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WHO'S JIM CROW?

It will be only a few days until we enter the month of February. February is celebrated as Black History Month so the sermons for those Sundays in February will continue to be biblically based but will also focus on the history of the Civil Rights movement.

We sometimes hear the phrase "Jim Crow Laws." When you hear that phrase, what comes to mind?

The origin of the term was an association with a minstrel show in which an actor, Dartmouth (Daddy) Rice dressed in rags and blackened his face with burnt cork to appear black. He danced an off-balance dance while singing "Weel about and turn about and do jis so/Eb'ry time I weel about I jump Jim Crow." It is said that he portrayed the character as a dim-witted buffoon. He was stereotyping African Americans. It was used to spread the thinking that African Americans were inferior to whites. It became the underpinning of the laws of segregation.

From the 1870's until the passage of the Civil Rights laws in the 1950's and 1960's, regimented racial segregation was common practice. That resulted in "white" and "colored" water fountains, restrooms, restaurants, and public lodging. There were "separate but equal" schools, and of course the suppression of voting rights.

Many from the South and Freedom Riders from other parts of our country participated, along with Dr. King, Jr. and others, in helping to finally have the Voting Rights Bill passed by Congress. Recently that legislation has been hollowed out by the U.S. Supreme Court and sadly, there are not enough men and women in Congress who will vote to restore the legislation.

The Wednesday book group is currently reading *A More Perfect Union* by Adam Russell Taylor. The *Forward* to the book was written by the late Congressman and Civil Rights activist John Lewis. Taylor has much to say about the role of the Church in building a Beloved Community where all people (all racial-ethnic-cultural-gender groups) are seen as created in the image of God. It is a thought-provoking read.

Perhaps, as we worship and do our personal research during the month of February, we will all come to have a greater appreciation of the history of progress, or lack thereof, that has been made to live up to the phrase in our Declaration of Independence that reads "all men (and women) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Blessings, Pastor Louise

Church News & Events



Mission of the Month



Allegany-Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Fund for Women

Submitted by Deb Stephens, Board of Elders

The Allegany-Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Fund For Women (ACC FFW), launched in September 2017, has become a regular choice of the UUC Benevolence of the Month program. The Elders have chosen the month of February to highlight the ACC Fund For Women's vision and goals and encourage financially supporting this organization. February is also the month a new Grant Application Period opens. Please visit www.accffw.org to learn more about this organization and its empowering work.

Christmas Boxes

Submitted by Melissa Jusaniec

Thanks to the generosity of more than 25 church families, 3 college offices representing both A-State and AU, and 2 community partners, we sponsored 19 families (representing 59 children) + the work of Gil's Hills this year.



Whether you donated money for a turkey or ham, sponsored a family through gifts and food, baked cookies, or sent well wishes or prayers for our sponsored families, what you did helped set us up for

a successful distribution and spread much joy and love this holiday season.

Wishing you and yours a magical holiday season, peace, and good health in the New Year! Melissa on behalf of the diaconate.

Nursery Gets a Paint Job

Dave and Jan Porter repainted the nursery in January. Doesn't it look nice?



Pastor Louise Moves House

Pastor Louise will be moving into Chuck Shultz's house on January 31. Thanks to Dave and Jan Porter, Jim Ninos, Bill Sortore, Anna McHale, Walt Schulze, Heather and John Meacham, Lana Meissner, and David Shultz, space has been cleared, cleaned, and made ready for the move. Last Saturday Dave served the workers his delicious squash soup for lunch. Pastor Louise's new address is **410 Whitney Valley Hts. Almond, NY.**



Church News & Events, cont.

Buckwalters Volunteering

Submitted by Laurel Buckwalter

John and Laurel are volunteering at a church camp close to Orlando. In winter months the camp is rented out to make money. The first ten days were spent helping to feed 75 lightweight and heavyweight rowers from Cornell who really can pack food away after exercising all day; guys take five baked potatoes or four hamburgers on the first pass through the buffet. Laurel did baking for 90 to 100 servings for dessert as staff also eats. John does general helping in the kitchen including washing dishes. The first week was sunny and 70's each day. After the rowers left, a small group of 20 came for three days. When no group needs food to be served, we will do maintenance and cleaning. We plan to return to Alfred around March 1.



Deviled Eggs and Banana Cream Pie Squares! Yum!



Letter from September's Mission of the Month

In December, we received a very kind letter from the [Genesee Valley Habitat for Humanity](#).

Treasurer Terri Kirnan writes, "We have recently dried in the home that we are currently building on Olean Street in Bolivar, NY. We had a great group of older volunteers who worked through extreme heat and other challenges to get this home well on its way to being done. We are so thankful for these gentlemen! Your gift is a great help in our ongoing mission and is allowing us to help accrue funds to continue with this build in the spring."



Church News & Events, cont.

From the Pastoral Search Committee

Submitted by, Dave Porter, Chairperson for Search Committee

At our Search Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 18th, several items were approved. We were able to finalize documents that will be sent out to placement offices regarding our search for a full-time pastor. This information will be sent to Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and Northeastern Seminary at Roberts Wesleyan and put on our website in late January. Besides these two institutions, we are also looking into Union Theological Seminary and New York Theological Seminary for possible connections. If anyone has contacts or knows of other institutions where we can spread the word, please let Dave know.

A portion of the meeting was spent planning the next steps we will be implementing on our journey. We completed a committee survey, plans for the next congregational survey, and finalized the Church Profile and Job Description. The results of the first survey were discussed and we learned that there are already a lot of consensus within the church in the areas of; Leadership, Conflict and Confrontation, Tradition or Trends, Social Issues, Ethical Decisions, Community Affairs, Ideas and Plans, Decision Making and Communication. The purpose of this survey and the those to follow, will enable us to determine our strengths and weaknesses, wants and desires, and share this information with potential candidates. In the next few weeks, you will be asked to complete the survey, "What We Want Our Pastor To Do". We hope to have as many if not more returns as there were for the first survey (45), so please continue to help us by completing the next survey.



Survey #2

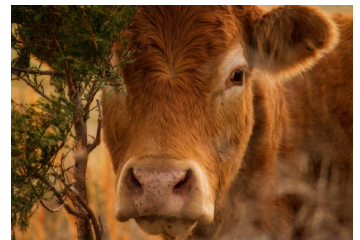
The Search Committee is looking for your input in Survey #2. Please complete online by Sunday, February 12th, or if you prefer, a hard copy will be available in church and church center. The link for this survey is; <https://forms.gle/gucFu7vFdDBtyn9d8>.

Stearns Win Award

Judson and Mary Stearns are the first honorees of the new **Extraordinary Contributions to the Betterment of Allegany County Award**. The award was presented to them on January 25, in recognition of their decades of community service. Both Judson and Mary have served in the Alfred Station Fire Department, the Boy Scouts, local government, and are active members of the Union University Church! For the full story, go to the Allegany Hope website (alleganyhopewny.org).

Looking Ahead — Lent

The Board of Elders and Pastor Louise are making plans for the Lenten Season. An Ash Wednesday service to include the community will mark the beginning of Lent. It will be held in the church sanctuary at 5:00 pm on February 22. The **Lenten Project** this year will involve activities highlighting the organization **Heifer International**.



More details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars for Ash Wednesday and spread the word to the Alfred community and beyond.

All are welcome!

Church News & Events, cont.

Lenten Season and Holy Week Calendar

February 22 - Community Ash
Wednesday Service is at **5:00 PM**

April 2 - Palm Sunday Service

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae
Service: **Evening**

April 9 - Easter Service



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Help us update the



*Just fill out the following form and return it to the Church Center (either at the Secretary's Office or in the folder in the entryway) by **Sunday February 12**. Please fill out a separate form for each family member, including phone and email, as each person gets their own entry in the database. Thank you!*

Name (first and last): _____

Local Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

February Board Members of the Month

Deacon.....MaryAnn Whittemore (whitteduc@twc.com; 607.587.9449)
 Elder.....Deb Stephens (farmingrl27@yahoo.com; 617.304.9332)
 BOCE.....
 Fellowship.....
 Trustee.....Jerry Jusianiec (jusianjm@alfredstate.edu; 607.587.8274)

Whom 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

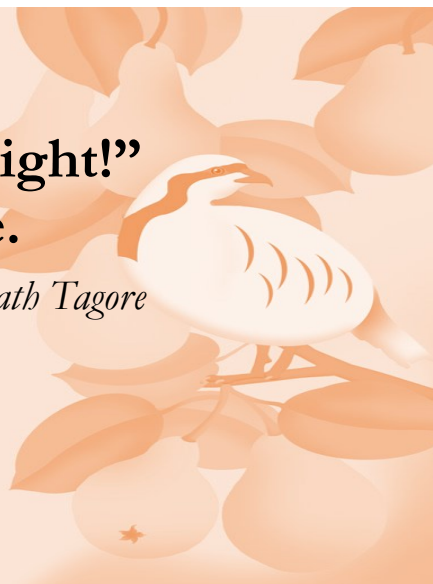
If you are not able to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone listed on the charts below and notify the Church Office. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, please contact either the Elder of the Month or the Deacon of the Month.

Date	Greeter	Worship Leader	Flowers	Coffee	Usher
Feb. 5			Communion	Barb Willis	
Feb. 12			Deb Stephens	Jim & Karrie	
Feb. 19			Mary-Lou Cartledge	Walt & Joan Schulze	
Feb. 26			Lent	Catherine Chambers	
March 5			Lent	Daisy Zhou	
March 12			Lent	Anna McHale	
March 19			Lent	Larry & Jan Casey	
March 26			Lent	Tiersa & Dale Watson	

Faith is a bird at dawn
 Whose song says, “Light, light!”
 Before night’s dark is gone.

-Rabindranath Tagore

From The Jewel that is Best: Collected Brief Poems,
 Trans. William Radko)





Mission of the Month

**Allegany-Cattaraugus-
Chautauqua Fund for Women**

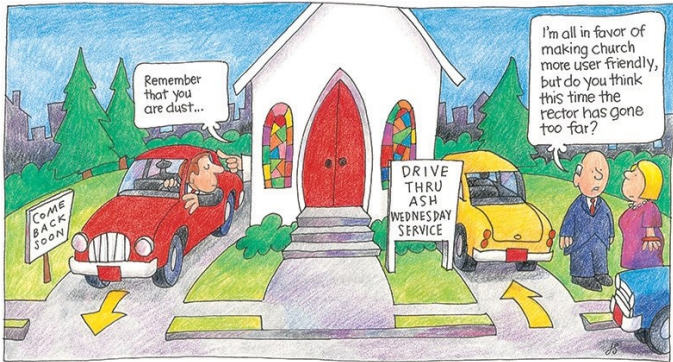
**While it is February one can taste the full joys of anticipation.
Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch.**

—Patience Strong

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 12 pm: Book Group	2 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 6 pm: Knit Night	3 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	4
5 Communion Worship 10:30	6 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	7 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm: Boy Scouts	8 12 pm: Book Group 4 pm: Board of Elders meet in person	9 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 5 pm: AAUW	10 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	11
12 9:30 am: Sunday School Worship 10:30	13 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	14 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm: Boy Scouts	15 12 pm: Book Group 4 pm: Board of Elders 7 pm: Pastoral Search Committee	16 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 6 pm: Knit Night	17 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	18
19 Worship 10:30	20 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	21 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm: Boy Scouts	22 12pm: Book Group Ash Wednesday Service 5:00	23 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 6 pm: Knit Night	24 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	25
26 Worship 10:30 Lent 1	27 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	28 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm: Boy Scouts				

Just for Fun



Oops

A minister went to a blacksmith to buy a horse. The blacksmith said, "I have the perfect horse for a man of god. This horse was raised by a religious family. You can't say 'Giddyap' to make him go. You've got to say 'Praise the Lord.' And when you want him to stop, you can't say 'Whoa', you've got to say 'Amen'." The minister paid for the horse, mounted him and said, "Praise the Lord." The horse started towards their destination as expected, but after a couple of miles the horse was spooked by a snake and took off at a gallop toward a cliff that bordered a river two-hundred feet below. In a panic, the minister yelled "Whoa!" forgetting the instructions given by the blacksmith. Finally at the last moment he remembered and shouted, "Amen!," stopping the horse at the edge of the cliff. "Wow, that was close," the grateful minister said, "Praise the Lord."



Children's Takes...

A mother who was feeling poorly one Sunday decided not to go to church with her family. She asked her little girl to remember what the sermon was about so she could explain it to her mother. When the child came home she reported, "The preacher said, 'Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt.'" Of course the mother didn't understand the child's explanation, so she called the minister. He explained that the message was, "Fear not, thy comforter will come."

A Sunday school teacher asked her class to draw a picture of something about the baby Jesus. One little boy drew a picture of a jet airplane with four people inside. When asked who the people were, he said, "That's Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus on the flight to Egypt." "Okay," she replied, "but who's the fourth person?" "Oh," he responded, "that's Pontius the pilot."

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A Sunday school teacher asked a young boy if he thought Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark. The boy replied, "No, how could he with just two worms?"



Thanks to Stephen Illich (See Genesis 6-8)

05-19-2005

WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES
THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS



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February 2023