



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

Williamsville United Methodist Church
The Methodist Messenger

Give thanks.

Pastor's Corner: A Thanksgiving Prayer

God of the harvest, we come unto you to express our gratitude for the bounty which you have showered upon all humanity. Out of your storehouse you have brought forth blessings both tangible and intangible, and conferred them upon your children.



We lift up our hearts in gratitude for the material blessings of life – for the products of field and forest, of shop and factory, by which we are fed and clothed and sheltered. Give us the grace, O God, to express the gratitude of our hearts in a steadfast endeavor to make available to all the necessities of life, which you did design for all.

We lift up our hearts in gratitude for the intangible blessings of life – for the abiding joys of home and family and friends, known to prince and pauper alike. We bless you for the zest we find in the pursuit of lofty goals, for the happiness we achieve in giving ourselves into the service of others, for the music of the birds and the beauty of the earth, for the peace we find in fellowship with you.



We lift up our hearts in gratitude for the blessings conferred upon us by our nation. We are grateful for the freedom we possess, for the liberty of worship we enjoy, for the democratic rights and privileges that are ours, and above all for the opportunity to extend, through the contagion of our example, understanding helpfulness and humble service to all humankind the blessings we cherish for ourselves.

To this end, O God, may our thanksgiving culminate not simply in a backward look, but also in an outward and forward look. Grant that the desire of our hearts may be the extension of individual benedictions to every son and daughter, brother and sister, father and mother, throughout the earth, so that the last and the least of all human voices may say: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; all that is within me, bless his holy name."

We pray in the name and in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.



As Time Goes By....

Shelley Kayne



We might think of this phrase and remember a popular British comedy with the same title. Some might reflect that time has passed awfully quickly. My 8-year-old nieces might say that they want to "hurry up and be grown up." Time can be a healer and time can be painful. Painful time happens during a crisis, a drastic change in someone's life or a harsh loss. This can be through death, job loss, loss of health, etc. This is called grieving. Sometimes grieving can progress to depression.

So, what's a person to do if they find themselves surrounded by grief, either their own mourning or someone else's? It will touch us all. No one knows a "typical" grieving process. There are stages, but length of time for grieving is different for everyone.

Well, let's say we are a concerned congregation member. What do we do or say to a grieving person? My reading and experience with this leads to time and faith. Use time by calling the person. Take time to talk. Sometimes scary subjects might come up. The grieving person may sound like their faith is taking a questionable hit. It isn't unusual to become angry with God. This can become a trial of their faith. It's perfectly allowable to say; "I'm so sorry that you're going through this. Would it help to talk with someone?" Refer them to our pastors if the subject is too intense. Otherwise, just listening helps.

Over the years I've seen some co-workers experience the loss of their children. One "child" was 34 years young. Our mind tells us that this isn't the natural order of life. Does this make the grieving any harder? I don't know, but I will say that it is difficult to watch the pain my friend is experiencing. Every year at this time, she is distressed and bursting into tears at work. The best that I can give to her is time to cry and I just hug her and hold her and we are not ashamed to have this happen in the nurses' station. Some co-workers stop to help (because that's how we are). I simply announce to them that she is grieving. Maybe having this occur in a rather public place can help others. She is able to talk about her son. I think this helps.

I think the hardest part of seeing grief is the fact that this person has to experience this for themselves. You can't change their life event, nor can you make it better. Time is the element that allows life to evolve differently. Time will land them in a healing place. Sometimes "our" time is much different than God's time.

In Christ,
Shelley

Here are some signs of depression:

- Sleeping more/sleeping less;
- Loss of interest in things that previously brought pleasure;
- Lack of energy;
- Feeling worthless;
- Uncontrollable crying;
- Loss of appetite/weight gain;
- Isolation;
- Drug/alcohol abuse.

How to combat depression:

- Get a physical exam from your Health care provider;
- Get physical exercise;
- Cultivate a sense of humor;
- Take naps and get just enough sleep;
- Eat well-balanced meals;
- Stay in touch with friends and family;
- Be aware of family history of depression;
- Get out and volunteer;
- Be aware of the stress of life changes, loss of job, spouse, parent, child, friend, pet, divorce, or health.



Recommended readings:

- *What Happens When I Die?*, Hover, George - 2004
- *But I Didn't Say Goodbye* Rubel, Barbara - 1999
- "Men and Depression", Wax, Beverly - *Today's Caregiver*, October 2006
- Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-5

Moms In Touch

Would you like to pray with other moms for your children and their school? Moms, grandmas or any woman who is willing to pray for a specific child at Forest Elementary in Williamsville can contact Faith Fisk at 634-4828 or email ffisk@adelphia.net, for more information.





Barbara Saltarella

Well summer is really a thing of the past for this year and the leaves are turning, the smell of pumpkins, turkey cooking and soon the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping will be all over Western N.Y. As we draw near the closing of another year let us give thanks for all that God has given us.

I again want to thank everyone for making the Flu Shot Clinic a great success. We saw 111 people on Sunday, October 7 and it would not have been possible without the help of Shelley Kayne and the wonderful staff and volunteers of Williamsville United Methodist Church. I already have next year's Flu Shot Clinic on the schedule.

We also want to remind everyone to get your blood pressure checked every month on the 2nd Sunday in the library.

The holidays are not always the happiest time for people (I know for me it can get a little overwhelming and I find myself a little blue and lonely.) If you feel the same way that I do, please join Rev. John Wetherwax and me on Sunday November 25 at 3 p.m. for a time of prayer, music and fellowship.

For the caregiver out there, make sure you take some quiet time for yourself because the holidays can be very stressful you need to take time to rejuvenate. If you would like to get away for a few days Bassett Manor in Williamsville as well as Weinberg Campus has respite care. If you need information give the church a call and we will be glad to help you.

Have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving,
The Nurture and Visitation Team

Sharing God's Gifts¹ Submitted by Sondra Scott

Serving Christ Through Our United Methodist Connection Giving

Six times each year, United Methodist congregations participate in churchwide or "connection" giving with Special Sunday offerings. By pooling our offerings on these Special Sundays, United Methodists are able to provide refuge in disaster areas, promote peace and justice, present scholarships and student loans, meet community needs, teach life changing skills, and share the love of Jesus with God's people everywhere.

Mel Luetchens, who is the retired Nebraska Conference director of connectional ministries, reminds us that with Special Sunday offerings, even small gifts make a difference. "You don't have to give \$10,000 to make a difference. When your gift is combined with contributions from people throughout the United Methodist connection, it makes quite an impact."

Luetchens recalls the story called "The Star Thrower" by Loren Corey Eiseley. On a beach, Eiseley encounters a boy throwing stranded starfish back into the sea. "What is the purpose?" Eiseley asks. The boy replies that unless he throws the starfish back into the sea before the sun rises, the creatures will die. Eiseley says, "But there are more starfish on this beach than you can ever save before the sun is up. Surely you cannot expect to make a difference." Tossing another starfish back into the sea, the youth responds, "I made a difference to that one." The moral of the story hits home for Luetchens, who sees connection Special Sunday offerings as opportunities for individuals to contribute to United Methodist work all over the world. If every one of the nearly 8.2 million United Methodists in the United States gave just \$1 to each of the six Special Sunday offerings, the total would be nearly \$50 million dollars.

One Special Sunday Offering is the United Methodist Student Day, which occurs on the last Sunday of November, which is November 25th this year. This offering furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities. Students in our annual conference—and maybe even our local congregation—will benefit from this offering. As part of your Thanksgiving celebration this year, please remember to join other United Methodists in connection giving to the Student Day Special Offering.

¹ Excerpted from information posted in the Giving portion of The United Methodist Church Web site at <http://umcsgiving.org/content/sundays/default.asp>

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Date: Monday, November 19, 2007
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: St. Gregory the Great
Roman Catholic Church
200 St. Gregory Court
Williamsville, New York



Please join us as we celebrate with our community!!!
Blessings,
Gail & Daryl

Junior High Youth Group

The Junior High has been very busy this month! September 28th through the 30th seven Junior High youth went camping to Camp Chautauqua Hills, along with youth from Kenmore UMC and St. Bart's Episcopal. The theme for the weekend was how to stay bold to our God in the middle of pressures from the media and other outside influences, but also right within their schools. The weather was perfect so we were able to get outside and do a little tree climbing as well as swing on the tree line! Many thanks go out to the Junior High and their leaders for all their help unloading our pumpkins! Believe it or not, as if that wasn't enough they've also had two meetings, a trip to the corn maze on October 20th and have a Halloween party/meeting scheduled for October 28th from 6:00 – 8:00pm. If you have not received a calendar of events yet please feel free to contact Sara and Tom at 632-2970 or Debbie and Mark at 626-5216.

Senior High Youth Group

The Senior High Youth group is currently finalizing their plans for the year. In the meantime, many thanks to them for braving a very cold Sunday morning to run the pumpkin patch! They were a huge help!! Youth Band has begun. It'll be meeting again Sunday, November 11th from 5:00-6:00pm. If you play an instrument or love to sing and are between grades 9th through 12th please join us! Senior High youth group meets every week (unless you hear otherwise) Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm. Newcomers are always welcome! If you have any questions please contact Wes Shute at 951-850-1670, or Linda Gordon and Bob Bauer at 633-8976.



Our First Ever Pumpkin Patch!

Williamsville United Methodist sponsored our first ever "Pumpkin Patch"! On Friday, October 12th at 5:00pm we had a semi truck deliver tons of pumpkins. We had over 50 members of our congregation, family and friends help us unload and transform our front lawn into a beautiful sea of orange! The Pumpkin Patch fundraising team works in conjunction with the Navajo Reservation in northwest New Mexico, so not only did we help create a livelihood for the reservation, but our shared ministry benefited from the proceeds as well. Our deepest thanks to all who have helped make this turn out to be such a huge success! Our communications team was outstanding in spreading the word. We had the Amherst Bee here as

well as Kevin O'Neil from Channel 2 who broadcasted from our patch bright and early one morning. Why, we even had our official photographer, Ed Howard, capturing some moments! The community embraced our patch in such a special way: to see the bucket brigade of arms helping to unload, the smiles on the nursery school children, members of the congregation working together, everyone spreading the good works of our church to the community...we could go on and on. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you all for your support!!! Together we made a huge difference!



Dates to Remember:

Monday, November 5th at 7:00 – next Christian Education meeting. All are welcome to attend!!

Junior High November Calendar

11/4	Meeting	6:00-7:30pm
11/10	Thanksgiving Activity	TBA
11/18	Meeting	6:00-7:30pm

Ring Masters Bell Group Announces Schedule

The Ring Masters of Western New York, members of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, was originally formed eighteen years ago as the Calvary Episcopal Church Handbell Choir. The Choir hosted an Area II AGEHR Workshop for ringers and conductors, but primarily rang for various Calvary Church services from 1988-2004. In 1993, the Choir began performing in the community and became known as the Ring Masters. From 1993 through the present, the Ring Masters have run in two English Handbell Festivals, at many churches throughout Western New York for services and concerts, for numerous social club events, senior citizen activities, retirement homes and libraries. For three years they participated in the Williamsville Ecumenical Thanksgiving Services. They have also performed in several of the Summer Concert Series at Calvary Church. When Calvary Church disbanded its handbell choir in arch 2005, the Ring Masters had an opportunity to become more community oriented. They are now considered a community handbell ensemble. The



ensemble has been home-based at the Williamsville United Methodist Church since 2005 and enjoyed a critically acclaimed performance with the Amherst Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Steven Thomas in December 2006.

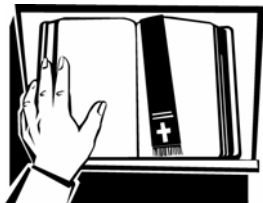
The Ring Masters are directed by Gloria R. Werblow, past President of the Guild of Carillonners in North America, and has directed the Choir since its inception 18 years ago.

Rehearsal Schedule (all dates from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.):
 October 20, 27
 November 10, 17, and maybe 24
 December 1, 8

The Ring Masters will have a concert at WUMC on Sunday December 9th at 4:00 p.m. In addition, we will be representing WUMC at Eastern Hills Wesleyan and with the Cheektowaga Symphony in December.

Bible Study

A Bible study class will be held on Sunday morning at 9:45 am in the library and REPEATED on Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm in the choir room. Both sessions will have the same content. Attend when you can!



New Bible Study Class!

NO homework! NO tests! No extra books required! NO experience necessary. NO commitment to a series of classes. All are welcome – no age limits!

The “teacher” or “learning guide” is Dick Davidson. He is married to Rev. Shirley Davidson (52 years!). Dick taught Middle School Science before retirement. He has extensive experience teaching adult church school classes. Come and get acquainted.

Classes are as follows:

November 4 & 6	Hebrews 1:1 – 4:13
November 11 & 13	Hebrews 4:14 – 7:28
November 18 & 20	Hebrews 8:1 – 10:18
November 25 & 27	Hebrews 10:19 – 11:40
December 2 & 4	Hebrews 12 & 13
December 9 & 11	Biblical Christmas: Matthew & Luke
December 16 & 18	Biblical Christmas: Tradition and Mark & John
Christmas Break	Watch for next series!



**ODNS
News**

Open Door Nursery School

ODNS is participating in a “Voucher Book Fair” November 2-4 at the new Barnes & Noble bookstore on Transit Rd. (across from the old store). Come browse this beautiful new store and get a jump-start on your holiday shopping. Bring vouchers to the store (a supply will be in the office and hallway near the nursery school rooms) and hand them in at the register with any purchase. A portion of that sale will go to ODNS to aid in our educational program here at WUMC. Shopping but forgot a voucher? They’ll be available at the cash registers during the week of November 2.

Calling All Readers!

Are you a reader? Do you have books you've finished but are in good shape? Would you like to recycle them to another reader?

We are starting an ongoing book sale. Donate your 'used' books to the sale. To donate your books, please bring them in now. There will be a basket in the Narthex clearly labeled to collect any donated books (paper backs, hard cover but no textbooks please).



We will set up the sale in the Library. Other readers can purchase the books,

read them and if they desire donate them back to the sale. We will do this using an honor system. The finance committee sees this as a means of raising a few dollars and helping the congregation with a way to share their books. Target date for beginning the sale is January 1, 2008.

Contemplative Prayer Hour



The November gathering for contemplative prayer will be held on Thursday,

November 15. We will meet in the church library at 8:00 PM. The prayer time will begin with an explanation of the purpose and practice of contemplation. This will be followed by a prayer time of 30-40 minutes. The prayer gathering is open to anyone who wishes to participate. Contact Cheryl Thomas for further information at 634-3893 or email ct20072@verizon.net.

Messenger Seeks New Editor

Due to unforeseen circumstances that occurred after I took on the position of Messenger editor, I feel that I need to step down. If you would like to try your hand at being the editor of this newsletter, please contact me at rzeller143@aol.com. Training is available!

Entertainment Books for Asbury Shalom Zone

Rosemary Elliott will be selling entertainment books as a fundraiser for Asbury Shalom Zone. The books are \$25, with \$5 going to ASZ. Place orders on Sunday and books will be available either that day or the following week.

Finding What is Lost

Please remember to deposit any spare change/coins you have found into our Grace Container, located in the Narthex. All donations will be applied to shared ministries.

"...she... put in everything - all she had..."
Mark 12:44



THANK YOU!!!

Over the past 6 Sundays we have received gifts totaling \$1023.98!



Building Use and Set-Up Requests

Mary Ann Horey

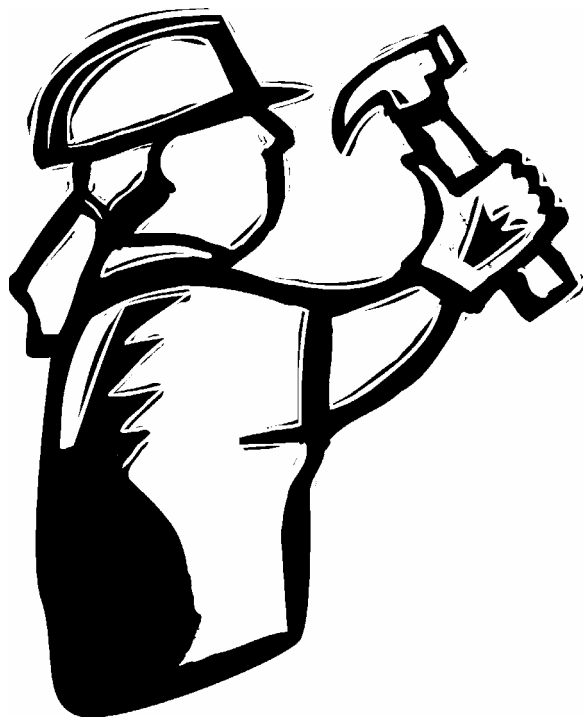
We are an alive and very active church, which means use of our facilities has increased. To assist in planning the facility usage and allow time in my schedule to prepare the required space, please let me know at least one week in advance of when you would like to use church facilities. To help accommodate everyone's needs, please use the following process when requesting to use the building for a church activity:

1. Begin by checking the church calendar to make sure the date and space are available.
2. Once you have decided on a date, ask Denise to add your event to the church Calendar.
3. In addition, at least one week prior to the event, enter the activity in Mary Ann's book that is located in the copy room. Be sure to include the following information:
 - a. Provide a diagram of how you need table and chairs arranged in the space.
 - b. Provide a list of equipment you would like to use. I will let you know if the equipment is available or if we need to make other arrangements.

Following this procedure should allow us to fulfill all ministry needs. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Have you seen the architect's rendition of our building in the narthex?



Over the past year, the Trustees have been trying to determine the best way to address the three flat, leaking roofs and the fact that we are bursting at the seams, desperately in need of storage and meeting room space. The roofs are several years past their "life expectancy" and we have patched all we can. Several commercial roofers have turned down our request for repairs or replacement as they cannot guarantee a flat roof in WNY. Other items such as windows, step repairs and an improved elevator are included in this project.

No commitments have been made, nor will they be, until we first have a Readiness Assessment made within our congregation. This process will be conducted by the Frontier Foundation of the UMC, lead by Mr. Ron Salyer and including Rev. Jim Pollard.

An interview process will be held November 12-14th to ascertain the willingness of the congregation to undertake these improvements. A cross-section of the congregation will be asked to participate in an interview that will take less than one hour. The complete project will be explained, questions welcomed and all comments will be recorded confidentially.

Your input is greatly desired!! Help us determine our readiness by sharing your thoughts with the Board of Trustees, the pastors and especially as part of the interview process. If you especially want to participate in the interview process, let us now by calling the church office.

Thank you for your support and consideration of this project!

Make a Joyful Noise

Niagara Frontier City Ministries is requesting your support of their Benefit Concerts this year. Funds raised from these concerts help urban ministries in the Niagara Frontier District. You are urged to "make a joyful noise" with your presence, voices, gifts and offerings. The Concert schedule is as follows:

- October 28, 2007 – 7PM, Boston Churchill Memorial UMC
8091 Boston State Road, Boston NY
- January 27, 2008 – 7PM, Primera Iglesia Metodist Unida
62 Virginia Street, Buffalo NY
- April (TBA), 2008 – 7PM, Trinity UMC
711 Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst NY

Needed: Warm Winter Coats

The Seneca Street (UM) Mission can provide warm winter coats to hundreds of inner-city children and adults this November and December IF they get your help. Please consider saving winter jackets, gloves, hats and boots. You can bring them to the church and we will see that they get to the Seneca Street church.



Prayer requests and concerns

We pray that God's healing and grace be with the following people in the weeks ahead: Parker Savidge, Lil Lawton, Greg, an unborn baby, Kevin Race, Christian Showers and his family, Rev. Alicia Blake, Rev. Naomi Babcock, Gladys Hens, Jim Degen, Julie McAuliffe, Mike Rice, Families in crisis, Mary-El Minich ~ Continuing prayers are asked for Rena Harbaugh's brother Bud, Lois White, Dick Peck, Noah Addesa, Robert J. Bahn and Elizabeth Bauer

Baptisms

Eleanor Isabel Lyon was baptized on September 30. Eleanor was born on May 4, 2006, and is the daughter of Lise Herbert and Robert Lyon. Some may also recall that Lise is the daughter of Harriet and Brad Herbert, Harriet being our former choir director for many years until the mid 1980's. Harriet and Brad attended Eleanor's baptism as her sponsors.

James Franklin Guido and his mother Sahara were baptized together by Rev. Lewis during the service on October 7th. (Is this what they call "double dipping"? ☺) Congratulations to James, Sahara and father/husband Ronald!

Weddings

Steve Amuso to Christina Clemens who were wed on August 11. Steve is the son of Wendy & Rocco Amuso. They were married at First Presbyterian Church on Symphony Circle

Mark Forden to Molly Ward who married on September 1. Mark is the son of Roger & Carol Forden. They were wed at St. John Baptist Church in Kenmore

Prayer Chain

Church family and friends may request special prayers through the Prayer Chain. Please call Bob or Irene Hayman at 688-1258 to place your request.

If you have a pastoral need

Please call the church office (634-4800) and leave a message. You may also call Rev. Lewis at 984-1140 or Pastor Bennett at 984-5483 and talk to them directly.

The church office hours are Monday-Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Get your copy of the Sunday announcements via E-mail

Get the latest updates of the WUMC calendar and events. Even if you have to miss worship you can still get updates. An email version of the weekly *Sunday Messenger* and calendar is available. If you would like to receive it, please send your email address to denise@wumc.org.

Our Staff and Lay Leaders Are Here to Help You

- Lead Pastor: Gail Lewis
- Associate Pastor: Daryl Bennett
- Associate for Pastoral Counseling: John Wetherwax
- Directors of Music: Judith Stafford and Wendy Amuso
- Director of Christian Education: Judith Toone
- Pastoral Assistant for Visitation: Barbara Salterella
- Church Administration: Denise Barham
- Custodian: Mary Ann Horey
- Custodial Assistant: Cheryl Thomas
- Sunday Nursery Care: Kathleen Ciccone, Amanda Dickerman and Megan Beck

- Coordinating Lay Leader: Gary Jones
- Communication Ministry: Sondra Scott & Marie Lorwa
- Member Care Ministry: Barbara Saltarella
- Outreach & Missions Ministry: Kevin Lyttle
- Relational Ministries: Donna Seiler
- Worship Ministries: Wendy Fortune
- Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Jack Killian
- Trustee Chair: John Tschamler
- Stewardship & Finance Chair: Rosemary Elliott
- Treasurer: Lori Pacer
- Newsletter Editor: Rachel Zeller