-workshop on **Prayer Stations**.

Helping Hands For Haiti

Saturday, March 16th, 2019

9 AM-2 PM

(A light lunch will be provided)

Good Shepherd Community of Faith
187 Southside Pkwy., Buffalo, NY, 14220



Clean delivery kits (birthing bags) can make a big difference for the mothers and infants of Haiti. We have already experienced what a joy it is to gather together; gather needed supplies; sew and assemble draw-string bags; fill the bags; and prepare them to be transported and distributed to our friends in Haiti.

This has become an ongoing passion and project at Good Shepherd. Many supplies are already on hand. The most necessary supplies needed at this time include: **small bottles of hand sanitizer, feminine sanitary pads, quart-size ziplock bags.**

Since we have begun shipping clean delivery kits directly to Haiti financial donations are always welcome.

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

**Good Friday Service at
First Congregational UCC, Angola
132 N. Main St., Angola 14006
Friday, April 19, 12pm Service**

Upcoming Cantata

The Annual PAC (Pioneer Area Churches) Palm Sunday Cantata rehearsals will start on Sunday, March 3 and will occur every Sunday from 2-4pm until April 7 at New St. Mary's Parish of Arcade. All are welcome to join this ecumenical offering to our community. Not in the choir? No problem. For some, this short-term commitment is the perfect fit! The Cantata will be Palm Sunday, April 14, at 3:00 p.m. at New St. Mary's Parish, 417 Main St., Arcade, NY 14009.

Murder Mystery Dinner

Thursday, April 11, 2019

Raymour & Flanigan

1650 Walden Ave.,

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Hosted by Plymouth Crossroads United Church

Call 716-393-3906 for more information.

Don't Forget!

Please be sure to update your church information for the NY Conference Directory by March 6, 2019 at midnight. An email from the NY Conference was sent including a link to access the data hub. Please contact Sue at confclerk@uccny.org with any questions.

New Ministries

from Rev. Jan Mahle, East Aurora Christian Church

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

from **Ginny Taber, Faith UCC, Boston**

Recently I received an email from Lois Vidaver with “In the Vineyard” asking, **“What new thing is your church doing this year? Tell us about it.”** I am so glad she had worded it this way, rather than, “What changes are being made?” Seems folks don’t like to hear the word “change” and often resist it. Recently an anthem our choir sang included a line “with endings bring new beginnings.” It really struck me as a positive way of looking at “change.”

I was asked to tell of a new thing, meaning one, but this year will bring many new beginnings at Faith UCC Boston. First, our pastor retired, so we will be having supply pastors until we can secure an interim. Each pastor preaches with different styles and personality. Each one can bring a new meaning to a scripture, thus grow our faith with a new understanding. If we embrace these differences, it can truly enrich our faith journey.

It is now a time for revitalization for our congregation. We are implementing a new **“coffee bar”**, allowing folks to get a free coffee to enjoy during worship as many other churches do. I admit, I have to put aside my own feelings on this one! If a cup of coffee brings someone to worship, it is a great thing!

We are also looking into **installing monitors** to project the order of worship, hymns, etc. to replace printing weekly bulletins. This is something that has been done at other churches for years. It can reduce costs of paper, printing and time, yet requires that initial investment before you see the financial advantage.

As we look to the future, I am sure there will be and needs to be many other new beginnings. The world has changed and so we must embrace these new beginnings while holding on to the very rock the church is built on, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Inspired by the Pub Theology movement, East Aurora Christian Church hosts **“SPIRITUAL DRAFTS”** once a month at a local brewery. We gather around a table and talk about issues of faith, philosophy, ethics and ideas over a beverage of choice. It is a safe space, where one can be honest and open about topics of faith, ask any questions and at the end know that it is perfectly fine if we disagree. THIS IS NOT A CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE, A BIBLE STUDY, A PRAYER MEETING, OR CHRISTIAN CONVERSION TACTIC. It is an open conversation where all are welcome—ALL ARE WELCOME! Topics have included God, World Religions, and Humor in the Bible and are led by Pastor Jan Mahle.

This spring East Aurora Christian Church will be installing a **Dear God mailbox** in their meditation garden on the corner of Main and North Grove. This prayer box is a means for those in our community to voice concerns/ joys to God through prayer. In the mailbox is a prayer request form. Once completed, the request is left in a sealed envelope and the flag on the box is raised. The box will be checked every Friday/Saturday and EACC’s pastor (Pastor Jan Mahle) will include the request(s) in the pastoral prayer on Sunday morning during the worship service. An invitation to worship is offered as well.

Strawberry Social

Saturday, June 22, 11am-2pm
Payne Avenue Christian Church
1459 Payne Ave.,
North Tonawanda 14120

Tickets will be \$9.00 and include:
hot dog, chips, a drink and
strawberry shortcake
Strawberry shortcake only: \$5.00
Call for tickets – Becky, 716-998-9052



9th Annual Krolick's Fish Fry

Friday, April 19, 4-7pm

Payne Avenue Christian Church

1459 Payne Ave.,

North Tonawanda, 14120

Dine in or carry out!

Complete dinner includes: fish fry, coleslaw, salt potatoes, roll/butter, dessert and drink for only \$13

Call Brett for tickets - 716-491-6205



from Shirley Lam, Amherst Community Church

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS

Once again, Amherst Community Church, 77 Washington Hwy, Buffalo (716-834-9700) will be the drop off location for Kits for Church World Service in Western New York. Drop off dates are 4/8/2019 from 9:00 – 5:00 and 4/9/2019 from 9:00 to 12:00. If necessary, you can arrange other times by calling me directly at 716-622-7482 (Shirley Lam). According to the CWS Kits website, Zion UCC will also be collecting kits.

There are several different types of kits your group or you may wish to donate:

- Hygiene kits
- School kits
- Emergency clean-up buckets

In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip, bath, or dish towels or microfiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One nail clipper removed from the package
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Ten standard size Band-Aids®

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment by Church World Service.

For the School and Emergency Cleanup Buckets kits, you can go to the Church World Service website at: cwskits.org

Packing and Shipping Kits

- Pack CWS Kits in boxes with only one type of Kit in each box.
- Clearly indicate the type and numbers of Kits on the outside of the box.
- Secure the boxes with packing tape.
- Either use the forms provided on the website or at the depot or provide a return address on the box.

Funds for Processing/Shipping and Purchasing Kits

Funds are needed to cover sorting, packing, and insurance, as well as shipping Kits to their final destination. **Please give \$2 for each Hygiene Kit and school kit you send and \$3 for each Emergency Cleanup Buckets.** You will be given a coupon and envelope when you drop off your kits to mail in the processing fees. The processing fees do **not** go into the boxes or kits.

Cash donations in lieu of assembled Kits also help Church World Service provide much-needed supplies. You can mail checks to CWS, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.



Spiritual Practices Workshop

Thursdays, March 7, 21 and April 11, 2019

7:00pm-8:30pm

Orchard Park Community Church

7451 E. Quaker Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127

March 7: Centering Prayer – A practice that opens the gift of contemplative prayer

March 21: Prayer Journaling – You don't have to be a writer to journal your way to prayer

April 11: Prayer Beads – Hear the history, make your own for personal prayer

Orchard Park Community Church is hosting a workshop series on *Spiritual Practices* presented by Marcia Tolman, Commissioned Minister of the United Church of Christ. This series is offered to the community free of charge.

Spiritual practices enable us to be present in the moment. We all have an innate spirituality, a desire to wonder and see magic or the divine in the world. Traditional spiritual practices might include prayer, meditation, but anything that helps us get closer to our spiritual selves can become a spiritual practice. These practices are a gift to show us how to slow down and quiet ourselves.

Register for any or all workshops in the series

by using this link or the QR code:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XL5PZPP>



News from Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center

Happy New Year!! **Thanks** to all our Dunkirk friends who responded to our donation appeal. If you forgot to send a check or donate online at dunkirkcc.com there is always great need! Please consider helping to continue the great outdoor ministry by making a **donation**.

Ready for some summer fun? Are you looking for a fun camp experience? We have weekend, full week & day camps! Are you a College student looking for a summer job? Grandma, planning a family reunion? Go to dunkirkcc.com and check out all we have to offer! It will warm you up to look at some of the past camp pictures.

Mark your calendar- Work weekend May 24, 25 & 26, 2019. Sign up online to volunteer to help ready our camp for summer.

2019 Camp brochures have been mailed out and should be available at your church as well. Should you need a brochure contact the Camp Manager at 716-366-1900.

Just come to Dunkirk once for a camp and you will fall in love with this Spirit-filled place!



Plymouth Crossroads Bluesfest

Saturday, June 8, 2pm-9pm

Buffalo Riverfest Park

249 Ohio St., Buffalo, NY 14204

Call 716-393-3906 for more information

New Ministries

Seventy percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck and do not have the peace gained from managing God's resources as outlined in the Bible. In the fall of 2018 we offered Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University for the first time. This series of classes helped individuals develop a plan to reduce debt, establish an emergency fund, prepare for the future and ultimately live and give like no one else. We are excited to continue these lessons on the spiritual discipline of stewardship.



April 11, 2019 6-9pm
Fox Run at Orchard Park



Be Our Guest at Sips, Suds & Sweets!

Discover a great wish and watch it be granted live at our annual fundraiser on Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Senior Wishes/UCHS

One Fox Run Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127

Wendy Miller Backman, Executive Director

Questions? Contact Wendy at 716-508-2121 or

wbackman@uchsinc.org

March 23, 2019

4:30 to 7 pm

or until gone

**\$10 Adults & kids
13 & up at the
door or \$9 pre-
sale**

**\$6 kids 6- 12
at the door or \$5
pre-sale**

**Kids 5 and under
FREE**

**Contact the church
or any member for
tickets**

532-3004



Fundraiser

*Pulled Pork Dinner
and
Theme basket raffle*



**Trinity UCC
30 Erie Ave
Gowanda
NY
532-3004**



All you can eat

pulled pork sandwich with
au gratin potatoes, applesauce,
coleslaw, drink & Homemade Dessert

Theme Basket Raffle
something for everyone!

If you've never tried our pulled pork—
you are in for a treat!!

Help support our programs

March 23, 2019

Handicap accessible from Erie Avenue

Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center Looking for Donations

Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center is looking for donations for an auction being held at DCC on Saturday, June 8, 2019. Examples of items they are looking for include: antiques, household items, garden tools, lawn mowers, snow blowers, tractors, utility trailers, boats, camper trailers, used cars and trucks, hunting and fishing gear, shop tools, table saws, drill presses, sanders, power tools, furniture, appliances. Please NO clothes, TVs, pianos or organs. For information on how or where to donate, please call its business office at 716-366-1900 ext. 12.

New York Conference 2019 Annual Meeting Announced

New York Conference United Church of Christ Annual Meeting 2019 is a joint meeting together with the Regional Synod of New York, Reformed Church in America. It will be held May 17-18, 2019 at the Grand Hotel Poughkeepsie, 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. The theme is “Journey Together: Walking with Christ” and the scripture theme is: Luke 23:30-32. The keynote speaker is Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Visit www.uccny.org/events/annual-meeting for more information.



NUNS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Nuns will be the focus of a pair of benefit concerts presented in March by Freudig Singers of Western New York. The program, *And Then There Were Nun(s)*, will feature music written by nuns, for nuns, and about nuns. Music Director Roland E. Martin has selected works spanning several centuries to create the eclectic program, which includes compositions by Hildegard von Bingen, Marc-Antoine Charpentier, and Antonio Vivaldi, as well as selections from *The Sound of Music* and *Sister Act*.

The performances will take place on Saturday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph University Church, 3269 Main Street, Buffalo 14214; and on Sunday, March 10, at 3:00 p.m. in St. James United Church of Christ, 76 Main Street, Hamburg 14075. Admission will be by free-will offering, with a suggested donation of \$15. Nuns will be admitted for free.

Proceeds from the concerts will support the work of WNY’s women religious communities.

A photograph of a plate of roast beef dinner, including a slice of roast beef, mashed potatoes, green beans, and cole slaw, with a knife and fork resting on the plate. The background is a red and white checkered pattern.

Annual Roast Beef Dinner
Tues., March 5, 2019
3:00-7:00 pm
Ebenezer United Church of Christ
630 Main Street • West Seneca
Adults: \$15 ❖ Children 4-12: \$6
Children under age 3- FREE
Take-Outs Available: call 674-4566
Dinners include:
Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green beans
Cole Slaw
Bread & butter
Beverage & dessert

New Vineyard Email Address

“In the Vineyard” has a new email address for your submissions! Please send all correspondence to inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com. Thank you!



State Youth Event

Are you ready for this year's State Youth Event? We are! The dates are March 8, 9, & 10. As in the past, the event will take place at Watson Homestead in Painted Post, New York. This year's theme is "God Of All Things." This will be a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults from all over the state of New York to get a chance to meet, learn, have fun, and worship together. The weekend is packed with many exciting as well as challenging workshops, and plenty of fun and free time!

We will also have many workshops for you to choose from as well as the ever-popular dance on Saturday night, Bible studies, and creative worship. Bring your musical instruments if you wish. BRING YOUR PILLOW AND SLEEPING BAG or SHEETS FOR YOUR BED--WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO BE COLD... If we have snow there will be plenty of outdoor activities, as well!

Churches in Transition

Currently NY Conference has over 50 churches in transition and 20% are in Western Association. That is an astounding number. Those churches in Western Association include; Kenilworth, Jamestown Churches, Gowanda, Faith Boston, Pilgrim-St. Luke's, Lockport, Arcade and Niagara Falls.



Mike Randall as MARK TWAIN LIVE!

Saturday, May 4th, 2019 at 6 p.m.
St. John's United Church of Christ
733 Central Ave.
Dunkirk, NY 14048
\$15 open seating
Call 716-366-0710

from Pat Minnick, Director Women's Weekend

Women's Weekend Update

Words of the familiar and loved Shaker Hymn, "Tis A Gift To Be Simple," form the basis for Women's Weekend 2019. There will be opportunities to participate in group discussions to offer insights to better understand the signs of stress overload, how to handle stress with tips on creative coping, why we may neglect to simply "stop and smell the roses," and what happens to the rhythm of our lives when we place our trust in God's promises. And of course, there will be crafts, times around the campfire, sing-a-longs, meditation, vespers, and worship or simply R&R. Come be a part of this meaningful weekend at beautiful, serene Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center on May 31-June 2. Call 716-366-1900 for more information.

The Christian Growth Academy Course Offering Pastoral Care Course

The Christian Growth Academy (formerly the Lay Academy) of the Center for Christian Growth of WNY will be offering the following course for those seeking certification, continuing education credits or personal growth.

**It's the 21st century. Has pastoral care changed?
Thursdays, 6 - 9 pm. Resource Center, 300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221.
May 2 - June 13, 2019**

At the core of the Christian message is Love - *Love of God, Neighbor and Self*. But how do we practice this in a way which is authentic, appropriate and faithful?

In this seminar we will:

- Examine our own life experiences with pastoral care - as both receiver and provider
- Rediscover biblical and faith tradition resources, as well as the use of art, music and ritual, for the practice of pastoral care
- Delve into the idea that change is stress - even "good change" such as births, promotions, etc.
- Discuss topics including universal themes of loss, aging, death, and grief

Cost per person is \$90.00. Registration is due by April 26 by calling the Resource Center at 716-631-0979, emailing the Center at resourcecenterwny@gmail.com, or through regular mail to 300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville, NY 14221. **PLEASE NOTE:** there is a firm limit of 10 participants, first come, first enrolled!



47th Annual Strawberry Social 2019

First Congregational UCC

132 North Main Street

Angola, NY 14006

Thursday, June 13, 11am-8pm

Friday, June 14, 11am-8pm

Hot dogs, Hamburgers,
Cheeseburgers, Italian Sausage,
Grilled Chicken Sandwich,
French Fries,
Sundaes, Milkshakes, Cones,
Pop, Coffee, and
Strawberry Shortcake
(Menu subject to change)

American Red Cross Blood Drive

First Congregational UCC

132 North Main Street

Angola, NY 14006

Friday, April 19, 2019, 10am-3pm



American Red Cross

**Updates from the Commission on
Ministry, New York Conference
Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef, Chair
February, 2019**

Please encourage your Youth Group Leaders to have your teens participate in the **New York State Youth Event**, Friday – Sunday, March 8 – 10, at the Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY. Registration information is on the NY Conference Website, www.Uccny.org.

Please tell all your church women (even if you do not have a Women's Fellowship Group) about the **UCCNY Women's Retreat**, Thursday – Saturday, May 2 – 4, at the Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY. Forms may be downloaded from a link on the NY Conference website starting in March.

The Conference has a wonderful program called **"UCC 101."** It's a series of 45-minute Internet classes given by Conference Staff on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. The classes are very interesting, and worthy of Continuing Education credit for clergy. Check the NY Conference website for the ZOOM link. If that's too much technology, you may also participate via telephone.

David Losito, from the Conference Office, has contacted all Committee on Ministry Chairs regarding **scholarships for Members in Discernment**.

- Deadline for names of candidates was February 26.
- The deadline for MIDS to return the completed scholarship applications to their Association Committee on Ministry Chairs is March 25.
- Committees on Ministry need to approve these applications, and then mail them to David Losito at the Conference Office: 5575 Thompson Road, DeWitt, NY, 13214. Deadline is April 18.

The **2019 Consultation for Committees on Ministry** will take place Tuesday – Wednesday, June 4 – 5, noon to noon, at the Ramada Inn, 6555 Old Collamer Road, East Syracuse, NY, 13057. This is not a retreat, rather, it is a training session for

Association Committees on Ministry. We are not yet ready with registration for this event, but you may want to mark your calendar and reserve the dates.

There will be a **Continuing Education Institute** for clergy as well as a **Lay Education Institute** just prior to the Conference Annual Meeting (May 17 – 18) in Poughkeepsie this year. The keynote speaker for Conference Annual Meeting, by the way, is Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the UCC!

When you schedule your **Boundary Awareness Training**, you should only be using trainers who have taken the "Train the Trainers" class with Penny Cannon. The Conference has 11 Certified Boundary Awareness Trainers at the moment; your Commission on Ministry liaison has the list. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Certified Boundary Awareness Trainer can take a class offered on Wednesday, June 5, in Syracuse, right after the Consultation is over.

The **Lay Preaching Course** will be offered by NYSOM starting in the fall of 2020.

The new Manual on Ministry is phasing out **Licensed Ministers** and implementing Lay Ministerial Standing. This needs to be a conversation your Committee on Ministry should have, with the assistance of Conference Staff.

NY Sexual Harassment Policy

Beginning in October of 2018, employers were required to have in place a sexual harassment prevention policy. You can find out more about this policy on the [New York State website](#) and even use the [template they provide](#).

In addition, all employees must complete the model training or a comparable training that meets the minimum standards by Oct. 9, 2019. To help churches meet this requirement, the PRC will be offering scheduled interactive webinars starting sometime this spring.



March Calendar Notes

- 1,8,15,22,29 Friday Free Lunch program, Faith UCC, 1300 Maple Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 11:30am-1pm
- 5 Roast Beef Dinner, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 3-7pm
- 6 Deadline to update church information for the NY Conference directory, by midnight
- 7 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, Amberleigh, 2330 Maple Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 11:30am, RSVP to Pat Ludwig, 716-433-0976
- 7 & 21 Spiritual Practices Workshops, Orchard Park Community Church, 7451 E. Quaker Rd., Orchard Park, 14127, 7-8:30pm
- 8-10 State Youth Event, Painted Post, NY, (see page 10)
- 9 *And Then There Were Nun(s)*, St. Joseph University Church, 3269 Main St., Buffalo, 14214, 7:30pm
- 10 *And Then There Were Nun(s)*, St. James UCC, 76 Main St., Hamburg, 14075, 3pm
- 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
- 14, 21, 28 Lenten Mini Workshops, Center for Christian Growth (Resource Center), North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 6-7pm
- 16 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 16 Helping Hands for Haiti, Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Pkwy., Buffalo, 14220, 9am-2pm
- 16 Safe Church Training, 1st Presbyterian Church, 149 Broad St., Tonawanda, 14150, 10am-3pm
- 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

- 23 Pulled Pork Dinner & Theme Basket Raffle, Trinity UCC, 30 Erie Ave., Gowanda, 14070, 4:30-7pm

April Calendar Notes

- 4 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, Location to be determined, 11:30 prayer, 12-2 lunch
- 4 & 11 Lenten Mini Workshops, Center for Christian Growth (Resource Center), North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 6-7pm
- 5 & 12 Friday Free Lunch program, Faith UCC, 1300 Maple Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 11:30am-1pm
- 8 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information call 716-882-7705.
- 8 & 9 Church World Service Kits Drop-offs, Amherst Community Church, 77 Washington Hwy., Buffalo, 14226, April 8: 9am-5pm, April 9: 9am-12pm
- 11 Education Committee, Resource Center, North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 1pm
- 11 Murder Mystery Dinner, Raymour & Flanigan, 1650 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, 14225. Call 716-393-3906 for more information.
- 11 Sips, Suds, and Sweets, Fox Run, One Fox Run Lane, Orchard Park, 14127, 6-9pm
- 11 Spiritual Practices Workshop, Orchard Park Community Church, 7451 E. Quaker Rd., Orchard Park, 14127, 7-8:30pm
- 14 PAC Cantata, New St. Mary's Parish, 417 Main St., Arcade, 14009, 3pm
- 15 WNYACIC Council, St. Stephens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo, 14225, 7pm
- 18 North Towns Clergy, Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, 14223, 12pm
- 19 American Blood Cross Blood Drive, First Congregational UCC, 132 North Main St., Angola, 14006, 10am-3pm
- 19 Good Friday Service, First Congregational UCC, 132 N. Main St., Angola, 14006, 12pm
- 19 9th Annual Krolick's Fish Fry, Payne Avenue Christian Church, 1459 Payne Ave., North Tonawanda, 14120, 4-7pm
- 20 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am

