



## Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

### **Koyaanisqatsi: A Life Out of Balance** by Karl Shallowhorn

*Thanks to Karl Shallowhorn for sharing this essay commemorating Mental Health month in May. Serving as President and Founder of Shallowhorn Consulting, he is a member of Pilgrim St. Luke's UCC.*

In 1983, film director Godfrey Reggio, released the avant-garde art film, *Koyaanisqatsi*. I was immediately drawn to it as the musical score was written by the great American classical composer, Philip Glass. The movie is a montage of images and scenes with no spoken word or characters. It is the first in the trilogy of "Qatsi" series, which also includes *Powaqqatsi*, and *Naqoyqatsi*. It has become somewhat of a cult classic.

The term, *Koyaanisqatsi*, comes from the Hopi language and literally means, chaotic (*koyaanis*) life (*qatsi*). It also translates more loosely into, "a life out of balance." This is kind of how I would describe my life right now. It is becoming more evident as the pandemic drags on, but I can't make this the scapegoat. Much of my condition, specifically my mental, emotional, and physical state, is due to my own lack of self-care and not "practicing what I preach."

This month, in particular, has been particularly challenging. Being Mental Health Awareness month, many people, organizations, and media outlets have all stepped up their efforts to raise awareness and reduce the stigma of mental illness. And rightly so. But then again, mental illness occurs 12 months a year, not just in May. I've done a number of presentations, workshops and media appearances. Plus, I just launched a podcast called *Mental Health Verses* (available on Spotify – shameless plug).

Which brings me back to where I am at. As a "solopreneur" and someone who is involved in a variety of volunteer-based activities, I've found my gas tank getting low. My activity level has not been as regular (riding my bikes – yes, I have two) and my nutritional choices haven't been optimal. I have also received a strong message from several important people in my life (my wife, psychiatrist, therapist, friends in my 12 Step program, etc.) that I need to cut back and set better boundaries around my work and personal life.

There's a saying I've heard many times before, and I heard it again the other day, "So far, you've handled 100% of your worst days. You're doing great!" This I do believe to be true. There is another saying, "God won't give you more than you can handle." That, I believe is a crock of you know what. There are times when I say, "Enough already!"

BUT, there is one thing that I am doing right. First, I am continuing to use my wellness tools, including prayer, meditation, and reaching out for help from both my personal as well as professional resources. I fully believe that the God of my understanding is working through the people in my life and that Christ is walking by my side (and even carrying me) during this challenging period.

When times are tough (like they are for so many of us right now), and we feel overwhelmed (like so many of us do), and we feel like we are fighting an uphill battle (which is COVID in a nutshell), I know that I have to call upon a Power Greater than myself. I can't explain how God works, or even why things happen the way they do. But I do have faith that ultimately, in the grand scheme of things, with God's grace, my life is in good hands and that no matter what happens, I am protected and held in the loving arms of our Creator.



## **WNYACIC Prayer Lists: June-August 2021**

### **June Prayer List**

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

### **July Prayer List**

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

### **August Prayer List**

St. James UCC, Hamburg. Rev. Janet Hubbard,  
Transitional pastor  
Ebenezer UCC, West Seneca. Rev. 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,  
Rev. Thaddeus Allen, Regional Minister,  
Northeastern Region  
Women's Fellowship (UCC)  
Christian Women's Fellowship (DOC)  
Western Area Nominating Committee  
New Light Christian Church. Rev. Nadine Schrodt,  
pastor  
Karen Ministry  
Global Ministries prayers for Venezuela

### **I Would Be True**

**A new verse #3 by Rev. Hope Harle-Mould  
Lyrics set to a special tune: Finlandia**

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.  
I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all -the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would be friend of all – the foe, the  
friendless;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

I would be hope to those who fear they're falling;  
I would be light to those who seek the dawn.  
I would be prophet in the streets for justice;  
I would be love, still building bridges home.  
I would be hope to those who fear they're  
falling;  
I would be love, still building bridges home.

*from Rev. Lynn Morgan, Treasurer, WNYACIC*

## **Western Area Treasurer's Report**

At our Spring Area Meeting we recognize milestones like ordination anniversaries. In doing so, we celebrate together as a community the significant achievements of individual members of our Area. We recognize that our common life is enriched by the gifts and graces these folk bring to their ministries. Another tradition of the Spring meeting is to recognize the churches who have met 100% of their Covenantal Share giving to support the ministry of the Western Area. This too, is a reminder that the individual commitments and sacrifices of our churches and their members enrich us all and strengthen our common work and ministry.

In these articles, I frequently remind readers that Covenantal Share giving is the most important financial support that the Area has; without it, we could not continue our work. One of the things you may not know is just how much of the Area budget is in direct support of mission and ministry. The Department of Community Ministries funds mission initiatives of local UCC churches and agencies. Your Covenantal Share dollars supply these funds. The Area directly funds the Dunkirk Conference Center, the United Church Home Society and Plymouth Crossroads. We support financially the work of the Network of Religious Communities and the Center for Christian Growth. Your giving also funds youth ministry and helps send our delegates to General Synod.

Covenantal Shares also keep the structure and organization of the Area in good shape. The Department of Church and Ministry maintains regular training and support which they utilize to strengthen our churches and their ministries; the costs for this training come from your financial support of the Area. Communications, like this publication, the Area website, and informational emails are all part of the work of our Area office and our staff people. Administration is not the most exciting portion of our work, but it provides support that allows other ministries to thrive. Administrative work does not reflect the bulk of our budget. We spend only about 30% of our annual budget on administrative operating costs. The remaining 70% is spent in direct support of mission

and ministry. Your Covenantal Share dollars make a difference. Thank you for generously supporting the ministry and mission of the Western Area.

*By Jeff Mason, Finance/Endowment Committee*

## **ENDOWMENT REPORT**

Our Endowment accounts have more than recovered from the downturn during the spring of 2020.

As of March 31, 2021, we had \$33,699.79 in the American Funds (up from \$31,291.07 in December); \$29,074.96 in the United Church Funds Account 010 (up from \$28,024.52); and \$416,067.77 in the United Church Funds Account 009 (down from \$428,681.72).

The reason for the \$12,613.95 drop in the UCF Account 009 is this is the account from which we withdrew \$22,307 in the annual disbursement for the benefit of Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center, Plymouth Crossroads, the Department of Community Ministries, the Senior Wishes program of the United Church Home Society, the Center for Christian Growth, and the Western Area's general budget.

The total value of our Endowment on March 31 was \$478,842.52, which was a decrease of \$9,154.79 from the December 31 total.

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*from Rev. Gary Ferner*

## **Churches in Transition**

Trinity UCC, Gowanda

Lockport UCC

Pilgrim Memorial/ First Congregational UCC, Jamestown

St. James UCC, Hamburg



*(The following interview, signed by both of the Makaris, is taken from [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org))*

**from Rev. Hope Harle-Mould**

## **Sent with Nothing but Reconciling Presence**

Can one person, armed with nothing but the Spirit of the Living God, break down walls, forge reconciling paths, and build arches of friendship? That's what our UCC/DOC Global Missionaries are asked to do—and dare to do—each day, wherever they are sent, whatever crises may emerge there. We do offer them some resources and place them with our partners-in-ministry in each host country, but essentially, this is their impossible task: in some humble way to be a mustard-seed influence for understanding and peace, to be a presence of hope and healing.

In this time of war and strife in Israel and Palestine, I would ask us to pray for our missionaries that have been quietly at work there for a long time: **Sara & Victor Makari**. When the vast geopolitical issues overwhelm our own minds and the strident strife between Jews and Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians, agonize our hearts, we need to remember that we are there in special way through one Christ-like couple in East Jerusalem, Sara & Victor. Please pray for them. And please pray for the people who their lives touch in the West Bank, as well as Israel.



*Rev. Victor Makari serves the Diyar Consortium in Israel/Palestine.*



*Sara Makari serves the Diyar Consortium in Israel/Palestine.*

### **How would you describe the mission of our partner in Bethlehem?**

Diyar Consortium is a Lutheran based, ecumenically oriented organization that expresses the outreach ministries of the Christmas Lutheran Church of Bethlehem, which is part of the ELCJHL. The mission statement of the church reads: *“Continuing Christ’s Ministry of preaching, teaching and healing in His place of birth.”* As such, over the past two decades, the church, under the visionary leadership of its pastor, the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, himself a Bethlehemite, has supported the establishment and development of a broad spectrum of institutions, programs and activities, under the Diyar umbrella.

Diyar is the plural of the Arabic word “dar” that means “home,” “house,” “household,” and “homeland.” It is the equivalent of the Greek word “oikos,” that suggests “community,” “ecumenical,” etc. Diyar Consortium serves the whole Palestinian community with an emphasis on children, youth and women. Contextual and holistic in nature, the organization’s programs include education; leadership formation and development; civic engagement; identity reinforcement through art, culture, music, theater and dance, sports (especially for women); authentic tourism; book publishing and media productions. Founded in 1995 as the International Center of Bethlehem, Diyar launched Dar Al-Kalima University College for Arts and Culture in 2006, and regularly holds regional and international conferences. The Consortium serves several thousands of members and reaches more than 60,000 persons annually.

The vision of Diyar is: “That All May Have Life and Have It Abundantly.”

The mission of Diyar is: “To build a country, stone by stone; to empower a community, person by person; to create institutions that give life in abundance.”

### **How do you fit in their mission?**

I serve as Editor of English Language Publications for Diyar Publishing and engage significantly in ministries of hospitality in my home.

**What led you to engage in this calling?**

I grew up as a “missionary kid” in the Middle East and have served as a long-term volunteer in a variety of ministries in the region. It was natural for me to return to the region for mission service.

**Is there a passage of scripture that carries special meaning in your daily work?**

“Since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart...For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us...” (2 Corinthians 4: 1, 5-7).

**What are some of the challenges facing the people of Palestine, our partner, or yourself?**

The core challenge for my Palestinian friends is the chronic military occupation by the State of Israel, and all its ramifications: e.g., uprooting, displacement, emigration, loss of land and livelihood, dire economic necessity, unemployment, restriction of movement, shortages (and rationing) of basic necessities such as water, high import taxes of food items, clothing, electricity, heating fuel, etc.

As for the Christian partners, in particular, while sharing the same challenges of all Palestinians, they must continue to engage in non-violent resistance of the occupation, and continually resist being overcome by fatigue and despair. They work doubly hard to make their witness through sustaining their own and their neighbors’ sense of hope. They resist Israel’s systematic designs to erase their deeply-rooted identity and culture; and resent being played off against their Muslim neighbors. They are also challenged by the hegemony of empire, and read the Old Testament scripture with bewilderment, trying to make sense of it as God’s Word for them.

On the West Bank, my own daily challenges are significant, but are miniscule compared to the largely-silent sufferings of my neighbors. I find myself troubled by a gross neglect of the environment (which is a serious challenge to general health), noise pollution, chaotic traffic behavior and a broken-up road system, excessive fuel costs,

limited availability and/or overpricing of healthful food items (this belies published cost-of-living indices). So many of these challenges are a direct or indirect result of, or reaction to, living under occupation – even in Area “A.” However, I rejoice in my calling; I salute the fortitude and tenacity of hope of the people of this land; and dearly appreciate all that makes my living and serving here possible.

**What is a lesson you have learned from our partner that you feel should be shared with churches in the U.S.?**

Throughout history, Palestine has lived under imperial occupation: by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans, Byzantines, the Crusaders, the Tatars, the Ottomans, the British and the Israelis. There is every reason for Palestinians to be pessimistic about the future. Yet, they never give up hope. In large measure, this has been the continuing influence of the Christian community since the resurrection of our Lord, and Pentecost. The various ministries of the specific partner with whom I serve are summarized in these, its own words: “What we do today is Hope!”

Their appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church’s Wider Mission, and your special gifts. Make a gift that supports the work of Sara and Victor Makari. Go to [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org) or checks made out to “Global Ministries” and designated for the Makari’s may be sent to: Global Ministries Development, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206. You can also use your credit card by calling: 317-713-2555.





## Support for Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center

Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center provides rich Christian camping experiences for kids and adults. Go to [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com) for information about our programs.

We ask that you consider supporting our ministry in these challenging times. **Financial donations, estate bequests and attendance at our programs are greatly appreciated!** For those of you who use Amazon, consider making Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center your Amazon Smile recipient. Dunkirk will then receive a small donation from Amazon.

### Here's how to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations or search for the charity of your choice.
4. Select Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center.

### ***You Are the Work of God***

*"It is not you who shapes God; it is God that shapes you. If then you are the work of God, await the hand of the Artist who does all things in the season. Offer the Potter your heart, soft and tractable, and keep the form in which the Artist has fashioned you. Let your clay be moist, lest you grow hard and lose the imprint of the Potter's fingers."—Irenaeus, 2<sup>nd</sup> century theologian*



*In the Vineyard* asks the question: "In what ways has your prayer life changed in the last year?"

#### **From Judy Deck**

"I pray a lot more."

#### **From Samantha Arida, Salem UCC, Tonawanda**

"I have certainly noticed a change in my prayer life in the last year. I used to rely on designated times (before a meal, at church, before going to sleep) to pray as almost just a habit and for habitual things. Over the last year or so, I find myself praying at all times of the day and about so much more with so much more going on in the world. I've actually put thought into what I would like my prayer life to be and have even started writing down some prayers in a creative journal to really express my feelings. Finding the good and giving thanks, asking for help, guidance and comfort, and being open to hearing an answer in whatever form. This is how my prayer life has grown and hopefully will continue."

#### **From Mike Rogers, Kenilworth UCC**

"This past year has been a challenge for all of us. The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. It has caused me to change my prayer life. I used to just pray in general for my family, my friends and my church. I would pray for specific needs some of the time. Now I try to name all my family and friends and some of my church specifically. I don't anymore just ask God to bless them but to bless them Spiritually, Mentally, Physically, Emotionally and Financially. There are so many needs that I don't know but I believe this covers them!"



Once again, this pandemic will NOT stop us....

we are moving ahead with our semi-annual HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI sewing time together. **Saturday, June 12, 2021, 10am- 2pm.**

Sponsored by **Good Shepherd Community of Faith**, this event will be held within the church building at **187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220.**

Join us. Together we will be working on birthing bags, dresses, skirts, toys, and **desperately needed masks**, which will later be shipped to our friends in the Grison-Garde community in Haiti.

Please wear your mask, respect social distancing, wash your hands often and don't come if you are feeling ill. Though snacks and beverages will be provided, it is suggested that you each bring your own bag lunch.

There will be tasks for both sewers and non-sewers.

**Every effort will made to respect pandemic precautions.**

Questions. Contact Sue at 716-697-1657 or bsuea@yahoo.com.



## SCHOOL BAGS & SUPPLIES GIVE AWAY MINI HEALTH FAIR

Good Shepherd Community of Faith at 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220, is currently gathering school supplies which will be distributed on Saturday, August 28, 2021, starting at 10am, until supplies are gone.

Anyone wishing to donate supplies, simply go to [www.gscof.org](http://www.gscof.org) to learn what is needed and how to donate. All donations are greatly appreciated.

THIS IS A COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT. On Saturday, August 28, 2021. 10am-2pm the community is invited to join us as school supplies are distributed and a mini- parking lot health fair will be held. FUN! INTERACTIVE!! FAMILY FOCUSED!!

Multiple wellness focused stations will be scattered around the lot and possibly indoors. All are welcome!



## A NEW TITLE FOR REV. DIEVENDORF



The members of the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, voted on April 25 to confer the title of Pastor Emeritus on Rev. Robert C. Dievendorf, who served the church from 2009 until his retirement in 2018. Church members who were not present for in-person worship that morning had the option of voting ahead of time by email or by commenting during the meeting on Facebook Live.

A resolution describing many aspects of Rev. Dievendorf's ministry was sent to church members in advance of the vote. Several members of the congregation were pre-recorded as they read the resolution, and this video was played following the vote. (Anyone who would like to see this can still find it near the end of the April 25 service on the church's Facebook page.)

Since indoor coffee hours are not yet permitted following worship, the Arcade church has been holding Zoom coffee hours, and Pastor Emeritus Bob, who now lives in Canajoharie, joined in on Zoom so he could be congratulated by his former parishioners after the vote.

He is the fourth Pastor Emeritus in the 208-year history of the Arcade church. The previous ones were Rev. William Dunstan (1958-65), Rev. John Wetzel (1978-85), and Rev. Charles Hobbs (1991-2020).



## The Center for Christian Growth

(aka The Resource Center)

We are now located in the CE wing of  
**First Presbyterian Church,**  
149 Broad Street, Tonawanda, 14150!



**2pm to 5pm, Wednesday,  
June 16, 2021**

Come see our new digs!!  
Browse through books, curricula, &  
study materials.  
Meet and talk about faith formation  
programs.

You can always reach us at 716-389-2023 or  
[resourcecenterwny@gmail.com](mailto:resourcecenterwny@gmail.com)

Check out our website  
[www.ccgwny.weebly.com](http://www.ccgwny.weebly.com)





## Amherst Community Church Seeks Half-Time Director of Christian Education and Community Engagement

Amherst Community Church, (77 Washington Hwy., Buffalo, 14226,) (<https://www.amherstcommunitychurch.org/>) in Snyder, NY, a suburb of Buffalo, seeks a new half-time Director of Christian Education and Community Engagement, to replace our previous Director of Christian Education, who retired at the end of 2020 after twelve years.

Historically, this ministry has centered on the children of the congregation, with Sunday School, Children’s Sermons, and Bible School as key facets. However, as the demographics of our congregation have shifted, following national trends, the number of children present on Sundays has decreased. At the same time, as a Community Church, we place great value on making connections with our neighbors, even if we do not always know how. Thus, we see an opportunity to redefine this role in our congregation to be more outward facing and somewhat less child-centered, while retaining a Christian education mission.

The person taking on this ministry will have a great deal of freedom to shape the role, based on her/his own strengths and interests, in collaboration with the congregation and Christian Education (CE) Board, which oversees this position, and working closely with our pastor, Rev. Lisa Drysdale. On the following link:

[https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=4496&KeepThis=false&TB\\_iframe=true&height=622&width=960](https://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=4496&KeepThis=false&TB_iframe=true&height=622&width=960), you will find a job description prepared by the CE Board, based on the prior CE Director job description and how we imagine the role evolving. We know this is a lot for a half-time position, and we don’t expect someone to do all of this, all of the time. We also recognize that these activities depend upon the volunteer support and participation of the congregation, and not every initiative will succeed.

We anticipate the salary for this half-time position to be in the range of \$19,000 to \$23,000 per year, depending upon applicant education and experience. Many combinations of education and experience could prepare someone for this role, so we have not set specific requirements. Historically, this part-time position has not provided health insurance or other benefits, but this is negotiable. No housing allowance is provided. As part of our safe church policy, a background check will be required.

Expressions of interest in this position, with a cover letter and resume, should be directed to our office administrator, Ms. Debbie Sauer, at [office@amherstcommunitychurch.org](mailto:office@amherstcommunitychurch.org). Please also send any questions to that e-mail, and we will respond as soon as possible.

Please visit our web site (<https://www.amherstcommunitychurch.org/>, photos on the main “about” page are really us, the ones on the other pages are stock photos from the template) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AmherstCommunityChurch>) to learn a bit about us. Consider joining us on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Sundays (request the link from the church office).

If you made it this far, you must be somewhat interested, and we look forward to meeting you!



## Summer Craft and Vendor Bazaar at St. Peter’s UCC, West Seneca

St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 1475 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca, 14224, will hold an Outdoor Summer Craft and Vendor Bazaar on Saturday, June 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the church’s parking lot. Crafters/vendors scheduled to display their goods include Bright Lights by Diana, Country Road Boutique, Reggie’s Rags, Papparazzi, Gourmet Creation Spices, J. Bloom Designs, Girls Gone Crafty Buffalo, and many more. The event also features a basket raffle, a visit from the WNY Fun Foods popcorn truck, and free admission. Further information on this or any other church activity may be found by calling 716-674-1233 or visiting the church’s website at [www.st-petersucc.org](http://www.st-petersucc.org).



**BW's Chicken & Ribs BBQ**

**at St. Peter's UCC, West Seneca**

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1475 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca, 14224, will hold a drive-through BW's Chicken & Ribs BBQ Fundraiser on Saturday, July 17, 2021. Event starts at 3:00 p.m. and runs until dinners are sold out. BW's Smokin' Barrels Barbeque will prepare some of its tasty chicken and rib dinners for all to enjoy. Dinners include chicken or ribs, potato salad, cole slaw, and a roll with butter. Cost is \$12 for a half chicken dinner or \$15 for a quarter ribs dinner. Cash only – exact change is appreciated. Details on this or any other activity of St. Peter's may be obtained by calling the church office at 716-674-1233 or visiting the church's web site at [www.st-petersucc.org](http://www.st-petersucc.org).

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from Pat Burgstahler for KUCC

**Kenmore UCC Staying Active**

Kenmore United Church of Christ is doing well. We've been opened for Sunday services since last June following all the proper protocols. We are eagerly looking forward to an increase in activities as we move through spring into summer. We had our annual chili cook-off and bake sale. Profits of \$400 from the bake sale were donated to Kenton Meals on Wheels in memory of Lois Aichinger.

In May, we had two fundraisers: a very successful plant sale, followed by a chicken BBQ. Our annual KUCC Garden Walk and picnic will take place in July and a tour of Graycliff will bring us together in September.

The church building is used on a regular basis by Berkshire Farm - a foster family organization. They are having an information and recruitment evening on June 17 from 5-9 pm. Please call the church, 716-875-1725, if you have any questions about this or any other event.



**Vacation Bible School 2021**

**"Knights of North Castle"**

**Tuesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>- Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>,**

**8:45 am – 11:30 am**

**First Congregational UCC**

**132 N. Main St., Angola, 14006**

**Community Children are invited!**

**FREE: for all children beginning at 3 years old**

**\*Games \*Snacks \*Crafts \*Stories \*Music**

**Call 716-549-2115 to register.**



## **The Former Williamsville Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) Has Been in the News**

Western New York in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was very different than it is now. The Town of Amherst was incorporated in 1818, Buffalo in 1832 and Williamsville itself not until 1850. These vibrant and bustling municipalities that currently seem to run together along Route 5, were – in the early 1800s – completely separate frontier communities. The War of 1812 and the growth of the Erie Canal were of major importance in their early history and eventual growth. To provide further context, it is worth noting that the University of Buffalo (situated at the current border of Buffalo and Amherst) wasn't founded until 1846. So, the formation of what became known as the Williamsville Church of Christ in 1835 was a significant event in the area. Alexander Campbell – one of the primary leaders of “the movement to restore primitive Christianity” – visited Williamsville (and other local Restoration congregations) at that time and held large “Camp Meetings.” The Williamsville church was the third Disciples of Christ congregation in our area and gave birth to the Richmond Avenue (Buffalo) and Niagara Falls congregations (sadly, both are no longer with us).

In 1871, the Williamsville Church of Christ outgrew its first building (at Eagle and North Ellicott Streets) and constructed a new, larger one at 5658 Main Street, just east of Mill Street. This was their home until 1976, when due to the diminishing size of the congregation, they disbanded and sold the building to the Village of Williamsville. It has been used as a meeting and performance space. One of only two sites on the National Register of Historic Places in the village, it also has been the home of the village's historical museum.

This year, the Village Board had proposed the sale of the Meeting House – former home of the Williamsville Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) – to a developer or the town of Amherst. Several local residents mounted a petition drive to halt the sale. However, requirements of federal grants used to restore the building made the proposed sale more of a liability than an answer to the financial burdens of retaining the property and the plans to sell were abandoned.

As a fourth generation (at least) Disciple who had attended Disciples Union of Western New York (DUWNY) events there, and used the village archives to do genealogical research, I hope a way can be found for this beautifully restored historic site to maintain its presence as a part of WNYACIC's long-term witness to the community.

Thank you to Susan Fenster who publicized the petition, the Disciples Historical Society (<https://discipleshistory.org>), and Stephen T. Watson of the Buffalo News.





### 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Strawberry Social 2021

First Congregational UCC  
132 N. Main Street  
Angola, NY 14006

**Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 11am-8pm**  
**Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 11am-8pm**

Hot dogs, Hamburgers,  
Cheeseburgers, Grilled Cheese,  
French Fries,  
Sundaes, Milkshakes, Cones,  
Pop, Coffee  
& Strawberry Shortcake

Entertainment from 6:00-8:00pm each day,  
please bring your lawn chairs and enjoy!  
*Menu subject to change*

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*“Create all the happiness you are able to create; remove all the misery you are able to remove. Every day will allow you to add something to the pleasure of others, or to diminish something of their pains. And for every grain of enjoyment you sow in the bosom of another, you will find a harvest in your own bosom; while every sorrow which you pluck out from the thoughts and feelings of a fellow creature shall be replaced by beautiful peace and joy in the sanctuary of your soul.”—Jeremy Bentham (18<sup>th</sup> Century English Philosopher in letter just before his death to a young friend.)*



### Trinity UCC Offers Free Community Meals This Summer

**FREE Community Meals June 12, July 10 and August 14.**

**Trinity United Church of Christ, 30 Erie Ave., Gowanda, 14070**

**On the Menu for June: Hot dog with a roll, mac salad, fruited Jello and a cookie.**

**Drive thru or walk up. If driving, follow signs on East Main Street.**

**Everyone is welcome!!**

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*from Jessica Dybdahl*

### Rainie’s Foster Care Clothing Closet

Hi everyone, I would like to tell you about Rainie's Foster Closet that is open at St. Peters UCC, 1208 Oliver Street in North Tonawanda 14120. It is run by my sister (Alicia Moeller) who is a Foster Parent and me (Jessica Dybdahl). We are an all-volunteer, donation supported, non-profit organization that provides aid to the foster care community. We supply 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’s 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!!!!



### Self-Care Workshop

#### Title: **Creative Succulent Garden**

Presenter: Educator from the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens

Date: **Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

Time: **6:30 - 8:00 PM**

Location on Zoom:

<https://ministrelife.zoom.us/j/92111989540>

Meeting ID: 921 1198 9540

Cost: Free to watch or \$10 to create your own succulent container garden  
RSVP by June 20

**Description:** Join us for a fun evening of indoor gardening! This interactive workshop will show you how to design a unique succulent garden while learning more about these exciting low-maintenance plants - from the comfort of your own home. All the materials will be provided, and **an instructor from the Botanical Gardens will join us on Zoom** to show us how to put together a creative, attractive container garden. We'll also learn how succulents grow and how to propagate them while adding creative touches to our gardens.

**How to participate:** If you want to create a succulent garden, you must RSVP to **Sue Allen by June 20**, text at 716-697-1657 or email: [bsuea@yahoo.com](mailto:bsuea@yahoo.com)

The cost of the materials is \$10 per person. This includes containers, soil, plants, and supplies.

Materials will be available for pickup at church or delivered to your home on Sunday, June 27. You are also welcome to join the Zoom call for free if you have your own plants and materials or just want to watch and learn.



## Plymouth Crossroads Upcoming Fundraisers

**BW's Chicken BBQ**

**August 5, 10 am – 3 pm**

**Ebenezer UCC**

**630 Main Street, West Seneca, 14224**

Presale at [www.plymouthcrossroads.org](http://www.plymouthcrossroads.org)

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**Shopping Event**

**At Carousel Clothing and Collectibles**

**A shop with cottage charm**

**September 18, 10 am – 4 pm**

**6094 Main Street, Williamsville, 14221**

# Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center Offers Summer Camp Programs



First-time camper discount  
**Save \$100**

## Soccer Camp at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center 3602 Lakeshore Dr. • Dunkirk, NY 14048 • (716) 366-1900



**August 8-14, 2021** For all skill levels!

**Week-long Overnight Summer Camp for youth entering grades 3-10 in Fall '21**

Spend a week playing the game you love! Enjoy skill training with USA licensed youth soccer coaches and participate in a "World Cup" tournament of small-sided games. Lots of soccer plus all the bells and whistles of an outdoor adventure camp including capture-the-flag, swimming, creek hikes, camp fires, Mission Impossible: Adventure Race and much, much more!

Register at [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com)  
e-mail: [mhanes@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:mhanes@dunkirkcc.com)

REGISTER TODAY!!!

Soccer and Swim Camps 2021 will both be August 8-14. Kids entering grades 3-10 who either love to swim -OR- play soccer are welcome to join us for an amazing week of FUN and ADVENTURE!!!

Spend time in the pool practicing with a professional swim instructor or on the field training with USA licensed coaches and special guest trainers! Lots of "fun time" in the pool or on the field as well! These hybrid specialty/adventure camps have plenty else to offer as well such as creek hikes, adventure races, capture-the-flag, Ga-Ga and much, much more. The board of directors

and staff are in regular communication with the NYS Department of Health with the health and safety of our campers and staff top priority. Camp may be a little "different" than in previous years due to COVID-19 guidelines and precautions, but I promise you it will be no less FUN!!! Want just a little taste of normalcy and hope? Take a moment today to register your child for summer camp at [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com). Planning is under way and we can't wait to get back to camp!



First-time camper discount  
**Save \$100**

## Swim Camp at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center 3602 Lakeshore Dr. • Dunkirk, NY 14048 • (716) 366-1900



**August 8-14, 2021** For all skill levels!

**Week-long Overnight Summer Camp for youth entering grades 3-10 in Fall '21**

Spend a week learning new strokes and playing games in the pool! Lots of swimming plus all the bells and whistles of an outdoor adventure camp including capture-the-flag, archery, creek hikes, camp fires, Mission Impossible: Adventure Race and much, much more!

Register at [www.dunkirkcc.com](http://www.dunkirkcc.com)  
e-mail: [mhanes@dunkirkcc.com](mailto:mhanes@dunkirkcc.com)

# **Gentle Arthritis Chair Exercise** **Outside in Heacock Park**

Sponsored by Good Shepherd Community of Faith  
Wellness Ministry, 187 Southside Pkwy., Buffalo,  
14220

Heacock Park is one door down from the church at  
Southside Parkway, corner of McKinley.

6:00 PM

Every Thursday with Cheryl  
Everyone welcome, all ages, come as you  
are!

Classes will be on-going, weather-  
permitting.

There is no fee.

- Face masks or coverings **MUST** be worn by all participants to and from each class. Masks worn until seated.
- A minimum distance of 6 feet must be maintained by all participants.
- **IF YOU FEEL UNWELL, PLEASE STAY HOME.**
- Bring your own equipment. Chairs, water bottles, etc. will not be provided and should not be shared.
- Sign-in will be required at each outdoor location for contact-tracing purposes.
- There are **NO** bathrooms on the premises.

Questions? Contact Sue:  
716-697-1657; [bsuea@yahoo.com](mailto:bsuea@yahoo.com)

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*“Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God.”—Leon Bloy*

## **Master's**

# **Chicken BBQ**

Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

12:00-6:00 pm (or until sold out)

St. Matthew's United Church of Christ\*

**Drive Thru, Take Out Only**



Includes 1/2 Chicken  
salt potatoes  
coleslaw  
roll and butter

\$12.00 per dinner (cash only)

\*5289 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY 14075  
[www.stmattsucc.org](http://www.stmattsucc.org) ■ 716-649-1532

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

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*In the Vineyard*, published four times a year, invites you to send us your comments and opinions, expressions of faith and announcements of events. We welcome information regarding the health and welfare of our clergy and others in the Western Area. Please write us when you know of a birth or celebration, a serious illness or a death in our church family – please include your name and telephone number.

Please have submissions for the upcoming Fall issue in by August 17, 2021.



