



The Methodist Messenger

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 4 10:00 a.m.
Charge Conference with Natalie
Hanson

Saturday, December 4 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Christmas Shoppe at Seneca Street
UMC

Sunday, December 5 4:00 p.m.
Ring Master's Christmas Bell Concert

Friday, December 10
7:30 p.m. Book Club

Sunday, December 12
Bring *unwrapped* gifts for Angel Tree

Saturday, December 18 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Seneca Street UMC Christmas Party

Christmas Eve, December 24
3:00 p.m. Service of Word and Table

Christmas Eve, December 24
5:00 p.m.
Children's Christmas Celebration

Christmas Eve, December 24
8:00 p.m.
Stille Nachtmusik Chamber Music
Recital

Christmas Eve, December 24
10:00 p.m.
Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 9
Both services
Covenant Renewal Service

Williamsville United
Methodist Church
5681 Main Street,
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 634-4800
www.williamsvilleumc.org

A Christmas Prayer

*Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.*

*Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.*

Amen.

-Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

From Your Pastor

Seasons and Sundays: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, and Covenant Renewal

Pastor Rich Neal

We turn the page to a new year in the church's calendar on November 28, beginning a new liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, five weeks before the new year begins on any other version of the calendar we might use.

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming," is a season of four weeks proclaiming the comings (yes, it's plural) of Christ – whose birth we remember and prepare to celebrate again; who comes repeatedly in Word and Spirit; and whose return in final victory we anticipate. It didn't appear fully as a separate season until around the end of the fourth century, when the church recognized that Christmas and Epiphany needed a time of preparation much like Lent had developed as a preparation for Easter. And like Lent, its essential nature is penitential. In fact, Advent has been described often as a "little Lent"; hence, its traditional seasonal color is purple or, more recently, blue.

There is great tension in Advent around which coming of Christ we anticipate and how to best prepare for it. Advent looks forward to celebrating with joy the remembrance of Christ's first com-

ing in the infant Jesus, and it looks forward with awe and trembling to the coming of the *Rex tremendum* with nail-pierced hand and sleepless eye in final judgment. And it's in the parts of our lives likely to come under judgment where the threat is felt and where resistance to Christ's final coming is likely to arise.

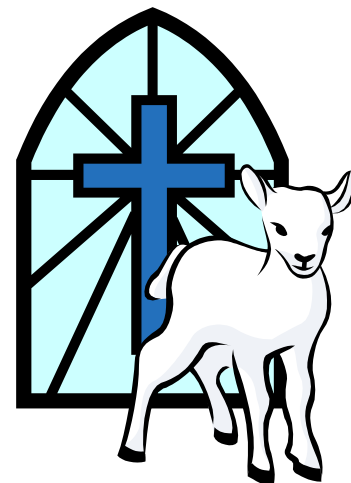
Expectant waiting is the essence of the season. However, rather than inviting a rush to the all-too-often sentimental remembrance of Jesus' nativity, Advent encourages us to reflect on what Christ's next and final comings may mean for us and to do so in watchful, hopeful consideration of how we will prepare for *those* comings, which will be unlike anything we have known or can expect.

Aside from the great prophetic passages of promise and expectation – from Isaiah, for example – the scripture that perhaps best captures the theme of Advent is from Saint Paul: "You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on

the armor of light" (Rom. 13:11-12). Traditional hymns most characteristic of Advent are "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending," "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying," and "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates."

Christmas — While Christmas has become for many the most popular Christian festival in Western culture, it ranks fourth in importance, behind Easter, Pentecost, and Epiphany, and it developed later in history. Its earliest mention was in the year 354, though there is evidence it may have been observed before 312.

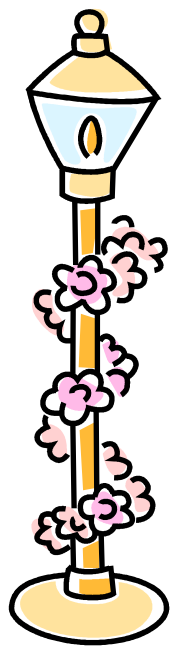
Gradually Christmas took over part of the commemoration of Epiphany. It is possible that the dates for the two feasts may have their roots in pagan celebrations, eventually replacing Saturnalia, or the Festival of the Unconquered Sun, which had marked the winter solstice. Over time, as the desire grew to celebrate specific events in the life of Christ, Christmas was separated from Epiphany.



When I say that
"I am a Christian," I'm not
shouting "I'm
clean living."
I'm whispering "
I was lost, but
now I'm found
and forgiven."



(Continued on page 3)



Advent Worship Themes

December 5

The main character in this drama . . . will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. (Matt. 3:11 *The Message*)

December 12

The people God has ransomed will come back on this road. . . . Welcomed home with gifts of joy and gladness as all sorrows and sighs scurry into the night. (Isa. 35:10 *The Message*)

December 19

Through him, we received both the generous gift of his life and the urgent

task of passing it on to others who receive it by entering into obedient trust in Jesus. (Rom. 1:5 *The Message*)

Christmas Eve – 3:00 p.m. Service

December 24

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)

December 26

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you.” (Matt. 2:13)



(“Seasons and Sundays”, Continued from page 2)

Epiphany — The word *epiphany* means “manifestation,” and in our tradition it refers to the manifestation of God in Jesus Christ. Originally this feast celebrated the birth of Christ, the baptism of Jesus, and Jesus’ first miracle, the turning of water into wine at a wedding in Cana (John 2:1-12). The common theme in all of these events is Jesus manifesting God to humans. The date of Epiphany is Jan. 6, though it is often celebrated on the Sunday immediately before that date, as we will do in our congregation.

Baptism of the Lord — This event, which we celebrate on the first Sunday after Epiphany, commemorates Jesus’ baptism by John in the Jordan

River. It is often a day when members of the church remember their own baptismal vows as they begin a new year.

Covenant Renewal Sunday — John Wesley established covenant services as an important part of early Methodist life. On Christmas Day, 1747, he wrote in his journal, “Urged the wholly giving up of ourselves to God and renewing in every point our covenant that the Lord should be our God.” Wesley based his use of the service on Deut. 26:17-18 and Jer. 31:31-34. Early covenant services were held on a variety occasions, but toward the end of Wesley’s life they were usually celebrated on New Year’s Day or on a Sunday near the beginning of the year. At WUMC, this year we will celebrate Covenant Renewal Sunday on January 9.



Music Notes

Celebrating Christmas through Music

Judy Stafford

Our wonderful choirs and musicians at WUMC are working hard to prepare some beautiful and meaningful music for the upcoming Christmas season.

During Advent, you will hear the Chancel Choir sing:

- ♫ "O Come Emmanuel" by Joseph Martin featuring Karen Ferington, soprano soloist
- ♫ "The Annunciation" by T. Fettke, which incorporates Paul Schlossman playing "Gabriel's Oboe" by C. Rossetti with the choir
- ♫ A festive "O Come, All Ye Faithful" arrangement with handbells, organ, and keyboard

On Christmas Eve, you will hear "Away in a Manger" with cello and handbells, a string quartet, and our own "Rock of Ages" Philharmonic Orchestra.

WUMC is blessed to have such gifted choirs and musicians to help us celebrate the Good News of Jesus' birth.



Fifth Annual Christmas Bell Concert – December 5

The Ring Masters, a community handbell ensemble, will present its annual Christmas program in WUMC's sanctuary on Sunday, December 5, at 4:00 p.m. This concert is free and open to the public. The program features seasonal music and favorite Christmas carols. The mem-

bers of the ensemble, who hail from various towns, come together in their shared interest in the art and fun of handbell ringing. The Ring Masters ensemble is led by Gloria Werblow, who is an international carillonneur and the director of the annual Summer

Carillon Series in Williams-ville.

The Ring Masters wish to thank WUMC's music directors, Judy Stafford and Wendy Amuso, and WUMC's congregation for providing rehearsal space and supporting our music.



Stille Nachtmusik Chamber Music Recital - Christmas Eve

Williamsville UMC will once again present its Christmas Eve STILLE NACHTMUSIK Chamber Music Recital at 8:00 p.m. in the church's sanctuary. Chamber music for various combinations of strings, winds, keyboards, and voice will be on the program in works of Fasch,

Rontgen, Wermann, Rasse, and Oliva. Featured performers include:

- ♫ Paul Schlossman on oboe/oboe d'amore/English Horn
- ♫ String playing members of the Prokes family, Boissonnault family, Rogerson family, and the Cartus/Robinson families

- ♫ Allison Lyttle horn
- ♫ Karen Ferington soprano
- ♫ Paul Ferington, organ, harpsichord, and piano

Following the Stille Nachtmusik Recital, please join us in the parlor for "Dessert Nacht," as we enjoy coffee, tea, and delicious treats before the "Festival of Lessons and Carols" service begins at 10:00 p.m.





Advent Choir Halloween Party!

Costumes, singing, and games – oh my! On October 27, we combined Advent Choir Rehearsal with a Halloween Party – can't pass up a chance to have fun! The wonderful costumes, the many enthusiastic singers who participate in our Advent Choir!



WUMC Leadership and Conference Updates

Call for Civility in Politics

United Methodist Church Upper New York Area Resident Bishop Marcus Matthews has called on newly elected political leaders to cultivate an atmosphere of civility in state and national politics. In his letter of congratulations to New York Governor-elect

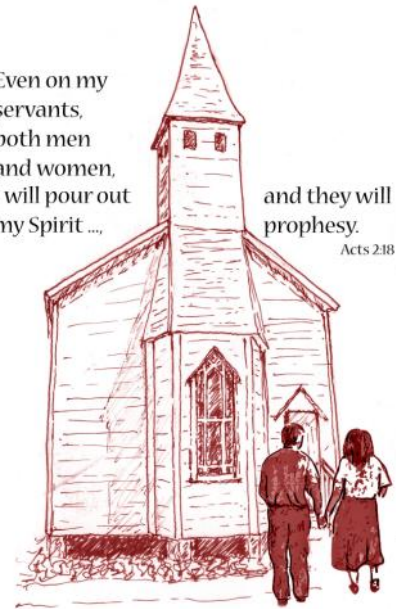
Andrew Cuomo and several other politicians elected on November 2, Bishop Matthews urged them to work with all parties to improve the quality of life in the state and the nation. Bishop Matthews reminded the politicians that the church will keep them in prayers.

“We pray and hope that you will work with all parties, especially those marginalized by society, in making New York State a better place to work and live.” He also sent congratulatory letters to U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit ...

and they will prophesy.

Acts 2:18



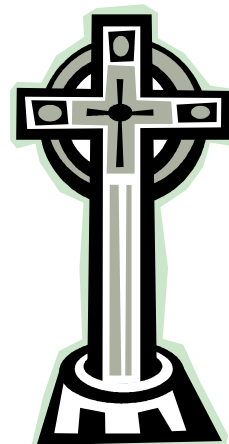
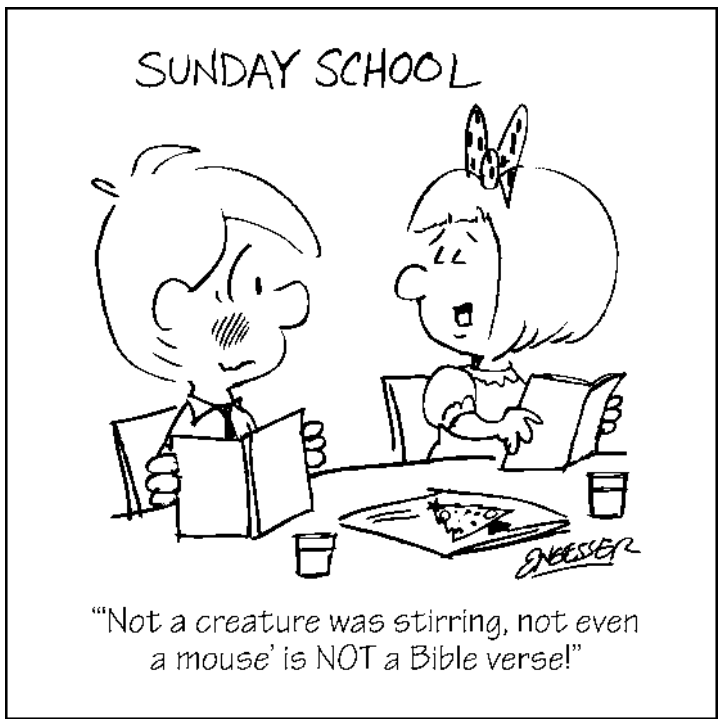
Catch the Spirit - February 5

The Niagara Frontier District's Board of Laity announces the Catch the Spirit Discipleship Gathering planned for Saturday, February 5, 2011 at Clarence UMC,

10205 Greiner Road, Clarence, NY 14031. This is an opportunity to expand your faith, be a more faithful Disciple for Christ, develop talents in ministry, and

learn more about the church. Workshops will be presented by both lay persons and clergy. Watch for brochures in December!

"Did You Know?"
 We are part of the Upper New York Annual Conference that has **185,000 members, 937 churches,** in 49 of New York State's 62 counties – **12 districts!**
 You can find us at: <http://unyumc.org>!



CE Dates to Remember

Sunday, December 5
9:45-10:30 a.m.
“Advent Fair” for children ages 3 through 4th grade and their families

Thursday, December 9
6:30 p.m.
Children and Youth Christian Education Team Meeting

Sunday, December 19
9:45-10:30 a.m.
“Movie Day” showing “Charlie Brown’s Christmas” for children ages 3 through 4th grade and their families

Sunday, December 26
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, January 3
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, January 3
Brunch for Teachers and Helpers

Thursday, January 13
6:30 p.m.
Children and Youth Christian Education Team Meeting

Christian Education News

Confirmation Class 2011

Confirmation classes will begin January 27, 2011 and go through June 2, 2011. This year’s class is being co-taught by Pastor Nick Perry of Bowmansville and Pastor Carmen Perry. The class will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Williamsville UMC from Jan. 27 to March 31. Then from April 7-June 2, the classes will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Bowmansville UMC. All students will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, at their respective churches.

Confirmation class is open to persons who are in eighth grade or higher. If you would like to register your child, contact Pastor Carmen at carmenper-ry10@yahoo.com.

Christian Education Team Meetings – December 9 and January 13

A warm welcome to anyone interested in attending our **Christian Education Team meetings**. We are always looking for new faces and ideas. So, if you have thought about becoming more involved in the CE ministry, please join us! Our next meetings are on Thursday, December 9, and again on Thursday, January 13, 2011. Both meetings are at 6:30 p.m. in the church office.

We welcome anyone to join us who has a desire to get more involved with WUMC’s Christian Education program. If you would like to know more about being part of the CE Team, contact Judy Toone at 634-4800.

Children’s Christian Education

“Christmas Messengers” Sunday School Study

Beginning Sunday, November 7, and throughout the Christmas season, our kindergarten through fourth grade Sunday school classes will learn about the “Christmas Messengers.” Parents – you can reinforce these lessons by helping your children read and think about the following scriptures: Luke 1:26-33 and 38; Matthew 1:18-24; and Luke 2:8-14.

These Christmas Messengers actually appear three times in the Bible stories the children will be studying in their Sunday school classes. Parents can go a step further by helping their children find other instances in the Bible where these “messengers” appeared to others.



Advent Fair – December 5

Mark your calendars for this year's Advent Fair on Sunday, December 5, from 9:45-10:30 a.m. Instead of our usual Sunday school that morning, families are invited to join their

children downstairs in Fillmore Hall for a morning of Advent and Christmas activities. Lots of holiday fun lies in store for everyone as we make decorations and hear Christ-

mas stories! Please join your children on

December 5 for this very special Advent event!



Sunday School Movie Day – December 19

On Sunday, December 19, instead of our usual Sunday school programs from 9:45-10:30 a.m., we will pop some popcorn and watch "A

Charlie Brown's Christmas" downstairs in Fillmore Hall! Families with children ages 3 through 4th grade are invited to join us as we

show this timeless classic on our big screen!



"Day of HOPE" Update

Instead of our usual Halloween celebration last October, we started a new tradition that applied lessons we learned in our study of the seven helpers in the Bible - Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenus, and Nicholas - during our "Day of HOPE" (Helping Other People Everywhere) event. This special outreach event was such a huge hit; we have officially adopted the name, "Day of HOPE," for this yearly event. In October 2011, we plan to reach out to help even more groups!

During our Day of Hope on October 21, 2010, the children rotated from station to station to make different things that were donated throughout the western New York area. For example, the children:

- ❖ **Made more than 50 sandwiches for the Central City Café soup kitchen**
- ❖ **Decorated lots of cookies for Central City Café**
- ❖ **Tied knots to make four fleece blankets that Gateway Longview will include in their Intake Kits**
- ❖ **Colored numerous bookmarks that will be paired with books we gather to donate to the children and**

youth ministries at University UMC and Cleveland Hill UMC

❖ **Assembled 50 turkey decorations that Barbara Saltarella will use to brighten the days of our friends in nursing homes and others who are homebound**

A special thanks to all the adults and Junior High youth who helped run the stations at our Day of HOPE. Another special thanks to Wegmans, who graciously donated the sandwich supplies when their heard about our outreach event. What a wonderful day we had Helping Other People Everywhere!

Junior High Youth Blast

The Junior High Youth Group has had a very busy fall, and we're looking forward to an equally active winter! This fall, we completed some service projects such as making sandwiches for the Central City Café soup kitchen and Christian Symbol decorations for those in nursing homes.

On November 21, we will attend the "Hanging of the Greens" to participate in preparing our church for the coming of Christ. After that, we will work on our Junior High Room to give it a much needed revitalization! The old rug is being removed and we are gathering ideas for the "new look."

Mark your calendars for our next scheduled meetings:

Sunday, November 21
12:00 Noon

Note: Different time than our usual meetings

Sunday, December 5
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 19
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Our meetings are open to any youth in grades 5-8, and we are always ready to meet new friends. If you haven't had a chance to attend a meeting yet, we look forward to sharing our faith with you.

Fun in Faith!
Gary and Annette Jones
Tom and Sara Wishman



Adult Christian Education

Listed below are the ACE opportunities offered each Sunday morning from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. between the two worship services at Williamsville UMC. Look over the information about each adult Sunday school class, and then plan to join us when you can on Sunday morning!

Parables of Jesus: From a Modern Perspective



Through December, Barbara Manhardt and Cheryl Thomas will continue to facilitate the "Parables of Jesus" adult Sunday school class. This is a film-based Bible study curriculum that focuses on Jesus' parables. The films and related study

seek to recreate the emotional immediacy that Jesus' 1st-century audience felt when hearing the parables. The level of understanding makes it possible to develop a deeper understanding of the parables and of the Bible. Please join us

during December in the first classroom on the right as you go down the stairs by the Oakgrove entrance. Don't miss the final weeks of this interesting study!

Contemporary Issues



Now that the Contemporary Issues adult Sunday school class concluded its discussion of Islam this fall, they will continue a rich tradition of discovering theological issues through Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience. Each

week this class meets to discuss all manner of topics from news headlines to book studies to Biblical themes and current events – all presented in an atmosphere of learning. Come when you can...you are always welcome! We meet from 9:45

to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the parlor, immediately at the rear of the sanctuary. If the partition is closed, please come in any way! We are just trying to keep the noise out - not the people!

Perk Up Your Sunday Morning at Eternal Perks

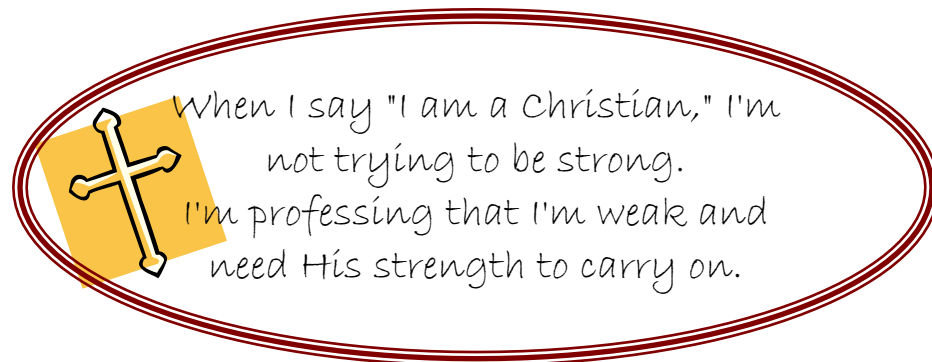
Are you looking for a relaxing place to read the Sunday paper and grab a cup of coffee while your children are in Sunday school or while waiting for the second service to begin? Join us in our Eternal Perks coffee lounge, located in the library off the narthex, every Sunday between our two services for a fresh cup of java! While the conversation is free, donations toward the coffee are always appreciated!

Adult Bible Study Class - Resumes January 2011

This adult Sunday school class, led by Greg Valentine, focuses on Bible study using materials published by Cokesbury. Each quarter we focus on a different Bible theme or book. The class is highly dis-

cussion oriented with a wide range of ideas and interpretations. Questions are not only welcome, but also encouraged! Beginning in January, we will meet every Sunday morning from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. down

the stairs by the Oakgrove entrance in the first classroom on the right. Please come to the Adult Bible Study Class when you can - you are always welcome!



Caring Corner

Opportunities to Get Involved This Holy Season

As we approach this holy season of Advent and Christmas, there are many things going on at WUMC. We hope you participated in "Hanging of the Green" and the Lunch Potluck in November. As we move into December, Membership Care is providing other ways for the congregation to get involved in our community both inside and out of church including:

- The angel sitting proudly on top of our **Remembrance Tree** is declaring HOPE and is looking for donations of hats, gloves, and scarves. These items will be given to those receiving cancer treatments.
- Members of the community are visiting the **Food Pantry** frequently, so the shelves could use more items. As we prepare for the holidays, it would be great to remember those less fortunate within our own walls and neighborhood. Please donate items to the Food Pantry if you are able. We thank you for your generous spirit during the Christmas season. The Member Care Team would like to wish everyone a Joyous Christmas Season and a Healthy New Year. Blessings,
Member Care Team



Elder Abuse: How Can We Help?

"My eyes are fixed on you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless. Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by in safety" (Psalm 141:8-10).

This month, we continue to examine elder abuse by considering how we can each be part of the solution to this growing problem in our society. If we do not value aging and growing older, it is easy to become indifferent to the needs and well-being of older adults. Every day, headlines throughout the United States remind us that elder abuse can happen anywhere at any time. Sadly, abusers can be spouses, family members, acquaintances such as neighbors or church members, or professionals in positions of trust. Abusers can also be opportunistic strangers who prey on the vulnerable such as those who perpetrate scams and frauds on older people. As we mentioned in the November issue of *The Messenger*, according to the National

Center on Elder Abuse, elder abuse refers to any knowing, intentional, or negligent act by a caregiver or any other person that causes harm or a serious risk of harm to a vulnerable adult. While one sign does not necessarily indicate abuse, some telltale signs that might indicate there is a problem include:

- Sudden changes in financial situation
- Observe behavior that belittles or threatens an older adult
- Unexplained withdrawal from normal activities
- Sudden change in alertness and unusual depression
- Strained or tense relationships that might include frequent arguments between the caregiver and older adult

- Bruises, pressure marks, broken bones, abrasions, and burns
 - Bedsores, unattended medical needs, poor hygiene, and unusual weight loss
- We can each play an important role in preventing elder abuse by:

- Recognizing the signs mentioned above.
- Contacting the proper authorities to report possible elder abuse or call the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116.

Remember – being knowledgeable about elder abuse and recognizing the warning signs may save a life. To learn more about the issue of elder abuse, visit the national center on elder abuse website at

www.ncea.aoa.gov.

This article was excerpted from "Elder Abuse: The Role of Church Leaders" by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., D.Min., posted September 2010, <http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/lnet/content3.aspx?c=nhLRJ2PMKsGc&b=5474051c&t=8651319>

"Did You Know?"
United Methodist Communications offers the **Stoody-West Fellowship** and **Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship** to undergraduate and graduate students interested in pursuing religious communications careers. Application deadline is March 15, 2011. Visit www.umcom.org/scholarships for more information.



**Elder Abuse
AWARENESS**

Missions and Outreach Musings

Kevin Lyttle

Help Others Celebrate Christmas!

There are lots of ways YOU can do to help with the celebration of Christmas at Seneca Street Church, and at University UMC and Cleveland Hill UMC where Pastor Carmen also serves.



**Thanks to YOU,
Things Are
Warmer for
Others!**

Thank you for the great response to our request for warm winter coats for our friends at Seneca Street UMC. With our help, and the help of others, coats have been provided to many of the children and adults at Seneca Street UMC and the surrounding community. As the winter turns colder, these coats will be appreciated all the more. Thanks for caring and helping!

Seneca-Babcock Neighborhood Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party for children and youth from the Seneca-Babcock neighborhood will be held at Seneca Street UMC on Saturday, December 18, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Many churches and several community organizations come together to make Christmas just a little bit nicer and more special for those in that community - and we have been asked to provide some special support!

Several churches joined together to fulfill the gift requests of the kids who attend Seneca Street UMC. Other churches and organizations are making different

types of contributions. Here are the ways WUMC has been asked to help with Seneca Street's Christmas Party:

- Provide gift cards from Wal-Mart, Target, Dollar General, or similar stores that will be used as gifts for older children. Cards valued from \$10-\$20 are most useful.
- Either make a donation toward or provide \$5 gift cards from Tim Horton's. These become a part of the "goodies" given to children at the party.
- Bake homemade cookies for the party. While you are preparing Christmas treats for

your own family, please consider making a few dozen extra of your favorite treat to donate for this party.

- Serve as helpers at the party to provide refreshments, act as "Santa's helpers", assist with craft activities, or generally provide "crowd control" during the party.

Please let us know how YOU can help. Stop by the Missions display in the narthex during December to make a donation, sign up as a helper, and let us know that you care about our friends at Seneca Street UMC.

Christmas Dinner Bags

Again this year, WUMC is providing Christmas Dinner Bags for families from Seneca Street UMC, University UMC, and Cleveland Hill UMC. We have had a tremendous response over the past several years to our "Christmas Meal Bags," so again we are being counted on to help those in our inner-city communities who might not have enough food for a special Christmas celebration!

To help provide provisions for a family Christmas dinner, fill a grocery bag with the items you would like to have as part of your Christmas dinner. We ask that you consider including some of the following nonperishable items:

- Appetizer - Soup, crackers, nuts, cheese spread, canned fruit
- Vegetables for main course - Green beans, peas, corn, carrots
- Potato mixes, canned sweet potatoes, or pasta or rice mixes (not plain pasta, please)
- Stuffing mix
- Cranberry sauce
- Beverage - Coffee, tea, apple juice, hot cocoa
- Dessert - Pudding, brownie mix, pie shell and filling, cake mix and frosting, cookie mixes
- Special treats - Add any other special treats you think a family might enjoy. Use your imagination!

In order to provide a turkey, ham, etc. and some fresh vegetables for the dinner, we also ask

you to consider making a cash donation that will be used to buy a Tops' grocery card for each family.

Please bring your Christmas Meal Bags to WUMC no later than Sunday, December 19, so we can distribute them by Wednesday of that week.

Stop by the Missions display outside the sanctuary for a list of our "dinner needs" and also to make contributions toward this special program. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Lyttle or one of the members of the Missions/Outreach team. Your generosity is much appreciated - in whatever way you can help with the Christmas Meal Bags!



New "Mission of the Month" Program!

We would like to bring additional opportunities to WUMC to learn about local, national, and international mission activities and *we need your help* to do so. In early 2011, the Missions and Outreach Team will begin a "Mission of the Month" program that we hope will serve as a forum for increasing WUMC's awareness of additional

needs in our community, nation, and world. If you have a "nomination" for an organization or cause about which you would like us to become more aware, let the Missions and Outreach Team (Rosemary Elliott, Mary Valentine, Yoteen Cameron, and Kevin Lyttle) know of your recommendation. We will organize an information article for *The*

Messenger and Sunday bulletin and present some brief comments at a Sunday service. We hope that these efforts will generate some financial and other support for the group. We will focus on one group a month - so we need lots of suggestions! Please share your missions and outreach "passion" with us, and all of WUMC!



Stewardship Thoughts

Thanks for Your Support

Thanks to all members and friends who have supported WUMC with gifts or pledges of support for the upcoming church year. Your commitment will enable us to continue to make a difference as we serve others, support missions, and fulfill our local operational responsibilities. Individual acknowledgements will be sent with your next Record of Giving report that will be mailed in January.

Finance and Stewardship Committee

The Children Do Not Have to Die¹

Imagine No Malaria is The United Methodist Church's initiative to raise \$75 million to eliminate malaria deaths and suffering in Africa by 2015. Through their gifts, United Methodists are continuing to be Jesus' healing hands among the children and adults who face death and suffering from malaria. Malaria kills poor children. One child dies every 45 seconds from the preventable and treatable disease. Pregnant women are also especially vulnerable. In 2008, nearly 1 million people died. Ninety percent of the

malaria deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa. Malaria robs families of food when they must pay for treatment and travel to clinics. Malaria is a chronic, debilitating illness for those who survive it. Malaria is beatable. Imagine No Malaria will continue and expand the church's work in Africa through clinics and hospitals and the distribution of insecticide-treated bed nets. Imagine No Malaria will support a holistic approach:

- Anti-malaria campaigns in schools
 - Bed nets and other preventive measures
 - Rapid diagnostic tests
 - Research
 - Improved infrastructure to ease access to treatment
- To learn more about Imagine No Malaria, and how to support this worthy cause, visit www.imagenomalaria.org. You can also call (866) 521-1179 or e-mail us at INMinfo@umcom.org.
¹"Last Thoughts" sidebar, Interpreter, November/December 2010, p. 26 and posted at <http://www.interpretermagazine.org/interior.asp?ptid=43&mid=14307>.

"Did You Know?"
To increase food production in the earthquake-affected areas of Haiti, UMCOR is teaming up with the Methodist Churches of Haiti to implement a project that encourages farmers to practice "passing on the gift." This cooperative effort similar to the model used by Heifer International.



WUMC Community Thoughts and Events



A Thank You for Marie Greiser

Ann Killian and the Sunday Coffee Crew

The Sunday morning coffee crews wish to thank Marie Greiser for her hospitality ministry as she retires after 20 years of service to our congregation. Marie and Ken, her late husband, started the coffee hour, which has provided an opportunity for people who

have worshiped together to visit with each other after the second service. Marie's responsibilities included scheduling the coffee teams, who provide hot and cold beverages, and purchasing all of the supplies used each week. Her ministry expanded to provide recep-

tions following special worship services and other events. Marie's quiet ministry has touched many of us who enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat on Sunday morning. Thank you Marie!

"Did You Know?"

You can purchase religious-themed Christmas gifts from Cokesbury's Christmas catalog. Cokesbury, the retail division of the United Methodist Publishing House, distributes its profits to regional conference pension boards. Visit their website at

www.cokesbury.com or order a catalog by calling 800-672-1789.



WOW Meetings – December 6 and January 3

Please join the Women of Williamsville for our next two WOW Meetings on December 6 and January 3! On Monday, December 6, we will meet in the church parlor at 7:00 p.m. to share an evening celebrating the upcoming Christmas season in several ways. First, JoAnn Campbell will teach us how to make Christmas origami stars. Then you can browse Beth Curtis' display of Silpada sterling silver jewelry and maybe buy a few Christmas gifts. Beth is generously donating a portion of your purchases to WUMC.

We are also having a *Cookie Exchange!* To participate, bring 4 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie. You will exchange 3 dozen with other women that evening and donate one dozen to the Central City Café soup kitchen. Please bring the 3 dozen cookies to exchange in small bags with four cookies in each bag. After ringing in the New Year, we will meet on Monday, January 3, in the church parlor to share a Potluck Dinner. This evening, our dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., which is a change for our usual meeting time. A

sign-up sheet will be passed at the December meeting, or you can contact Carol Fornden to let her know what dish you would like to bring. We have an interesting discussion planned – so you don't want to miss this meeting! During our WOW Meeting on November 1, women donated enough items to complete five Cleaning Buckets for UMCOR. It was a real trick to get the lids to close on the buckets since they were overflowing the supplies!





WUMC Book Club – December 10 and January 14

Ann Killian

The Book Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, **December 10**, at the home of Betty Peck. At this meeting, we will discuss Richard Russo's *That Old Cape Magic*, a novel with its own torch song. Russo, a Pulitzer Prize winner, looks at family ties that bind - and stretch - and tangle - and snap. A favorite family vacation spot has become the symbol for happiness. The story asks the question, "Will happiness find you more easily in one location, but not in another?"

Please join us to help answer this question and others the novel presents. Then plan to join us at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, **January 14**, at the home of Midge and Vaughn Hackworth to discuss *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Walls. **Reading Ahead** We will complete our reading year with the following books: February - *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay March - *The Lost City of Z* by David Grann

April - *Hotel at the Corner of Bitter & Sweet* by Jamie Ford
 May - *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
 If these books look interesting to you, join us for lively discussions. Watch for dates and places in future weekly announcements and monthly newsletters. If you have questions or need more information about WUMC's Book Club, please contact Ann Killian.



News from Open Door Nursery School

Judy Knab

The first three weeks in December, Open Door will sponsor a food drive to help stock the Food Pantry at WUMC. Each week the children will bring in a specific food item. Then as we walk up to the gym, we'll drop them off at the "food closet" as the children call it. The idea of giving from our abundance is a welcome value to instill at any age. Our Christmas parties for students and their families will take place on

the mornings of December 21 and 22. The nursery school will be closed from December 22 -31, with classes resuming on January 3, 2011. In January, the students will delight in a visit from the Niagara Falls Aquarium's "Touch Tank". This presentation kicks off our ocean unit, when each classroom transforms itself into an under the sea experience. Also in January, we will host an Open House on January 25 from 6:00-8:00

p.m. for new families to register for the 2011-2012 school year. Priority is given to current families and members of WUMC before we open our registration to the public. After January 1, 2011, new registration forms and information can be downloaded from our link to the church's Web site at www.williamsvillumc.org. For further information about our program, call Judy Knab at 633-1655.

Rules to Live By in 2011

1. **Wake Up...** then decide to have a good day!
 "Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24
2. **Dress Up...** by putting on a smile!
 A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
 "The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at outward appearance; but the Lord looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7
3. **Listen Up...** learn to listen and say nice things!
 God gave us two ears and one mouth, so He must have meant for us to do twice as much listening as talking.
 "He who guards his lips guards his soul." Proverbs 13:3
4. **Stand Up.....** for what is good and what you believe!
 "Let us not be weary in doing good; for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good..." Galatians 6:9-10
5. **Look Up...** to the Lord!
 "I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13
6. **Reach Up...** for something higher!
 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5-6
7. **Lift Up...** your prayers to God!
 "Do not worry about anything; instead PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING." Philippians 4:6



Rejoicing, Prayers, and News from the Pews

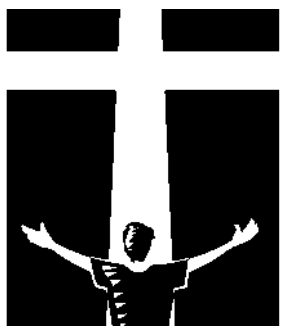
In this section, you will learn about times of rejoicing, celebration, prayer, and sorrow experienced in our church community since the last newsletter.

In Our Prayers and Thoughts

Prayers of healing and support are requested for Jeri Grampp, Steve Metevier, Art Shade, Irene Wachowiak, Shirley Balkin, and Debbie Hein. - Continued prayers are asked for Art Kliber and Jack Nill.

Prayer Concerns in our District

Prayers are requested for The Rev. Kevin Stockwell, pastor of Norwood UMC and Raymondville UMC in the Northern Flow District, and his wife, Laurinda. Rev. Stockwell has been waiting for a liver transplant for several months. He still has no word about a transplant, but he is not doing well. He has been admitted in the critical care unit at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY. Please keep Kevin and Laurinda in your prayers.



In need of
prayer

In Memory

- ❖ We extend our prayers and sympathy to Jenn and Aaron Hinklin on the death of Aaron's mother, Jean Hinklin.
- ❖ We extend our condolences to John Tschamler and his family on the death of John's brother, Chris Tschamler.
- ❖ We also extend our condolences to Elke Woods and her family on the death of Elke's mother, Luise Schultz.
- ❖ We extend our prayers and sympathy to the family of The Rev. Robert Pascoe who passed away on November 9. Rev. Pascoe was District Superintendent for the now Cornerstone District from 1991 to 1997. He also served Sheridan, Churchill Memorial, Geneseo, Kenmore, and Gainesville churches. He retired in 2006. Funeral services were held on November 13 at the Perry United Methodist Church.

Notes of Thanks

- ❖ Many thanks to all those at WUMC who have supported Beechwood Service Guild. God bless you!
- ❖ On behalf of Gateway-Longview, Inc. and the children and families we serve, we would like to thank the WUMC for your gift of \$100.00. Thank you to all the church's faithful friends.



"Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together."

Isaiah 40:5, NRSV



Community Bulletin Board

Be a Communion Server

Have you wanted to serve the church, but you do not have time to serve on a committee? Consider being a communion server at either the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. worship service. Pastor Neal will provide you with information about how to serve in this essential ministry. Please sign-up on the sheets posted on the narthex bulletin board. You can choose to serve once a month, once every other month, or whatever time is convenient for you. Your participation in this ministry is deeply appreciated.

Infant and Toddler Care

Loving, consistent childcare is provided in the nursery downstairs. From September through May the nursery is open from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. During the summer months when we have one worship service, the nursery is open from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Parents are invited to take their infants and toddlers to the nursery any time during the worship service. If you need directions, an usher will be happy to help you! Our paging system will alert you quietly if your child needs your presence.

Walking Club Information

The Walking Club meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. If you are looking for some motivation to get up and move, join us as we stroll through the village streets. We enjoy window shopping along the way and sharing conversations on many different topics! Join us next Wednesday! For more information contact Sara Wishman.

Volunteers Needed!

WUMC finds itself in need of volunteers in several areas of ministry. If you have wanted to get involved, but you are not sure what to do - maybe you don't have a lot of time to spare or maybe you have lots of time to share -- we are looking for you! Volunteers are needed as ushers, greeters, assistance in the office, coffee servers, communion servers, Altar Guild (setting up the altar) - the list goes on and on. Many of our church committees are looking for more helping hands. If you would like to volunteer, please write the ministry area that interests you on a Ritual of Friendship pad located in the pews. You can also call the church office (634-4800) to express your interest. Of course, you can always just attend a meeting that is announced for the ministry area in which you would like to volunteer.

Help Restock WUMC's Food Pantry

The shelves of our food pantry at WUMC are getting quite low since August and September are the months that WUMC is responsible to provide extra assistance to families and individuals experiencing hard times in the Williamsville community. Please try to remember this important ministry the next time you are in the grocery store. We can always use spaghetti sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, soup, canned spaghetti or ravioli, boxed dinners, macaroni & cheese, juice, and baby food. Please leave your donations in the Food Pantry basket located in the narthex.

Have the Wiggles During Church?

In the back of the sanctuary by the Oakgrove entrance is a small bookshelf where you will find crayons and clipboards that your children can use during the worship service. The clipboards are full of different quiet activities such as coloring sheets, connect the dots, and word puzzles. If you need help locating the clipboards and crayons, the ushers will be more than happy to show you where they are. Feel free to use this during the services if you have children with the "wiggles and giggles!"



P R A Y E R C H A I N

Prayer Chain

Church family and friends may request special prayers through the Prayer Chain by calling Bob or Irene Hayman.



Please submit articles, news,
announcements, etc. for the next
edition of *The Messenger* to
Sondra Scott
Thank you!

OUR STAFF AND LAY LEADERS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU

Senior Pastor: Richard W. Neal
Associate Pastor: Carmen Perry
Director of Christian Education: Judith Toone
Pastoral Assistant for Nurture & Visitation: Barbara Saltarella
Music Directors: Judith Stafford and Wendy Amuso
Church Administrator: Denise Barham
Custodian: Floyd Schebell
Nursery Care Supervisor: Kathleen Ciccone
Nursery Care Assistants: Amanda Dickerman, Allison Soucise
Newsletter Editors: Sondra Scott and Rachel Zeller

LAY LEADERS:

Trustee Chair: Tom Wishman
Staff & Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Gary Brost
Treasurer: Rosemary Elliott
Coordinating Lay Leader: Dave Reichard
Financial Membership Secretary: Cindy Lyttle
Financial Reporting Secretary: Scott Cassety
Communications: Sondra Scott
Family Life: Kim Weingartner
Member Care: Sara Wishman
Memorials: Sally Jost
Open Door Nursery School: Kathleen Zarbo
Outreach & Missions Ministries: Kevin Lyttle
Stewardship & Finance Chair: Bud Jost
Worship Ministries: Otto Scharf IV