

## Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

from Rev. Robert Dievendorf

### Pentecost in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Pentecost is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is celebrated on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday (50 days) after Easter. It is also called Whitsun, or 'Whit Sunday.' 'Whitsun' is also thought to derive from the Anglo-Saxon word 'wit', meaning 'understanding', to celebrate the disciples being filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning "fiftieth." Historically, Pentecost (Shavout) is a Jewish feast celebrating the giving of the Torah and the summer wheat harvest. It refers to the festival celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, also known as the "Feast of Weeks" and the "Feast of 50 days" in rabbinic tradition.

When you read the scriptural account in Acts 1-2, you notice that "they all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers" (Acts 1.14). Then as you continue on, you immediately see the visions of "tongues of fire" and "winds" bringing the Holy Spirit upon and within the gathered crowd (post-resurrection and ascension) consisting of disciples and "God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven" (Acts 2.5). Along with this Holy Spirit came the ability of all these multi-ethnic folk to understand in their own language the message of the "wonders of God".

But what does this celebration mean for each of us in this 21<sup>st</sup> century? I think we can glean four important messages.

1) You can't go it alone in the Christian life. You need your sisters and brothers. So many people who claim spirituality are pursuing it on a Lone Ranger basis. Pentecost reminds us that we

cannot/should not pursue this "aloneness" in our faith.

2) A second message is the necessity of being in a spirit of prayer. We need times alone in prayer. We need times together in prayer. We need to open our hearts to God, allowing God to capture our attention. Some of us are so busy running around doing things that we haven't taken the time to listen, to be open, to receive that divine power and energy that God wants to give us through God's Spirit.

3) A third message is to take seriously what the Scriptures have to say. I'm fascinated at the fact that during these days between the ascension of Jesus and Pentecost this group of 120 followers of Jesus heard the Scriptures taught. Peter expounded the Old Testament teachings to them. It's a posture of receptivity to God's teachings. Pentecost reminds us that God's word is vital to each and every one of us, and a habit we should take seriously.

4) And a fourth message is that they (followers of Jesus) were waiting expectantly for God to act. Is there that dimension of waiting in our life today or have we given up the expectancy of God to act? We live in a culture of instant gratification. Our world today is truly multi-faceted and, thanks to technologies which are available to us, rapidly becoming an instantaneous venue politically, ethnically, economically, and even spiritually. We have at our disposal the means to know what is happening throughout the world as it is actually occurring! If something goes wrong in our life, we automatically tend to blame God, forgetting that God can use those things that are so puzzling to us to actually get our attention. Pentecost reminds us that God can – God does – God will act in our

*(continued on page 2)*

arena of life in every situation, if we but allow God to act.

It is our mandate from Christ, as found in Matthew 28, to “...go and make disciples of all nations... and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” As we live into this Christ-given mandate, Pentecost is a reminder to us all to be in community with one another for the purpose of hearing/recognizing/sharing the wonders of God; to continually be in a spirit of prayer to speak with God and to listen as God speaks to us; to regularly read and study scripture for what God gives to us through its words and message; and wait for and upon God’s actions in our lives and world. As we take Pentecost seriously, not just on the 50<sup>th</sup> day following Jesus’ resurrection into being the Christ, but continually in our living, may we speak and act in such a way that Christ may be the filling presence for all whom we encounter in our living.

Happy Pentecost, my friends.

---

*from Gordon F Comstock MD for NY/HELP Honduras*

### **NY/HELP March 2019 Trip**

NY/HELP had a very successful March 2019 trip to Honduras, where we are working with the Tolupán people around La Laguna, near Yoro in northern Honduras.

Projects included the Sewing Academy, which is enabling new skills to the women of the community. Connie Frisbee Houde initiated this program, and we were fortunate to find that one of our friends in La Laguna, Aracely Garcia, was a trained seamstress. Aracely taught 11 women last year, and now these women are teaching 34 others in seven of their home villages, using foot-powered sewing machines which NY/HELP purchased last December. Aracely is supervising the program, visiting each village to teach and assist.

NYHELP has been working with the local schools since our inception 30 years ago. Judy Toner has been instrumental in getting supplies to the primary schools. A Centro Básico (middle school) for grades 7-9 was constructed in near-by Mataderos several years ago. Now we are working with communities in the villages in the valley to build a second Centro Básico there. Many students need scholarship help in order to afford uniforms and supplies for school.

This year, Scott Reinhart, a retired middle school principal, gave teacher-training sessions to help improve the teachers' skills (many had no training in how to teach). He found the teachers responded enthusiastically to this program -- showing that teachers all over are the same -- they all want to do a better job!

Much work was also done on the Clinic, which had rotting doors and leaks in the roof. Using doors built by students at CEVER, (our church-affiliated vocational school in Yoro,) the doors were replaced and new skylights installed to eliminate most leaks. Keith Lyons worked on this project, assisted by our Honduran coordinator Joel Ramirez, NY/HELPers and local community members.

Enabling the success of the trip were our translators, David Makepeace and Shelsea Ochoa. (Communication is vital to any trip!)

Your support of NY/HELP, by prayers, donations, or participation in a trip, has made this a success.

There are more pictures on our blog, < [ny-help.blogspot.com/](http://ny-help.blogspot.com/) >



Sewing Students



from Jeff Mason, treasurer, WNYACIC

### Treasurer’s Report

The main source of income for the Western Area is derived from the Covenantal Shares paid by our member churches. The 2019 shares are based on the 2018 membership reported by each church in the Western Area. At \$6.00 per member, ours is the lowest rate in the state. The following churches made Covenantal Share payments between February 20 and May 9: Church of the Nativity; Ebenezer UCC; Faith UCC (Boston); Lockport UCC; Payne Avenue Christian Church; Salem UCC (Tonawanda); St. James UCC (Hamburg); St. John’s UCC (Strykersville); St. Paul’s UCC (Attica); St. Paul’s UCC (Shawnee); St. Peter’s UCC (West Seneca); and Zion UCC.

In addition to the Covenantal Shares, our United Church of Christ congregations are being asked to pay a new Per Capita, which is \$2.00 per member, as reported in the 2018 Yearbook. Per Capita payments are payable to the Western Area, which then sends the entire amount to the New York Conference. The following UCC churches made Per Capita payments between February 20 and May 9: Church of the Nativity; Lockport; St. James (Hamburg); St. John’s (Strykersville); St. Peter’s (West Seneca); and Zion.

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

### 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



### Dunkirk Conference Center Annual Flea Market & Auction

#### Rain or Shine

3602 Lakeshore Dr. E Dunkirk 14048

#### FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY – JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup> 11 AM - 7 PM

SATURDAY – JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 8 AM – 4 PM

**Vendor Space Available**

**20 X 20**

**1 Day - \$20 | 2 Days - \$30**

#### AUCTION

SATURDAY – JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>

**Dunkirk Conference Center Auction will  
 be held on Saturday in our Activity  
 Center building from 9 am - ?**

**Guest Auctioneer, Col. Donald Benz, III  
 FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE FRIDAY  
 & SATURDAY**

**BAKED GOODS – CRAFTS – ANTIQUES –  
 FREE PARKING**

**For more information, call Anne at  
 716-366-1900**

### St. Stephens Bethlehem UCC

#### Coed Recreational Volleyball

Wednesdays at 6:15pm from June 5-August 21

Minimum 6 players per team with at least two  
 girls on each team

\$5/player each week includes food & beverage

For information or to register a team,  
 call 716-632-4226

750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo 14225



## 7th Annual BluesFest to benefit Plymouth Crossroads

Saturday, June 8th

Riverfest Park  
249 Ohio Street  
Buffalo, NY 14204



Bluesfest is an annual event in Western New York. It aims to bring blues lovers together while also serving as a fundraiser to Plymouth Crossroads. PC is a non-for-profit in Western New York which aims to help homeless young men achieve independence.



\$ 10 dollar pre-sale or \$15 at the door  
Buy tickets at

[www.PlymouthCrossroads.org](http://www.PlymouthCrossroads.org)  
or call (716) 393-3906

To learn more about Plymouth Crossroads, visit  
[www.Plymouthcrossroads.org](http://www.Plymouthcrossroads.org)

Featuring

Jony James Band  
Rod Horning Project  
Blues Daddies  
Randle and The Late Night Scandals

□ Doors open at 2pm  
Band begins at 3pm

\* Bring a lawn chair



## 47<sup>th</sup> 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)

## Ebenezer United Church of Christ's Rummage Sale

Ebenezer UCC will be holding a rummage sale on June 7 and 8 from 8am-3pm, located at 630 Main St., West Seneca 14224. Come find some treasures you may have your eye on or need, like great finds to start a new home or apartment, for going off to college, and even some gently used items for children. There is a surprise waiting for you to find!





### Free Community Picnic At Faith UCC, Williamsville

Wednesday, July 31, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Faith United Church of Christ  
1300 Maple Rd. (corner of Hopkins/Maple),  
Williamsville 14221

Hot dogs, drinks, sides and desserts provided.

All welcome! Bring a Friend!

“No preachin’, Just eatin’!”

For more information, please call 716-689 9274.



### “To Mars and Beyond”

Vacation Bible School at

First Congregational UCC Angola

First Congregational UCC in Angola,  
132 North Main Street, Angola 14006,  
will be hosting Vacation Bible School from  
July 29-August 2, 8:45am-11:30am.

Community children are invited!

All children ages three and up are FREE!

Games, snacks, crafts, stories and music!

Call 716-549-2115 to register.

### Upcoming Events at St. James UCC

St. James UCC, 76 Main St., Hamburg 14075, is offering several support ministries through their Center for Refuge.

#### Family Support with Addict2Addict

The Tuesday Family Support Group has a new facilitator, and beginning in March we relaunched this important outreach we share with Addict2 Addict & Family2Family!

Leslie Saunders will be leading this time of sharing and listening on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. As someone in recovery and as a parent with an adult child who struggles with substance use, Leslie brings a wonderful combination of perspectives. Please help us spread the word.

#### Yoga

Colleen Schroeck, a certified Yoga instructor at the 200 Level, is leading Yoga classes at St. James. There are two adult classes being offered; Wednesday Adult Class at 7:00pm and Saturday Morning Adult Class at 9:15am.

#### Mommy & Me

A Mommy and Me class has returned on Monday mornings at 10:30am. This class is for mommies with their children ages 2.5-5. You do need to pre-register for this class.

#### Coming soon

A support group for parents to heal or maintain supportive and affirming relationships with their children who have come out as LGBTQIA. If you know someone this would help, please invite them. The first event will be a presentation from someone from PRIDE of Buffalo. Details to follow.

If you are interested in any of these classes, please call the church office at (716)649-6171.



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

### June 30 - July 6

- Senior High Camp - Directors, Jeff Ribbeck, Wanda Chase
- Pilgrim Camp - Director, Sandra Hamann; Asst. Directors, Kathleen Shrader, Kenna Thompson
- Pilgrim Mini Camp (Sun - Wed)

### July 7 - July 13

- Family Camp 1 – Director, David & Beth Long-Higgins

### July 14 - July 20

- Outdoor Adventure Camp – Directors, Kathy Aldrow, Rachel Cummins, Scott Benaglio

### July 21 - July 27

- Family Camp 2 – Directors, Christopher Burdick, Jesseca Burdick-Giordano

### July 28 – August 3

- Junior High Camp – Directors, Harry Aponte, Rachel Cummins
- Pioneer Camp – Directors, Bob & Kathy Aures

### August 4 – August 10

- Soccer Camp – Directors, Mike & Kelly Hanes
- Swim Camp – Directors, Mike & Kelly Hanes
- Theater Camp – Director, Rachel Zeller
- Fine Arts Camp – Director, Alexxis Butera

### DAY CAMP (Grades K – 5<sup>th</sup>)

Director, Kathy Rankin; Asst. Director, Taylor Gates  
July 1 – August 30  
Part-Time (3 days) - \$135; Full-Time (5 days) - \$195

### SENIOR DAY CAMP (Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)

Director, Kathy Rankin; Asst. Director, Taylor Gates  
July 1 – August 30  
Part-Time (3 days) - \$110; Full-Time (5 days) - \$175

### WEEKEND CAMPS

Directors, Mike Hanes & Scott Benaglio  
STAR WARS CAMP – Sept 20 – 22  
HARRY POTTER CAMP – Sept. 27 – 29  
FALL ADVENTURE CAMP – Oct. 18 – 20  
FALL ADVENTURE II – Nov. 1 – 3

### WEEKEND RETREATS

May 31 – June 2  
Women's Weekend – Directors, Pat Minnick & Marsha Guillaume  
Women are invited to gather at DCC to discuss and experience "Wholeness of Mind, Body and Spirit"  
Cost - \$100

### August 23 - 25

One Piece at a Time Camp – Director, Jennifer Vacanti; Special Education teacher  
A 3 day vacation designed for families with children up to 12 years old who have Autism.  
Cost: Adult - \$100; Child - \$50

### October 4 – 6

Wine Trail Weekend – Directors, Anne Wilmot & Rachel Cummins  
Join us for a weekend of Wine Pairing, Wine Tasting & Touring as well as a Prime Rib Dinner and Entertainment  
Cost \$195 (must be 21 years old to register)

### November 8 - 10

Scrapbooking Weekend – Director, Jennifer Vacanti  
Cost \$100

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Auction & Flea Market – June 7 – 8  
DCC Auction on Sat.; Food & Drinks available.  
Baked Goods, Crafts and more!  
Volunteers needed for set-up on Thursday and clean-up on Saturday.

End of Season Picnic Celebration – August 17  
Call 716-366-1900 to make your reservation.

Halloween Happening – October 12  
Cabin Sponsors needed to decorate a cabin and provide candy to trick or treaters. Overnight accommodations provided on Saturday. Lunch & Dinner (after the party) provided on Saturday.

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





## New Ministries

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

...from *Pastor Krista Ulrich, Ebenezer UCC*

“In October, we began an Afterschool Program for children in grades 1-5 that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Our time together includes homework help, a snack, and time spent researching, exploring and creating! The program is free of charge!

“On Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, we hold an exercise class called ‘Ebaerobics’ and dance our way through the hour to Christian Contemporary music. All are invited and the best part is that the class is free of charge!”

...from *Rev. Jacquelyn Ross Brown, New Covenant UCC*

A Servant Leadership Retreat convened at Christ the King Seminary with the purpose of focusing on the Church’s 2019 theme: “A People Prepared for the Lord.” One interactive workshop worked on answers to the question: “What makes a leader great?” Pastor Jackie focused on “The Purpose of Leadership in the Church,” beginning with a quote from Rick Warren’s book, *A Purpose Driven Church*, “The most critical factor in a ministry isn’t the idea, but the leadership.” Along with the program, Praise and Worship services were designed to inspire the attendees toward greater participation, along with using sound biblical practices, within church ministries.

2019 is the Year of the CHILD at New Covenant UCC. To commemorate this, a Youth Revival was presented with guest speaker Minister Shai Fears, an inspirational speaker, motivator, and youth leader. Additional guests were Canisius College Gospel Choir, Evangelistic Temple Youth Choir and Kalon Huff--Gospel Rapper. The Youth Ushers of New Covenant were on duty for this event. Ebony Bullock is chairperson of Youth Ministry.

## TEE OFF FOR TEENS

9th Annual Golf Tournament



*Monday, August 12th, 2019*

*12pm shotgun start, Chicken Dinner 5:30, Raffles, Silent Auction*

*The Links at Ivy Ridge*

*12221 Main Rd, Akron, NY 14001*



Since 2011, Plymouth Crossroads has housed over 150 homeless young men. Each young man is provided a stable and productive environment to prepare for independence.

To register, become an event sponsor or donate, please contact:

Michele Harrington @ (716) 393 -3906  
michele@plymouthcrossroads.org



Unable to attend, please consider a tax-deductible contribution  
[www.plymouthcrossroads.org](http://www.plymouthcrossroads.org)  
All proceeds to benefit at-risk and homeless youth

## Food Trucks and Strawberry Social



On June 17 from 4-7pm, Ebenezer UCC will be offering food trucks, music, art and strawberry shortcake. The event will be held at 630 Main St., West Seneca 14224 and will take place rain or shine. All are welcome!

## Northtowns Authorized Ministers

Northtowns Authorized Ministers meet at Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., (one block north of Sheridan Dr.) on the third Thursday of the month (except July, August, and December) at noon for a time of conversation and devotions. Participants bring lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. All UCC authorized ministers are invited to participate. To receive email reminders, send an email to [ruth@nativityucc.org](mailto:ruth@nativityucc.org).

from Lois Vidaver

### If You Weren't There...

Representatives from more than 20 UCC and Disciples Churches were present at the WNYACIC Meeting on February 23 held at Ebenezer UCC.

The morning program "Civilian Response" was presented by a West Seneca Police Department Officer. He walked attendees through a program designed to demonstrate proper responses if a threatening situation in a public place presented itself. Using actual videos of such events, the officer emphasized the several options civilians have in order to protect others and flee to safety. For further info, access [www.avoiddenydefend.org](http://www.avoiddenydefend.org).

The afternoon program was titled: "Drugs: A Culture Affecting our Churches." After an informative presentation of what drugs are being abused, how addicts procure them and the local rehab centers available, a panel of speakers shared their stories. More about this subject is found at: [www.ked.org](http://www.ked.org). (*Ked* stands for Kids Escaping Drugs.)

An intense meeting but a timely one...

## Rev. Lynn Morgan's Installation at St. Matthew's UCC

St. Matthew's is happy to announce that Rev. Lynn R. Morgan will be installed as our pastor and teacher on Sunday, June 2 at 2pm. He has been with us as transitional pastor since the latter part of 2017 and the congregation unanimously voted for him to be our permanent pastor as of January 1, 2019.

Now we make it official with pomp and circumstance at the special worship and

celebration on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June at St. Matthew's UCC, 5289 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg 14075 with a reception to follow. Please RSVP by contacting the church office at 716-649-1532 or email [office@stmattsucc.org](mailto:office@stmattsucc.org).

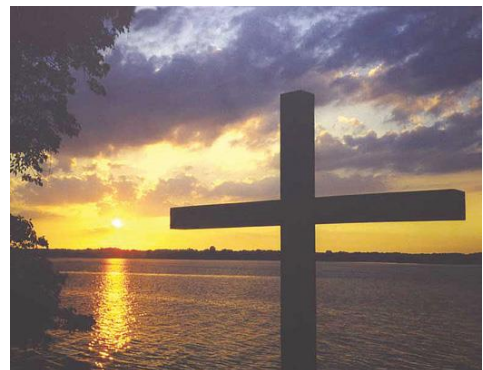


from Rev. Kay Woike

## SUPPORT JUSTICE FOR MIGRANT FAMILIES

Justice for Migrant Families is a non-profit volunteer organization committed to assisting and advocating for undocumented families and asylum seekers. It connects families to free legal assistance, organizes volunteers to visit folks at the Batavia detention center, provides support at court hearings and raises funds for emergency needs.

Join Justice for Migrant Families on Friday, June 7, 2019 from 5:30-9pm at the Spring 2019 Fundraiser for dinner, a basket raffle, 50/50 drawing, bar, and entertainment by French ConeXion and Joe Hall! Family event with kids' corner! \$20 suggested entry donation per person, 12 and under free. Dinner and entertainment included. Location: Trinity Church, 371 Delaware Ave. Buffalo 14202. For more information about JFMF or to send a donation if you can't attend, go to [www.justiceformigrantfamilies.org](http://www.justiceformigrantfamilies.org).





## 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

### United Church of Christ's Thirty-Second General Synod

The theme is based on the scripture **Matthew 5:16** "In the same way let your light shine before others . . ."

The Moderator, Mr. Norman Williams, the Assistant Moderator, the Rev. Penny Lowes, the United Church of Christ Board of Directors, the Officers of the Church, and the members of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ invites you to attend the Thirty-second General Synod that will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 21-25, 2019!

"When we light just one candle in the darkness, it illuminates dimly, but when many candles are lit, and all let their lights shine, together we can bring brightness to the world." — The Rev. Franz Righet, Wisconsin Conference Minister.

Always an extraordinary event in the life of the Church, delegates and visitors will experience dynamic workshops, generative plenary sessions, inspirational worship, engaging youth activities, special banquets, and luncheons. Delegates will conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries. Keynote speakers will offer illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities. And delegates and visitors alike will stand up for issues that demand a faithful witness, worship together, and participate in local community service projects.

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), under the leadership of Debbie and Tom Payden, Bonnie Andrews and Tim Perkins, has been hard at work preparing to welcome you to Milwaukee. This committee is the local hands-on connection for General Synod, representing 219 local churches and nearly 42,000 members! The function of the LAC is to provide overall support to the General Synod, ensure that you are warmly welcomed and that you fully experience this great celebration of our wider church family. Without the efforts of all the volunteers of the Wisconsin Conference, the administration of General Synod would be severely impacted!

For more information, check out the UCC website [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

### The theme is from John 15:1-5 "Abide in Me."

All are invited to join thousands of brother and sister Disciples and guests from around the world in Des Moines, Iowa, from July 20-24. Worship and communion, education and Bible study, business and mission done with old friends and new is an experience not to be missed.

Among the speakers are the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, who spoke at a recent UCCNY Annual Meeting and North East Regional Assembly in Rochester. Recipient of a [MacArthur Genius Grant in 2018](#), Rev. Barber founded Repairers of the Breach, a national leadership development organization, in 2014 to expand upon the Moral Monday movement, and in 2017, he and colleagues launched a revival of the 1968 Poor People's Campaign that was originally spearheaded by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others. Merging moral and activist traditions, Barber is providing a faith-based framework for action that strengthens civic engagement and inspires the country to imagine a more humane society.

Assembly organizers have planned all kinds of mission work for Des Moines. Mission is happening all over the Church from congregations to regions to general ministries. We're out to celebrate the many creative and varied ways Disciples are having an impact with and for God's children.

For more information, check out the website – [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org) – and click on the General Assembly button.





## Prayerlist – June-August, 2019

### June

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  
Lighthouse Ministries  
Global Ministries prayers for Haiti, Sri Lanka, Venezuela

### July

Phoenix UCC, Amherst. Supply pastors  
Riverside Salem UCC/DC, Grand Island.  
Catherine & Jon Rieley-Goddard, pastors  
First Congregational UCC, Niagara Falls.  
Pat Ludwig, Stated 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, transitional supply;  
amos acree, pastor emeritus  
Department of Local Church Ministries  
Voice Buffalo  
Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center  
Auxiliary Global Ministries prayers for Haiti, Sri Lanka, Venezuela

### August

St. James UCC, Hamburg. Heather Ramsey Mabrouk, 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, Interim Regional Minister  
Western Area Nominating Committee  
Women's Fellowship UCC  
Christian Women's Fellowship (DoC)  
New Light Christian Church  
Karen Ministry  
Global Ministries prayers for Haiti, Sri Lanka, Venezuela



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

Saturday, September 28, 2019  
North Presbyterian Church  
300 North Forest Rd., Williamsville 14221  
This workshop discusses racism, not only as a matter of individual prejudice, but as a systemic, institutional program of powers. Come join this conversation about racism and power.  
Registration 8:30am, Workshop 9am-4pm, Lunch 12pm  
Registration deadline September 20, 2019. For more information, call Kirsten Albrecht-Carrie' or Debbie Katz at 716-631-0979

*from amos acree*

## Faith Community Nurse notes Model for Healthy Living – A Tool for Exploring the Interconnectedness of Life

1. Faith Life – Luke 5:17-26. When friends in a place of hope used their faith, the man they presented to Jesus was made whole. Jesus saw their faith and healed their friend. You need to build a relationship with God, neighbors, self.
2. Medical – Mark 5:25-34. Jesus heals a woman suffering from hemorrhages. She had a chronic illness for 12 years. People with chronic illness can help themselves by reaching out for help and be involved in their own care. Partner with your health care provider to manage your medical care.
3. Movement – John 5:1-9. Jesus heals a man ill for 38 years. Lack of movement negatively affected the well-being of the man. Even in the absence of friends and family, Jesus brought hope by making it possible for the man to move. Discover ways to enjoy physical activity.
4. Work – Ruth 2:1-12. Ruth works in Boaz's field. Ruth used her gift of love to care for her mother-in-law, Naomi, and her talent for resourcefulness to care for them both. Appreciating our skills, talents and gifts, in whatever form we express them, leads to blessing. Appreciate your skills, talents and gifts.
5. Emotional – Luke 15:10-32. Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son. The younger son went on an emotional journey, first doing whatever he wanted and later realizing his mistake and asking his father's forgiveness. Stress and poor decisions happen to most people at some point, but change is possible. Manage stress and understand your feelings to better care for yourself.
6. Nutrition – John 6:5-14. Jesus feeds more than 5,000 people. The people had been following Jesus to hear him teach to receive food for their spirits, but he knew they needed nourishment for their bodies as well. Healthy meals are part of caring for the whole person. Make smart food choices and develop healthy eating habits.

7. Friends & family – Luke 8:49-55. Jesus heals Jairus's daughter. The parent sought the Lord on behalf of the child, showing two important relationships. Jesus took his closest friends with him to minister to the family. We can support people to reach a new level of wholeness. Give and receive support through relationships.

(adapted from Church Health Reader (spring 2017). [www.chreader.org](http://www.chreader.org))



*from Lois Vidaver*

### RACHELS

You might say RACHELS is a group for the ages, or perhaps even, ageless. Founded 36 years ago, it continues to nourish its members every third Saturday of the month at (for many years now) Denny's on Maple Road in Amherst. If you are a clergy spouse, come and join the group on Saturday, June 15 at 9 a.m. There are no officers, dues or agenda. We just talk and laugh a lot.

Please contact Lois Vidaver at [loismaevid@yahoo.com](mailto:loismaevid@yahoo.com) so we can save you a seat at the table.



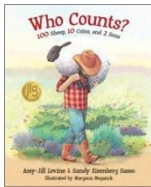
## New at the Center for Christian Growth (Resource Center)

Summertime Reading for Families: Check out Children's Books at the Resource Center

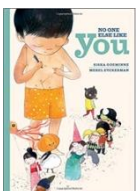
Before summer officially begins, come to the Center for Christian Growth, formerly known as the Resource Center, to check out our children's books. The following books are must-haves to both your church's library, and your family's library. If you're a grandparent, you'll find books for your grandchildren.

**Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible** edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim. This story Bible begins and ends each story with questions designed to help readers imagine themselves in the story. Parents, children and Sunday School teachers will enjoy both the writing and the vibrant artwork.

**Who Counts? 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons** by



Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Sasso. These parables about a lost sheep, coin and a son were never retold better. Margaux Meganck's illustrations are wonderful.



Siska Goeminne and Merel Eyckerman have created a wonderful picture book, **No One Else Like You**. This book helps teach children about diversity and explains that in despite of our differences we all have something in

common – we are all unique. That's the truth. However, I think families will fall in love the illustrations and just have fun reading it together.

We also have the **Story of God's Big Plan**, **Who is My Neighbor**, and **Bruno's Hat**. These books were recently advertised by The Thoughtful Christian. Come and see them for yourself.

If you're looking for books to explain baptism to young children or books to give to parents for their children, come and browse these books: **Today is A Baptism Day** by Ostenso Morre and Krueger; **Welcome Child of God** by Anne Ylvisake; **At Your Baptism** by Carrie Steenwyk and John D. Witvliet; **Baptism Promises** by Carol Wehrheim and Walter Wangerin, Jr.'s **Water, Come Down! The Day You Were Baptized**.

The Center for Christian Growth, formerly known as the Resource Center is open Monday through Thursdays from 10AM to 1PM. It's also open Monday and Thursday afternoons from 4PM

to 7PM. The Center for Christian Growth is located in North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. If you have any questions, you can contact the Center at 716 631-0979.



from Jessica Dybdahl

## Rainie's Foster Closet Opening

Rainie's Foster Closet will be opening at St. Peters UCC, 1208 Oliver Street, North Tonawanda 14120. It is going to be run by Alicia Moeller, who is a foster parent and her sister, Jessica Dybdahl. We are an all-volunteer, donation supported, non-profit organization that provides aid to the foster care community, supplying clothing and other child/young adult items at NO COST to foster families. We are looking for clothing racks, new socks, new underwear, diapers, wipes and pull-ups. We also accept gently used children items.

For more information you can find us on Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/rainiesfostercloset](http://www.facebook.com/rainiesfostercloset).

To set up a donation drop off, please email us at [rainiesfostercloset2019@gmail.com](mailto:rainiesfostercloset2019@gmail.com) or you can Facebook us about donation drop-offs. PLEASE HELP US HELP THEM!!!! Thank you!

---

## Attention: RETIRED

### MINISTERS/SPOUSES/WIDOWS--WNYACIC

A Sing-along of Dunkirk Camp Songs led by Gary Burdick is on the program for the Thursday, June 6th luncheon at the Italian Village Fireside Room, 6354 Transit Road, Depew 14043. Gathering time is at noon, though an invitation is extended to come early and attend an 11:30 a.m. Prayer Circle led by Cheryl Farr Keipper.

Please make reservations by Monday, June 3rd by calling Cheryl at 585-547-3605 or her cell at 585-409-8293. Please note that the Retired Ministers Luncheon will not be held in July or August.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ANNUAL THEME BASKET & SILENT AUCTION**  
**LUNCHEON FOR UNITED CHURCH MANOR**  
**Saturday, November 2, 2019**  
**The Columns Banquets**  
**2221 Transit Road, Elma, NY**  
**Doors Open 10:30 a.m.**  
**Buffet Luncheon at 12:00 p.m.**  
**For Information Call**  
**716-668-5804**



**June Calendar Notes**

- 2 Rev. Lynn Morgan's Installation, St. Matthew's UCC, 5289 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg 14075, 2pm, RSVP 716-649-1532 or [office@stmattsucc.org](mailto:office@stmattsucc.org)
- 5 St. Stephens Bethlehem UCC Coed Recreational Volleyball begins, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo 14225, 6:15 pm (runs each Wednesday through August 21) Call 716-632-4226 to register or for more information.
- 6 WNY UCC & DC Retired Clergy Luncheon, Italian Village, 6354 Transit Rd., Depew 14043, RSVP to Cheryl Farr Keipper, 585-547-3605
- 7-8 Rummage sale, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca 14224, 8am-3pm
- 7 Dunkirk Conference Center Annual Flea Market, 3602 Lakeshore Dr., E. Dunkirk 14048, 11am-7pm
- 7 Justice for Migrant Families Spring 2019 Fundraiser, Trinity Church, 371 Delaware Ave., Buffalo 14202, 5:30pm-9pm. \$20 suggested entry donation per person.
- 8 Dunkirk Conference Center Annual Flea Market, 3602 Lakeshore Dr., E. Dunkirk 14048, 8am-4pm

- 8 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bluesfest to benefit Plymouth Crossroads, Riverfest Park, 249 Ohio St., Buffalo 14204, doors open at 2pm, band begins at 3pm, \$10 pre-sale, \$15 at the door
- 10 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information call 716-882-7705.
- 13-14 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Social, First Congregational UCC, 132 North Main St., Angola 14006, 11am-8pm
- 13 Education Committee, Resource Center, North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 1pm
- 15 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 17 Food Trucks and Strawberry Social, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca 14224, 4-7pm
- 17 WNYACIC Council, St. Stephens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo, 14225, 7pm
- 20 North Towns Clergy, Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd., Buffalo, 14223, 12pm
- 21-25 UCC's 32<sup>nd</sup> General Synod, Milwaukee, WI, go to [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) for more information
- 22 Strawberry Social, Payne Avenue Christian Church, 1459 Payne Ave., North Tonawanda 14120, 11am-2pm

**July Calendar Notes**

- 8 Western Association Church & Ministry, Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more information call 716-882-7705.
- 11 Education Committee, Resource Center, North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd., Williamsville, 14221, 1pm
- 15 WNYACIC Council, St. Stephens-Bethlehem, 750 Wehrle Dr., Buffalo, 14225, 7pm
- 20 RACHELS - breakfast group for clergy spouses, Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 20-24 2019 General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Des Moines, IA, for more information visit [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)
- 29 Vacation Bible School begins, First Congregational UCC Angola, 132 North Main St., Angola 14006, 8:45am-11:30am, runs through August 2
- 31 Free Community Picnic, Faith UCC, 1300 Maple Rd., Williamsville 14221, 5:30pm-7pm





