



Loved by God, Led by Grace

The Methodist Messenger

From Your Pastor

Events and Dates to Remember

September 11 – 12
Annual WUMC Women's
Retreat at Stella Niagara

Sunday, September 13
Rally Day, Last day of
summer worship service at
10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 19
Chiavetta Chicken BBQ

Sunday, September 20
9:00 and 11:00 Sunday
worship services and
Sunday school resume

Saturday, October 3
Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 25
Flu and Pneumonia
Immunization Clinic

Sunday, November 29
Service of Hope

Sunday, December 6
Ring Master's Christmas
Concert

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

Why We Celebrate the Lord's Supper Every Sunday

By Pastor Rich Neal

"Why are we celebrating the Lord's Supper every Sunday?" It's a good question, current for us at Williamsville today and as old as John Wesley, who addressed it in 1732 in his sermon, "The Duty of Constant Communion." Wesley's remarks are still good for us today. But first a little background, and at the end a look ahead.

A generation ago, with the publication of our 1989 hymnal, the Lord's Supper was restored to its essential place in our basic pattern of worship, a pattern rooted in scripture and in our United Methodist heritage. Part of our service – the preaching service – is adapted from the ancient synagogue service. **The Lord's Supper is adapted from Jewish worship at family meal tables, which Jesus transformed into the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on the night before his death. As early Christians broke away from the synagogue, they held an adapted synagogue service and broke bread when they**

gathered regularly for worship on the first day of the week (Acts 2:41-47; 20:7).

In his sermon, Wesley held that it is every Christian's duty to receive the Lord's Supper as often as possible, first because "it is a plain command of Christ," who instructed his followers, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 23:19; 1 Cor. 11:24). Are we not to obey every command of Christ as often as we can, Wesley wondered? Of course we are. So why would we *not* obey this command when we gather for worship?

A second reason for receiving the Lord's Supper at every opportunity, Wesley believed, is because the benefits of doing so are so great. In the sacrament, our sins are forgiven; we are united with Christ and with other Christians; and our relationship with God, and the image of God within us, is renewed. Just as our bodies are refreshed and strengthened by the ordinary meals we eat each day, so in the Lord's Supper our souls are refreshed and strengthened so we can live a Christian life and be nourished toward wholeness. We



On July 19, Pastor Neal was officially welcomed to WUMC by Gary Brost and the congregation

can't afford to pass up any opportunity to nourish and strengthen ourselves on this provision God makes for our spiritual health.

In Wesley's day people raised the same objections to frequent communion that are often heard today, and Wesley's responses to those objections are still timely.

"I am unworthy to receive this mercy from God." Of course you are unworthy. No one is worthy to receive any of God's mercies. God knows it and gives them to us anyway, out of God's great love. Will any refuse what God so generously offers for our well-being?

"I cannot live up to the promise I make to live a holy life." If you can't live up to your promise when you com-



"Given for you..."

"God is at work in us long before we know it or feel it, in ways that will, in God's time, produce their own benefit whether or not we feel it or consciously experience it."

Why We Celebrate the Lord's Supper Every Sunday, Continued

mune every week, how will you do so when you commune only monthly, or quarterly, or once a year? **Without God's help, we cannot live up to any promise we make to God.** Through the nourishing grace of the Lord's Supper, God gives us the help we need.

"I don't have time to properly prepare to receive the sacrament." Wesley offered the simplest response: "If you resolve and design to follow Christ, you are fit to approach the Lord's table."

That's all the preparation you need, the determination and the intent to turn from your old life and lead a new one with God. God will provide the rest.

"Receiving the Lord's Supper too frequently will diminish my reverence for it." Suppose it did? When our appreciation for any grace of God is diminished for any

reason, do we benefit in depriving ourselves of that grace? Or do we persevere, not because we are adequately faithful but because God is abundantly and unfailingly so? If you are hungry for more from God, **Wesley held, don't pass up any opportunity to be fed.**

"But I've received the Lord's Supper often and haven't found the benefit I expected." God is at work in us long before we know it or feel it, **in ways that will, in God's time, produce their own benefit whether or not we feel it or consciously experience it.** And it will not be the benefit we expect but the benefit God intends for us. **Because we don't feel the benefit we expect is no reason to stand aside from the flood of grace and abstain from God's spiritual food.**

If we consider the Lord's Supper a command of

Christ, Wesley said, why not obey that command at every opportunity? If we consider **it a channel of God's grace,** why not receive that grace as often as possible?

For some time we have celebrated the Lord's Supper every week in the Williamsville congregation, alternating between the early and late worship services. Recently this summer, when there has been only one service, we have gathered at the table every week at 10:00 a.m., and when we return to two services after Rally Day it may seem advisable to consider resuming our familiar alternating pattern. However, whenever we celebrate the Lord's Supper, let's remember God's promise, **"Open your mouth wide and I will fill it"** (Ps. 81:10). As often as possible, **"let us taste and see that the Lord is good."**

Adopt-a-Puppet for King's Kids



Now that the puppets we used for King's Kids have moved to the retirement community with Pastor Gail, we need to purchase some new puppets. On the next page, you will find more information on how you can help us replenish the puppets through the Adopt-a-Puppet program. These puppets will be used throughout the year in our children's ministry, during the monthly King's Kids worship service, and other ministries. There are a variety of puppets available for adoption including ANIMAL PUPPETS, BIBLICAL PUPPETS, and CHILDREN PUPPETS. The price to adopt a puppet ranges from \$35.00 to \$75.00. These puppets will travel to WUMC by boat, plane, train, and car to become part of our children's ministry. The puppets will live in their own dormitories where they can be visited anytime the church is open. Please join us on Sunday, August 30, and again on Sunday, September 6, at the adoption table in the narthex to look at pictures and reserve a puppet. If you are not able to be at church on these two Sundays, please call either Judy Toone or Barbara Saltarella for more information on how you can participate in this program.



Kelly the Camel



Danny the Donkey



Miriam



Lucy the Sheep



Jesus



King



Angel



Moses



Shepherd



Mary



Tommy



Rachel



Noah



Joseph

Adopt-A-Puppet

Homeless Puppets Need You!



You can become parents to an adorable puppet through our Adopt-A-Puppet program.

Check out the list and see photos of the precious homeless ones we are seeking to adopt and give a home.

Taking Reservations

Date: August 30th and September 6th

Location: Williamsville UMC narthex

Contact: Barbara Salterella (bwsalterella@aol.com)

Worship Moments

Worship Themes for September 2009

- September 6 He . . . did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice. (Mark 7:24)
- September 13 He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29)
- September 20 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37)
- September 27 Jesus said, ". . . no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us." (Mark 9:39-40)



Words from the Worship Team

Rally Day is just around the corner! Can you believe it? The summer just flew or floated by. Now it is time for our new church year to begin.

"WORSHIP ANCIENT, WORSHIP NEW"

This is our theme for Rally Day 2009. The words come from that wonderful hymn, "GOD WHOSE LOVE IS REIGNING O'ER US."

"God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
Source of all, the ending true;

Hear the universal chorus
Raised in joyful praise to you:

Alleluia, Alleluia,

WORSHIP ANCIENT,
WORSHIP NEW.

These words remind us that Christians - and in our case, Methodist Christians - have a long heritage of honoring the past as we live and worship in the present. Our spiritual and religious roots are strong and deep. As we worship as a faith community in these "modern" times, we partake of the fruit of the tree of faith that was planted in good soil so many generations ago and has been carefully nourished throughout the ages by those who came before us.

Without those roots and the nourishing care given by so many, our tree of faith would be barren. Our knowledge of God and the experience of God upon

which we depend for our very lives would be unknown to us.

This tree of faith has flourished through the ages from the time of the chosen people to the time of Christ, through the times of John Wesley, and nourishing us at Williamsville United Methodist Church in 2009. Our tree of faith will continue to flourish as we offer ourselves to God through worship - *Worship Ancient, Worship New*. Peace be with you.



"Without those roots and the nourishing care given by so many, our tree of faith would be barren."

Music Notes



We have a very special music season planned for 2009-2010 at WUMC, and we would love to have you join us!

Chancel Choir: Our adult mixed choir is for anyone of high school age or older. We meet every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. No auditions are necessary - just come to rehearsal!

First Rehearsal:

Wednesday, September 9, 2009

Advent Choir: This children's choir is for boys and girls who like to sing who are in grades K-6. We rehearse every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

First Rehearsal:

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Memorial Handbell Choir: If you can read music and would like to make a weekly commitment to a very dedicated and talented group, please speak with Judy or Wendy. We rehearse every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

First Rehearsal:

Thursday, October 1, 2009

If you have any questions about our music program, please contact Judy Stafford or Wendy Amuso, our music directors. We hope to see lots of new faces involved in WUMC's music program this year!



WUMC Leadership and Conference Updates

Please Update Your Information with the Church Office

Over the past year, Denise Barham, our church administrator, has been transferring records to a new database system. During this process, Denise noticed that much of the information in our database is outdated. For this reason, all members and friends of WUMC are

being asked to take a few moments to submit your updated information to the church office. Your information can be submitted two ways:

- Complete the green Information Update form included with this newsletter, and then mail the form to Denise or leave it in the church office the next time you are at church.

- Complete the electronic version of the Information Update form that is available on WUMC's Web site (<http://www.williamsvilleumc.org/>). You can locate the form by clicking the link included in the "Update Your Information" announcement on the Home page. Your completed form will be e-mailed directly to Denise once you select "Submit."



**Help Us
Go Green**

Help WUMC Save Money and "Go Green" - Receive The Messenger Electronically!

As you complete the Information Update form, you will notice an option that asks if you would like to begin downloading a PDF of *The Messenger* each month instead of having it mailed to you. Denise estimates that if we mail 100 fewer copies of *The Messen-*

ger each month, we will save approximately \$540 per year by reducing paper, toner, and mailing costs. An added bonus is that WUMC will help save a few more trees by not using an extra case of paper each month to print those 100 newsletters.

So, if you have a computer and access to the Internet, please consider selecting the "I prefer to download *The Messenger* each month" option. Then each month, you will be notified when *The Messenger* is available on WUMC's Web site.



WUMC Leadership and Conference Updates

Reflections on the Work of the New Area/Conference Team

On June 19, 2010 we will "gather together to ask the Lord's blessing" on a new conference and a new area. Here is what lies ahead from the New Area/Conference Team (New ACT) convener's perspective.

The good news is we have organized most, but not all, of our Planning Team and given them authority to develop the structures needed for the first couple of years of our life together. These teams are working diligently and purposefully and will begin to funnel proposal to New ACT this summer.

New ACT is also about ready to authorize six Critical Question Teams to begin working. These teams will begin to tackle the "big picture" issues our new conference will face over the next several years:

Spiritual Formation: How shall we grow in our relationship with God?

Ministry: How shall we be the body of Christ within the world?

Discipleship: How shall we live in accordance with the example of Jesus Christ?

Local Church: How shall we engage, equip and empower?

Leadership: How shall we encourage and develop leadership?

Outreach: How shall we build and sustain relationships with our neighbors?

In the months ahead, I see New ACT focusing on two crucial strategic tasks:

- Help the Planning Teams align their work with the New Conference's Vision and Purpose.
- Develop some principles to guide the creation of the "Plan of Union" legislation New ACT is charged to

submit to the June 19, 2010 organizing session of our new conference. This document will contain enabling resolutions creating initial conference structures, staffing and policies.

One more area New ACT will be looking at is how to help us both grieve the loss of our current annual conferences and begin building new relationships. As always, your comments are welcome and helpful.

Bill Gottschalk-Fielding
New ACT Convener
<http://www.uppernewyork.org>



Planning Team



Fall 2009

Book Selections

September 18 - 7:30 p.m.
at WUMC

Book Selection: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

This novel is about a book club that is told in letters. It is set right after World War II on the English Channel island of Guernsey, which was occupied by the Germans. This story is part history lesson and part survival manual, and is filled with humor and characters you will remember.

October 16 - 7:30 p.m.
at the home of Bud and Sally Jost

Book Selection: *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music* by Steve Lopez

On October 28, Steve Lopez will be the Distinguished Speaker at UB. Many of our book club plan to attend.

November 20 - 7:30 p.m.,
location TBD

Book Selection: *The American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation* by Jon Meacham

December 11 - 7:30 p.m.
at the home of Vaughn and Midge Hackworth

Book Selection: *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch and Jeffrey Zaslow

Family Life News

Relationship - God's Gift

"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you." John 15:15

Since the beginning, God has created humans to have relationships with God and each other. These relationships can exist between family members and also among friends. I propose these very basic, by no means full, definitions of relationship:

Casual - Casual relationships are plentiful. Relationships develop within the settings of neighborhoods, businesses, churches, and anywhere - even through other relationships. Casual relationships show us the **rainbow spectrum of God's** infinite creativity in human beings.

Mutual Interest - These

relationships bless us with a sharing of interests. Mutual interest relationships provide support during the excitement of joys and the hurt of sorrows that color their lives. Mutual interest relationships encourage each other in positive ways leading to growth.

Close - We may have only a couple relationships we can actually call close. There is an intimate, personal feeling of connection and understanding flowing in close relationships. Individuals in a close relationship can reveal things to each other that may hurt other types of relationships. As is humanly possible, these close relationships model some elements of the relationship God wants with us.

There is always the blessing of developing new relationships as some of us may be entering new schools, new jobs, or just trying something new. Mutual interest

relationships provide stability amidst the changes that life brings. Close relationships challenge us to be authentic with each other in an atmosphere of acceptance that touches us in a very deep place.

So - what relationships do you see with other people in your life? Are there any relationships you want to build up? Relationships can evolve or dissipate as one or both desire. But there is one relationship that we know is constant and draws us closer throughout our lives - that is our relationship with God. How is your relationship with God? Are you able to be intimate with God? Would you say your relationship with God is close? If not, why?

"Seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul." Deuteronomy 4:29

- Kim Weingartner



WUMC Book Club Update

If you enjoy reading, consider attending the WUMC Book Club this fall as we read and discuss the interesting books we have selected. New members are always welcome! Even if **you don't have time to finish each book** - come to the meeting anyway to join in our lively discussions. Maybe there are only one or two books on our list that interest you - then **come to just those meetings. In other words, you're welcome anytime you care to join us.** If you have questions or need more information, please contact Ann Killian (838-4513).

Children's Christian Education Flash

Teaching or Education?

by Pastor Rich Neal

There's a big difference between teaching and education, and it's important to know the difference, especially as we begin another season of Christian education. Both have their place. They can even occur at the same time. They are not the same.

Education (from the Latin word *educere*, meaning "to draw out") has less to do with adding information that a person doesn't have than with uncovering or drawing out what a person already has. Real education is not an "information dump," in which someone with certain information

tries to pass it on to a student; it is a process of mining the knowledge and wisdom that a student already possesses, to make it available for the student to use in life.

That distinction is especially important in the spiritual life. When the prophet Jeremiah announces the new covenant that God is going to make with the people, he writes, "No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest" (Jer. 31:34).

Every person has an innate knowledge of God and of the principles (the law) that God has established to govern creation. There is a place in Christian education

for teaching, for sharing information about the long history and tradition of our faith, for passing on what earlier generations have learned about life. Jeremiah reminds us there is more to it than that. Teaching is a tool in education. It begins by respecting what the student already knows about God. Then it uses the sharing of information to draw out the student's hidden, inner knowledge and wisdom to help the student live well and faithfully.

As we begin another season of Christian education for students of all ages, let's consider it an adventure in which we discover and draw out the inner wisdom that God has given us so we can use it for the good life God offers.

Children CE Dates

to Remember

August 30 & September 6
Christian Education Registration forms and Adopt-a-Puppet information and forms available in the narthex

September 7 at 7:00
Christian Education meeting - all are welcome to join us!

September 13
Rally Day and "Meet Your Teachers"

September 20
Sunday school begins

October 25
Outreach Event

"Every person has an innate knowledge of God and of the principles (the law) that God has established to govern creation."

Confirmation Class "Under Construction"



According to Pastor Nick Perry, "the next several years are filled with promise and great possibilities with those potential confirmands who are coming up in the ranks in our strong Sunday school program." However, for the time being, confirmation at WUMC is "under construction" in hopes of providing a "rich experience of formation for confirmands." Pastor Nick will provide more information as plans for the Confirmation Class are finalized.

A Big "Thank You" to All Our VBS Volunteers!!

Camp E.D.G.E. Vacation Bible School that was held on August 3 - 7 was an even bigger success than last year! We had over 82 children Experiencing and Discovering God Everywhere! The weather held out, so we were able to have lots of fun outdoors. The food was great, and we came home with lots of cool crafts. We still had time to trek to the Jordan River, Bethlehem, the Pharisee's house, the Upper Room, and Galilee!

Deepest thanks go out to our amazing group of volunteers who helped make everything run so smoothly: Sheila Ransbottom, Toni Clancy, Barbara Manhardt, Lori Ann Brown, Jami Knapp, Cheri Pascoe, Katelyn Pascoe, Kathy Meyer, Emily Stilwell, Adam Kaufman, Ron Leonardi, Diane Kaufman, Wendy Fortune, and of course our storyteller, Pastor Nick! If I forgot anyone, please let me know so we can acknowledge your help in the next Messenger. We had so many helpers (and so many children!), it was hard to keep track of everyone!~ Judy Toone





Rally Day – September 13

Sunday, September 13, is not just Rally Day this year – it is also “Meet Your Teacher Day!” After the children’s message, children will go with their Sunday school teachers for the remainder of the service so they can get to know one another. We are so excited to hear all about your fabulous summers and we can’t wait to tell you all our exciting news for the upcoming year!

Children’s Christian Education Flash

Sunday Morning Educational Opportunities for Children and Youth

Sunday school classes officially begin on September 20. We meet each week from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. between WUMC’s two worship services. After worship services on August 30 and September 6, the Christian Education Registration form for Sunday school and youth groups will be available at the registration table in the narthex. If you miss those dates, parents can either download this form from WUMC’s Web site (<http://www.williamsvilleumc.org/FamilyLifeMinistries/ChildrensChristianEducationNews.aspx>) or ask your child’s teacher for the form.

We are so excited about all the new things we have in store for you this year! The information below provides you with a glimpse of the educational opportunities we have planned for children and youth this year. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Judy Toone (634-4800).



Three- and Four-Year-Old Class

Our 3- and 4-year-old class meets in the first classroom on the left at the bottom of the stairs of the Oakgrove entrance. Please join Miss Andrea, Miss Sarah, and Miss Amy as they teach children to LIVE B.I.G! It’s all about your Belief In God. Come meet your friend, Bongo, as you have fun playing games, singing songs, listening to stories, and doing activities together!*



Kindergarten - Fourth Grade Class

To find this class, head down the Oakgrove entrance stairs and go straight into Fillmore Hall, which is the large room through the fourth door on the right. In this class the children are divided into groups according to their grade level. Kindergartners, first, and second are in one group, and, finally, third and fourth grades are together. The curriculum we use is the Power Xpress Rotation model. That means every week the children learn the lesson in a different way. Some weeks they might hear the story, other weeks they might cook, make a craft, do a science project, or even playing a computer game!*

Fifth - Eighth Grade Class

Join us upstairs through the first door on the left each Sunday morning to GRAPPLE over tough questions in meaningful ways. No matter where our junior high kids are in their spiritual journey, they all have one thing in common—an inquisitive mind with an overwhelming desire for *real* relationships. They use Grapple—the Sunday school curriculum that plunges them into the Bible to get answers to their biggest questions about God, others, and themselves. Each Sunday they have a different attention-grabbing lesson that prompts them to dig into the Bible. PLUS, they enjoy an online community created just for them where they find games, forums, weekly challenges, a place to create their own identity, and more!

Stewardship for Children and Youth

Throughout the year, our children and youth Sunday school classes will discuss the different ways we can help our church ministries through giving of our time, talents, and treasure. Each child will receive their own set of offering envelopes to aid them in the treasure stewardship. Each week during Sunday school, a collection basket will be passed to gather the envelopes and gifts - just as we do in our regular church services. Parents, please take some time each week to discuss what your child was able to share that week of their time, talent, or treasure!

Children’s Christian Education Flash

Ninth - Twelfth Grade Class



Our senior high class meets upstairs and straight ahead. This year Neil Kratzer and Jennifer Sly will lead this group on a variety of topics using different curriculum options. They will address not only issues going on in their immediate

surroundings such as school, home, and community, but also on broader issues. For example, they will discuss how to apply their faith to their everyday lives. Join the senior high class each week for some straight talking, but never boring guidance on personal faith issues.

Other Educational Opportunities for Children

Extended Session

Extended session is a program specifically geared for children ages four through seven. **After the Children’s** Message during the 11:00 a.m. worship service, children in this age group can head downstairs for a mini-Sunday school lesson. The lesson usually includes a short story, craft, and sometimes a snack.*



* To aid us in following the Safe Sanctuary guidelines, please encourage your children to use the bathrooms before entering the classrooms. Thanks for understanding!

Bible Discovery Class

As many of you know, when children are in the third grade, we present them with a very special gift from our Christian Education team - a Bible. The Bibles are typically presented to our third graders in the fall. Immediately after the presentation, the children are invited to join us for a special class called “Learning to Use Your Bible.” This class is held each Sunday for four weeks. Anyone with a child entering third grade this year should contact Judy Toone (634-4800) so we can be sure every third grader has an opportunity to participate in this special event!



Youth Band Wants to Make a Joyful Noise, BUT...

Our Youth Band has lost its leader! If music is your “thing,” will you, or you and a friend, please consider leading this super group of teen students? The enthusiastic Youth Band brings their passion for music to our worship services. We encourage all our teens that play an instrument to join! Your guidance will create a lasting memory for our Youth Band and for *you*. If this sounds like your kind of ministry, please call the church office at 634-4800.

Youth Group Happenings



Adult Christian Education Update

With our congregation expanding every year, we found the need to create a new committee – Adult Christian Education (ACE). This committee is devoted to the enrichment of our ACE program at WUMC. The ACE committee not only helps formulate topics for programs we currently have in place, but it has also been brainstorming new ways to meet the diverse needs of the adult members and friends of our congregation. Since we are always looking for people who are interested in serving on the ACE committee, we invite you to join us at any of our meetings. Watch for dates and times in upcoming weekly and monthly Messengers and check the online church calendar at <http://www.williamsvilleumc.org/NewsandEvents.aspx>.



Sunday Morning ACE Opportunities This Fall

We are so excited about the ACE opportunities we are offering this fall, which include several new classes. Beginning September 20, these classes will meet every Sunday morning from 9:45 - 10:30 a.m., **which is between WUMC's two worship services.** Look over the information provided below about these ACE opportunities, and then plan to join us on Sunday morning when you can!

Solomon's Porch

A new older adult Christian education class is being offered that is geared for ages 60 and above. For those of you not familiar with Solomon, he was the son of King David who was known as a man of great wisdom, wealth, and power. 1King 10:24 says, "The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart." Come share your wisdom with each other in this ongoing class that will address a variety of issues specifically concerning your age group. We will start the year by exploring the book titled *10 Gospel Promises for Later in Life* by Jane Marie Thibault, which looks at how each of ten gospel promises affect our faith journey later in life. For further information, please contact Barbara Saltarella (634-4800).

Adult Bible Study

The Disciple study group that was to begin this fall has been postponed, probably until fall 2010. However, Greg Valentine will lead a new adult Sunday school class that focuses on Bible study. This class will use materials published by Cokesbury that focus on a different Bible theme or book every quarter. Participation can range from occasionally dropping in, to daily reading and weekly attendance. The class will be highly discussion oriented with a wide range of ideas, interpretations, and questions not only welcome, but encouraged!

Contemporary Issues

Adults are welcome to come to this class as often as you can! You will find the discussions to be lively and the topics to be relevant to your life today. Look for upcoming topics in the Sunday weekly **Messenger and on WUMC's Web site at** <http://www.williamsvilleumc.org/FamilyLifeMinistries/AdultChristianEducation.aspx>.

Invitation to the Psalms – Beginning in January 2010

If you love the Psalms or would like to become more familiar with them, please join us in January when ACE will offer a 6-week Disciple Course titled "Invitation to the Psalms." This class will meet during the regular Sunday school time from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. It will be facilitated by Barbara Manhardt and Cheryl Thomas, with special visits from our pastors. There is a charge for the study materials that will be used. See you in January 2010

Additional ACE Opportunities

Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible

We know these women. They are our friends, co-workers, relatives, and even the woman sitting next to us at church on Sunday. They are women of faith, but with some definite flaws. They are **the slightly bad girls! Now it's time to study their scripture counterparts:**

Sarah - who was not the nicest person in the world to her maidservant

Hagar - who loathed her mistress

Rebekah - who knew just how to manipulate her son

Leah - who totally wanted her sister's husband

Rachel - who more than anything wanted to be like her fertile sister

Those who attended the previous studies (*Bad Girls of the Bible* and *Very Bad Girls of the Bible*) will love this study! Please join Nancy Howlett for a 6 – 8 week journey through Genesis as we consider those *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God*. This group will meet every Wednesday beginning September 30 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Women interested in participating in the study should contact Nancy Howlett (nhowlett36@msn.com).



Adult Christian Education Update

Eternal Perks

Eternal Perks will be open for business again beginning Sunday, September 20. For those of you not familiar with Eternal Perks, this is WUMC's little coffee shop set up in the library, which is located off the narthex. Feel free to come in, relax, read the Sunday paper, and treat yourself to a cup of coffee every week between the first and second worship services. With so many coffee shops in the village, we know it is hard to pick one - but we would love it if you make Eternal Perks your first pick on a Sunday morning!

Nurture and Visitation Reflections

Caring Corner Resources

The display racks in the narthex contain many new brochures and pamphlets that provide important information that is useful for adults of all ages. Listed below are some of the brochures you will find in the display racks. Please take a copy of the brochures that are of interest to you so you have this important information on hand.

Insurance Resource Center – Helps people understand their options regarding health insurance, Medicare, prescription coverage, long-term care insurance, and more. You can give them a call at 716-858-7883, and they will be happy to help you. The Insurance Resource Center has provided brochures on the following topics:

- Medicare
- Medicare Supplemental Plans
- Managed Care Plans (HMO, PPO, PFFS, MSA)
- Premium Rates
- Medicaid
- Prescription Coverage
- Long-Term Care Insurance – Additional information about long-term care and long-term insurance is available at http://www.nyhealth.gov/facilities/long_term_care/ or by calling 1-866-950-7526.

(Continued on page 13)

Caring Corner

This month I want to share with you an inspirational article by Lloyd Young that I read recently **read on the UMC "Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries" Web site.** I hope it lifts your heart and spirit, as it did mine.

Blessings and love,
Barbara Saltarella

Walk the Walk: Breathe a Prayer¹

by Lloyd Young

Many of us feel we are passing through a dark wilderness these days. Those foundations upon which we had built our dreams have been badly shaken. Savings and investments that we felt provided safety and security for the future have been greatly reduced or have disappeared entirely. Some of us have lost our jobs.

As never before, we begin to question previous as-

sumptions of financial and personal security. Uncertain as to which way to turn, we begin to seek new directions out of the darkness. We look for a pillar of fire to lead us - a living flame of love. In silent moments of reflection, we look for answers. From within our very souls we may ask ourselves, "Who am I? Where am I going?"

When responding to such challenges, brief ancient prayers of faith provide strength. We are wise to **learn to "breathe" holy words** such as:

*The Lord is my shepherd -- He leads me beside still waters.
Be still and know that I am God.
I am with you always.*

No matter what we are doing throughout the day, try "breathing" these holy words, again and again and again.

When we learn to breathe the same short prayer each day and night, there

gradually may grow within us a new confidence, a new hope for the future. We begin to behold a mystical pillar of fire ready to lead us - a living flame of love.

To reach our own special promised land, perhaps we must first pass through a dark desert of disappointment where we rethink priorities and decide again which are the most important elements of our lives. We need not walk this walk alone. Passing through this desert part of our lives, as we breathe our short prayers, we may well sense Christ's presence very near and find new directions.

¹ Lloyd Young, "Walk the Walk: Breathe a Prayer," GBOD, Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries, http://www.gbod.org/coa/articles.asp?act=reader&item_id=47554



Nurture and Visitation Reflections

(Continued from page 12)

Federal Trade Commission for the Consumer
– The organization has provided brochures on the following topics:

Reverse Mortgages

Your access to Free Credit Reports

How to Dispute Credit Report Errors

Credit, ATM, and Debit Cards

Identity Crisis

A report on the Fair Credit Reporting Act

Erie County – Find additional information about services provided for seniors in Erie County at <http://www.erie.gov/depts/seniorservices/> or by calling (716) 858-8526. In addition, Erie County has provided brochures on the following topics:

Caregivers take charge
Insurance Resource Center
Guide to Services for Older Adults

Nursing Homes in Erie County
Adult Homes/Retirement Communities in Erie County
Independent Senior Citizen

Housing
Benefit Checklist for Older Erie County Residents

Please help yourself to these resources as they can answer many of your questions.



Care-Giving Corner: Therapy Dog Ministry at WUMC

Who would have thought that our faithful friend could be our friend-in-faith? Our own church family member, Kathy Meyer, volunteers as a Therapy Dog handler with her 10-year-old Bichon Frisé, Teddy Bear.

Kathy and Teddy Bear are regular visitors at several area hospitals where Teddy Bear brightens the day for many patients with his calming disposition. Since the hospital can be a lonely place, Kathy said it is gratifying to see how Teddy Bear brings a welcome change and helps people open up. Being a Therapy Dog handler compliments Kathy's Master's Degree in Social Work and her lifelong desire to help people.

Teddy Bear completed training and testing to become a certified Canine Good Citizen nearly five years ago, and is a registered member of Therapy Dogs International; a first step to becoming a welcome visitor at health care facilities. In order to accompany her dog, Kathy must also become an official volunteer at each hospital or facility, which includes health and immunization checks, orientation, and interviews. Once while Kathy was meeting with the Head of Volunteers, Teddy Bear took a nap on the floor!

Before each two-hour visit, Kathy ensures Teddy Bear is clean and attended to. She said Teddy Bear knows his job and leads the way to "their" assigned floors at Women and Children's Hospital. Along the way, hospital staff have secret stashes of doggie treats they enjoy dispensing. As they make their rounds, Kathy sees a transformation come over the children's faces. One child petted

the dog for 40 minutes straight! Some patients say Teddy Bear is the best visitor they ever had.

Kathy and Teddy Bear also bring smiles to people's faces on their visits to DeGraff and Buffalo General Hospitals, Oakwood, and Hospice. Once when visiting a rehab unit, a stroke patient began to pet Teddy Bear unwittingly using his impaired hand! Even patients who claim they do not like dogs allow Teddy Bear on their bed.



Kathy Meyer with Teddy Bear

Kathy especially likes how dogs don't judge people.

Teddy Bear doesn't recognize difficult or cantankerous patients; he loves them all equally. Being involved in Pet Ministry has given Kathy new insight into the scripture, "I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me... I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me." (Matthew 25:37-40)

Kathy wishes to spread the word that there is a genuine need for therapy dog volunteers. In addition to hospitals and care homes, schools and libraries use therapy dogs in programs to improve the literacy skills of children, and it's working. To learn more about these programs, visit www.therapyanimals.org or www.tdi-dog.org.

If you would like Kathy to visit someone recovering from surgery or going through rehabilitation, please call the church office at 634-4800. Therapy Dog visitation brings great joy and satisfaction to both Kathy and those to whom she ministers. What marvelous gifts we have among us at WUMC! ~ Karen Gerken

Nurture and Visitation Reflections

Health Corner

Why Get a Flu Vaccination

As you will read in the Community Bulletin Board section of this newsletter, once again WUMC is hosting a Flu and Pneumonia Immunization Clinic on Sunday, October 25. As we prepare for the flu season, we thought it would be useful to provide some information about flu shots and why we should consider being immunized. The following information was summarized from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/FLU/protect/keyfacts.htm>).

The single best way to protect against the flu is to get vaccinated each year. The *flu shot* is an inactivated vaccine (containing killed virus) that is approved for use in people older than 6 months, including healthy people and people with chronic medical conditions. Each vaccine contains three influenza viruses—one A (H3N2) virus, one A (H1N1) virus, and one B virus. The viruses in the vaccine change each year based on international surveillance and scientists' estimations about which types and strains of viruses will circulate in a given year. About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies that provide protection against influenza virus infection develop in the body. The effectiveness of flu vaccine to protect a person depends on the age and health status of the person getting the vaccine, and the similarity or "match" between the virus strains in the vaccine and those in circulation.

It is recommended that certain people should be vaccinated each year since they are either at risk of having serious flu complications or they live with or care for those at high risk for serious complications. The people who should be vaccinated each year include:

Children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday

Pregnant women

People 50 years of age and older

People of any age with certain chronic medical conditions

People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities

People who live with or care for those at high risk for complications from flu

Some people should not be vaccinated without first consulting a physician including:

People who have a severe allergy to chicken eggs

People who have had a severe reaction to an influenza vaccination

People who developed Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of getting an influenza vaccine

Children less than 6 months of age

People who have a moderate-to-severe illness with a fever should wait until they recover to get vaccinated



Blood Pressure Check Clinic - September 13

Now that summer is nearing an end, WUMC's Blood Pressure Check Clinic will be available before and after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on the second Sunday of each month beginning on September 13. Shelley Kayne, a nurse from our congregation, will operate the clinic. This is a quick and easy way to monitor your blood pressure, which is an important indicator of your overall health. Please contact Shelley Kayne if you have questions. Hope to see you at WUMC's Blood Pressure Check Clinic on September 13!



Outreach and Missions Musings

Women Build 2010 – Building Houses, Building Hope

As you may know, we have an active group of people at WUMC who volunteer with Habitat for Humanity to help build houses in the Buffalo area. What you probably **don't know is that nationally**, more than 1,500 Habitat homes have been built by crews of women. Habitat Buffalo will soon begin a *Women Build* project to add another house to that total. *Women Build* projects provide an environment in which women can feel comfortable developing and using construction skills. Women from all walks of life are signing on to pick up hammers and use power tools to help a family build its

way to a better future.

Habitat Buffalo is very excited that *Women Build* will begin working on a new Energy Star efficient house in May 2010. Volunteers are needed for all phases of this project as we work to build in partnership with a family in need. We are asking you to join Western New York *Women Build* volunteers to make this a successful project. Discover for yourself that you can construct a Habitat home and be part of the solution to a great need.

This project will be funded by sponsors such as companies, fundraising organizations, grants, VIPs - and people like

you. Donations can include materials and cash, which are tax deductible. Currently, a new build home costs \$80,000. We already have \$23,000 toward this amount.

To learn more about how to become involved in *Women Build 2010*, attend the introductory meeting on Thursday, September 17, at 7:00 p.m. at North Presbyterian Church, 300 North Forest Road, Williamsville, NY 14221. If you can't attend the meeting, please contact either the Habitat office at (716)204-0740 or Lynne Stevens at 689-4616 for more information.



Stewardship Thoughts

World Communion Sunday – October 4

More than \$1.3 million in scholarships for advanced and college-level study in the 2009-2010 academic year were approved April 29 by directors of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The stipends will help to support the educational preparation of students whose future work will directly relate to the mission of The United Methodist Church. A total of \$649,463 was granted through the World Communion Scholarship program. Of this total, \$462,263 was given to

45 international students and \$187,200 to 23 students in the United States. Even though these scholarships are funded primarily through the World Communion Scholarship program, the Global Ministries General Fund was used to award International Leadership Development Grants to 52 new and 74 continuing students. These grants, which support bachelor- through doctoral-level studies, come from designated endowments. Another \$71,500 was awarded in National Leadership Development grants to assist 18 continuing students from racial and ethnic communities.



Care Giving Corner



Behind the Scenes

Doors to Education



Laura Pressley, who is a World Communion Scholar, points out that life on the streets is particularly hard on women. "Women dealing with addiction don't have the safety net and support many

men have," she says. "They are uneducated, poor, they are usually single mothers, and they are addicts." The faces and stories of the women she met while volunteering on a first-aid squad have stayed with her as she pursues a Master's degree in Counseling and Addiction Ministry at Methodist Theological School in Ohio. She hopes to create an inner-city residential treatment program for women of color. "Being able to merge my passion for psychology and women's studies with my interest in addiction really clicked," she adds. "I know it's God's will for my life because I've never felt so much at peace with myself."

Without scholarship help from funds raised on World Communion Sunday, Laura would not have been able to sign up for classes this year. "I'm up to my ears in school debt," she says. "It's only because of United Methodists who have given on World Communion Sunday that I am free to pursue the rest of my education without fear or anxiety. I can concentrate on what really counts - helping people who are in the darkest corner of addiction and despair to find a new life in Christ."

Donations to the World Communion Sunday can be given during WUMC's worship services on October 4 or online by visiting www.umcsgiving.org/WCS.



While worship may seem like a one hour, once-a-week routine, it's truly a highly orchestrated performance brought together by a team of often "behind the scenes" people. In this column, which is new to The Messenger, we will explore various aspects of what goes into creating our seemingly flawless services: before, during, and after. This month we will go behind the choir scenes.
~ Karen Gerken

Behind the Choir Scenes

I recently had the opportunity to interview our two music directors, Judy Stafford and Wendy Amuso, for insight into the music ministry. Each week, we witness their epitome of grace at WUMC. If you are not involved in this ministry, you might be surprised at what you will learn.

KG So, are you off during the summer?

JS/WA (laughter) We work all summer long! We review the many catalogs and CDs mailed to us to select newly published sacred choral music for the upcoming church calendar year. We easily listen to *1000 pieces*.

KG Wow. How many songs do you use each year?

JS/WA Our music season is from September through June. That means about 60-70 pieces a year.

KG How many *new* pieces do you select?

JS/WA Each year we choose about 30 new selections for the Chancel Choir. We try to look for music and anthems that showcase the talents available in our group, which can vary.

KG Do you order music pieces all year?

JS/WA No. We place our order *for the year* by August 1. We have our selections in place and on the schedule for the entire year by September 1.

KG Why do you have the schedule made up so far in advance?

JS/WA It gives us flexibility in planning. If we know individuals will be out of town, we can rearrange the selections to best suit the available talent on a given Sunday. Also, we practice several selections during each rehearsal, not just the piece for the upcoming Sunday.

KG How many individual items must you buy, since due to copyright laws, you cannot just copy the music to distribute to the choir?

JS/WA We have to buy one copy for each singer, plus the accompanist (s) and director, so we order 55 copies at \$2.00 per copy. If there is an orchestral need, that costs an additional \$35.00.

KG What about the Hand Bell and Advent (children's) Choir, do you choose new music for those choirs?

JS/WA We purchase about 10 new pieces a year for the Hand Bell Choir and 12 for the Children's Choir.

Behind the Choir Scenes

(Continued from page 16)

KG How do you pay for it?

JS/WA We have a budget. We are fortunate to belong to a church that truly appreciates music and are very generous. We are in a unique position in that we have had five anthems commissioned over the last few years.

KG *Five anthems!* What does that entail?

JS/WA First, it is a great honor. It is also exceedingly expensive. For example, it might cost the benefactor \$1,000 for an individual to commission a composer to write an anthem especially for our choir. Before creating the music, the composer asks us questions such as what composers we like and what categorizes our ensemble.

KG How is the music coordinated with the weekly sermon? Do you select hymns accordingly?

JS/WA We communicate with whoever is preaching each week. However, the pastor selects hymns that generally coordinate with the weekly message.

KG Do you practice often?

JS/WA Every day for about 45 minutes to an hour! We have to *learn* the music, not just play it; that can take several weeks.

KG How often do you rehearse during the week?

JS/WA There are three choirs, and each one meets once a week. The Chancel Choir meets for 1 hour and 15 minutes; **the Advent Choir meets for an “action-packed” 45 minutes**, and the Hand Bell Choir meets for an hour or longer. In addition, we meet at 10:45 on Sunday morning to practice before worship.

KG When there is special music such as a holiday or confirmation, how is rehearsing different?

JS/WA That can be tricky. For example, we have several members of the orchestra section away at college. We mail the music to them and try to assemble beforehand. We are fortunate to have so many professional musicians willing to share their gift in the congregation. Although we have a choir room, when special music events are included, we need to have the sanctuary for *an hour* on Sunday before service to warm up and practice as an ensemble. Together, we are able to make it all come together.

KG Who makes **the children’s choir** props?

JS/WA (in unison) We do!

KG You have been involved with church music your whole life, since childhood, and you are classically and professionally trained. Do you ever get nervous?

JS/WA **Every time! That’s why there is a bottle of Pepto Bismol readily available!** But we have each other to balance stressors like when people are absent, and we have a real camaraderie in the Chancel Choir. We all work hard and have to be flexible; but the social aspect of the choir brings great **comfort and fellowship. We laugh a lot; call it “Choir Therapy.”**

KG Do any unusual situations ever arise?

JS/WA We have learned to anticipate the unexpected! One time the elevator was stuck with three choir members in **it. We could see their faces; they didn’t dare move until help** arrived. We fed them cookies through the opening! Another time on Christmas Eve, someone was helping Judy move a piano before there was one in the sanctuary. They rolled the piano right over her foot, breaking three toes! And yes, people faint - we have a protocol for that. Here is an interesting bit – we have learned that the organ is capable of being programmed. You can even start it *remotely* from say - the Eagle House!

KG Who cleans the choir robes?

JS/WA They are expensive to clean, and there are 150 robes. Members are responsible for the care of their robe. When professional cleaning is warranted, individuals can submit a bill for reimbursement.

KG A lot happens between Sundays. Is there any other behind the scenes work that comes to mind?

JS/WA We must check the bulletins each week to ensure things such as the order, composer, and anthem are correct; and that there are no typographical errors.





Open Door Nursery School News

“Is my school open yet?”

No doubt this is a question often asked by preschoolers as the end of the summer draws to a close. Well, at ODNs doors will open once again in the lower level of WUMC. We plan to welcome 78 students in our 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old classes on September 8 and 9.

The staff has been busy setting up their classrooms and curriculum for the past few weeks. They are prepared to meet the variety of faces coming through the door on those first days....happy, excited, timid, crying – and those are just the parents!

Seriously, we look forward to greeting

our young students and leading them through a fun filled year of growth and development.

This year we welcome three new faces to our Open Door family.

Kathy Zarbo will act as ODNs’ board chair and liaison to WUMC. Kathy is a WUMC member and mother to Michael, who is a student in our Pre-K class.

Melinda Bertrand will be our 3-year-old teacher on Tuesday and Thursday.

Mary Pardo will be an aide in our Monday-Wednesday-Friday 4-

year-old class.

Their enthusiasm and love for children compliment an already exceptional staff.

Thank you to Pastor Neal for his presence and support at our August board meeting. You are welcome to visit us in the classrooms at any time. Additional information regarding ODNs can be found on the church’s Web site or by calling Judy Knab at 633-1655.

Blessings on our Open Door family as we begin our 39th year of serving families in our community.

~ Judy Knab



Community Bulletin Board



Rachel Circle – September 10

The Rachel Circle is having a Fall Lunch on Thursday, September 10, at noon at the home of Midge Hackworth, 17 Chapel Woods Court. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, please call either Midge Hackworth (688-7309) or Sally Jost (839-5249).

Chiavetta’s Chicken BBQ – September 19

We’re heating up the briquettes to barbeque some delicious Chiavetta’s chickens, so let us do the cooking on Saturday, September 19! Complete chicken dinners will be sold from 4:00 - 7:30 p.m. or until the chickens are gone - so come early! Dinners are \$8.50 each and desserts are \$.50 each. Plan to support this fundraiser by purchasing your dinner at WUMC on September 19. Also, be sure to tell your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers about the BBQ.

Volunteers Needed for Chicken BBQ

As always, many helping hands ensure the success of our Chiavetta’s Chicken BBQ. Please sign-up on the sheets located in the narthex to help put food on plates, prepare a dessert, sell tickets, wave signs on Main Street, or keep the Fellowship Hall picked-up during the dinner. Please contact Jen Sly (jdansly@verizon.net; 716-604-5372) or Elisabeth Jones for more information.

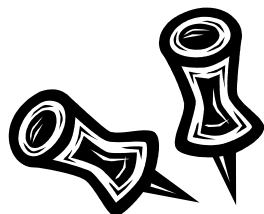
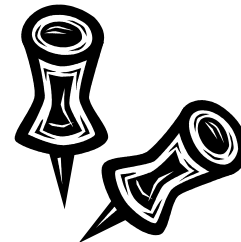


Community Bulletin Board

The Visiting Nursing Association Immunization Program will hold a Flu and Pneumonia

Annual Flu Immunization Clinic – October 25

Immunization Clinic, hosted by WUMC on Sunday, October 25, from noon until 4:00 p.m. *The Swine Flu vaccine will not be offered.* The fee of \$30.00 for a flu immunization and \$45.00 for a pneumonia shot is payable by cash, check, or by your insurance with a valid insurance card. Children ages 9-17 accompanied by a parent/guardian are welcome; consent forms available. Call 634-4800 to reserve an appointment. *Drop-ins before 3:45 p.m. will be accommodated if possible.*



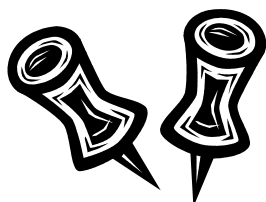
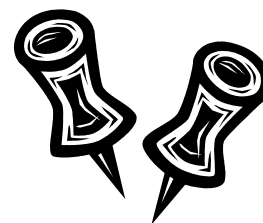
Meal Ministry at WUMC

If your family or a family you know needs temporary help with meal preparation, our Meal Ministry can help! A few WUMC members have volunteered to cook and deliver meals to families or individuals who, for one reason or another, **are having trouble cooking for themselves.** This “ministry” has helped many families in the past.

In addition, we always need more volunteers to help cook meals. Please contact Lori Aloisio (688-4884) if you or someone you know can benefit from the Meal Ministry, or if you would like to be added to Lori’s list of cooks she can contact to help prepare meals. Thank you!

Join the Newsletter Mail Crew

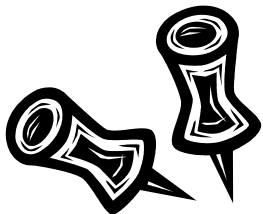
A loyal group of people gather in the church parlor on the last Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. to prepare our monthly newsletter for mailing. This group is lovingly referred to as our “Mail Crew.” Please consider joining us for a cup of coffee and warm fellowship as we collate, fold, tape, and place mailing labels on the newsletters. When we have plenty of people, our work is finished by 11:00. Call Denise Barham in the church office if you need more information. Otherwise, we look forward to having you join the ranks of the Mail Crew next month!



Gynecological Cancer Support Group Meetings at WUMC

How would you like to attend a Gynecological Cancer Support Group that offers hope, encouragement, and laughter? We have a support system that is open to survivors, caregivers, family, and friends. Our goal is to help you look at life in a more positive light. Please join us the first and third Tuesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the library at WUMC. When you have hope, you can keep going. So, plan on going to our support group to see what we are all about. For more information, call the church office at 634-4800.

Community Bulletin Board

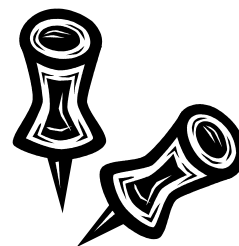


Crib Room Attendant Wanted

WUMC is currently accepting applications for a position available in the Crib Room. This is a part-time year round paid position. Must have experience with babies and toddlers and be available every other Sunday morning from 8:30am to 12:30pm. If you are interested or can recommend someone who might be please send a resume to the church, attention: Christian Ed Director.

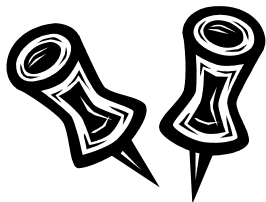
Help with Gleaning This Summer

Now that summer is here, gleaning season is right around the corner. What is gleaning? Gleaning is an opportunity to go into farm fields after they have been harvest to collect produce that was left behind. This produce is distributed to WNY food banks, soup kitchens, and others in need. Please take a moment to place your name on the Gleaning sign-up sheet in the narthex to participate in this worthwhile and rewarding activity. For more information, please contact Penny Graham (632-3187).



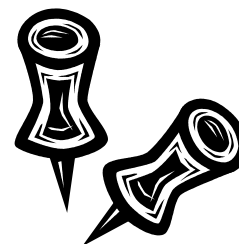
Hospice Volunteers Needed

Hospice Buffalo is committed to bring the best in end-of-life care to patients and families in Erie County. Whether you are looking for a way to give back or you are a youth needing service hours, there is a volunteer opportunity for you. Volunteers are needed at the eight-bed Hospice House located at 111 Maple Street in Buffalo. Volunteers assist by helping with administrative tasks, greeting family members, and operating the refreshment cart. Daytime, evening, and weekend hours are available. If you are interested, please call the Hospice volunteer office at (716) 989-2360 for more information.



Have the Wiggles During Church?

In the back of the sanctuary by the Oakgrove entrance is a small bookshelf where we keep 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 have any children with the "wiggles and giggles," please feel free to pick up a clipboard and crayons as you arrive for the service. The ushers will be more than happy to help you locate these items.



Community Bulletin Board

Infant and Toddler Care

Loving, consistent childcare is available in the nursery downstairs from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. September through May and 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. when we have only one service in the summer. Our paging system will alert you quietly if your child needs your presence. If you need directions to the nursery, an usher will be happy to help you!

Please submit articles, news, announcements, etc. for the next edition of *The Messenger* to Sondra Scott (sondralscott@hotmail.com; 832-5008). Thank you



Prayer Chain

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

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

Nursery Care Supervisor: Kathleen Ciccone

Newsletter Editors: Sondra Scott and Rachel Zeller

Trustee Chair: Ed Howard

Staff & Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Gary Brost

Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott & Lori Pacer

LAY LEADERS:

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

Relational Ministries:

Worship Ministries: Cheryl Thomas