



Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

From Rev. Ryan Henderson

Be the Change

“Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.” – Romans 12:2 The Message.

During the weekend of February 17 and 18, 2018, UCC youth and young adults from Orient Point, Buffalo, Tonawanda, Hamburg, South Hempstead, West Seneca, Rochester, Carthage, and Corning gathered for the 33rd Annual State Youth Event at Watson Homestead and Retreat Center in Painted Post. This year’s gathering marked the event as the oldest youth-led meeting and state-wide gathering of youth/young adults in the entire United Church of Christ.

This year’s theme, “Be the Change,” built on the bold history by which this event came into being and was fine-tuned under the adult leadership of Eric Falla and Deborah D. Brayton over many years of service. Being the change in life begins with the change that occurs as we embrace our faith and change ourselves. This changing then affects us as we seek to make the change to create a just world for all.

In the week before the event, change happened. The shootings at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida occurred and as an event, we changed. The prayers during the weekend took a very personal turn as youth and adults were encouraged to sign a book which was sent to a teacher at Stoneman Douglas for students and teachers to hear our prayers and thoughts.

Karl Shallowhorn from Buffalo was the speaker who led the discussion of what it means to live past stigmas and beyond the perceived limitations which allows us to “Be the Change” in the world.

Something that impressed me most about the NY Conference State Youth Event, for which I remain in awe about, is the depth by which young adults and adults form Christian fellowship together. I think too

often our communities do not provide opportunities for non-judgmental, fully-inclusive, creativity-welcoming, divinely-inspired connections to be formed and lived out for more than just moments.

The connections, friendships and mutual support that occurs in the name of God on this sacred weekend is not only crucial for our church but needed for our whole society. On a personal note, I noticed that this time allows me to recharge my faith batteries which better allows me to focus not so much on being “well-adjusted to our culture,” but instead to “fix my attention toward God.”

Many thanks to all the youth/young adults, adult chaperones, church pastors, and planning team members that encouraged and nurtured this time to happen. Thanks to each of you reading this who supports youth/young adult ministry in your churches, thereby allowing them to be not just the future, but also the present of change in our congregations...

In the Greatest of Hope-filled Change for Our World~
Ryan

WNYACIC SPRING RECOGNITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS MEETING

Sunday, May 6, 2018

1-5 PM

Covenant UCC,

4449 Main St., Gasport, 14067

Email uccnywes@verizon.net to
register.

WNYACIC

April Prayer List

Pilgrim-St. Luke's/El Nuevo Camino UCC, Buffalo

Supply preachers

St. John's UCC, Eden

James Reidling, pastor

Lockport UCC, Lockport

Stephen Hall, pastor

United Congregational Methodist Church, Salamanca

Supply preachers

Harriett Tubman Christian Church, Buffalo

Anne Paris, pastor

Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center

Coalition for Economic Justice

Western New York Peace Center

from Jeff Mason, treasurer, WNYACIC

Treasurer's Report

We thank the following churches that sent Covenantal Share payments between February 10 and March 15:

Arcade UCC; East Aurora Christian Church; Ebenezer UCC (West Seneca); Salem UCC (Tonawanda); and Grace United Church (Wellsville).

As we've done for many years, we ask for \$6.00 times the number of members you reported at the start of the previous year. Your 2018 Covenantal Share is based on the membership your church reported in 2017. Your 2019 Covenantal Share is based on the membership your church reported at the start of 2018.

Bubbling With Joy

Pilgrim-St. Luke's/El Nuevo Camino's basement will soon be bubbling. The congregation has broken ground on its Sanctuary Ministry showers and laundry room. You are invited to join with members and friends in a ceremony to celebrate progress on this project, which is designed to serve global guests. The ceremony will be held Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 12:30 PM at Pilgrim-St. Luke's/El Nuevo Camino, 335 Richmond Avenue (corner of West Utica Street), Buffalo, NY 14222. Following the ceremony, stay to enjoy light refreshments.

Please RSVP to the church at 716-885-9443 or office@lovefaithjustice.org by Friday, April 6.

Note: Donations are still being accepted to support this ministry and reach the next celebration, a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Forward Together, Not One Step Back!"

As the Northeast Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continues to revive itself, one of its major events will be an Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training event on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, 2018 at Central Christian Church in Danbury, CT. This training qualifies as continuing education for clergy, as well as preparation for a revival of the "Poor Peoples' Campaign" this spring, marking the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. All are invited. More information is available from Rev. amos acree, one of the members of the planning committee of the Anti-Racism Team of the NE Region. Prayers are also requested. Overnight accommodations will be at LaQuinta Inn & Suites for \$79/night in Danbury.



Food and Wine Pairing Fundraiser at Bravo Café

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, West Seneca will hold its 9th Annual Food and Wine Pairing fundraiser on Sunday, April 15, 2018. The event will be held at Bravo Café, 5781 Seneca Street, Elma, NY 14059. Doors open at 4:30 PM with dinner and pairings beginning at 5:00 PM. Bravo's owner has designed a menu that will pair a gourmet meal with the perfect wines, including appetizers, entrée and dessert. Tickets are \$50 each, not including gratuity, and are available only in advance at Bravo, or by calling 716-674-1233, or stopping by the church office at 1475 Orchard Park Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224.

St. Peter's Meat Raffle

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1475 Orchard Park Rd. in West Seneca, will hold a Meat Raffle on Saturday, May 12, 2018. Doors open at 6 PM. Presale tickets are **\$7 per person, \$8 at the door. A table of eight can be** bought in advance for \$50. Ticket includes admission, beer, pop, and sandwich. 50/50 raffles will be held throughout the evening. Guests are invited to bring their own snacks and coolers for their winnings. No outside alcohol allowed. A limited number of tickets are available. For further information, call 716-674-1233 or visit www.st-petersucc.org.

In Memoriam

The Western Area mourns the loss of one of its most active laypersons – Daniel Newcomb. He was a member of St. James UCC, Hamburg, but did not limit his service just to his local congregation. As his obituary states, Dan “spent 40+ years in the philanthropic field...” This included health care (both physical and mental health), education, faith, housing (Fox Run), and several non-profits. He was active in the Western Area and NY Conference, and was a valued supporter of many of the ministries and services offered. He was born in Gowanda and was an Eagle Scout. He lived and worked in several places outside Western New York but was quite active when he and family moved back “home.” Our condolences and blessings go out to his loving wife, Barbara, and their family. *“Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the faithful in the life that is abundant, whole, eternal.”*



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

Church World Service Disaster Kits Collection

Two of our WNYACIC churches will be collection sites for disaster kits for Church World Service in April. Now is the time to begin putting together kits that will be collected in April. Because of the devastating disasters in 2017 (hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, fires, etc.), CWS shipped 132,096 Hygiene kits to Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and Cuba. Also, 1713 Emergency Cleanup Buckets were sent to Texas and Florida. #750 CWS School Kits were sent to Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. So we need to again prepare ahead of time for whatever befalls us this year. For information, check out their website for what is included in the different kits, instructions and videos – www.cwskits.org. The UCC has an incentive to do this – a matching grant of up to \$250 to assist you in assembling them. The first 75 churches to qualify will be awarded the grants. Visit www.ucc.org/disaster to apply. The two collection sites are Zion UCC, Town of Tonawanda (April 1-26), and Amherst Community Church, Amherst (April 9-10).

Being the Church

In the Vineyard asks the question: “What does your church bring to the neighborhood?”

New Light Christian Church, DoC, Rev. Dick Hemann:

“New Light Christian Church brings to the neighborhood people from another culture to share Christian values. With an emphasis on their Karen ethnic group of Burma as well as the blessings of new life in America, every gathering is a celebration of renewed life. Together, they experience the living Christ and share his mission.

“Church is well attended with all generations attending Sunday School as well as worship. The Scripture is read in Karen and then translated into English. Three choirs and vocalists (at times), enrich the service; hymns are sung in both languages. When translation is needed, teenagers competent enough in English translate. There is no clock-watching during their activities; they are not time-conscious at all.”

Church of the Nativity UCC, Gary Schulenberg:

“Remember George Bailey’s character in the movie *It’s a Wonderful Life*? Now consider--what would our area be like without the Church of the Nativity UCC?

“Our mission to be a “...Welcoming, Nurturing, and Empowering...” community of faith wouldn’t exist. The following opportunities to build Christ’s kingdom on earth would not be: over a dozen refugee families would not call Buffalo their home; thousands of dollars for NIN, OGHS, CROP Walk, Ken-Ton Closet... wouldn’t be helping people; service to Friends of the Night People, Reading Buddies, AA, Thanksgiving Turkeys... would go unfulfilled; the neighborhood would be yearning for inspirational music and a place to feed their souls on life’s journey. Fortunately, and with God’s blessing, the above flourishes.”





Annual Basket Raffle

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Doors Open at 11am

Raffle Begins at 1pm

Epiphany United Church of Christ

9365 Clarence Center Rd.

Clarence Center, NY 14032

Office (716) 741-1441



FOX RUN ANNUAL EVENT TO BENEFIT SENIOR WISHES

Join us on Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 6-9pm for the 5th annual Sips, Suds and Sweets event to raise funds for the Senior Wishes program. Guests will sample wine, beer and sweet treats while listening to live music and participate in our wine pull, silent auction, basket and wagon of cheer raffle. New this year, a chocolate fountain and photo booth, as well as complimentary candy buffet and valet parking. Contact Fox Run for information and tickets, at 716-508-2122.

Senior Wishes, a program of the UCHS, grants low income seniors and those in care facilities, life-enriching wishes. We believe that just because someone is aging it doesn't mean there are not still things they want to do, places they want to go, or people they want to see again.

“Death and Taxes?”

Faith Community Nurse Notes

As “Poor Richard” once said, “Only two things sure in life are death and taxes.” Well, guess what. April is Income Tax time (generally observed on April 15). Hope yours are done, or at least nearly done. And for the past several years, *National Health Care Decision Day* is celebrated on April 16. This is the time we ask – “Do you have one? Have you even discussed having one?” The “one” is an advanced directive – which is supposed to let others know how you want to be treated at the end of your life. Whether this is in the form of a “Living Will,” or a health care proxy or Health Care Power of Attorney, it should express how you wish to be treated when that “death” thing is imminent. Everyone above the age of 18 should have one. And is also important that others **know where it is**, what it says, and what your values are in that stage of life. And don't forget to have a regular conversation with your loved ones every year, because things change, people change, life changes. A couple of different websites to check out for help in this process are www.decidewny.org and www.compassionandsupport.org.

from Good Shepherd Community of Faith



Come join us for some gentle exercise. The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program is nationally certified and especially for persons with arthritis. However, all are welcome to participate. Our time together will include exercises for range-of-motion, endurance, strength-building and flexibility set in a fun format. Exercises can be done seated or standing and participants are encouraged to exercise at their own pace. Classes last for one hour. Our instructor, Cheryl Wilczak, is trained by the Arthritis Foundation. Classes will be held Thursdays, now through April 26, 2018 from 6:30-7:30 PM at Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14220. For more information, contact Sue at 716-697-1657.



St. Stephen's United Church of Christ

8520 Tonawanda Creek Rd.
Town of Clarence, NY (GPS)

The church that is open on the road that is closed!
Presents

CARYN & FRIENDS!

Join us for an afternoon of music filled with hope, love and inspiration. Featuring music of Piazzolla, Eva Cassidy, Harold Arlen & many others, let your heart be lifted as the sounds of two flutes and piano soothe your soul. In support of Kevin Guest House, Buffalo, NY America's first healthcare hospitality house
Sunday, April 15, 2018, 3:00 PM

Note: Please approach St. Stephen's UCC from the Transit Rd. connection to Tonawanda Creek Rd. You can ignore all "road closed" signs to get to the church!

News from Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center

Ready for some summer! Go to dunkirkcc.com and check out the upcoming camp season!!! There are also some great pics from last summer to warm us up. **COMING SOON....MARK YOUR CALENDAR – DUNKIRK WORK WEEKEND**, May 19-20, 2018 at the camp, 3602 East Lake Street, Dunkirk. Great service opportunity for youth groups, church mission groups and Dunkirk campers. Join us for a fun faith-filled weekend! More details at camp website!

Friends of Dunkirk just held a reunion on a sunny Sunday in February. About 30 friends attended a hot dog roast, sing along and Dunkirk Q & A. This event served as a great reminder for Early Bird Registration for weeklong summer camps! Get \$25.00 off camp fees for each camper with a \$150.00 deposit.

2018 Camp Brochures have been mailed out and should be available at your church as well. Should you need a brochure, contact the Camp Executive Director at 716-366-1900.

Some exciting upcoming events include: DCC Open House, Saturday, May 12, 2018 and DCC Flea Market, June 1-2, 2018.

Just come to camp once and you will fall in love with this spirit-filled place!

March 2018 Resources News from the Center for Christian Growth W. New York

At the Winter Meeting of the Western New York Area Churches in Covenant/ UCC and DoC, four of the workshops available to attendees focused on **Church Vitality**. Rev. Freeman Palmer of the New York Conference/UCC, was the presenter of these sessions and was kind enough to leave us with a list of suggested optional reading. The Resource Center already had some of these books available for borrowing, and we have added the rest to our collection. Do come in to The Center to browse and borrow.

I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church! And We Refused to Lead a Dying Church! – both by Paul Nixon

Weird Church: Welcome to the 21st Century, Paul Nixon and Beth Ann Estock

Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Post Modern World, John Dorhauer

Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity and Courageous Faith – both by Emily Heath

Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory, Tod Bolsinger

Shift: Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry, Phil Maynard

One Foot Planted in the Center; The Other Dangling on the Edge, Gordon Dragt

The Turnaround Church: Inspiration and Tools for Life-Sustaining Change, Mary Louise Gifford

Grace for the Journey: Practices and Possibilities for In-between Times, George Thompson and Beverly Thompson

Learning Change: Congregational Transformation Fueled Through Personal Renewal, Jim Herrington and Trisha Taylor

Real Good Church: How My Church Came Back from the Dead and Yours Can Too, Molly Phinney Baskette

Resource Center Hours:

Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 1PM;
and Monday and Thursday 4 to 7 PM
North Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Forest Rd.,
Williamsville, 716-631-0979



**Flea Market and Craft Sale
At Dunkirk Camp & Conference
Center**

Two days – rain or shine
Friday and Saturday, June 1 & 2, 2018

8 AM-4 PM

Free Parking

Dunkirk Conference Center
3602 East Lake Rd.
Dunkirk, NY 14048

Space applications accepted until May 16,
2018. Vendor spaces 20'x10' - \$30 for two
days/\$20 for one day.

Baked goods and food available during the
event.

Donations accepted until May 1, 2018.

To arrange for pick-up of donations and/or
to reserve vendor space, call Anne at 716-
366-1900, ext. 12.



May Calendar Notes

- 6 WNYACIC Spring Meeting – Covenant UCC,
4449 Main St., Gasport, 14067, 1-5pm
Email uccnywes@verizon.net to register.
- 10 Education Committee-Resource Ctr.-1:00pm
- 10 RACHELS-breakfast group for clergy spouses,
Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 12 Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center Open
House, 10am-2pm
- 14 Western Association Church & Ministry-
Ebenezer UCC, 9:30am-3:00pm. For more
information call 716-882-7705.
- 15 Samaritan Society-St. Stephens-Bethlehem-
12-2pm.
- 17 North Towns Clergy-Church of the Nativity-
Noon
- 21 WNYACIC Council-St. Stephens-Bethlehem-7pm

June 8 & 9 – NY Conference Annual Meeting
Crown Plaza Hotel, Syracuse, NY
November 4 – WNYACIC Annual Meeting

April Calendar Notes

- 6, 7 Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Training,
Danbury, CT
- 8 Bubbling with Joy Ceremony, Pilgrim-St.
Luke's/El Nuevo Camino, 335 Richmond Ave.,
Buffalo, 12:30pm
- 9 Western Association Church & Ministry-
Ebenezer UCC-9:30am-3:00pm. For more
information call 716-882-7705.
- 12 Education Committee-Resource Ctr., 1:00pm
- 15 Caryn & Friends, St. Stephen's UCC, 8520
Tonawanda Creek Rd., Town of Clarence (GPS),
3:00pm
- 15 Food & Wine Pairing fundraiser, Bravo Café,
5781 Seneca St., Elma, 4:30pm
- 16 WNYACIC Council-St. Stephens-Bethlehem-7pm
- 17 Samaritan Society-St. Stephens-Bethlehem-
12-2pm.
- 19 North Towns Clergy-Church of the Nativity-
Noon
- 19 Sips, Suds, and Sweets, Fox Run, 1 Fox Run Ln.,
Orchard Park, 6-9pm
- 21 RACHELS-breakfast group for clergy spouses,
Denny's, 3920 Maple Rd., 9am
- 21 Annual Basket Raffle, Epiphany United Church
of Christ, 9365 Clarence Center Rd., Clarence
Center, doors open at 11am, raffle at 1pm

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Send newsletter items to: inthevineyard@juno.com

In the Vineyard, published 10 times a year, invites you to
send us your comments and opinions, expressions of
faith and announcements of events by the 10th of each
month. 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.