



Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

from Rev. Ted Brelsford

Playing Catch

“Want to play catch?” I *thought* that was what she said, but we were online in Zoom, so I asked her to repeat it. “Play catch, yes,” that’s what she said. “Here—” she pretended to form a ball in her hands. “Now,” she said, “you have to catch it.” And she threw it to me with a throw/push motion. I caught it and pretended to hold it. Now, she said, I had to change its shape. So, I stretched it out to something like a short fat javelin and then, at her instruction named another person in the Zoom meeting and threw it to them. I felt slightly uncomfortable throwing a javelin at them, but I had not *said* it was a javelin, and a pretend javelin could do no harm. They caught it, reshaped into a very small ball, and tossed it to another person in the group who reshaped it to something large and tossed it two-handed to another person. “See,” she said, “connection, community. Now we’re in the same space together.” She was right. The effect was remarkable. We were all in the game now, present and connected to one another in a more real way. Maybe we could toss ideas like that too.... Or, in similar fashion, could I hand the Body of Christ to an online worshiper during Communion?

Is it possible to create a meaningful sense of community and connection online? Can people enter into a worship space virtually and be more than mere observers watching television? Can we teach and learn—*really* teach, *really* learn—in an online environment? Bible study? Youth group? Can people open themselves online to the kind of vulnerable honesty necessary for real relationships and real insights, perhaps even revelation?

The ball-creator-tosser in the above scenario was Courtney Goto. In her book, *The Grace of Playing*, she coins the term “revelatory experiencing” to describe meaning-filled moments in which we lose ourselves and experience the divine depths of existence. It is a form of wondrous play, she suggests, that enables these moments—like the way children get lost in play or great musicians lose themselves and become the music. The Zoom meeting was part of an online seminary course I was teaching. She was there (“in” our Zoom room via her computer in California) to help us think about possibilities of Christian formation and transformation in the emergent cyberworld in which we increasingly live.

How do we “do church” and nurture others in faith (and live and play and work) in a hybrid world that is partly materially embodied and partly cyber-virtual?

Did you know there are online platforms to create Bible study games? You upload the content; the software makes it into a quest game. There are also free, easy to use programs for real-time interactive engagement via smart phones, for use within other online environments such as Zoom. With other software you could take a field trip to the Holy Land or tour a cathedral. I don’t personally know how to use any of these yet. These are just examples of things I learned from my students, part of the new world in which emerging new pastors live and will do church.

One of my students in their late 30s attends a weeknight Bible study at a church in Minnesota and has worshipped with them most Sundays for two years, yet she’s never been to Minnesota. Another told me I should really get a VR headset, which would open richer online experiences for “gathering” with others (and would enable me to “walk around” and explore during that cathedral tour). I’m thinking about it.

In the meantime, I’m looking forward to playing catch with my granddaughter in Georgia during our next FaceTime session.

Ted Brelsford is serving as pastor at Faith United Church of Christ, Boston, NY and is an affiliated faculty member at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.



St. James United Church of Christ Holds Service of Installation

St. James UCC held a service of installation for their pastor, Rev. Paul Werner on Sunday, August 7 at 3:30 pm. Rev. Nancy Rosas, Pastor of Pilgrim-St. Luke's UCC, gave the opening prayer in English and in Spanish. Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson, Senior Pastor of First United Church of Tampa, FL, preached the installation sermon. If you would like to watch the recorded service, please click on the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/paulinstallation>

Congratulations to St. James UCC and Rev. Werner!



Rev. Paul Werner is installed as pastor and teacher of St. James UCC, Hamburg



Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson, Senior Pastor of First United Church of Tampa, FL

from Rev. Elizabeth Duffy, Zion UCC

Free Food Giveaway and BBQ at Grace UCC with Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

On July 1, the General Minister and President of the UCC, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, came to Western New York to spend the day in ministry with us. First, we gathered at Kenilworth UCC to have lunch and a conversation with Rev. Dorhauer. Rev. Dorhauer shared his thoughts on the Church today, and he recommended that we all find ways to continue our ministry presence online.

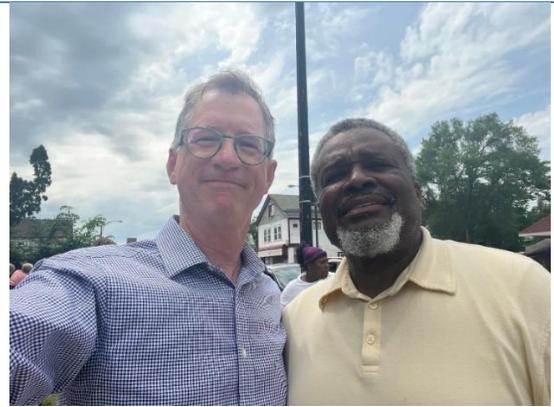
After our conversation, we went to Zion UCC to load up on food donations to take to Grace UCC in Buffalo. And once we arrived at Grace UCC, we set up the Free Food Giveaway and BBQ. All of the food was distributed rather quickly, and people in the neighborhood enjoyed the BBQ until it started to rain.

This was the Western Area's third event at Grace UCC, and we are thankful that Rev. Dorhauer came to visit and join us in ministry. We're also very appreciative of Grace UCC, along with its pastor, Rev. Larry Jackson, and his wife, First Lady Jackson, for enabling us to do this ministry together.

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers! We hope to see you again soon!



Left to right: Rev. Duffy, Rev. Gossel, Rev. Keller-Burns and Rev. Dorhauer at the Free Food Giveaway.



Rev. John Dorhauer and Rev. Larry Jackson at the Food Giveaway.



Free Food Giveaway and BBQ on July 1 at Grace UCC.

by Rev. Hope Douglas Harle-Mould, supply pastor of WNY

Go, Connect, Pray with Your Presence

How can we respond to May 14th? Go inside Tops Market (1275 Jefferson) and pray at the memorial waterfall and poem by Buffalo poet laureate, Jillian Hanesworth, "Let the Hopeful Healing Waters Flow." Buy groceries and get a "Buffalo Stands Together" T-shirt to support victims' families. Pick up a free "The Challenger" community newspaper (to listen and learn from) or just be a friendly face with the staff. Or go to Merriweather Library (1324 Jefferson) and take out a book from one of WNY's most beautiful libraries! Or go up to Zamadi Bookstore (1382 Jefferson in an old Victorian home) and choose from their amazing array of African American-themed books! (Open 12-4pm, Wed. Fri., Sat.). Or get more involved with VOICE Buffalo or volunteer with Peace of the City. Or in your own vicinity, strike up conversations with people across racial lines and frequent black-owned business. Do something new and creative. Let the Spirit of the Living God lead you into new geographies of faith, hope and love.

from Pastor Krista Ulrich

WNYACIC

Mission Work Update

Welcoming & Supporting a Refugee Family

A group of volunteers from the WNYACIC along with folks from Journey's End Refugee Services (JERS) settled the Ahmed family into their home at the end of April. Our Area churches have committed to the Community Sponsorship program through JERS. (For more details on what this entails, click [here](#).)

The Ahmed's are assimilating well to the area and the culture. We were surprised to find that the family had been living in a hotel on Genesee Street for three months prior to resettling them. The lack of affordable housing in Buffalo created this dilemma. So...seven family members, Mom, Dad and 5 children ranging in age from 6 – 18, lived in two hotel rooms sponsored by Church World Services (CWS) until housing became available.

The past two months have been a flurry of activity that required our help and support. Although the children have a good handle on the English language, Mom and Dad have been taking classes to master the language enough to be able to seek employment. There has been a flurry of appointments...doctors, dentists, DMV, etc. The children are registered for school in the Fall and are eager to start in their new schools.

Some of you have asked about the background of the family. Many refugees have experienced trauma in their home countries. Unless they provide us with information, we are encouraged not to ask directly. We do know that the Ahmed family left West Sudan when they were able. They lived in Jordan prior to coming to the United States. They are a grateful and gracious family. We are blessed in our partnership.

If you'd like to support the work of Journey's End Refugee Services and our continued involvement in helping refugees, go to our [WNYACIC website mission donation page](#). or directly to the JERS website: [Journey's End Refugee Services](#)



from Ginger Comstock, NY/HELP



NY/HELP report about our Honduran nurse-practitioner, 6/21/2022

Our NY/HELP group received a message from Dr. Lito Gutierrez, our medical advisor, about a patient our Honduran nurse practitioner had seen. Below are Dr. Lito’s words translated from the Spanish message he received:

“Last night I received this text from Licenciado Joel Mencía, the nurse practitioner that works at the Dr. Gordon Comstock Clinic in La Laguna. Basically, he is telling me about an emergency in the clinic with a woman with severe emphysema and infection, and severe bronchospasm. He referred her to the Yoro hospital. Our nurse, Mirtila tells me that he took her in his own motorcycle down to La Habana and she continued from there to the hospital by bus. He also gave her some \$\$ because she had none. She is still hospitalized and “not well”. I sent this reply to him:

“Thank you, Joel! Do not forget to include the Lempiras that you gave her when you present your next request for payment. I will report to the Board your good work and dedication. I personally thank you for your demonstration of diagnostic aptitude and humanitarian charity.”

Mirtila has confirmed this report:

“I thought you should all know about this event. Joel Mencia has demonstrated, ever since he began working for us, excellent dedication, and quality of work. Please, keep this in mind for future reference. Feel free to use the story to encourage donors to contribute to NY/Help.”

As of June 13, we heard that the patient has gone home improved, and he will likely see her in his next visit to Mataderos.

Dr. Lito

We have been fortunate to be able to hire such a dedicated man as Joel Mencía to help serve the clinic. Many people would just “work their shift” but this man goes the second mile for the patients.

Donations will help us afford to keep him.

Please send donations to:

Our work in Honduras continues, but we are in need of funds! ♥♥♥♥

We had begun creating a new middle school and satellite clinic in one of the other villages of the tribe, Mescales in 2020. The needs of the community have surpassed a one-room clinic, and the new plans call for three rooms. With this space, the people will have access to routine medical care close to where they live. To walk to La Laguna, for either medical care or school takes about 2½ hours and is sometimes unsafe.

The cost of this new clinic is expected to be around \$9000 USD. Unfortunately, donations have dropped off considerably since the time of COVID and we don’t have enough funds to help create this important new space! As we all know, prices have increased everywhere, and medical supplies as well as building materials cost more now than they used to. Please consider helping our mission in Honduras with a gift. The donation information is below. ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

*NY/HELP Honduras c/o Arcade UCC
PO Box 95
Arcade, NY 14009*



Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational’s Ride for Roswell team, “UCC Arcade Fights Cancer,” rode their third annual ride at the Arcade Park on Saturday, June 25. Special thanks to Bill Craft for heading up the team. The team raised \$2825 for Roswell Park!



*Team Members of UCC Arcade Fights Cancer
Front row, left to right: Bill Craft, Jamey Craft, Sheila Vrenna, Ginger Comstock. Back row, left to right: Jim Vrenna, Brody King. Behind the camera: Shannon King.*



Left to right: Jay May, Kathy May, Deb Giangreco, Ann Smith, Nicole Giangreco and Ashley May-Smith

Another connection with Arcade UCC participated in the Ride for Roswell. Jay and Kathy May headed up this team. Although Jay wasn’t able to ride with Team May this year, his fundraising put him in the Extra Mile Club which signifies fundraising of \$1000 or more. Jay has been part of the Extra Mile Club for the last five years and ridden for the Ride for Roswell since 2014. Team May raised a combined total of \$2800 this year!

from Rev. Elizabeth Duffy, Zion UCC

WAY Mission Trip 2022

On July 11th, the Western Area Youth left for Billerica, MA (just outside of Boston), for an excellent mission trip. 31 youth and leaders worked at the Local Food Pantry in Billerica, the Women’s Lunch Place (a day shelter for women) in Boston, the Habitat Park in Lowell, the Outdoor Church (a ministry to people who are homeless) in Cambridge, and much more. Our Western Area Youth set a great example of what it means to be teenagers today, and they were gracious helpers all week long. They also had fun too! Keep on the lookout for information on next year’s mission trip in July 2023!



WAY Mission group 2022



WAY Mission Group helps serve through “The Outdoor Church”



By Jeff Mason, Finance/Endowment Committee

Good News About Our Endowment

We have some very good news to report about our endowment. We were notified in 2020 that our endowment fund had been named as one of the legatees in the will of the late Helen Khan, a faithful member of St. Stephen's Bethlehem UCC. At that time, however, we didn't know the dollar amount.

In May 2022 we received materials from the attorney representing Ms. Khan's estate, saying we would be receiving a partial disbursement of \$210,000. Our Finance Committee prayerfully considered the best way to handle the check once we received it. Due to the volatility of the financial markets this year, we decided to place half of the amount in our Balanced Funds Account with the United Church Funds and the other half in our UCF Cash and Equivalent Funds Account.

Additionally, we authorized the United Church Funds to transfer \$17,500 each month for the next six months (July through December) from our Cash Account to the Balanced Funds Account. This process is known as "dollar cost averaging," and our hope is that this will even out the volatility in the financial markets during the second half of 2022.

Ms. Khan's generous bequest has increased the value of our endowment by about 50 percent. Each January, we make a disbursement from the endowment based on the total value on the previous September 30. Ninety percent of this disbursement is divided equally among Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center, United Church Home d/b/a Plymouth Crossroads, and the Department of Community Ministries. The remaining ten percent will be determined by the Area Council and Finance Committee, with final approval at the annual meeting in November. Thanks to Ms. Khan, the January 2023 disbursement will be substantially larger than in past years.

As of June 30, 2022, we had \$34,659.04 in the American Funds (down from \$38,590.70 at the end of March); \$446,696.94 in the United Church Funds Account 009 (up from \$388,550.13 in March); and \$140,820.46 (up from \$33,393.60 in March).

The total value of our endowment accounts on June 30 was \$622,176.44, which was an increase of \$161,642.01. The \$210,000 bequest was deposited in our two United Church Funds accounts on June 15, so you can see there was quite a drop in the value of our existing investments between March 31 and June 30. We hope the third quarter of 2022 will go better, since our January 2023 disbursement will be based on the total value of our fund on September 30.

from Rev. Gary Ferner

Churches in Transition

Pilgrim Memorial/First Congregational Jamestown
Covenant UCC Gasport
New Covenant UCC Buffalo

I encourage all of our area pastors and congregations to keep these churches in our prayers as they discern the path to new leadership.



from Elaine Utech, St. John's UCC

Happy Anniversary!

St. John's UCC Buffalo is celebrating 175 years, along with Elaine Utech, who has been a church Pastor for 20 years. Elaine also received 35 years as member at Elliott Creek Volunteer Fire Co. (firefighter/paramedic Captain) and 30 years as Fire Chaplain. She also has 21 years of Chaplain service for NYS Association of Fire Chaplains and 21 years as Volunteer Jail Chaplain. Godspeed, St. John's UCC Buffalo.



**St. John's UCC, Strykersville
Upcoming Fall Craft Sale**

St. John's United Church of Christ,
608 Centerline Rd, Strykersville, 14145
Located at the corner of

Dutch Hollow & Centerline Roads in Strykersville

Saturday, November 5th from 9AM-2PM

Handicap Accessible

Offering a fine selection of handmade crafts for
Fall, Christmas, Home, Baby, and more.

Just in time for the holidays!

Questions- email us

at: st_johns_ucc@yahoo.com



Faith UCC, Williamsville
1300 Maple Rd Williamsville, 14221
Part time Secretary / 3-4 hrs. per wk.
Flexible schedule, \$20/hr.

For more information: Contact: Sue Wilson
s_k_wilson@msn.com



FAITH UCC, WILLAMSVILLE'S

TRUNK OR TREAT

FRI., OCT. 28

4:00- 6:00P.M.

FAITH UCC PARKING LOT

1300 MAPLE/CORNER OF HOPKINS

WILLIAMSVILLE, 14221

BRING YOUR KIDS AS WE PASS OUT
CANDY!

WEAR A COSTUME FOR MORE FUN!



Trinity Cooks for the Community

Enjoy a Free Meal on the Second Saturday of the month from January to November.

4 to 6 pm or until gone; come early.

Schedule of Meals:

- September 10 – Pasta and Meatballs, veggie, bread & cookies
- October 8 - Roasted Chicken, stuffing, fruit cup, veggie & cookies
- November 12- Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggie, bread & cookies
- No meal in December

Everyone is welcome!

Trinity United Church of Christ
30 Erie Avenue, Gowanda, NY
716-532-3004

<https://trinityuccgow.wixsite.com/trinityuccgowanda>

Kenmore UCC, Upcoming Fall Events

Kenmore United Church of Christ has a few events coming up this fall. After beginning with Rally Day, we invite everyone to join us for our **Fish Fry fundraiser**. On **Friday, September 16** from 4PM until sold out (or 7PM) you can enjoy a delicious BW’s beer-battered haddock take-out dinner for \$14.00. This includes macaroni salad and cole slaw. Chicken finger dinners are also available for \$11 with the same sides included. Call the church at 716-875-1725 or email iraich@hotmail.com with questions or to order tickets.

Our next event will be the long-awaited (COVID postponed) installation of our pastor, Rev. Dawn Marie Meier on Sunday, October 16. More information will be available soon, so please save the date.

St. Matthew’s United Church of Christ

CRAFT FAIR & Basket Raffle

Saturday, September 24
10am-3pm

Come check out the 20 crafters and artisans selling their creations and take a chance on winning a basket!
(over 50 baskets to choose from!)



Free Admission

* * *

Accepting food donations for local food bank

St. Matthew’s UCC
5289 McKinley Parkway
Hamburg, NY 14075
716-649-1532
office@stmattsucc.org

from www.happierhuman.com

A Prayer for the Start of the School Year

“Dear God, thank you for our school. We pray it would be a safe place of learning, fun, and friendship. Please watch over all our teachers, children and families. Help us to learn new things, explore the world together, and to play and be happy. Help us to have a love for each other, to have forgiveness at our heart, and to build kindness into every day.”



**CHICKEN BARBEQUE
First Congregational UCC
132 N. Main St., Angola, 14006**

Includes 1/2 chicken, buttered spuds, baked beans, roll & brownie. Saturday, September 10, 2022, 11:30am – 4:30pm/or until sold out. \$13.00 eat in or take-out. Enter on N. Main St. and exit on High St. For pre-sale tickets call 716-549-2115.

Prepared by Toni & Tony.



**First Congregational UCC
Annual Fall Bazaar**

Saturday, October 29th, 2022
132 N. Main St. Angola, NY 14006
Booths Open 10:00am to 4:00pm
Dining Room 11:00am to 3:00pm

Come and see our booths:

- THEME BASKETS**
- TIMELESS TREASURES**
- BOOK NOOK**
- CRAFT VENDORS**
- FARMER'S MARKET**
- CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND**
- JEWELS & GEMS**
- BAKED GOODS**
- RADA KNIVES**
- BECKER'S BISTRO**

Event Subject to Change Following CDC Guidelines



**Payne Avenue Christian Church
Drive-Through Chivetta's Chicken
Dinner**

1459 Payne Ave.
North Tonawanda, 14120
Noon to 4pm

Saturday, December 3rd
Ticket price will be \$15.00.

Dinners will include 1/2 chicken, roll and butter, macaroni salad and coleslaw! Arrive early before they are sold out!

Questions call Debra @ 716-990-3942
or the Church Office 716-260-1217

FallFest is Back at Arcade UCC!

Chowder, Basket Raffle, and all the usuals!

This year's FallFest will happen on
Saturday, October 8, 2022.

Doors open: 11 am/ Ticket Drawing begins: 3 pm.
(Ticket Booths will close at 2:15 this year)

Reverse Bingo begins at 2:30

NEW THIS YEAR:

BUFFALO BILLS BASKET RAFFLE!



Basket includes a Josh Allen Jersey along with other Bills' items valued at more than \$200.00!

Tickets will be available at FallFest for \$10.00 each.

Homemade quilt raffle: tickets \$1 each/\$5 for 6.

Raffle held the day of FallFest – you don't need to be present to win!

Stay tuned for details on our Arcade UCC FB page!!

Also New This Year, credit cards will be accepted for most items!



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 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.
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.



In the Vineyard asks the question:

“What hymn would you like to sing in your church this fall?”

From James Wolfe, Kenilworth UCC

A favorite of mine is “Holy, Holy, Holy”. I hum it while I watch the sun rise...like right now!

From Rev. Paul Werner, St. James UCC, Hamburg

One of the hymns I always love to sing (it’s one of my favorites) is “Who Is My Mother?” It is in the *Sing! Prayer and Praise* hymnal.

From Shari Edgcomb, Kenilworth UCC

The hymn I am most looking forward to singing this fall is “We Gather Together”. It has always been one of my favorites. I also love “I’ve Got Peace like a River”. I would sing that anytime!

From Dee Wehling, Pembroke Community Church

The hymn that I am looking forward to singing in church this fall is “Living for Jesus”. I can’t forget my very favorite hymn, “Blessed Assurance”.

From Linda Dudkowski, Kenilworth UCC

“De Colores”; “Christ, Be Thy Light” and “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore.”

From Elaine Utech, St. John’s UCC, Buffalo

St. John’s UCC, Buffalo, especially enjoys, during harvest season, the hymn “Bringing in the Sheaves” or “Sowing in the Morning”.

From Rev. Faith Schaut

My favorites? “I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry”. I love this story that God is with us from birth to death and the places in between. Another one is “Here I Am, Lord” as it was the message I felt so strongly when called to the ministry; I still like it.

From friends Sue Wade and Judy Golde, Kenilworth UCC

“Draw the Circle Wide” and “Enter, Rejoice, and Come In” are hymns that express the hospitality offered during all seasons by the people in our church.



from: holisticfaithlifestyle.com/bible-verses-for-autumn/

Prayer for Autumn

God, we praise you for the countless beauties we see in nature. Along with all these things, I know you formed me and created me to live in your presence every day until we meet face to face!

In this middle season, I want to be mindful of how you've met my needs in the past. Don't let me forget how once you've met my needs, you keep going! You over pour and saturate my entire being with love, joy and hope so that I may comfort and encourage others. I know this season of change will be no different.

Let me be a reflection of you as I draw close to the sweet people you've placed in my life. May the meditations of my heart and the words of my mouth be pleasing to you. Knit us together in your love as we give thanks for all you have done and continue to do in our hearts.

Please make sure all submissions to *In the Vineyard* are at least 12-point font for easy readability. Thank you in advance!



Have You Seen the WNY Area Churches in Covenant Facebook Page?

When you are scrolling around Facebook, be sure to check out the WNY Area Churches in Covenant page! Stay up-to-date on upcoming events, links for registrations to various meetings, live-streamed services and much more! Simply click the link below to go directly to the Facebook page now! Then "like" the page to receive notifications in the future!

<https://www.facebook.com/WNYACIC>

The "In the Vineyard" Editorial Board welcomes any meditations or devotions that tie into the church year for our newsletter's front page.

(Word count of 400-475 words, please.)

Please submit your piece to inthevineyardeditor@gmail.com

Thank you in advance!

KENMORE UCC PRESENTS
FISH FRY
HADDOCK FISH FRY TAKE OUT

**FRIDAY,
 SEPTEMBER 16TH**

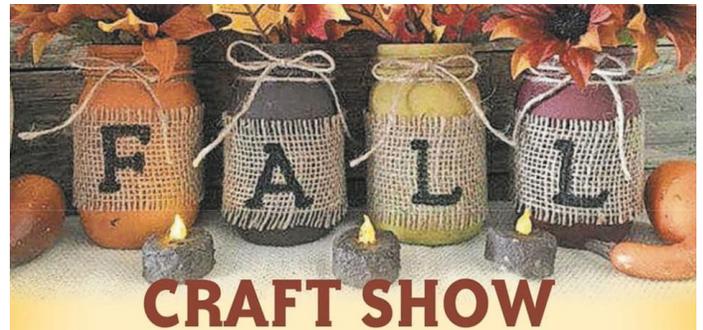
**4:00PM -
 UNTIL SOLD OUT**

\$14

DRIVE THRU SERVICE AT KUCC
 295 DELAWARE RD., KENMORE, 14217

CALL (716) 875-1725 FOR TICKETS

**ALSO OFFERING
 A CHILDREN'S
 CHICKEN FINGER
 DINNER FOR \$11!**

Faith Fall Craft Show
Faith UCC of Williamsville
 1300 Maple Rd/Corner of Hopkins
 Williamsville, 14221

Fri., Oct. 14 5:00P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
 Sat., Oct. 15 10:00A.M.- 4:00 P.M.

Over 25 vendors!

Ornaments~ wreathes~ photography~
 soap/candles~wood art~ jewelry~
 hats& scarves ~note cards~paintings~
 keychains~AND MUCH MORE!

Food available for purchase

11th Annual
**Food & Wine
 Pairing**

Bravo Cafe & Catering
 5781 Seneca Street, Elma

October 2, 2022

\$60 per ticket*
 includes:
 appetizers, entree and dessert -
 each paired with the perfect wine!
 *gratuity not included

Doors open at 4:30
 Dinner and Pairings begin at 5:00

For tickets call 674-1233

Proceeds to benefit
 St. Peter's United Church of Christ - West Seneca

Wild SALE

CRAFT & VENDOR EVENT

9.10.2022 | 10 AM - 3 PM
ST. PETER'S UCC
1475 ORCHARD PARK RD
WEST SENECA | NY | 14224

BASKET RAFFLE
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

**FREE
 ADMISSION**



WNYACIC Prayer Lists: September - November 2022

September Prayer List

St. Stephen's UCC, East Amherst.
Ned Holderby, Pastor
St. Matthew's UCC, Hamburg.
Rev. Lynn Morgan, Pastor
St. Paul's UCC (Shawnee), N. Tonawanda.
Rev. Ronald Lord, Pastor;
Bonnie Kane & Rebecca Pittler,
Christian Education
Grove Street Christian Church, Tonawanda.
Western Area Support Staff.
Michelle Kemp, Office Admin.
Budget & Finance Committee.
Commission on Ministry – Christian Church
(DOC).
In the Vineyard Editorial Board.
Shannon King, Editor

October Prayer List

St. Peter's UCC, N. Tonawanda.
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lawrence,
Supply Pastor
Zion UCC, Tonawanda.
Rev. Elizabeth Duffy, Pastor;
Susan Clark, Christian Education
Western Assoc. Conference Ministers and
Regional Support Staff.
Pulpit Supply Ministers.
Western Area Youth.
Climate Justice.

November Prayer List

First Congregational UCC, Angola.
Rev. David Donner, Pastor
Salem UCC, Tonawanda.
Rev. Jeremy Lopez, Pastor;
Dyanne Ingram, Christian Education;
Rev. Alice McDermott, Pastor Emerita
Faith UCC, Williamsville.
Tina Bacon, Pastor
New Light Christian Church, Buffalo.
Rev. Nadine Schrodt, Pastor
General Office, Christian Church (DOC).
Indianapolis, Indiana.
Rev. Teresa (Terrie) Hord Owens,
General Minister and President
SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for
Nonviolence.
Plymouth Crossroads.

from Rev. Lynn Morgan, Treasurer, WNYACIC

Western Area Treasurer's Report

Thanks to all the churches who have so faithfully supported the wider ministry of the Western Area! It's not unusual to hit a dry patch in the heat of summer, not just a lack of rain, but also a slowdown in giving. This year the dry patch is a bit worse than previous summers, so if your church can make a donation during the summer months it will be especially appreciated. Although we are well able to cover our ongoing expenses, we are currently running a deficit of \$5,340.

In September, each church will receive a letter that will report their giving to date for 2022 as well as each church's Covenantal Share for 2023 (based on reported membership in the 2022 Yearbook). Each church will be asked to give \$8 per member to the Association. The Per Capita support to the NY Conference UCC will continue at \$2 per member.

In every season, the generous support of God's people is crucial for the ongoing ministry of the church in all its manifestations. Thank you for your faithful giving.



A New Hymn Text from Al Plant

We Return to You

When your people, in the desert, lost their faith
and turned away,
Melted down their golden earrings, made an idol
to lead the way.
With good reason you were angry, to destroy
them was your plan;
Moses pleaded: “Show them mercy”; and you
spared them, every clan.

Oh, how often have we done the same, made you
angry, made you sad.
We have cast our share of idols: some obsession,
some new fad.
It’s so easy to let go of faith when our lives don’t
go as planned;
Turn our backs on all our blessings, letting go of
your strong hand.

Gracious God, our creator – please listen to our
prayer:
Many times we’ve tried your patience, earned
your wrath, not your care.
Yes, we’ve sinned, God, we admit it; we should
tear our clothes and fast.
Please forgive us, we’re your people; we return to
you at last.

to be sung to *BEACH SPRING* by B.F. White
Alfred C. Plant
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Verse 1 tells the story of the Golden Calf and verses 2 and 3 shares its meaning for us: our own need for repentance from faithlessness and our returning to God to find our true life. The Golden Calf story (Genesis 32) is in the lectionary for both September 11 and for October 16th. (Though it can be used anytime.) Permission has been given for congregations to use Al’s hymn in worship. Please use his name as listed with his (c) 2009 (copyright).



Church & Ministry Meetings –

2nd Monday of each month, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm
Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224.
Members & guests are notified directly of any
changes.

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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 Winter issue in by November 14, 2022.**