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The Beauty of Change

All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

“For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. ... Ninety-nine in a hundred ... perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

“She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

“Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.

“Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature.” Praise God!



People

Congratulations, Graduate!

Submitted by Jen Smith, Proud Mom

Hanna Tormey graduated May 27th from Cornell University. She will start her career in data science this July.



A Visit from Rev. Moser

Picture submitted by John Buckwalter

On June 11 the church had a visit from the Rev. LeRoy Moser, who became the UUC's first full-time pastor in 1950!



Goodbye...

Ramin and JoJo Faraji

Text by Lana Meissner; picture submitted by John Buckwalter

On Sunday, June 18, the church said farewell to Ramin and JoJo Faraji. Lana Meissner shared these thoughts in the morning service.: “Today is, to our great sadness, the last Sunday that Ramin and JoJo will be with us as Ramin has accepted a new job in Seattle, Washington. Ramin has been a part of this congregation since the winter of 2017 when he came



to Alfred from Iran as a grad student at Alfred University. Fortunately for us, he found our church immediately and over the years he became an important part of our congregation bringing with him warmth, kindness, optimism, and best of all, eventually bringing JoJo to church who has been a great source of joy to us as well. We are extremely thankful that they found one another, and that they have shared their lives and love with us during these important years of their lives. Saying goodbye is hard but we hope they know how much they have meant to us and how heartfelt our blessings for them are.”

People

Irene Chen & Daniel Chang

Submitted by Irene Chen

Dear friends in UUC,

Good morning! Last night when I turned on my computer and began to write this letter, I was sad.



I didn't ask any native speaker to revise the grammar of this letter for me, so if you hear some strange saying, please forgive me. And don't make fun of my pronunciation, please. Some sounds are so hard for me to learn, although I have been here for eight months. I want you to know my real English level. I am not able to deliver a speech in English now, so I have to read this letter.

On last October 26, Daniel and I arrived at JFK. Three days later, Sophie took me and Daniel here. I used to live in the big cities of China like Beijing for more than ten years. On the next morning when I

woke up, I looked around. Wow, here is so quiet, no heavy traffic. The space between neighbors is so large, everyone has a big yard. And I saw the deer and the squirrels. That's amazing! I liked to be here; I knew I would have a peaceful life here. After several days, winter came. Although it snowed many times, the road was cleaned in time and efficiently. That's quite different from China. I am impressed deeply. At the Christmas season, Daniel decorated hard and tried to make our Christmas decoration as beautiful as our neighbor Dr. Mauro's. I think people living here all know how hard to achieve this goal.

In February I came to the UUC for the first time.

Before I entered to the church, I was nervous. I had never been to a church. Pastor Louise hugged me warmly. And everyone I met said hi and smiled to me. For a newcomer, a smile face is the warmest gift. In the church, I enjoyed beautiful music and songs, inspired by pastor's speech. I also got help from many people. Thanks, Laurel, for teaching Daniel how to play piano. He made great progress in the past two months. Thanks, Jan, for accompanying me to take the road test. By the way, I passed the test in the fifth time, although I have a Chinese driver license. Now I am no longer to become nervous when I see a police car. And thank you for everyone who talked with me in the coffee time. I can tell your kindness. What you did prove is why the U.S. is the torch of modern civilization. What I learned is I would give my hands to others when they need help in the future.

Daniel and I will move to Minneapolis next week. My friend Hope is there, we will live with her and her 7-year-old daughter. I cherish the experience living in Alfred, and I will miss all of you! I hope everyone would have a happy life. Thank you!



Church News & Events

Senior Recognition Sunday

June 4, 2023: Nolan Tormey

Submitted by Nolan Tormey



To my UUC Family,

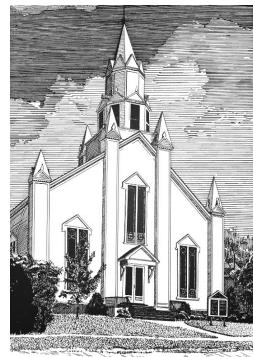
As I wrap up my senior year and everything seems to be changing around me one of the few constants is my faith. A faith that tells me to forgive and help those in need. A faith that will tell me to continue to be the man, brother, son and student that I have learned to be over the years. This everlasting faith that was gifted to me by every last one of you. If it was a handshake coming into the church, a Sunday school class where we got to use the kitchen, or a Christmas pageant where I surely have won a few Oscars over the years. UUC is not done in my life because I am now 50 miles away. No, I was taught by you in the audience that faith carries no bounds. Thanks for your time, effort and dedication during my time in high school.

Thank you so much for the celebration of my graduation. The ceremony, kind words and cake were all so amazing. Thank you for your kindness throughout the years.

Worship Feedback Forms

Submitted by Lana Meissner

In order to make sure that we are meeting the worship needs and expectations of the congregation, the Board of Elders is asking for feedback following each service. The forms include categories for Music, Announcements, Sermon, Prayers/Readings, and Tech Support as well as an overall reaction. The rating scale goes from 5 (Exceeds expectations) to 1 (Needs improvement). For each of the 3 most recent Sundays when the form has been used the overall rating was 4.5 or above. If you do not attend worship in person, you can find a copy of the evaluation form in the drop-down menu under Sermons & Worship. You can print it, fill it out and drop it off at the Church Center. We are working on making an electronic version available that can be submitted on-line.



Your opinion is important!

Thank you for sharing it.

Worship Committee

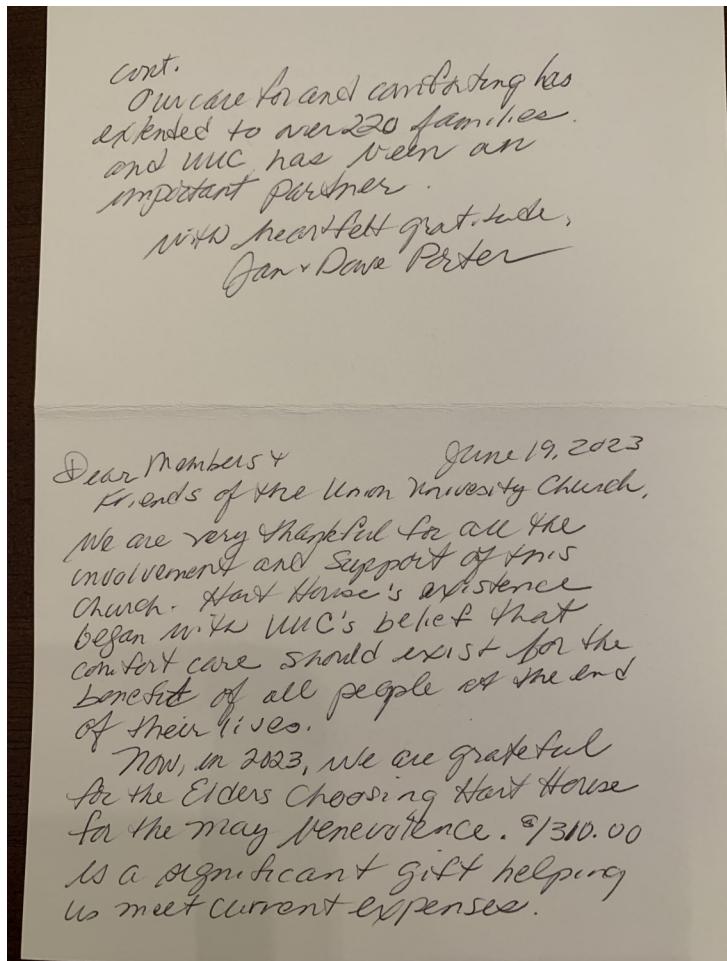
Submitted by Lana Meissner

The Board of Elders has formed a Worship Committee to share responsibility for creating the Sunday bulletin, contacting guest preachers, and making sure that someone is assigned to answer any questions our guests may have prior to worship. The committee consists of two current elders (John Buckwalter & Lana Meissner), two former elders (Larry Casey & Deb Stephens), and a representative from the Music Committee (Laurel Buckwalter). If you have questions or comments about worship please do not hesitate to let us know.

Church News & Events

Thank You Notes

From the Hart Comfort House...



...and Matthew 25: Ministries

25 Ministries

11060 KENWOOD ROAD, BLUE ASH, OH 45242 USA
513.793.6256 | 513.793.6258 FAX | M25M.ORG

6/21/2023

The Union University Church
Deb Stephens
29 N Main St
Alfred, NY 14802-1027

Dear The Union University Church,

Thank you for your support of Matthew 25: Ministries. Your recent gift of \$740 on 6/13/2023 will help us continue to support those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

We are continuing to ship loads of desperately needed supplies to those impacted by the crisis in Ukraine. So far, we have shipped more than 95 truckloads containing over 2,000,000 pounds of supplies, including personal care items, cleaning and laundry products, medical supplies, clothing, linens, and more. These supplies provide help and hope to those in need. Thank you for being a part of this life-changing work!

So far in 2023, we shipped nearly 16,600,000 pounds of aid, helping more than 18,900,000 people in need throughout the United States and around the world.

God's Blessings,
Tim
Tim Mettey, CEO



Thank you for helping us provide aid to people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

Church News & Events

Roster of Church Officers 2023—2024

Board of Christian Education

2024	Mary Perkins	2024	Deb Stephens
2025	OPEN	2025	OPEN
2026	Jan Porter	2026	Melissa Jusianiec

Diaconate

2024	Mary Beth McDonough	2024	Karrie Edwards
2025	Regina Burke	2025	Mary Smith
2026	Linell Soule	2026	Jenella Bellows

Board of Elders

2024	Lana Meissner	2024	Mary-Lou Cartledge
2025	John Buckwalter	2025	Heather Meacham
2026	Rick Stephens	2026	Cathy Rees

Fellowship Board (may serve two terms before taking year off)

2024	Beth Slack	2024	Daisy Wu
2025	Lyle Slack	2025	Catherine Chambers
2026	Cindy Tucker	2026	Jan Casey

Board of Trustees

2024	Walter Schulze	2024	David Porter
2025	Anna McHale	2025	Jim Ninos
2026	Joe Dosch	2026	Michele Hluchy

Church Council Chair

2023 **OPEN**

Church Clerk

2023 **Laurel Buckwalter**

Financial Secretary

2023 **Jan Porter**

Treasurer

2023 **Larry Casey**

Auditor

2023 **Lyle Slack**



Mission of the Month Giving 2022—2023

From the Treasurer's Benevolence Report

ACC Fund for Women	\$380.00
Allegany Senior Foundation	\$475.00
Alfred Area Food Pantry	\$500.00
Christmas Boxes	\$1,329.10
Habitat for Humanity	\$440.00
Heifer International	\$1,185.00
Humanitarian Aid China	\$50.00
Journey's End Refugee Assistance	\$150.00
Matthew 25, Earthquake Relief in Turkey/Syria	\$1,135.00
OGHS/Matthew 25, Ukraine	\$2,630.00
Pastor's Benevolence Fund	\$1,111.25
UNICEF	\$234.64
Veteran's Hospital in Bath	\$30.00
Youth Mental Health	\$1,710.00

TOTAL **\$11,359.99**

UUC Board Leadership

Elders	Chair: Lana Meissner Secretary: Elder of the Month
Trustees	Chair: Dave Porter Secretary: Michele Hluchy
Diaconate	Chair: Regina Burke Secretary: Mary Smith
Advisory	Chair: John Buckwalter Secretary: Laurel Buckwalter
Worship	Chair: Lana Meissner Secretary: TBD
Christian Education	TBD
Fellowship	Chair: Cindy Tucker Secretary: TBD

July Board Members of the Month

Deacon Linell Soule (soulelinell@gmail.com; (607) 201-4329)

Elder Rick Stephens (rickstephens55@gmail.com; (607) 661-6316)

BOCE

Fellowship

Trustee..... Dave Porter (porterkd1@hotmail.com; (716) 498-0005

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.

**“The Star-Spangled Banner,” originally “Defence of Fort McHenry,”
by Francis Scott Key (1779–1843) written Sept. 14–16, 1814**

O! say can you see by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watch’d, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O’er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?

Did you know... there are 3 more stanzas to our National Anthem?

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
July 2	Cartledges	Rick Stephens	Communion	Sophie Luo	Jan Porter
July 9	Slacks	Dave Porter	Jan Porter	Brian Deck	Jan Porter
July 16	Shaune Henry	Deb Stephens	Shaune Henry	Slack Picnic	Jan Porter
July 23	Sharon Smith	Larry Casey	Caseys	Regina Burke	Jan Porter
July 30	Sortore/Soule	Brian Deck	Bill Sortore	Keefers	Jan Porter
August 6	B. Heineman	M-L Cartledge		Michele Hluchy	L Meissner
August 13	Cartledges	Lana Meissner	L. Buckwalter	Caseys	L Meissner
August 20	Sharon Burdick	Larry Casey	Deb Stephens	Sharon Burdick	L Meissner
August 27	Cindy Tucker	J. Buckwalter	Jan Porter	Regina Burke	L Meissner



July is hollyhocks and hammocks, fireworks and vacations, hot and steamy weather, cool and refreshing swims, beach picnics, and vegetables all out of the garden.

-- Jean Hersey



Mon **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

							1
2 10:30 Worship Communion	3 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	4 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	5	6 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 6 pm: Knit Night	7 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	8	
9 10:30 Worship	10 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	11 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	12	13 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 6 pm: Knit Night	14 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	15 KDR in use 9:00am— 1:00pm	
16 10:30 Worship	17 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	18 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	19	20 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 6 pm: Knit Night	21 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	22	
23 10:30 Worship	24 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	25 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	26	27 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Office Open 6 pm: Knit Night	28 1 pm: UUC Office Open 7 pm: AA	29	
30 10:30 Worship	31 11:30 am: Nutrition Site						

Just for Fun

True Story

From Linda Eberly: One Sunday evening while my husband was away, I was sitting in church with my two boys, ages two and four. I didn't expect that they would listen to very much, I was just content that they were quiet. When the Scripture in Matt. 5:22 "anyone who hates his brother will be guilty of murder" was read, I heard the small worried voice of my four year old say "Uh-oh"



Goat for Dinner

The young couple invited their elderly preacher for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied. "Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?" "Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"



Fun Signs!



Allegany County

On a nice sunny afternoon a preacher was walking down a dirt road when he came upon a man working in a field full of large fruits and veggies and yells to the man "GREAT GARDEN!!" The man wipes his face with a rag and walks over to greet the preacher "Thanks a lot," said the man. The preacher says "yes the LORD sure did great work here." The farmer steps back and says "Preacher, when the lord had this field it was full of stones and sticker bushes!"



**29 North Main Street
Alfred, New York 14802-1027**