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Something to think about ...

My newsletter article for the past two months has felt more like a Covid-19 Update page than a church newsletter but that is the reality in which we are living. Every restaurant, every business, every hair salon is trying to decide not only when they are allowed to re-open but when they feel it is safe to re-open and under what circumstances. The church is no different. Although New York has now allowed gatherings of up to ten people, obviously, we need to be able to accommodate more than ten people and indications are that a full return to in-person worship will not be allowed until Stage 4 which is likely to occur at the end of June. Unfortunately, the timing is not ideal for us because I will begin my vacation in early July. The Board of Elders was concerned about asking pulpit supply guests to cope with the transition issues that will arise as we move to safe socially distanced worship and live-streaming and so they proposed, and the rest of the Board leadership agreed, that we will not resume in-person worship until I return from vacation in August (assuming the State plan stays on track.)

As much as I agreed with and support that decision, I also knew that there are many of you for whom this would be a disappointment. Lots of church members around the nation are anxious to get back in their buildings and return to some sort of normalcy in worship, and many are ready to fling open their doors as soon as it is legally allowed. My youngest sister, Sandy, is the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Rochester/Genesee Region and she advises and serves nearly 50 churches, most of whom are also Zooming, and all of whom are having the same sorts of conversation we have had about when to resume in-person worship. In her regional newsletter to those churches last week, she offered some thoughts that I found very helpful and so today, I claim the genetic right to steal her words and reprint her thoughts for you with the simple comment: remember, she learned everything she knows from me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lana". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dear friends,

At this week's pastor's check-in, we had a discussion about semantics. Is it appropriate to use the phrase "re-opening church" when, in fact, "church" never closed?

We spoke of the possibility of using the word "recongregate," as in "congregation." After the call concluded, I did a quick thesaurus search on the word "congregate," and couldn't help but laugh at the aptness of the results. To congregate: to bunch up, swarm, throng, flock. Sadly, none of those words are good things in the age of COVID-19.

.... [Throughout this crisis, I have tried] to make sure I'm giving everyone the right information [concerning CDC guidelines and safe practices] but today it struck me that plenty of information is already available. Perhaps what is really needed right now is perspective. Remember, **you don't have to start meeting in person again just because you can.**

I find myself wondering if those folks who have been chomping at the bit to be able to be back in their sanctuaries worshipping in person with their congregational friends have thought through what that's actually going to feel like.

- * When you're looking around the congregation and only see eyes peeking above masks.
- * When you can't touch anyone. Or hug them. Or perhaps (particularly difficult for us Belt-it-Out Baptists) even sing together.
- * When many of our most beloved church mothers and fathers still aren't able to be with us as their age puts them at risk, or our beloved friends with compromised immune systems, or parents with young children who are concerned about the new and still very mysterious virus-related syndromes that have appeared lately.

Only those privileged with health and who are still within a certain age range and don't have young children will likely feel comfortable being physically present. **And when they are in that sanctuary, they will look around them, and will still feel separated, and will feel the holes in the fellowship caused by the absence of those not so privileged.**

I was recently reading a very moving, and convicting, post on Baptist News Global by Zachary Helton, in which Helton confessed to COVID-19 helping him finally really understand what Martin Luther King, Jr., meant when he penned, "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly," (in *Why We Can't Wait*, 1964). Hear hear.

As your executive minister, I too feel the lure of the hope of being able to be physically with you, my colleagues and friends, in worship and praise. I feel with you the hope of the day when we will be able to gather together, singing rousing praise tunes and hymns, sharing in communion, giving hugs and handshakes to all. And I celebrate the work you are all doing to ensure the safety of your congregations as you have discussions with congregational leadership and what needs to be done before physically gathering again. I also urge caution...and patience...and a willingness to have a Plan A, Plan B, and plans all the way down to Z as we just don't know what the coming months will bring. This virus isn't behaving the way our usual viruses do. This virus keeps revealing new and mysterious symptoms. This virus will continue to come back in waves, possibly with worse impact than the already-terrible impact of the first wave. As Christians, we must also keep in the forefront of our planning that this virus is most felt among the lesser-privileged, the poor, the marginalized, the "orphans and widows" of the Hebrew Scriptures that we are called to care for. "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." May we make our decisions about physical gatherings in our church building with these words from Martin Luther King, Jr., ringing in our ears.

May God be with us all.

In Christ's peace,

Sandy

Church News & Events cont.

Roster of Church Officers 2020 -2021

Board of Christian Education

2021 Sophie Luo	2021 Lyle Slack
2022 Monica Reginio	2022 Vacant
2023 Jan Porter	2023 Melissa Jusaniec

Diaconate

2021 Amie Acton	2021 Mary Ann Whittemore
2022 Jan Casey	2022 Karrie Edwards
2023 Barb Willis	2023 Sharon Burdick

Board of Elders

2021 Rob Reginio	2021 Alicia Taylor-Austin
2022 Jen Smith	2022 John Buckwalter
2023 Deb Stephens	2023 Larry Casey

Fellowship Board

2021 Catherine Chambers	2021 Joan Bowden
2022 Luanne Crosby	2022 Cathy Rees
2023 Tricia Debertolis	2023 Cindy Tucker

Board of Trustees

2021 Brad Bowden	2021 Linell Soule
2022 Denise Grandusky	2022 Walter Schulze
2023 Laurel Buckwalter	Jerry Jusaniec

Church Council Chair 2021 John Buckwalter

Church Clerk 2021 Laurel Buckwalter

Financial Secretary 2021 Joan Bowden

Treasurer 2021 Mary Stearns

Auditor 2021 Larry Casey

Zoom Church To Continue

At their May meeting the Board of Elders recommended that in-person worship would not resume until Rev. DeMott returns from vacation in August and that once we resume worship in the sanctuary we will live-stream our services. The proposal was agreed to by other church boards.

A Tech group has been formed to determine what will be needed to live stream services.

Mission of the Month Giving 2019 - 2020

From the Treasurer's Benevolence Report

Habitat for Humanity	\$1,135.00
Amnesty International	\$690.00
Hart Comfort House (delayed due to Covid)	\$60.00
Veterans	\$55.00
Allegany Sr. Foundation	420.00
Food Pantry	\$1,385.00
Christmas Boxes	\$905.00
Puerto Rican Water Project	\$815.00
Matthew 25 (disaster relief)	\$962.00
Allegany SPCA	\$30.00
ACC FFW	\$800.00

TOTAL.....\$7,257.00



Mission of the Month

June

Hart Comfort House

Comfort House of Allegany County, also known as Hart Comfort House located in Wellsville, NY, is a not for profit corporation providing free hospice care for patients in their last 3 months of life and support for those patients families. Hart Comfort House provides care 24 hours a day 365 days a year for two patients at a time.

Money to run Hart Comfort House is entirely generated through community support, grants, and fund raising. Volunteers are essential. For more information:

<http://comforthouseofalleganycounty.org/>



Len Curran sent a lovely thank you card to the church thanking us for our support during this difficult time.

People

Senior Recognition



Noah Napolitano



Noah and his family have been part of our church family for nearly a decade and he has been active in Sunday School, youth group, and Boy Scouts. He has been a reliable “ladder man” at the UUC Hanging of the Greens each year. Noah was confirmed and joined the church as an associate member on December 1, 2019 and received his Eagle Scout rank in May.

Noah tells us that his hobbies are watching movies, playing video games, and spending time with his friends. His favorite academic subjects are Digital Media and Film and he adds, “I love to see movies on opening nights, especially Marvel movies.” Noah says that the most difficult part of his senior year has been being stuck at home and not getting to see his friends and his favorite teachers. He also can’t ask teachers for help on homework or projects as easily.”

Noah is going to Chatham University in Pittsburgh to study Media Arts. When asked to comment on his experience at UUC, Noah says “My experience at UUC has been amazing and I’m happy that I got to spend many years with compassionate, kind people who supported me and what I’ve done. My final comment is that I’m sad the youth group never got to watch the copy of The Ewok Adventure on VHS that is at the Church Center.”



Will Tormey



The Tormey Smith family has been part of our church family for more than a decade and Will has been an active member of our Sunday School and youth group. He was confirmed and joined the church as an associate member on December 1, 2019.

Will tells us that his hobbies are fishing, sports, lifting, and hanging out with the family. His favorite academic subjects are biology and history and he plays both baseball and soccer. Something you might not know about Will is that he likes to cook. Will says that the most difficult thing about his senior year has been “not seeing the people I care about and making the final memories of my senior year in person.” Will plans to study secondary life science education in college.

About UUC, Will says “The UUC has given me a chance to be a part of something larger than myself. Our church is a community to find support and gain strength from. I would like to specifically thank Laurie for the 14 years of guidance she has given me in my life. I am very lucky to be able to talk to her about anything. Lastly, thanks to the whole church community- I will never forget all their support either.”

Continued on next page

People, cont.

Senior Recognition cont.



Preston Ordway



Preston was born into the UUC family and was dedicated by Rev. DeMott on September 22, 2002. He's participated in our Sunday School program and youth events throughout his life and was baptized and became an associate member of UUC on December 1, 2019.

Preston enjoys playing basketball and soccer as well as playing video games on his PlayStation 4. He also enjoys watching movies. One of the most difficult things about his senior year has been trying to learn new things through online school: "It isn't the same experience when you aren't doing things hands on alongside your peers."

Preston plans to attend Alfred University to major in mechanical engineering in the fall.

Preston says that "UUC has always been a great place to go and socialize with others that you may not see everyday. I live in Andover so I don't get to see my friends from different schools too much but at church, I can see them for a while and enjoy the time I have with them."



Max Jusianiec



The Jusianiec's officially joined our church in 2013 but true to UUC tradition, they had been attending longer than that. Max has participated in our Sunday School program, church events, and in maintaining the church grounds.

English is Max's favorite subject and he says "Basketball has always been my favorite sport, but it's turned into even more than that for me." Max also agrees that the biggest challenge of his senior year has been trying to learn online instead of in the classroom. Next year, Max will attend Cheshire Academy in Cheshire, CT for a post-grad year.

About UUC Max says: "It was more fun and relaxed compared to other churches our family has attended. I enjoyed spending time with friends there and appreciate that Laurie has a fun side too! Growing up at UUC, I've appreciated how everyone cares for and takes an interest in the kids / youth at UUC."

Congratulations to Our Current Youth

and to former Sunday School members who will be graduating: Luci Lee, Isabella Powell, and Lucas Quintana.

People, cont.

News from Tom Meacham



The following article was written by Tom Meacham for the *Alfred Sun*, but since not everyone subscribes to the Sun we are re-printing it here. Tom is the son of Heather & John Meacham and former UUC Sunday School and youth group member

“In late January, Thomas Meacham, (AACCS Class of 1990), son of Heather and John Meacham, published a book, *The Performance Tradition of the Medieval English University: The Works of Thomas Chaundler* with De Gruyter and Western Michigan University Press as part of their Early Drama, Music and Art Monograph Series. Meacham argues in his book that contrary to previous scholarship, which has claimed that university drama did not occur at the English universities before the Tudor period, there was a vibrant tradition of performance throughout the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. He suggests an earlier tradition has not been recognized because, in addition to the false assumption that medieval pedagogy cannot support such activity, the full range of medieval performance practices or "texts," beyond the traditional play text, have not been considered. This book is based on Meacham's dissertation as part of the requirements for his doctoral degree from the CUNY Graduate Center. Meacham is currently the Arts Center Director and an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Lake Superior State University, located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.”

We Pray For...

Chambers family and Sanchez family on the death of Lilly Sanchez (the mother of Ray Chamber's children,) Ding Jiaxi and family, George Mickel, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Lois Stiles, Barbara (Beverly Snyder's sister), Sharon & Roger Smith, Wes Bentz, Hudson Buckles' family, Mindy Smith and her sister Debbie Dietz's family, Jerry Cartledge's family on the death of his niece (Pat Clark), 3 year old Lowin, 2 month old Walton Thompson.

A Prayer In the Time of Covid-19

*In this time of COVID-19, we pray:
When we aren't sure, God,
help us be calm;
when information comes
from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."*

*For the doctors, we pray,
for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the
aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists,
the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick,
and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected,
all around the world...
we pray
for safety,
for health,
for wholeness.
May we feed the hungry,
give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal
the sick—*

*in spite of the epidemic,
in spite of the fear.
Help us, O God,
that we might help each other.*

*In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,
we pray.*

May it be so.

*—A prayer during times of COVID-19 by the Right Rev.
Richard Bott (United church of Canada), originally posted on
Facebook. Moderator Bott encourages the sharing of prayers he
posts throughout his term.*

June Board Members of the Month

Deacon.....TBD
 Elder.....Alicia Taylor-Austin (aliciataylorAustin@gmail.com; 315.221.9847)
 BOCE.....TBD
 Fellowship.....TBD
 Trustee.....Laurel Buckwalter (laurelbuckwalter@gmail.com; 607.968.0669)

Who do you call? Flowers or lay leading—call an Elder; greeting or coffee hour—call a Deacon;
 Sunday school—call BOCE; building issues—call a Trustee.



Upcoming Sunday Leaders

If you are not able to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone listed on the charts below and notify the Church Office. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, please contact either the Elder of the Month or the Deacon of the Month.

Date	Greeter	Lay Leader	Flowers	Coffee Hour	Usher
June 7		Alicia Taylor-Austin			
June 14		Deb Stephens			
June 21		Rick Stephens			
June 28		Ramin Faraji			
July 5		Larry Casey			
July 12		John Buckwalter			
July 19		Amie Acton			
July 26		Laurel Buckwalter			
August 2		Jen Smith			



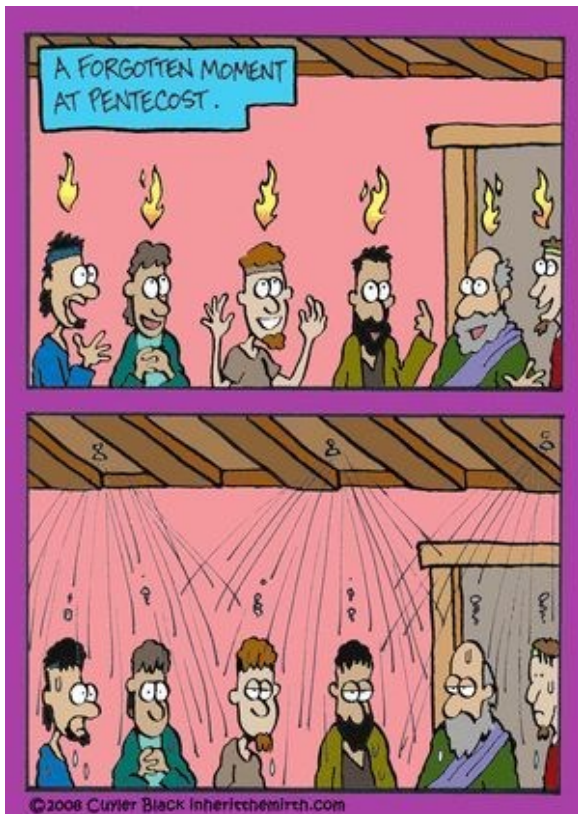
Hart Comfort House

Mission of the Month

*“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.
If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”
—Author unknown*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 Zoom Church - Communion	8	9	10 7pm Elders	11	12	13
14 10:30 Zoom Church	15	16	17 7pm Trustees	18	19	20
21 10:30 Zoom Church Senior Recognition	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 Zoom Church	29	30				

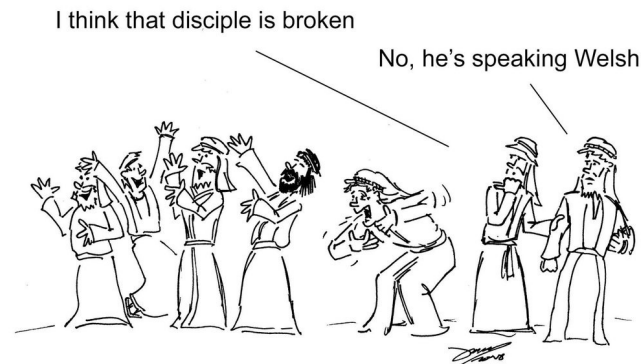
Just for Fun



Thanks! Mom

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."

The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.



"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak" - Acts 2v4.

The Pastor's Killer Kale

Pastor Andrews' wife called and asked him to pick up some organic kale for that night's dinner on his way home. He arrived at the store and began to search all over for organic kale before finally asking the produce clerk where he might find some. The young clerk seemed confused by the pastor's request, so the Pastor said: "Look, this kale is for my wife. All I need to know is whether it's been sprayed with poisonous chemicals." The visibly horrified clerk replied, "No, Reverend, you will have to do that yourself."

Who Knew?

The night clerk at the hotel was surprised to see a guest walking down the corridor in his underwear. "What are you doing?" the clerk called out. When he got no response, he shouted, "HEY! YOU!" Looking startled, the man replied: "I'm sorry, I'm a somnambulist." "I don't care what denomination you belong to", said the clerk, "You can't go wandering around the hotel like this."



Pastor: What's this fly doing in my soup?

Waiter: Praying.

Pastor: Very funny. I can't eat this. Take it back.

Waiter: You see? The fly's prayers were answered.



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