



## Connecting UCC and Disciples Congregations in Western New York

### Associate Conference Minister (ACM) for Search and Call Snapshot And Welcoming Diversity Inventory Description

By Rev. Gary Ferner, UCC

The ACM for Search and Call position was created two years ago, when the ACM for Communication and On-line Community position was created, and Rev. Ryan Henderson moved into that position full-time.

I was hired as a half-time ACM, to resource the Western Area churches and pastors, to support the Western Association Committee On Ministry, to support the WNYACIC (Western NY Area Churches in Conference) council, and to serve as a Conference-wide resource to all pastors and churches in transition.

When a pastor in transition completes their profile in the NY Conference, I review it, along with their background check, and then validate it so that it may be circulated to other UCC Conferences. When a Western Area church is in transition, I provide them with materials, resources, and guidance to get their Local Church Profile up on the National UCC Website.

I also guide churches in reviewing profiles, interviewing potential candidates, and answering questions as they come up in the search process. Before a congregation can post their Local Church Profile, I walk them through the **Welcoming Diversity Inventory**. I do this for all UCCNY congregations, along with their local ACM.

This begins with a PowerPoint presentation to the Search Committee on Inventory vocabulary and terms that may be new to a congregation, along

with a discussion on what the Inventory is designed to do, and what it does not do.

It is designed to sensitize a congregation around issues related to calling pastors from marginalized communities: LGBTQI+ persons, pastors of color, pastors with physical challenges and pastors with mental health challenges (Post-traumatic stress, Depression, Anxiety issues).

It does not 'collect data' on a congregation, it is not used to compare congregations, it does not result in a 'score', and it is not used to label a congregation.

The information collected in the survey is for the individual congregation's use only, and raw data is given to the congregation at the end of the survey, or destroyed, depending on that congregation's wishes.

A congregational meeting to go over the results is the final step before a congregation's profile is posted. Typically, the local ACM, myself, and pastor from a marginalized community will meet to go over the results, and offer any observations or comments.

Once a Local Church Profile is posted, I forward Pastoral Profiles to UCCNY churches in transition at the request of the potential candidate. I cannot send a profile without it being requested, and I cannot withhold a profile unless the local congregation requests a 'hold' on all profiles. I will assist any UCCNY congregation in crafting a call agreement with the pastor they wish to call and will work with any called candidates to make sure that the agreement is just and fair to both parties.

When able to travel, (and it looks like I can begin again in September) I try and come to the Buffalo area twice a month, around the Committee

on Ministry meeting (second Monday of the month) and the WNYACIC meeting (third Monday of the month). I typically try and fit meetings in with search committees, individual pastors, and lay leaders. I will travel upon request if necessary. Although I am a half-time local church pastor, serving Fairmount Community Church UCC on the west side of Syracuse, I have six Sundays a year where I serve UCCNY churches in preaching, or leading worship.

Staff meet once a week, for a short (one hour) check in, and once a month for a longer, (three hour) staff meeting lead by our Conference Minister, Rev. David Gaewski.

This is just a snapshot of some of the things I do. Each day is different! As I begin transitioning back to my travel schedule, I hope to see more of the Western Area members!



## **WNYACIC Prayer Lists: September - November 2021**

### **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.  
Rev. Hope Harle-Mould, Pastor  
Western Area Support Staff.  
Michelle Kemp, Office Admin.  
Budget & Finance Committee.  
Commission on Ministry - Disciples of Christ.  
*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  
Community Christian Church, Rochester.  
Rev. Steven Price, Pastor  
Association Conference Ministers and Regional  
Support Staff.  
Non-Parish Clergy.  
Western Area Youth.

### **November Prayer List**

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

## ***The Bible Provides an Alternative Identity***

***by Walter Brueggemann, from The Bible Makes Sense***

“The Bible provides us with an alternative identity, an alternative way of understanding ourselves, an alternative way of relating to the world.

It offers a radical and uncompromising challenge to our ordinary ways of self-understanding.

It invites us to join in and to participate in the ongoing pilgrimage of those who live in the shattering of history, caring in ways which matter, secured by the covenanting God who is likewise on pilgrimage in history.

This way of understanding our lives lets us be open to hurts (crucifixions) but also to healing surprises of new life (resurrections) which emerge in our common life.”

## ARCADE CHURCH INSTALLS PASTOR BOWER

By Jeff Mason, Arcade UCC Historian

The Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, installed Joshua B. Bower as its pastor and teacher during an afternoon service on Sunday, August 1. Pastor Bower began serving the church as a supply pastor in March 2020, shortly after the start of the pandemic, and was called to serve as pastor and teacher the following month.

For the next year, when in-person worship services were not feasible, he worked with others in the church to upgrade the technology required to provide quality livestreamed worship services. Although in-person worship resumed several months ago, a number of people in the area and in several states have continued to watch the livestreamed services.

In addition to Pastor Bower's family and friends and members of the congregation, many other clergy members were present for the installation service. The Gospel was read by Rev. Shawn Hannon, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Arcade, and the main message was delivered by Rev. Marna Pritchard, who served as Pastor Bower's mentor. Following the rite of installation by Rev. Laurie Heidenreich and Betty Krist, representing the Western Association, a greeting was read from Rev. Gary Ferner of the New York Conference, and a video greeting from representatives of the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference was shown. The charges to the congregation and to Pastor Bower were given by Rev. Robert Dievendorf, who was recently designated as pastor emeritus of the Arcade church.

Pastor Bower, who serves the church on a three-quarter-time basis, is continuing his studies at Chicago Theological Seminary in preparation for ordination. He lives in his hometown of Ellicottville with his wife, Nicole.

Pastor Josh Bower had this to say regarding his installation at Arcade United Church of Christ, "I am honored to be called by God and the wonderful people of Arcade United Church of Christ to serve in this community. I am looking forward to seeing the plans that God has in store for our church and the greater Pioneer area. I want to express my gratitude to everyone who made the Installation Service and reception so special and meaningful."

*(Photo credits to Jeff Mason)*



*Pastor Josh Bower, Betty Krist and Rev. Laurie Heidenreich are shown during the Rite of Installation.*



*Following his installation, Pastor Josh was presented with a stole by the church. It was draped over his shoulders by his mentor, Rev. Marna Pritchard.*



*Pastor Josh Bower is flanked by Pastor Emeritus Robert Dievendorf, left, and Rev. Shawn Hannon, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church.*

**Conferring the  
Recognition  
of  
Pastor Emeritus  
to  
Rev. Robert C.  
Dievendorf**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021  
2:00pm  
Arcade United Church of Christ  
297 Main St.  
Arcade, NY 14009**

**Reception to follow**



Chair yoga will improve flexibility and range of motion as well as help reduce stress and chronic pain.

Kathy Bragagnola will lead us in chair yoga classes offered at Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway. Starting Thursday, September 9, 2021 and continues each Thursday. 6:00-7:00 pm through October 21, 2021.

Exercises will be seated with some standing using the chair. All levels are welcome. Please wear comfortable clothing and sturdy shoes. Class will incorporate breathing techniques, mindfulness and end with a seated meditation.

Masks are mandatory. Social distancing respecting.

All levels are welcome. There is no fee.



**Chronic Pain and Fibromyalgia  
Support Group**

**Starts THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

**4:30 pm – 5:30 pm**

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

**All Welcomed**

**Enter through Parking Lot door.**

The group will meet monthly and be led by Rev. Dr. Barbara Hulsing and Sue Allen, Retired RN. For further information about the support group, contact Barbara at 716-574-0164 or [barb.hulsing@gmail.com](mailto:barb.hulsing@gmail.com).

**Self-Care Workshops Sponsored by  
Good Shepherd Community of Faith**  
*By Magda Miller, Good Shepherd Community of Faith*



**Chair yoga with Kat starts September 9, 2021  
Good Shepherd Community of Faith!  
187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo 14220**

**THURSDAYS, 6:00-7:00 PM**



## Self-Care Workshop

New York Project Hope crisis counselors, Ms. Yvonne and Ms. Ismahan, will be our guest speakers for our first Self-Care Workshop this fall on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, from 6:00 -7:30 pm. Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, 14220 (across from South Park High School). NY Project Hope is a FEMA-funded initiative to help individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters. Services provided through the Buffalo Urban League are available to offer information, education, emotional support and links to resources. Join us as we gather for this time of fellowship, learning and supporting one another. Persons may also participate via Zoom if they wish. Mask wearing is requested till all persons are seated. May be removed at that time if you feel comfortable in doing so and have been vaccinated. Social distancing will also be respected. Contact Sue. bsuea@yahoo.com; 716-697-1657 with any questions or to request Zoom ID. Any questions or to contact the NY Project Hope Emotional Support Helpline, call (716) 250-2478.



**NY Project Hope**  
is New York's COVID-19  
Emotional Support Helpline.

- Wednesdays, 3:30-5PM
- Church parking lot
- Available to ANYONE
- A wealth of information, resources, and services available

Emotional Support Helpline:  
1-844-863-9314

gscof.org

Here to help you cope with COVID-19....

NY Project Hope is a statewide initiative and services are available to every New York resident.

NY Project Hope is a Crisis Counseling Program that provides support, resources, and education to assist individuals and communities working to cope with COVID-19. **Counselors will be available each Wednesday, 3:30-5pm. Table will be set up in parking lot of Good Shepherd Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, NY, 14220.**

Counseling is free, confidential and anonymous.

COVID-19 has been challenging to our community. Counselors are available to talk. To listen. To support.

Call (716) 250-2478 for NY Project Hope Emotional Support Helpline. Monday – Saturday, 8:00 am – 7:00 pm.

## Churches in Transition

By Rev. Gary Ferner

**Pilgrim Memorial/First Congregational Church, Jamestown**

**Lockport UCC**

**St. James UCC, Hamburg**

**Covenant UCC, Gasport**

**St. John’s UCC, Strykersville**

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***In the Vineyard* asks the question: “What innovations has your church incorporated in the last year that you would like to keep?”**

**From Rev. Nancy Rosas, Pilgrim-St. Luke’s UCC**

Here are some things that Pilgrim St. Luke's UCC has incorporated in the last year and is keeping:

- We learned how to do it and have incorporated Hybrid Worship (Online and in-person simultaneously). Hybrid worship encourages inclusion; accessibility for everyone, especially for homebound people; people who are sick; people who live far from church or even in other cities and states who are looking for a church!
- Ministry team meetings by Zoom. We find that they tend to be more efficient timewise and allow more participation. People don't have to rush and drive from work to be in the church building for a meeting.
- Creative ways to connect outdoors to nurture faith, resilience, and joy.
- Creative ways to celebrate birthdays and rites of passage for people (cars parades or front-lawn little parties).
- Learning, practicing embodied practices.
- Online rituals and prayer time.

**From Rev. Zoe Ann Milliman, St. John’s UCC, Dunkirk**

St. John's Dunkirk now posts its service on Facebook.

**From Rev. Jan Mahle, East Aurora Christian Church**

This pandemic has pushed me as a pastor and the congregation I serve to adapt to a changing environment, especially regarding pandemic guidelines. Some of the temporary "get through this" measures are now adopted as our new normal. Here is a list of what I call ministry enhancements.

### 1. **Use of technology**

- Zoom for worship and a Read Aloud/Read Along book during the winter.
- Increase use of Facebook.
- YouTube for mini-worship experiences (each week from 3/2020-4/2021), now I use for special times. Also, I used YouTube for two Lenten programs: Read through the Kid's Bible each day for 40 days and did a Bible Study having other pastors present on the seven last words of Jesus; pre-recorded Christmas program with various families.
- Use of email for devotions and updates.

### 2. **Creative outreach to our community**

- Prayer flags and milagros. This is a prayer ministry using a clothesline strung outside for members of the community and congregation to share prayers.
- We made various gifts for the residents of Aurora Park—Valentines, Easter eggs and Bug centerpieces. The bugs were created from non-recyclable materials. They were quite whimsical. The bugs were secured to branches.
- For those without internet access, I connect through USPS each week. Periodically, I do a special mailing to others in the congregation.

### 3. **Worship**

- Each person has his/her own communion cup.
- We will be enjoying more outdoor worship services. During August we worshipped in our parking lot.

## Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational--Ride for Roswell

Jamey Craft headed a team from Arcade UCC for the second year in a row that met at the Arcade Park to do a Ride for Roswell and raise money for this important cause. The team met this year on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. The team raised \$4195 (so far!) for Roswell and then rode their bikes together to bring awareness to the importance of cancer research. Riders included: Jamey and Bill Craft; Jim and Sheila Vrenna; Ginger Comstock; Jeff Mason; Kim Common; Shannon, Brody and Bryson King. Dona Roll provided support, counted laps and documented the event! Cherry Carl also was a part of the group with her support. Another member of Arcade UCC, Jay May, raised money and participated in the Ride for Roswell. Thank you to all who organized, participated and donated!



## SAVE THE DATE HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI Sewing Event



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021  
9 AM-2 PM  
GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY OF  
FAITH  
187 SOUTHSIDE PARKWAY  
Buffalo, NY 14220

For more information contact Sue:  
716-697-1657, [bsuea@yahoo.com](mailto:bsuea@yahoo.com)



## ST. PETER'S UCC PRESENTS TWO MEAT RAFFLES

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 1475 Orchard Park Road in West Seneca 14224, will hold two Meat Raffles this coming fall. The first is scheduled for Saturday, October 23 and the second is scheduled for Saturday, November 20. Meat is supplied by Camillo's Sloan Meat Market. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for both events. Tickets are \$7 per person presale, or \$8 at the door. A table of eight can be bought in advance for \$50. Ticket includes admission to one raffle, a beer or pop, and a sandwich. Guests can bring their own snacks and coolers for their winnings. 50/50 raffles will be held throughout the evening. A limited number of tickets are available. Presale tickets may be obtained by calling the church office at 716-674-1233. Visit the church's web site at [www.st-petersucc.org](http://www.st-petersucc.org) for further information on this or any other activities of St. Peter's.



South Buffalo Community

## "BEEF & BASKETS"

*Roast Beef Sandwich Luncheon &  
Basket Raffle*

Sunday – Sept 12, 2021 - 12 noon – 4:00 pm.

Good Shepherd Community of Faith,  
187 Southside Parkway, Buffalo, NY 14220

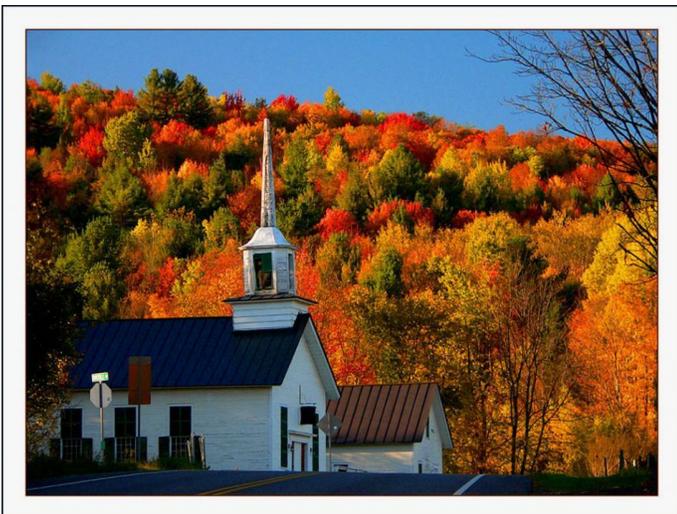
Includes Sandwich with Cole Slaw, chips and  
a pickle!

Help support Good Shepherd's only  
fundraiser!

How to get Pre-Sale Tickets

Buy pre-sale tickets for \$8.00 on Sundays at church  
from Tina, call the church at (716) 824-4112 OR  
email [gscofChurch@gmail.com](mailto:gscofChurch@gmail.com)

You can also TEXT Janice at 716-200-2406 or buy  
your tickets online at our website <https://gscof.org/>  
Another option is to send a check to Good Shepherd  
Community of Faith, 187 Southside Parkway,  
Buffalo, NY 14220, and Magda will mail them to you.



## Community Health Fair

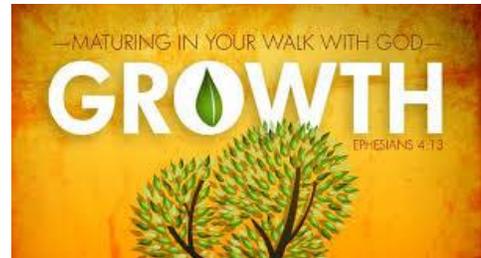


### Health & Safety Fair

Good Shepherd Community of Faith,  
187 Southside Parkway in South Buffalo  
14220

(Across from South Park High School)

A **FREE** fun-filled family event Saturday,  
**October 2, 2021**  
**10:00 am-2:00 pm**



### Center for Christian Growth News

By *Debbie Katz and Kirsten Albrecht-Carrie*, Co-directors

The Center for Christian Growth has settled into our new home, and we are again ready to help all our churches. We are located at 149 Broad St, in the city of Tonawanda 14150, in First Presbyterian Church. Our new phone number is 716-389-2023. Our email is still [resourcecenterwny@gmail.com](mailto:resourcecenterwny@gmail.com). Staff is in the Center on Wednesday of each week between 10:00 and 12:30; we are able to set up appointments for other times as needed. Please call before you come to the Center so we can expect you. (Building security requires us to keep exterior doors locked).

We look forward to seeing you soon! We have some exciting new curricula and other resources to share!

## What's Happening at KUCC?

By Pat Burgstahler, Kenmore United Church of Christ



Kenmore United Church of Christ, 295 Delaware Rd., Kenmore 14217, has had and will be having lots of good things going on in spite of the COVID cloud which hangs over us. This past summer, we had several adult fellowship workshops where two dozen members, family and friends gathered to create 16 beautiful baskets of paper flowers which were donated to St. Catherine's Nursing Home next to Sisters Hospital. We hope to repeat something similar for the Christmas holidays.

After celebrating Rally Day in September, our next event will be a BW's Chicken BBQ on October 6, from 4-7. It will be take-out only. The price is \$13 which includes sides and dessert. For information or tickets, call 716-875-1725 and leave a message for Jim. Hope you can join us for good food and to support our ministry.

On October 24, we will have a double celebration. It is our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the installation of Rev. Dawn Marie Meier. The installation is long overdue because of the pandemic. We will have a special service of worship at 10:30. At 3 PM, we will have the installation followed by a reception for both events. Invitations will be sent in early October.



## Upcoming Events at Ebenezer UCC

Ebenezer United Church of Christ at 630 Main Street in West Seneca, 14224, has the following events scheduled this Fall/Winter. Watch for additional information on their Facebook page or call 716-674-4566:

### September 11 & 12:

Cash for Cans Fundraiser, Drive up and deposit in a truck

### September 17:

Apple Harvest Social, Sloppy Joes, Apple Crisp and Art Show

### October 8 & 9:

Rummage Sale

### October 22:

Meat Raffle @ Matthew Glab Post, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, 14218

### December 5:

Vespers Music Program

### December 19, 5 PM:

Living Nativity

### December 24:

5 PM, Christmas Eve Family Service

9 PM Communion and Candle Light Service

11 PM Communion and Candle Light Service



## Upcoming Events at Dunkirk Camp & Conference Center



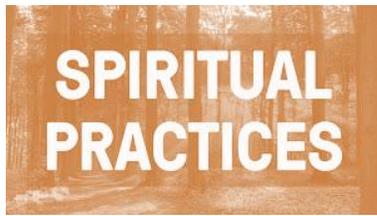
## Support for Dunkirk Camp and Conference Center

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.



**Wednesday Evenings**

**Fall 2021**

**6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

Phoenix United Church of Christ  
1280 N. French Road, Amherst, NY 14228

SPIRITUALITY & PRAYER WORKSHOP SERIES  
presented by Pastor Marcia Tolman  
[pastorphoenixucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorphoenixucc@gmail.com)

Each workshop is a stand-alone introduction and practice.

Sign up for multiple workshops to build skills for personal practice.

\$5.00 per person/per workshop

Spiritual practices enable us to be present in the moment.

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

September 8,15,22	<u>Prayer Journaling:</u> just jotting your thoughts Using visual & audio cues to journal into prayer
October 6,13,20	<u>Prayer Beads:</u> Learn the history & make one of your own
November 3,10,17	<u>Attitude of Gratitude:</u> A practice to count our blessings everyday
December 1,8,15	<u>Peace Cranes:</u> A story of <a href="#">Sadako Sasaki</a> Information about the Peace Crane Project Centering oneself through creating origami cranes

**Register for workshops in the series with  
[this link](#)**

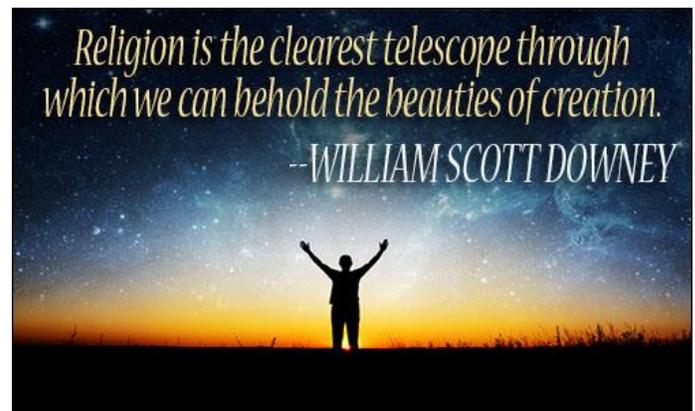
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HNSVXFB>

**HONORING OUR VETERANS**

Every year, Senior Wishes has the honor of recognizing area seniors who have served our country. We will once again be honoring 15 Veterans with a “HERO Box” filled with patriotic items and a gift card.

**NOMINATE A HERO YOU KNOW!** Think about the Veterans that you know and consider nominating them to receive a HERO box to honor their service to our country. Tell us about this person's service and why they deserve to be honored. Veterans must be 65+ and live in our five-county service area. After reviewing all submitted applications, 15 recipients will be chosen, and will be contacted to set up delivery during Veterans Week. WWII Veterans are prioritized! Applications may be found at [www.seniorwishes.org](http://www.seniorwishes.org) or by calling 716-508-2121. Application deadline is Friday, October 8, 2021.

For more information, contact: Wendy Backman at 716-508-2121 or [wbackman@uchsinc.org](mailto:wbackman@uchsinc.org)





## Senior Wishes is Looking for Seniors in Need at Christmas

Each year during the holiday season, many of our seniors struggle with loneliness, isolation and depression. They may no longer receive holiday invitations, visits or gifts of celebration. Family may be living far away. To address this problem, Senior Wishes has provided hundreds of seniors with Christmas gifts and a friendly visit as part of their “Simple Wishes for the Holidays” program.

Seniors must meet general guidelines as follows to be nominated:

- \*Age 65+ and residing in Erie, Niagara, Wyoming, Genesee or Orleans counties
- \*Income under \$38,000 for a household of one, or \$44,000 for a household of two
- \*This program specifically targets seniors without family support during the holidays, who are isolated and mostly alone. For many seniors, this gift is the only one they will receive.

Common requests are for small appliances, sleepwear, hobby supplies, and bedding. Requests must be for items under \$50. All seniors also receive a throw blanket, word search book and various small holiday items. Applications may be found at [www.seniorwishes.org](http://www.seniorwishes.org) or by calling 716-508-2121.

Donations for the Simple Wishes program are greatly appreciated, and may be made directly on our website, or by check mailed to One Fox Run Lane, Orchard Park, NY 14127.

## First Congregational UCC, Angola's 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, September 26, 2021  
12:00pm  
132 N. Main Street  
Angola, 14006

Free Will Offering  
Tickets \$15.00 each for non-members

Luncheon includes Baked Chicken, Pork Chops,  
Mashed Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Dinner Roll,  
Vegetable, Coffee, Tea and Wine

**PLEASE STOP IN THE  
CHURCH OFFICE TO PURCHASE TICKETS,  
CALL 716-549-2115 OR EMAIL  
[UCC\\_ANGOLA@VERIZON.NET](mailto:UCC_ANGOLA@VERIZON.NET)**

### Western Area Treasurer's Report

By Rev. Lynn Morgan, treasurer, WNYACIC

Thanks to all the churches who have so faithfully supported the wider ministry of the Western Area. We have a small operational deficit, but overall, our financial position is sound.

In September, each church will receive a letter that will report their giving to date for 2021 as well as each church's Covenantal Share for 2022 (based on reported membership in the 2021 Yearbook). Although the 2022 budget process has not begun, the estimates which will be sent will reflect the current Covenantal Share of \$8 per member. The Per Capita support to the NY Conference UCC will continue at \$2 per member. We ask churches who combine payments for Per Capita and Covenantal Share in one check to indicate the amount for each category.

2021 has not meant a 'return to normal' exactly, but as we navigate the changes in our churches, families, and workplaces, we are confident of the unchanging grace of God to sustain us in every age.

### ENDOWMENT NEWS

By Jeff Mason, Finance Committee

Our Endowment accounts continued to increase in value during the second quarter of 2021.

As of June 30, 2021, we had \$35,629.34 in the American Funds (up from \$33,699.79 in March); \$30,376.23 in the United Church Funds Account 010 (up from \$29,074.96 in March); and \$432,735.48 in the United Church Funds Account 009 (up from \$416,067.77 in March).

The total value of our Endowment on June 30 was \$498,741.05, which was an increase of \$19,898.53 from the March 31 total.

### Grants Available

by Pastor Ted Brelsford, Faith UCC, Boston

Grants from the Department of Community Ministries (DCM) are available to congregations to help develop new ministries serving their local community or bringing them into closer connection with their community or neighborhood. If members of your congregations work with local community groups doing community ministry, applications to fund such ministries may be considered. The intention of these grants is to support, encourage, and provide kickstart funding to churches in responding to the needs of their community. If you have an idea for outreach in your community in response to the pandemic or anything else, feel free to contact us and we will be glad to help you explore and develop a fundable plan. Any member congregation in good standing with the WNYACIC is eligible to apply.

A grant can be requested for a maximum of \$1500 and can be renewed for a maximum of three years per project, per church. A church may request up to two grants per calendar year.

Inquiries and requests for more information should be directed to Ted Brelsford ([pastor@faithunitedchurchucc.com](mailto:pastor@faithunitedchurchucc.com), 716-941-3925) or Hope Harle Mould ([hopeharlemould@gmail.com](mailto:hopeharlemould@gmail.com), 716-868-5533).



### Annual Fall Bazaar

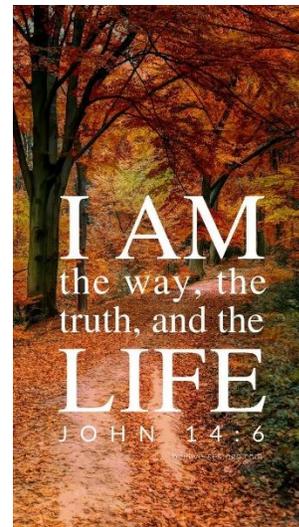
First Congregational UCC  
132 N. Main Street Angola, 14006

**Saturday, October 23rd, 2021**  
**Booths Open 10:00am to 4:00pm**  
**Dining Room 11:00am to 3:00pm**

Come and see our booths:

- THEME BASKETS
- 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\*\**





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST, ANGOLA  
Church Organist/Piano  
Player/Music Director  
Wanted**

132 N. Main Street, PO Box 231  
Angola, NY 14006

- \*Modern/ Contemporary Sanctuary/ Up-to-Date sound system
- \*Worship services live-streamed on YouTube
- \*Allen Organ and piano located in choir loft, electronic piano/keyboard on the floor of sanctuary
- \*Choir: fun, loves all styles of music
- \* Choir Rehearsal: Sunday Mornings 9:00am before 10:00 am service (not during summer)
- \*Possibility of summers off
- \*Salary paid twice a month - negotiable
- \*Two paid vacation Sundays per year
- \*Open to Music Student interested in expanding into Church/Religious experience
- \* Currently a 5 for 5 Congregation
- \* Beginning September 1, 2021

For more information, please contact Rev. Donner at 716-549-2115 or email [ucc\\_angola@verizon.net](mailto:ucc_angola@verizon.net)



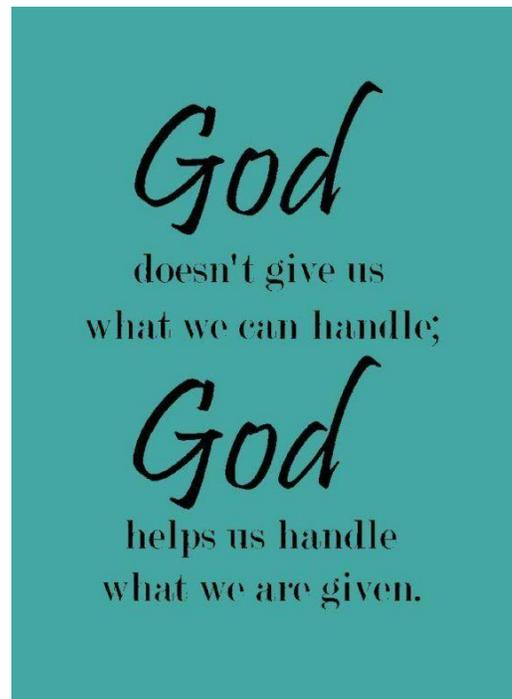
**CHICKEN BARBEQUE**  
First Congregational UCC  
132 N. Main St., Angola 14006

Includes 1/2 chicken, buttered spuds, baked beans, roll & brownie

**Saturday, September 11, 2021**  
11:30am – 4:30pm/until sold out

\$12.00  
Drive Thru/Take-out  
Enter on High St. and Exit on N. Main St.

**Pre-sale Tickets call 716-549-2115**  
Prepared by Toni & Tony



## Remembering Dr. Dorothea Brooks

*“I wrote the enclosed letter for the memorial services of Rev. Dorothea Brooks but did not get a chance to read it at her services. Dr. Brooks, as you know, served UCC churches here in WNY and I believe that many church members did not have a chance to pay their last respects to her. That is the reason I am sending it now.*

*“A Disciple of Christ minister and UCC ministers also made a video about immigrants which was made a few months before Dr. Brooks died. Dorothea gave an exceptionally good description and understanding of how the Bible speaks of immigrants on this video. If a church or anyone wants to see the video, I will send them a copy.”*

Best Wishes,  
Rev. Hugh Pratt  
[hhackettpratt@yahoo.com](mailto:hhackettpratt@yahoo.com)

### THE SACRED WAYS OF MANKIND AND

### THE REVEREND DOCTOR DOROTHEA BROOKS

By Rev. Hugh Pratt, Disciple of Christ  
February 25, 2020

Many people in the United States have been in a battle between the sacred ways of mankind and the less sacred ideals of others. Over many years, there has been one minister who has given her life, her career, her calling, to saving the sacred ways of mankind and worked to help make these core values live in the hearts and minds of all who would listen to her.

A few days ago, as we were attending a meeting of Disciples and UCC members and watching Dorothea Brooks speak on a film about the plight of refugees in the world, we learned that on that very day, she had passed away. This film showing may have been her last public effort to encourage all of us to know what the Bible says

about social justice ministry. Dorothea Brooks had a prophetic imagination. With her Bible in hand, she made social justice live again. No matter if she was speaking about refugees, people in poverty, the homeless, or the addict – time after time, week after week, year after year, she was able to make us hear the voice of God on their behalf. In all the years I have known Rev. Brooks, her heart was always on the side of the poor, the oppressed, the stranger, and those at the margins of society. She knew how to express the very depths of the Bible and apply these foundations to the soul of society. She helped make us feel the sacred ways of mankind and hear the voice of God, regardless of all the hatred, violence, and anger we have in the world we live in today.

### A Prayer for Opening to Scripture

by Hope Harle-Mould

*Yahweh God, as we open the covers of our Bibles this morning, may you open our minds and uncover our sight, to see the new truths waiting to be unearthed in your Word.*

*Holy God, as we turn to the chapter and verse of today's passage, may we treasure the sacred stories that were remembered and passed down by ordinary people of extraordinary faith, until these became scripture.*

*Redeemer God, as Jesus unrolled the scroll of Isaiah and read, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,” may we not only read of your acts of the past but experience your presence, here in our present.*

*Living God, as a burning lamp of olive oil lights a path through darkest shadows, may you ignite within us new embers of faith, so that long after we depart this place, many will be warmed by our glow. In the name of the Anointed One we pray and live. Amen.*

## Listening for the One Sentence

by Herb Brokering, Lutheran Pastor, well-known poet and hymn writer

*It was a sermon.*

*Not the best, but the only one for this day.*

*I could have slept with some of the others.*

*But I did not. I dared not.*

*I never do.*

*I had to stay ready, waiting and ready for the sentence.*

*Ready for the One Sentence that was worth it all.*

*I always come to hear all of it for the sake of the One Sentence.*

*When he says it, I will hear it.*

*There are thought gaps. Things he leaves out. Space.*

*I fill in the gaps as he goes along.*

*What he does not say to us I say to myself.*

*He does not try to say it all.*

*He leaves blanks and spaces for me to fill in.*

*I do.*

*He does not know when he says his big sentence.*

*I know.*

*It's when all the words become one word.*

*When all the thoughts become one thought.*

*It's when the words become like flesh and blood to me.*

*My flesh and blood, Lord.*

**Master's**

# Chicken BBQ

**Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

**St. Matthew's United Church of Christ\***



**Drive Thru Only**

Includes 1/2 Chicken  
salt potatoes  
coleslaw  
roll and butter

\$12 per meal (cash/check)

**\*5289 McKinley Parkway, Hamburg, NY 14075**

(from McKinley Pkwy gates, exit left; church on right; only .2 miles)

[www.stmattsucc.org](http://www.stmattsucc.org) ■ 716-649-1532

## Ten ways to love

Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)

Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)

Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)

Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)

Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)

Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)

Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)

Trust without wavering. (1 Corinthians 13:7)

Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)

Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)



## **When Haiti Is No Longer in the News, Will You Be Praying for Our Mission Partners There?**

*by Rev. Hope Douglas Harle-Mould*

When news headlines cry out about some calamity or catastrophe in some distant land, do you check to see if one of our UCC/DoC global missionaries or mission partners are already there? Chances are, they are.

Such was the case when on July 7<sup>th</sup> when I heard that Haiti's President had just been assassinated, sending the nation into turmoil. Immediately I went to our Global Ministries website ([globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org)) and checked for Haiti and found we had two mission partners there. And one of them touched me deeply: The House of Hope (sponsored by the non-profit Ecumenical Foundation for Peace and Justice) in Port-au-Prince.

House of Hope's primary mission is to support and advocate for *restaveks*, children who are forced to work as domestic indentured servants, providing them with tutoring and classes, giving them the education they need but cannot receive because they cannot attend school. House of Hope also focuses on assisting "young mothers, single girls, and elderly women who've been abandoned, providing them a safe place where they can learn social skills... and a professional trade. House of Hope also has a broader program to promote a peaceful resolution to conflict within the community through leadership development for community leaders and former gang members."

Even during the pandemic when classes were suspended, House of Hope "continued to walk alongside 350 families, providing them food, medical care, financial support, and psychological assistance."

One of their success stories is Marie, a little girl whose widowed mother (with other younger children) could not afford to send her to school.

But over the last five years, Marie has excelled in her studies: *"She is a dedicated student. Today, she is a 6<sup>th</sup>-grade student who dreams of becoming a nurse so that she can one day help other people."*

Soon after I learned about House of Hope, Haiti suffered a 7.2 earthquake and then almost immediately tropical storm Grace. Through it all, our mission partners are there, day in and day out, caring for neighbors well beyond their established programs, touching the lives of those we would seek to touch if we could go there in person.

Please keep Haiti and House of Hope in your thoughts and prayers well after the news cycle moves on. And you can personally get involved by giving directly to House of Hope. There are three ways to give:

1: You can speak to a DoC person by phone and give your credit card information (actually a fast and simple option) at (317) 713-2555. Or 2: You can mail in your check to either...Global Ministries, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or to...Global Ministries, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. Or 3: You can donate online through [globalministries.org](http://globalministries.org), through the DONATE option. In whatever way you give, make sure you designate "House of Hope, Haiti" as the PROJECT FUND NAME.

Thank you for connecting your prayers and action with our global church family.



## ***Don't Just Pray for Vaccines to Reach Poor Countries— Give Them Yourself!***

*by Rev. Hope Douglas Harle-Mould*

Prayer is important. Prayer sends out ripples of caring, changing us and those we seek to connect to. But taking action through generous giving is also a way to pray, a way to incarnate our caring through “the Christlike helpers” who come in person, delivering deliverance to the ones who’ve been forgotten, the ones who’ve also been praying, praying that “somehow, someone will come.”

Through advocacy, you can raise your voice to urge the U.S. to send more vaccines to more countries, urgently and soon. But the best way to ensure more vaccines get to remote villages around our globe is to give them yourself! Now!

You can incarnate your caring by giving today through UNICEF ([unicefusa.org](http://unicefusa.org)). Every \$5.00 you give will provide another dose of COVID-19 vaccine, syringe, transportation, and personnel to reach those image-of-God people in places where the pandemic rages but where the population is less than 5% or even 1% vaccinated.

UNICEF is the largest (non-governmental) buyer of vaccines in the world. They have decades of experience with child and adult vaccines in over 100 countries. They have the logistical and medical personnel already on site in most cases to reach the vulnerable, even in places of conflict or neglect. (And only 3% of UNICEF funds go toward administrative costs.)

How many vaccines do you desire to give? How many incarnated-prayers do you desire to send on their way?

“Somehow, someone will come.”

May it be you. May it be me.

[www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org) (for all UNICEF programs)

[www.unicef.ca](http://www.unicef.ca) (Canada’s branch of UNICEF, gives you the option of donating specifically for #GiveAVAX, and the Canadian government will actually match your gift!)



## **President of UCC John Dorhauer in WNY**

*By Lois Vidaver*

General minister and president of the United Church of Christ, Rev. John C. Dorhauer, preached during worship services in the Chautauqua Institution's Amphitheater's ninth and final week. Reported in *The Chautauquan Daily*, Staff Writer Mary Lee Talbot's articles are available online (see link below).

Well worth the read! Some of us will be able to hear our general minister preach sometime or another, but many will not; now is our opportunity.

Sermon titles are: August 22: "Human Identity"; August 23: "Justice is Central"; August 24: "Little Toil of Love"; August 25: "Recreate Church in Image of God"; August 26: "Who is God?"; August 27: "God's Vision".

<https://chgdaily.com/?s=dorhauer>

**Scroll down** to Dorhauer articles and photos.



**Church & Ministry Meetings –**

2nd Monday of each month

9:30 am to 2:00 pm

When back to in-person meetings, they will be at Ebenezer UCC, 630 Main St., West Seneca, 14224.

Members & guests are notified directly of any changes.

**New York Area Churches in Covenant (WNYACIC)**

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amos acree

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**\*\*Please pass this information to your Treasurer now so they send Covenantal Share checks to correct location. Thank you.**

**716-649-1532**

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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, 2021.

