



The Methodist Messenger

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 17

7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, March 14

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

One Great Hour of

Sharing Offering

Friday, March 19

7:30 p.m.

Book Club

Sunday, March 28

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday Service

Good Friday, April 2

12:00 Noon

Service of Prayer

Easter Sunday, April 4

6:45 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Sunday, April 4

9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Celebrate Christ's Resurrection



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

From Your Pastors

Holy Week and Easter

Pastor Rich Neal

There's no way to Easter that does not pass through Holy Week. There's no way to resurrection but through rejection, suffering, and the darkness of death. As we look toward Easter, we need to keep Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday in sight.

The Buddhists have a saying, "No Nirvana without Samsara": there's no eternal realm of transcendent bliss without the ordinary, everyday cycle of life and death; there's no spiritual freedom without the constraints of the world. Isaiah expressed the same radically monotheistic truth. "I am the Lord," he heard God say, "and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things" (Isa. 45:6-7). And Paul knew Christ as the image of the invisible God, in whom all things – light and dark, "good" and "evil" – were created and hold together (Col. 1:15-20).

The self-centered praises of the crowd on Palm Sunday; the oblivious table fellowship, betrayal, and abandonment by friends on Holy Thursday; the lonely, agonized death on Good Friday; the empty silence and stillness of Holy Saturday – these make Easter what it is, as much as the empty tomb does. So come, experience the whole mysterious pageant as darkness gives way to light, as death opens to new life, during our Holy Week and Easter observances.

Palm Sunday, March 28. During our **contemporary worship service at 9:00 a.m.** and **traditional service at 11:00 a.m.** we will remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the place of his greatest suffering and the threshold of his resurrection and exaltation. The youth of the congregation will offer a **Pancake Breakfast beginning at 8:00 a.m.** and continuing throughout the morning in Fillmore Hall. There will be **no Sunday school** on this day; classes will resume April 11.



Holy Thursday, April 1. In **worship at 7:00 p.m.** we will recall Jesus' last meal with his disciples in a service that includes the **Lord's Supper** and a **Service of Tenebrae** (darkness), in which the narrative of Jesus' passion is read, candles extinguished, and the chancel stripped of adornment.

Good Friday, April 2. A simple **Service of Prayer at noon** will begin the long vigil that continues through Saturday and ends with the celebration of resurrection Sunday morning.

Holy Saturday, April 3. This will be a day of silence and stillness. No activities are scheduled, and individuals are encouraged to continue personal vigil.

Easter Sunday, April 4. At two identical worship services at **9:00 and 11:00 a.m.** we will celebrate Christ's resurrection, the triumph of life over death. There will be **no Sunday school** on this day; classes will resume April 11.



Arrival in Jerusalem

Pastor Nick Perry

The Spanish hymn *Mantos y Palmas* (*Filled with Excitement*, UMH 279) uses two verses to describe simply what has come to be known as Palm Sunday. This episode that is recorded in each of the Gospels was a scene charged with excitement and anticipation as Christ rode into the city limits of Jerusalem on a never-before ridden colt. Those

in the crowds that congregated to watch Christ's procession placed their garments and palm branches on the ground to make way for their new king.

Palm Sunday is a day that invites each of us to be drawn even deeper into the season of Lent. This day reminds us of the contrast between the praise of one crowd and the jeer-

ing of another crowd a few days later. So, before we rush to the unduly arrest, intense interrogation, and grotesque crucifixion of Christ, let us wave our palm branches with vigor and sing our Hosannas with great gusto. For on Palm Sunday, it is the One who rides peaceably, who has heard the pleas of a groaning people, and who has come to save us whom we praise.

“Palm Sunday is a day that invites each of us to be drawn even deeper into the season of Lent.”

Words from Worship and Music

Easter Sunrise Service – April 4

The worshipping communities of Central Park, Cleveland Hill, and University United Methodist Churches invite you to join us in celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. We will have an Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 4, at 6:45 a.m. at Glen Park in Williamsville. For more information, please contact Pastor Carmen Perry.

Dancing With God

Adapted from a poem by Elaine L. Guercio

While meditating on the word “Guidance,” I kept seeing “dance” at the end of the word. I remember reading once that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. But when one person recognizes what is happening and lets the other lead, both begin to move beautifully and

flow with the music. A dance like this takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw “G” I thought of God, followed by “u” and “i”. “God, “u” and “i” dance.” God, you, and I dance. Once again, I became willing to let God lead, trusting that I will have the guidance needed in my life. May we each learn to daily dance with God, abide in God, and trust God to lead and guide through each season of our lives.



WUMC Leadership and Conference Updates

Get Connected With Wesley Ministry Network Online

Do you wish you could deepen your faith, but you are too busy to attend a class or join a small group? Through a partnership with The Richard and Julia Wilke Institute for Discipleship, Wesley Ministry Network is offering its acclaimed lay education courses online. The following three courses begin February 22: *Simply Christian*, *Devotion to Jesus*, and *Religion and Science: Pathways to Truth*.

Each course features streaming video segments and online discussions with other students and experienced Wesley Ministry Network teachers. Courses are open to everyone, and CEUs are available for pastors. Connect with other Christians to deepen your faith and grow in discipleship. Visit <http://www.beadisciple.com/wesleyministrynetwork.html> to learn more and to register.

Volunteers in Mission Trip – April 11

A “Volunteers in Mission” trip to Gowanda, NY is being planned to help rebuild after severe flooding in the area. This mission trip is for both men and women. The group will leave on Sunday, April 11, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. and return Friday evening, April 16, 2010. The trip is limited to the first 20 people who sign-up. The cost will not exceed \$200. If you are interested, please notify John Conklin.



Family Ministries News

Lenten Activities for All Ages - Continued

Kim Weingartner

The February newsletter included some ideas to help us take time throughout the Lenten season to consider the new growth and new life provided through Jesus Christ. This article provides a few more ideas to help us take time to remember God's love that surrounds us and binds us together.

5th Sunday in Lent – Establish a Family Night In Read 2 Timothy 1:5

Family Night In is the practice of a family staying home together one night a week for a time for devotions, conversation, fun, and games.

Determine a day of the week that works most weeks for the family. Establish a schedule for what you want to happen during your family night in. A common format is dinner together, followed by games, movies, or activities together, ending with devotions and prayer.

Family Meal Ideas

Rotate responsibilities of different family members for preparing the meal.

Have once-a-month meals where a family member gets to choose his or her favorite food for the meal.

Once a month have a "theme" meal.

Family Fun Ideas

View movies together

Look through old photo albums and remember family stories

Take time to write family members who are not living at home
Play board games

Talk to family members about current events

Family Devotions Ideas

Include a prayer circle with everyone taking turns to pray
Read Bible stories and share the meaning of the story and how it relates to your family

Family Covenant:

Make a prayer-love-share covenant

Include ways family members want to pray together, love one another, and share with others in need.

Source: Gleaned from Family Ministries Guidelines '09-'12, General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church

Sixth Sunday in Lent - Read John 12:12-13

Attend worship services and make a cross with your palm frond.

Plan to attend Holy week worship and prayer services during the week.

Easter Sunday – Remember to Read Matthew 28:19-20

Think of one thing you have done during Lent that you will continue to do after Easter.
Smell a flower and look for new life.



Fifth Sunday in Lent:
Establish a family night

Sixth Sunday in Lent:
Read John 12:12-13

Easter Sunday: Read
Matthew 28:19-20



Family Ministries News

Events for United Methodist Women

The Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women (UMW) held Morning Apart on February 6 at Grand Island Trinity UMC. The theme of "Time Began in a Garden" featured Gail Culver, Master Gardener, who presented a program on Butterfly Gardening. All women are welcome to attend the following UMW events:



March 27, 9:30 a.m. - *Communion Breakfasts and Memorial Services* for those we lost in 2009 will be held at both Faith Lancaster UMC and Medina UMC

April 21, 9:30 a.m. - *Gift Day* at Batavia First UMC is a day to bring items needed by our local agencies. See Carol Forden for a list of needed items. Two agencies that receive grants from our Conference UMW will speak on the services they provide to women, children, and youth.

May 22 - UMW Celebration Conference at Houghton College. Watch for details in the weekly announcements and the April issue of *The Messenger*.

If you are interested in attending any of these events, please contact Carol Forden for more information.

WUMC Book Club

Ann Killian

Book Club members are looking forward to better weather and continued good reads. You are welcome to join us whenever a book catches your attention. We meet once a month on a Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Book Club Meetings

March 19, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Bud and Sally Jost

Book Selection: *The Shack* by William P. Young

Have you ever asked, "Where is God when the world is filled with pain and suffering...when I am filled with pain?" The main character in this novel meets God in person - in Hi Def and Technicolor - to confront God with questions that have caused him to lose his faith.

April (date TBD), 7:30 p.m., at the home of Holly and Phil Reynolds

Book Selection: *Buffalo Gal* by Laura Pederson

The author grew up in Buffalo's snowblower world and was the neighborhood wild child. She went on to become the youngest person seated on the American Stock Exchange and was very rich by the age of twenty-one. Now living in NYC, she sees that her childhood in Buffalo prepared her for her career.

May (date TBD), 7:30 p.m., at the home of Karen and Jon Patterson

Book Selection: *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson

At first glance, this nonfiction book might be off-putting since it deals with Chicago, circa 1893, intertwining two lives: the good guy, who was the architect of the 1893 World's Fair, and the bad guy, who was a murderer. This book provides suspense, entertainment, and history that is well researched and written in a reader-friendly form.

If any or all of these books look interesting, join us for the discussion. Watch for April and May meeting dates in the Weekly Messenger. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Ann Killian.



Christian Education News

Children and Youth Christian Education

Christian Education Team Meeting – March 1

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 ever thought about becoming more involved in this ministry, please join us! We meet the first Monday of every month. This month we will meet on Monday, March 1, at 7:00 p.m. in the church office. See you then!

Lenten Fair – March 7

Children and families - please join us for our Lenten Fair on Sunday, March 7. This event is open to all children ages 3 through 4th grade and their families. The Lenten Fair will be held downstairs in Fillmore Hall between services from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. During this event, the children will travel from station to station as they work on crafts, hear stories, and experience the Lenten journey together!

One Great Hour of Sharing Boxes

Watch for the One Great Hour of Sharing Boxes that will be sent home with your children after the Lenten Fair on March 7. The children are encouraged to follow the directions on the box each day from March 7 until Easter on April 4. The money the children raise will be used to purchase blankets filled with comfort and hope for UMCOR. The earthquake in Haiti left many homeless, so the need is great right now. It is our hope that this activity will lift before us the needs of our brothers and sisters around the world. Let's see how many blankets we will be able to purchase this year with our One Great Hour of Sharing boxes!

Christian Education Dates to Remember

Monday, March 1

7:00 p.m.

Christian Education Team Meeting

Sunday, March 7

9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

Lenten Fair for all children and their families

Sunday, March 28

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Senior High Annual Pancake Breakfast

Palm Sunday, March 28

No Sunday school; classes resume April 11

Easter Sunday, April 4

No Sunday school; classes resume April 11

Follow-Up to Advent Fair – Notes from Missionaries

Our children spent the months of November and December studying "Christmas Around the World." We decided to tie into that theme during our Advent Fair by making Christmas cards for others as one of our many activities. Carol Forden sent the cards out to missionaries throughout the country with a note explaining who we were, what we had been studying, and that we were wishing them a Merry Christmas. We have been so amazed at the numerous wonderful responses we have received! Notes of appreciation have been received from all over the country, along with letters explaining what type of mission work they do. As we receive these notes from our UMC missionaries, we share them with the children and then post the notes on the bulletin board in Fillmore Hall for everyone to see. Please feel free to stop by Fillmore Hall to read how others are celebrating around our country and the great mission work in which our missionaries are involved!



Reach Out in Love

Sunday, February 14, was our Reach Out in Love Valentine celebration in Fillmore Hall. On this day, our children, 3-years-old through 4th grade, joined us for a day of love, love, and more love! We began by sharing the story of the huge love St. Valentine had for God. Afterward, with the help of our Junior High Youth, the children moved through different stations to make Valentine crafts that teach how important it is to share God's love with others.

At one stations the children made bear wall hangings for Barbara Saltarella's older adult ministry that said, "Love bears all things." At other stations, they made Valentine cards to share with whomever they wanted, decorated cookies to eat, made edible Valentine bracelets, colored Valentine pictures, and made more Valentines out of pipe cleaners and beads. A "warm, fuzzy" morning was had by everyone!



Camp Asbury and Camp Findley

It's time to begin thinking about summer camp! Did you know we have two beautiful United Methodist summer camps right in our own back yard. This summer, why not think about sending your child to a United Methodist camp? They are full of camping opportunities for everyone! Like to fish, horseback ride, tent camp or have a new adventure every day? If so, these are the camps for you! Why, we even have a camp for children ages 5 years old through 2nd grade to come for a

few days with their parent or grandparent to find out what camp is all about. The added bonus of attending these camps is that you're also learning to live your faith each day! Camp brochures, registration forms and additional info are currently available. See Judy Toone or call at 634-4800 for more information. Scholarships are available if need be, so please don't let cost stop you from this wonderful summer-time experience!

Vacation Bible School Dates

Our Vacation Bible School dates are set! So, mark your calendars now for our VBS from August 9 through August 13. Every year we work in conjunction with St. Paul's Lutheran and Faith United Church of Christ to provide a week-long Vacation Bible School. The three churches take turns hosting the event. This year, our VBS will be held at Faith United Church of Christ, which is at the corner of Maple and Hopkins. While we have not finalized the theme for this year, I can tell you it's going to be way too much fun!

Confirmation Class 2010 Schedule

March 6	Introduction and Information Meeting
March 13	Overview of Christian Year: Focus on Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany
March 20	Overview of Christian Year: Focus on Lent, Easter, and Pentecost
March 27	Core Christian Beliefs: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
April 17	Introduction to Hymnal, Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation
April 24	Introduction to Methodist Heritage
May 1	Introduction to Methodist Beliefs
May 8	How to Grow in Our Faith: Scripture, Prayer, and Service
May 22	Share a meal together!
May 23	Pentecost Sunday - Introduction to the congregation during the worship service

Junior & Senior High Youth Group

WUMC Confirmation Class 2010 - Begins March 6

Not long ago a person gave me a book that compiled children's letters to God. Some of the elementary aged children's questions posed to God made me chuckle and others were intriguing. If you have questions that seem a little silly or other deep questions about God, the life of faith, and/or the church, I invite you to take part in this year's confirmation class. The only requirement is that you are in 8th grade or above.

We may not answer all of your questions; perhaps you may encounter other questions that may take years or a lifetime of wrestling in order to discover an answer. This year we will cover the same topics that previous years of confirmation classes have covered. We will be using a well-known and highly respected curriculum called *Claim the Name*. This will be our guide as we discover important doctrines relating to God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We will explore aspects of Christianity while including Methodist emphasis where necessary. We will take a brief trip through our Methodist heritage, and we will have times for discussions, questions, and answers. Perhaps, the most important aspect of our confirmation class is the opportunity to deepen our faith.

Our classes will be on Saturday mornings from 10:00-11:30 beginning March 6 at the church. The confirmation class will run for approximately eight weeks. Please mark the dates in your calendars paying extra attention to when the classes will be held. If you are interested in being a part of this class or if you have any questions regarding confirmation, feel free to contact the church office 634-4800.

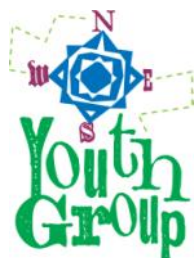
Blessings,
Nicholas Perry,
Associate Pastor

Thank You Wishman's!

The Senior High Youth would like to thank the Wishman family for hosting our Super Bowl Party. Even with a house divided between Colts supporters and Saints supporters, we all had a great time and enjoyed great food. Thanks!

Parent and Adult Support for Our Youth

We are thankful for the parents and adults we have had helping us on Sunday evenings with Youth Group. We continue to ask for your support on Sunday evenings. If you are interested in helping and can be present on a Sunday evening, please call the church office. Your name will be put down as helping on a particular Sunday that works for you. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Junior and Senior High Youth

Junior High Youth Group Schedule

March 7	Regular Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m.
March 21	Regular Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m.
April 11	Regular Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m.
May 2	Regular Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m.
May 16	Regular Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Senior High Youth Group Schedule

March 14	Regular Meeting	6:30-8:00 p.m.
March 28	Regular Meeting	6:30-8:00 p.m.
April 25	Regular Meeting	6:30-8:00 p.m.
May 9	Regular Meeting	6:30-8:00 p.m.
May 23	Regular Meeting	6:30-8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact:
Pastor Nick Perry or Judy Toone



Christian Education News Adult Christian Education Update

Contemporary Issues: Creation in Crisis

The Contemporary Issues Class is basing its current discussion on the November **pastoral letter** from the Council of Bishops, "God's Renewed Creation: Call to Hope and Action." In it the bishops write, "God's creation is in crisis. Our neglect, selfishness, and pride have fostered pandemic poverty and disease, environmental degradation, and the proliferation of weapons and violence. We must begin the work of renewing creation by being renewed in our own hearts and minds." The bishops' letter and accompanying foundation document is posted on the Adult Christian Education page of WUMC's Web site (www.williamsvilleumc.org). If you plan to attend this class, it would be helpful to read through this information. Come when you can - you are always welcome! We meet upstairs in the nursery school gym, which can be reached by taking either the stairs or elevator.

Adult Bible Study

Please join us for the Adult Bible Study group during Sunday school hour! This is an informal discussion-based look at a different part of the Bible each week, followed by a discussion of how it applies to us in the 21st century. We hope to see you Sunday morning in the classroom right at the bottom of the stairs at the Oakgrove entrance!



Additional ACE Opportunities

Invitation to Psalms

A 10-week Disciple Course titled "Invitation to Psalms" is being offered through the ACE ministry on Sunday afternoons from January 17 through March 28. The class is now meeting in one of the Nursery School classrooms (third door on the right on the bottom floor down the Oakgrove stairs). There is a nominal cost for the participant's book. The study is facilitated by Barbara Manhardt and Cheryl Thomas. If you love the Psalms and would like to explore them at a deeper level, then this is the study for you. We look forward to joining with others who are interested in spiritual growth through the verses of the Psalms.

Eternal Perks

For those of you not familiar with Eternal Perks, this is our little coffee shop set up in the church library, which is located off the narthex. Every week between the first and second worship service, feel free to come in, relax, read the Sunday paper, and treat yourself to a cup of coffee! With so many coffee shops in the village, we know it is hard to pick one, but we'd love it if you would make Eternal Perks your first perk pick on a Sunday morning!



Our Adult Christian Education (ACE) committee is devoted to the enrichment of our ACE program at WUMC. The ACE committee helps formulate topics for programs and consider new ways to meet the diverse needs of the adult members and friends of our congregation. If you are interested in serving on the ACE committee, please contact Judy Toone.

The ACE classes listed here meet every Sunday morning from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m., which is between WUMC's two worship services. Please feel free to join us on Sunday morning when you can.

Outreach and Missions Musings

UMCOR Needs Health Kits for Haiti Emergency

UMCOR provides Health kits to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Health kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition and cooking classes. UMCOR has sent out a plea for Health Kits that will be used in their Haiti Emergency relief program. The items in each Health Kit will cost approximately \$12. If you or a group with whom you are associated would like to provide a Health Kit, please include **ONLY** the items listed below in each kit.

Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- 1 hand towel – 15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", no kitchen towels
 - 1 washcloth
 - 1 comb, large and sturdy, not pocket-sized
 - 1 nail file or fingernail clippers, no emery boards or toenail clippers
 - 1 bath-size bar of soap, 3 oz. and up
 - 1 toothbrush, single brushes only in original wrapper, no child-size brushes
 - 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
 - \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste
- NOTE:** UMCOR is purchasing toothpaste in bulk that will be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before being sent. Please give the \$1.00 separately from the sealed one-gallon plastic bag that contains the other items.

Important Kit Assembly Information

All items included in kits must be **NEW** items.

All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items—nothing more.

Do **NOT** include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be removed, which delays the shipment.

Box Weight. Each packed box cannot exceed 66 pounds.

The collection locations for the Health Kits in WNY are Webster UMC, Springville UMC, and Jamestown: Christ First UMC, WNY Conference Center, and Mountain View District Office. Please contact the church office for more information on drop-off locations.



Rescue Mission

Troop 85 Eagle Scout Honors Gold Star Mothers

One of WUMC's Outreach and Mission efforts is to provide a space in our church building for Troop 85 to meet on Monday evenings, which is one of the oldest scout troops in the Greater Niagara Frontier Council. Michael Spoth, the Committee Chairman for Troop 85, provided the following article to update us on the Eagle Project completed by one of the scouts in Troop 85.

Jason Maybach is the latest Eagle Scout of Troop 85. His Eagle Project was to construct a monument honoring Gold Star Mothers who have lost a child in service to our country. The monument was presented to the mothers during a ceremony at the Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post 6251 on Walden Avenue. Jason also had an

existing granite monument modified to honor veterans of conflicts in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His Eagle Project included a total of 547 labor hours, which is five times the required effort. Jason has been nominated for both the VFW and American Legion Scout of the Year awards.

Boy Scout Troop 85 is lead by Scoutmaster Steve Dubois, with 27 active youth ranging in age from 10 to 17 years. We are grateful to begin our 66th year chartered by the Williamsville United Methodist Church.

Because of your support, we can continue our mission to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Yours in scouting,
Michael Spoth
Troop 85 Committee Chairman



Nurture & Visitation

Caring Corner

Barbara Saltarella

Welcome to the Caring Corner! Before going any further, I need to get something off my chest. **ELDER ABUSE!** Yes, **ELDER ABUSE!** Elder abuse is a growing concern and an alarming public health issue that is present in every community and state. Did you know that elder abuse is under-recognized, under-reported,

and under-prosecuted? We only hear about a few circumstances of elder abuse. "Why?" Because it is a hidden epidemic and our loved ones are afraid to say anything.

There are a few types of elder abuse including physical, psychological, sexual, financial exploitation, self-neglect, abandonment, and domestic violence of late life. Financial exploitation is fast becoming the leader in elder abuse.

The elderly are vulnerable and need to be protected, which is why I am asking you to report any type of elderly abuse you might see or suspect. After reporting the actual or potential abuse, keep pushing the issue until the situation is corrected. We are advocates for the elderly, which is why we need to keep them safe. If you suspect abuse, let us know and it will be reported immediately.

"We only hear about a few circumstances of elder abuse. "Why?" "

Hands and Healing

Barbara Saltarella

Hands are so important. There is so much power in the hands. When I go out to visit, I always ask if I may hold their hand or give them a blessing. Hands are a comfort to those I visit. Hands bring the power of love, comfort, compassion, understanding, strength, and a healing touch.

Jesus used his hands to heal lepers, the blind, the sick, and the disabled. If you are a caregiver or if you are visiting someone in the hospital, ask to hold his or her hands. It is amazing the feeling you will come away with – a feeling of God's love.

Have you ever walked a labyrinth? I use a finger labyrinth when I am unable to walk one. I find it relaxes me and enables me to free my mind. Slowly moving my fingers through the labyrinth helps me find peace in our hurry-up world. For me, it is as if God is touching my heart and soul.

ISN'T IT AMAZING, THE POWER OF OUR HANDS?

New Booklet Available

I have received a new booklet called, "Caring Conversations." This booklet is published by the Center for Practical Bioethics, which has the following vision statement:

Our vision is a society in which the dignity and health of all people are advanced through ethical discourse and action.

Their mission is to raise and respond to ethical issues in health and healthcare, and their core value is respect for human dignity. Please stop by the information rack and pick one up it really is a helpful tool.



**“Father,
into your hands
I commit my spirit.”**

Luke 23:46, NIV



**GIVE
AND
IT
WILL
BE
GIVEN
TO
YOU**

Luke 6:38

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – March 14

Through the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), United Methodists help rebuild shattered lives, strengthen self-sufficiency, and encourage partnerships. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 14 lay the foundation of all of UMCOR's work by covering the costs of doing business. Since the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is used to cover all administrative costs throughout the year, UMCOR can keep its promise that 100% of your designated gifts go to specific causes that rebuild lives and communities around the world.

Stewardship Thoughts

Report From Finance and Stewardship

Our 2010 budget is complete, and we anticipate an income of \$393,742. Of this amount, \$338,700 is from pledges to Operations, Missions, and Building Care. The balance is from fundraisers, gifts, loose collection, Sunday school donations, use of building, and a contribution from our permanent endowment.

Projected expenses are equal to projected income, which gives us a balanced budget for 2010. Expenses are in following five major categories:

Conference shared ministries
Staff including salaries and benefits for clergy and lay staff
Facilities including building and parsonage maintenance, utilities and insurance

Programs including Christian education, music, worship, member care, missions
Administration including phones, copiers, newsletter, Web site, advertising, supplies

Looking back at 2009, we find that our income was greater than our expenses by about \$5,000. Total expenses were \$374,267 of a budgeted \$390,237 including our shared ministries, which were paid in full. Most of our savings was in reduced staff costs as we moved from three part-time pastors to one full-time pastor and one-part time pastor. We also changed from a full-time custodian to a cleaning service and the paid position of financial secretary was replaced

with volunteers.

Moving from 2009 to 2010 was made easy by a cash carryover of \$9,700 and pre-paid giving of \$13,950, for a total of about \$24,000. Giving in 2010 has remained healthy, and we have paid all our bills including shared ministries. We sent \$3,600 to UMCOR for Haiti relief, which will be spent primarily on food, water, and medical help for displaced Haitians.

We thank you for all your support and your trust that we are administering the church's finances in a business-like way,

Rosemary Elliott, Co-Chair of Stewardship and Finance
David Reichard, Treasurer

Be There. Be Hope. Support UMCOR.

Through comprehensive programs like those listed below, UMCOR is there on our behalf to provide help to people in distress. UMCOR helps provide healing and hope for some of the world's most vulnerable people in the following ways:

Emergency Response: In all phases of response, UMCOR works in partnership with disaster survivors to help them recover and become self-sufficient. Training in disaster response is a specialty of UMCOR.

Health: UMCOR underwrites innovative ministries in health care in Asia, Latin America, and Africa such as community-based

primary health care, HIV/AIDS programs, health education scholarships, and community health care grants.

Refugees and Immigration: UMCOR's resettlement program supports refugees within and outside the U.S. Justice for Our Neighbors works with immigrants and asylum seekers to provide free legal counsel.

World Hunger and Poverty: UMCOR seeks to alleviate poverty and hunger through sustainable development, training in innovative agriculture techniques, and partnerships with ecumenical groups.

Relief Supplies: Material resources can save lives in the days and weeks immediately following

a catastrophe. The UMCOR Depot warehouse in Baldwin, Louisiana serves as a staging area for donated emergency supplies.

UMCOR Field Offices: UMCOR's 13 field offices in Europe, Asia, and Africa revitalize communities and stimulate self-sufficiency by supporting community projects that provide housing, livelihoods, clean water, education, security, and community harmony.

Please give generously. If you are unable to be in church on March 14, you can make a donation to UMCOR's One Great Hour of Sharing at <https://donate.gcfa.org>.

Family Ministries News

Open Door Nursery School News



Judy Knab

It's hard to believe we are entering the last trimester of the 2009-2010 school year. Open Door "set the stage" for its students in September giving them a multi-disciplinary approach to learning. It's been delightful to watch so much growth and development occur over the past six months.

Curriculum topics covered in March include the rainforest, bears and their habitats, the solar system, dinosaurs, and

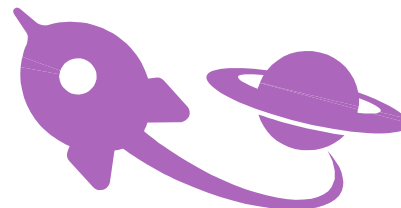
some fun activities to round out the month.

As part of their space unit, Mrs. Sexton's Pre-K class will be taking a field trip to the Planetarium at Williamsville North High School on March 24. The 4-year-old classes will have a visit from Jeff Musial of Nickel City Reptiles who will bring a menagerie of animals native to the rainforest for an exciting presentation. Some classes will celebrate St. Patrick's Day by cooking up some *Green Eggs and Ham* or by following tiny leprechaun's footprints throughout the building in search of a pot of gold.

It wouldn't be March at Open

Door without the traditional Dad's Pancake Breakfast, which is set for March 11 and 12 this year. On that day, the children, along with their Dads, Grandpas, or Uncles, team up to stir, flip, and fry their way through an exciting and fun-filled morning.

Our registration is nearly complete for next year. As of February, we have a few spots left in each grade level and expect to be full by September 2010. For more information on our terrific school, please visit us on WUMC's Web site (www.williamsvilleumc.org) or call Judy Knab at 633-1655.



Rejoicing, Prayers & News From the Pews

In this section, you will learn about times of rejoicing, celebration, prayer, and sorrow that have been experienced in our church community since the last newsletter. From time to time, you will also find news in the "Where Are They Now?" section about current and former members and friends of WUMC that are no longer in the Buffalo area.



In Our Prayers and Thoughts

Prayers of healing and support are requested for Russ Lewis, Jack Nill, Dwight Dickerman, George and Connie Howard, and Louise Flickinger. - Continuing prayers are asked for Mariano Baer, Charles Mastin, Sarah Gregory, Tamar Friedner, Rev. John Beeson, Bob Race, and Elias Nojaim.

Blessings from Above

Congratulations to Megan and David Pruce on the birth of their daughter, Carolyn Ann. Carolyn's proud new grandparents are Paul and Karen Ferington.

In Memory

We remember those who have passed, but remain in the hearts of those who love them. We extend our prayers and sympathy to:
Norm Gill and his family on the death of Norm's sister, Maggie
 The family and friends of **Harriet Gray**, who until several years ago was a long-time member of WUMC
Shannon Casterline and her family on the death of Shannon's father
Jean Williams and her family on the death of Jean's granddaughter
Bruce Wattle and his family on the death of Bruce's mother, Elizabeth

The Western New York Conference regrets to inform you that **The Rev. Bong Hee Sung** died on Friday, February 5, 2010. She was 62 years old. Rev. Sung became a probationary elder in 2003 and a full elder in 2007. Rev. Sung was currently serving the Sodus/Sodus Point United Methodist Churches in the North Central New York Conference. She served the Western New York Conference at the Wilson: Exley and Orchard Park United Methodist Churches. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Community Bulletin Board

The Puppet Ministry

Our puppet ministry is in full swing. We are always looking for more kids, as well as ideas and scripts. Right now, we are looking for something special for the Lenten season. If you have some ideas or if you would like to help with the Puppet Ministry, please call the church office (634-4800) or join us at our next practice on Wednesday, March 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

Part-Time Christian Nanny Needed

An Eggertsville family is in need of a loving, Christian part-time nanny in their home for a newborn beginning March 1. If you are interested in this position, please contact Bridgette Cassety.

United Methodist Women Fundraiser

Back by popular demand, the United Methodist Women are selling magnetic extender clasps for an easy on and off for most necklaces. Two sizes in gold and silver are available from Carol Forden. For \$4.00, you can purchase one - but you will want more!

Help Make Video for WUMC's Website

The Communications Team is making a video for WUMC's website that will showcase our church's unique opportunities. If you are interested in helping and are handy with

Video cameras
Audio recorders
A/V production and editing

Then we need your help to make this happen! We also need your help if you are a member or leader of a group at WUMC and would like to be interviewed in the video. To volunteer to help with this video, contact Mina Rohde.

2010 Altar Flower Calendar Posted

The Altar Flower Calendar for 2010 is now up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Church members and friends are welcome to choose a Sunday to provide flowers for the worship service. Flowers may be given in memory of loved ones, in honor of special events, or as a loving dedication. A member of the Altar Guild will contact you the week before your chosen Sunday as a reminder and to take your bulletin dedication.

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: Nicholas 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: Ed Howard
Staff & Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Gary Brost
Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott & Lori Pacer
Coordinating Lay Leader & Treasurer: Dave Reichard
Communication Ministries: Karen Gerken & Sondra Scott
Family Life Ministries: Kim Weingartner
Membership Care Ministries:
Memorials: Sally Jost
Open Door Nursery School: Kathleen Zarbo
Outreach & Missions Ministries: Kevin Lyttle

Where Are They Now?

Have you recently heard from a former member or friend of WUMC who is no longer in the Buffalo area? An easy way to update our church community to send a sentence or two about this person(s) to either Sondra Scott or Rachel Zeller. A brief update will be included in the "Where Are They Now?" section of the newsletter.

Palm Sunday Pancake Brunch – March 28

Keep your eyes open for more information about the Palm Sunday Pancake Brunch that will be sponsored by our youth on March 28. Tickets for the brunch will be available shortly. Come help support your youth group as we continue this wonderful tradition.