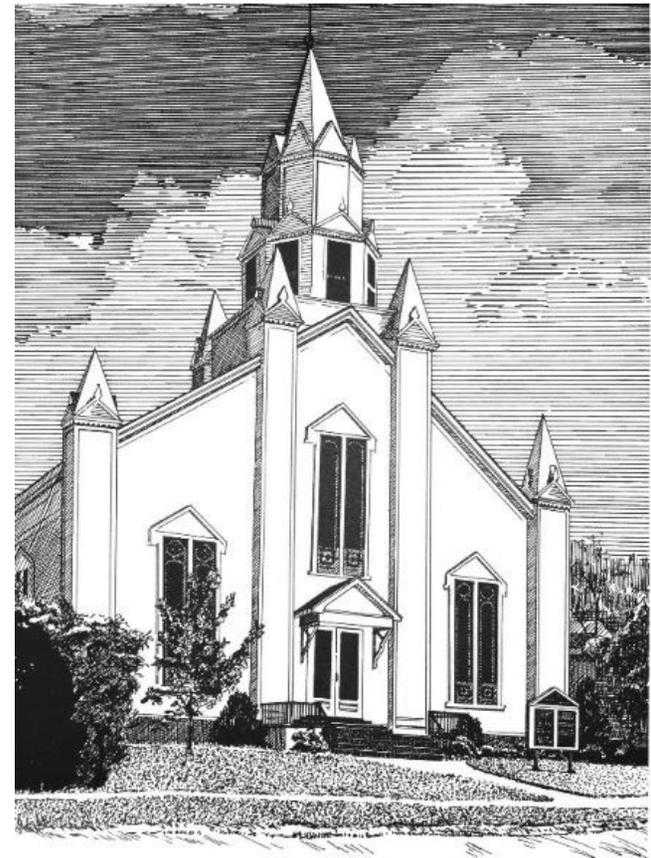
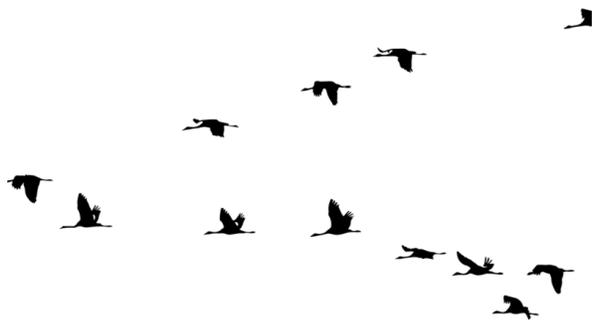


*Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the singing brook to you,
Deep peace of gentle hearts to you,
Deep peace of the light of the world to you.
Go in peace now and forever.*



Union University Church

1922—2022

Honoring the Past—Embracing the Future

Centennial Dinner & Program

Saturday, October 8, 2022

Alfred University Knight Club

UUC Mission Statement - The current UUC Mission Statement was adopted in 2013.

Mission Statement

We are what God's grace has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works (Ephesians 2:8-10), and so we, the members of the Union University Church, commit ourselves to be a church:

Where people find the support and encouragement needed to live faithfully for Christ,

Where through worship, sharing, and the study of God's word we learn to integrate our faith into our daily lives.

Where our children learn integrity and moral courage through our teaching and example;

And where we are dedicated to caring for those in need in our community and throughout the world.

Through our diverse religious backgrounds we seek to experience the breadth of God and through our unity to serve Christ always.



DO JUSTICE ...

love kindness ...

WALK HUMBLY

with our God.

MICAH 6:8



UUC Covenant - Our Church Covenant was adopted as part of our by-laws on October 2, 1960

“We promise* to the best of our ability to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the welfare of the church; to regularly attend its services of worship; to contribute regularly, in keeping with our ability, to the expense of the church for the relief of the needy and for the spread of the Gospel.

We promise* to seek the religious education of our children and our own enlightenment; to walk uprightly; to be just in our dealings, and faithful in our engagements, to avoid unkind gossip, hatred or excessive anger.

We promise* to cultivate courtesy and Christian sympathy, to be slow to take offense and eager for reconciliation, to remember each other in prayer, to comfort and aid one another in sickness and distress.

We promise* that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with a church in our new community.

*Either *promise* or *express our intent* may be used according to one’s personal preference.”

UUC Affirmation of Faith - Our Affirmation of Faith was adopted as part of our by-laws on October 2, 1960 and the language was modified in 1984 to be more inclusive.

“We believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth, Sovereign over time, history and nations; who made of one blood every nation, and who wills that all should live together in freedom and peace with one another.

We believe in Jesus Christ as the supreme revelation of God and of God’s redeeming love for all.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, transforming the hopes and fears, the lives and destinies of people and nations into conformity with God’s redemptive purposes for the world.

We believe that as Christians we are members of the worldwide community of the Church, and as such must seek within our own fellowship and in our common life as citizens the kind of community God wills for the world.”

Union University Church Centennial Dinner



Welcome Dave Porter, Centennial Committee Chair

Opening Prayer Rob Reginio

Dinner

Program

A History of the Origins of the Union University Church

in Three Acts

by Rev. Laurie DeMott with scenes by Rev. Albert Rogers

***This performance is dedicated to the memory of Ellen Shultz
who first directed it on April 26, 1998***

Voicing the Past

John Buckwalter

Laurel Buckwalter

Catherine Chambers

Dave Porter

Rob Reginio

MaryAnn Whittemore

The Union University Church—A Video Retrospective

by Larry Casey

Closing Prayer Rev. Dr. Louise Barger

Centennial Committee Members: *Dave Porter, Chair, Joan Bowden, John Buckwalter, Sharon Burdick, Rev. Louise Barger, Larry Casey, Mindy Smith, Mary Ann Whittemore.*

would cost \$13,365.

Following Lois Scholes as bell choir directors were Ellen Shultz, Sharon Higgins, Carol Burdick, Laurie DeMott, Luan Ellis, Andrew Alesso, and Lana Meissner.

UUC Logo - In 1986 it was decided that the church needed a logo. Pat Kaake, an artist in Angelica, NY was contacted and she designed several alternatives. Some of you may know Pat as the artist behind the Angelica Post Office Christmas “Angel Station” Cancellation.



UUC Altar Hangings - In 2010 Lana Meissner commissioned Pat Kaake to create the white rainbow altar hangings for her daughter Kristen’s wedding. Following the ceremony the hangings were donated to UUC along with a set of seasonally appropriate hangings.

In 1995 Anna McHale created and donated a handsome cross stitched altar hanging.

The green quilted hanging was designed & created by former UUC member, Joanne Wietgreffe, after she read about our “Art of Hope” Lenten project in 2018.

“The Community Church”- This hymn which we use on significant church occasions was written by Sam Scholes Sr. in 1928 for the church he attended in Columbus, Ohio before moving to Alfred and joining our church in 1941. Sam’s wife Lois was renowned for inaugurating the Alfred handbell ringers.

are people, and to understand them you need to speak and listen to them for yourself, not rely on other sources.

This lesson was critical to me as I grew older and throughout my time in the Navy. With that one trip in the books, I like to think that I've been able to understand the myriad of different cultures and people that I've interacted with, both while I was deployed and back here at home. It was an invaluable experience!

Very respectfully, Travis Bellows LT, USN

Jenella Bellows - Caring meant turning your car into a web broadcasting studio. This happened at the beginning of the pandemic. The temperature was below freezing and she did it anyway. It gives new meaning to love your neighbor as yourself.

Lana Meissner - The story of handbells at UUC really began when Lois Boren Scholes heard them played at an evening's entertainment at the Alfred Church Music Institute. She was amazed and immediately set about purchasing a set. She decided she wanted Whitechapel bells because they are noted for their fine quality and tone (this is the same company that forged the Liberty Bell). She started out with 25 bells and every time she could afford to, she sent for another bell until at her retirement she had a four octave set. Her first set arrived just before Christmas in 1952.

Lois's first bell choir was at the First Congregational Church in Wellsville, but subsequent groups were not necessarily church choirs. Her first group of Alfred ringers consisted of housemothers from the college fraternities, sororities, and dormitories. She eventually had groups of all ages but she did not like to mix adults and children. Rehearsals were in her home and she provided refreshments. Her preference was to have 8 ringers as an optimal number. Even though Lois was the director, she also played the "Gs," "Because," she said, "I care more than anybody else and pay most of the bills so I want to be one of the ringers."

In 1979 the UUC was able to purchase its own set of bells thanks to a "seed" donation by Lois, memorial donations by church members, and a substantial donation by Dr. George Gardner in memory of his wife Lucy. The entire bell set was purchased from the Malmark Co. in April, 1979 for \$3,300. Today (2022) that set

With Thanks for the Memories

Deb Stephens - In the relatively short time we have lived here and attended UUC, I have many good memories. But the one that always comes to mind first was created on a Sunday morning in the Fall of 2017. The service was over, and coffee hour was in full swing. Sophie Luo's husband, Ding Jiayi, was in Alfred on a rare visit. Ramin Faraji, a grad student at the time, had finally made it to Alfred from Iran earlier in the year after being affected by the infamous travel ban in January 2017. And our beloved Wally Higgins, a decorated pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen, was still with us. These three were introduced to each other and proceeded to converse while the rest of us "ordinary" folks just stood and watched this historic moment in the history of our church. What a privilege to be there, and a prime example of the welcoming, inclusive congregation we are.

Myrna Berrios - (1990?) I joined UUC with Christopher. He was dedicated on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1994. We remember one Halloween blizzard. Kids and parents went to a couple houses on the block, returned to the UUC Church Center for hot cocoa and marshmallows. We go out again in the blizzard for a while, then back for more goodies.

Joe Dosch & Nancy Evangelista (1997) – The Dosch-Evangelistas moved to Alfred and quickly found the warm and welcoming worship community of the Union University Church.

Luanne Crosby (2000) – On December 21 Laurie came to our house and married Steve and Luanne. It was a family affair and at Laurie's suggestion Jesse, 3 years old, lit a candle from which Leah and Nic lit candles and Steve and Luanne lit a central candle. We then passed the light to all of our friends!

The Stevens – September 2, 2001 the wedding of Marcia Stevens and Cristian Proano.

Bowdens – 2003 – Judy Bowden and Jake Ritchie's wedding.

Beverly Snyder - The Christmas Parties were especially wonderful, with the candle-lit 'Silent Night' Hymn following, for me...

Heather Meacham - Mrs. Rhodes sewed the most intricate Christmas ornaments for the bazaar. I was fortunate to purchase several of them which we lovingly place on our tree each year. My favorite is Snoopy skating with his red scarf flying behind him wearing his ice skates made using paper clips!

I was thrilled to be chosen as the first woman to chair the Church Council. The board chairs met monthly in the Church Center to share each board's activities and to discuss concerns pertaining to the whole church. I felt a genuine closeness to the members who willingly gave their time to lead and support the workings of the church.

Sharon Smith - Growing up in the Union University Church in the 50s and early 60s

The "Tex" Moser years (1950–1956)

In 1950 the [originally] "Union Church" was re-organized with its first full-time minister — rather than the part-time previous pastors whose "day job" was Alfred University Chaplain — and **Rev. Leroy "Tex" Moser** came to Alfred with his lovely wife, **Jane**, both at the young age of 24(!) He was fresh out of Colgate Rochester Divinity School. That same year, Paul Orvis, the President of the "Ag Tech" institute hired my father to teach English and start what eventually became the Division of Liberal Studies at A.S.C. The Orvises also sold their house to Mom and Dad! (The institute had purchased a house up on Reynolds Street as a residence for the president.) Finally, in **October 1950**, the **Bouck Family** — Warren, Dorothy, Sharon Ann, and W. Lynn — moved from Hornell (where Dad had been on the faculty of Hornell High School since his discharge from the Army in 1946) to live at **8 Church Street** for the next several decades. It wasn't long into our first legendary Alfred winter when my (Lutheran) father convinced my (Methodist) mother that we should cease driving to Park Methodist Church in Hornell in time for Sunday school. They soon became loyal members of the church right across the street. By the time of Dad's tragic accidental death in 2004, he had become known as "Mr. UUC" perhaps because of where we lived: for many years he was "keeper of the keys" and shoveled the sidewalks.

Vision, fasting for 30 hours, and working on a Habitat for Humanity house in Wellsville). **Sunday, May 6, 2001** — Rev. Laurie confirmed Gretchen Elizabeth Schulze. **July 19, 2001** — Heidi received her Girl Scout Gold Award. (*Vial of Life* containers were delivered to every home in the Alfred Ambulance district.)

December 12, 2004 - Gretchen literally flew from the rafters of our church center as an angel in white in the Senior Players Christmas play, "*Mark and Harold's Angel Swings*". (Joe Dosch rigged a hook in the King David Room ceiling to suspend and swing Gretchen.)

Travis Bellows - The memories that stick with me from Youth Group at UUC are a collage of small events that helped me learn a life-long lesson: Understanding that people of all different religions are still people and all it takes to find some common ground is a little earnest effort and some active listening.

One of the most influential memories for me was one of the small trips that we went on as part of an exposure to different religions. We went on a relatively short road trip to a Mosque. This was my first time visiting a Mosque and I was eager to see how things were done there. I was 10 when 9/11 happened and I still remember that day in school where everything seemed to come to a stop. Teachers were glued to TV's that were turned away from the students, or conversing in hushed tones as the administration tried to figure out whether to send us home early or not. From then on, the World was filled with different perspectives on the Muslim community from extreme to extreme.

That singular trip to the Mosque was pivotal for me. We were given a tour by the Imam and learned how they went about their worship. Learned how people interacted and lived within the Muslim faith. We were provided an opportunity to ask questions and observe how the prayer service was conducted without any pretense or disposition. The Imam and others that we spoke to after observing the service were considerate, kind, and amenable to discussion regarding the differences between our two faiths. It was eye-opening. To speak with kids my age that were growing up a different way, but were just as into soccer and many other things that I was at the time. It cemented a life-long lesson for me: people

Schulze Family – I know we were supposed to list our happy memories by date and we were limited to the last 25 years; however, some of our memories of Laurie go beyond the 25 and in several cases, we can't remember the dates. We all have MANY, MANY happy memories of Laurie, below are a few. Luke Schulze, fondly remembers good times in youth group at Rev. Laurie's home on Stuck Hill Road. Gretchen remembers having fun SINGING at Rev. Laurie's home. (Laurie would invite youth for campfires, Bible Stories and singing.) Joan absolutely loved taking our little children to Rev. Laurie's campfires (real and pretend). Laurie told the best-ever Bible stories, adding glorious details to help us remember. Even very familiar Bible stories came ALIVE when Laurie told them. Our family enjoyed it when Rev. Laurie turned a few favorite Bible Stories into actual books with her illustrations. We could enjoy the books and purchase copies to share with friends and relatives. We all fondly remember Trick-or-Treating for **UNICEF**. **UNICEF** was totally Laurie's idea; for years she encouraged participation. No matter the weather (pouring rain, snow, ice (cars couldn't drive), or sunshine), we walked, rode in cars and vans, or helped load youth on hay wagons—we all had fun singing pumpkin carols, going door-to-door asking for donations, and later, counting hundreds of pennies while drinking cider and eating cookies. Even after high school graduation, Heidi would bring her college friends to go UNICEFING.

Sunday, September 9, 1990 – Walt and Joan joined Union University Church. **Sunday, April 2, 1992** – Rev. Laurie confirmed Luke Eric Schulze. **November 13, 1994** – Luke received the Boy Scout EAGLE AWARD in a Court of Honor held in our King David Room. (Luke organized building storage racks for canoes/kayaks and improving the boat launch at Foster Lake.) **Sunday, March 24, 1996** – Rev. Laurie confirmed Heidi Marie Schulze. **June 25 – July 1, 2000** - Heidi Schulze-Ormeno happily remembers the REACH WORKCAMP adventure in Hurricane, West Virginia. Rev. Laurie rented a large van and bravely drove all the youth; they camped at a school. Youth worked on repairing various homes of the elderly. She enjoyed the camaraderie, the singing and working at Mrs. Bird's home. **February 10-11, 2001** – Heidi and Gretchen participated in the WORLD VISION 30-hour Famine (raising money for World

It would be another 12 years before there would be a UUC parsonage. **Early in the 1950s**, I remember going with my parents and little brother to visit the Mosers in their upstairs apartment in "The Beehive" (36 S. Main.) My parents and "Tex" and Jane had become good friends and remained so for decades to come. I recently found a long newsy letter written in February 1991 to my parents, signed "Jane and Tex", begging them to stop in Northampton, MA en route to/from Martha's Vineyard where Lynn had been living after graduating from AU. In the letter, Jane referred to "dear **Grace Nease**" (who founded the Women's Guild in 1935): "We remember her especially in relation to children, our own and others. She was so sensitive to the needs of little ones. We kept in touch with her for many years..."

As a child at 8 Church St. I have fond memories of watching SDB and UUC weddings from the living room window – and sad memories of black funeral vehicles, but one of my best early memories is from a hot summer day when my mother slaved over making lemonade from scratch for my brother and me to sell on our front lawn to the thirsty participants exiting the church from a session during **Lois Boren Scholes'** annual Choral Institute attended by church choir directors and singers from near and far.

I also have wonderful memories of inspiring Sunday school lessons, projects, and teachers, one of whom was **Lil Nevins**, whose Christmas present to each of us was a movie theater ticket!

My scariest memory of those early years took place right next-door (where in recent years we have enjoyed the August prayer breakfast service.). The "Dogcart" University Diner was located there and in **1953** – I don't remember exactly when but I think it was early in the year during the winter – it burned to the ground. After everyone recovered from the drama of that night, the owner proposed replacing it with a bowling alley, an idea that led to weeks of sleepless nights for my mother. **Murray Rice, Everett Rhodes, and Dad** dipped into their own pockets to sign a mortgage to purchase for our church the land on which the diner had been located (not originally part of the corner Bassett property.) Meanwhile, the congregation was re-organizing again: the Union

University Church was incorporated that year and in December 1953 the congregation voted to purchase the historic Bassett home and garden where I had played with my good friend, Gwyneth Williams, whose parents had been renting the house. Thus our very own **UUC Church Center** came into being. 1953: what a year!

The Jim Dick years (1956–1960)

Rev. Moser preached his last sermon in August 1956 and that autumn a new minister arrived also from Colgate Rochester:

Rev. James M. Dick. He was so energetic and such a lot of fun! During the summer of **1957** we all came to church on the Sunday morning dressed in old-fashioned clothes to celebrate the town of Alfred's sesquicentennial (1807.) Even Mr. Dick! I also remember fun filled cookouts in our backyard that summer with him as guest.

The Rick Bergren years (1960–1968)

Big changes came in 1960. By now I was in high school, i.e. a teenager – and so very fortunate to have been under the guidance of **Rev. Richard V. Bergren Jr.** during those years (difficult ones even *before* cell phones and social media.) His Youth Group meetings were so special to all of us: gripping in their intellectual intensity and in his skill in getting us involved in challenging topics. I remember so well the Sunday I joined the church: “Mr. Bergren” had spent weeks patiently leading us in an exploration of the Apostles’ Creed; the actual ritual was a transcendental experience for me and I felt truly blessed. He presented each of us with a King James Bible. I still use mine; it has my name stamped on the cover’s lower right hand corner in uppercase gold letters!

Also in **1960**, AU music professor, **Dr. Melvin LeMon**, was hired as organist and choir director. **Lois Scholes** had resigned in 1958 and had turned to organizing her group of **Handbell Ringers** including my mother. Mrs. Scholes also formed a group of teenage ringers which I was thrilled to be a part of. During the school year, we rehearsed every week in the living room of her home next to the Village Green with special attention given to preparing for Christmas concerts. What an amazing period that was for music in the UUC! I remember so well the annual exhilarating performance

of Handel’s Messiah and **Betty Giles’** incredible soprano voice as she sang “Oh, Holy Night!”

In Autumn **1962**, I was off to Randolph–Macon Woman's College where in the required sophomore year “Old and New Testament” course (Religion 101–102) we read writings by **B. Davie Napier** who had served as part time minister to our church during his **1944-1946** role as a AU chaplain and professor; Alfred pride arose in Virginia! During the 1960s, “Mr. Bergren” took the time to organize those of us in college home for the Christmas holidays to do the entire service on one of the Sundays. The eldest among us was chosen to write the sermon and took that assignment so very seriously! After all, these were the Cold War years, President Kennedy had been assassinated, and the Civil Rights movement was in full swing.

In 1968, when Rev. Bergren resigned to teach at AU and return to grad school for two years, we were all crushed, even those of us who had left the nest by then. At least he, his marvelous wife, Sue – so active in the UUC Women's Guild – and their daughters were still part of the Alfred community as they moved into their new home on High Street.

I will leave it to others to pick up the “memory baton” from 1969 on; by then I was teaching at SUNY Potsdam and eventually became a part of the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church. After having shopped around, I found it to be the most liberal of the Protestant churches in town and the most inclusive – just as the Union University Church in Alfred, New York had been during my formative years – and continues to be! Sharon B. Smith, October 2022

Mary-Lou Cartledge - In the fall of 1983, Jerry and I walked up the sidewalk to enter church and this gal I thought was a college student skipped ahead of us and ran up the stairs. She had the exact same dress on that I was wearing that was a new dress for me! Later during the service I found out she was going to be our new minister. Right away I knew she had “good” taste.”