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Last August, I fled Nashville for sanctuary in New York. When I arrived, I had 10 days before my next event. I spent the fall on the road speaking. In January, I started as the settled minister at Union University Church and decided to take a break from public life. It's been nice and I have felt grounded and settled. A month ago, I received 2 speaking invitations within 1 week. They are both international invitations. I consulted with elders in my community. I prayed and discerned. I've decided and discerned that I will take a big step back from public life and only do 1-2 events each year. I like the quiet teaching I'm doing at two different institutions, Colgate

Rochester Crozer Divinity School and Duke Divinity School, and the quiet writing I'm doing. I will post links when I receive them! I will also share publication information when I have them and tell you where you can order the book! I've decided to work on getting to know this new state and my new community. I've decided to plant roots here and imagine possible futures. I'll be preaching each week at UUC. You are welcome to join us on zoom. We are a community of radical difference, a place I've always wanted to invest in and build out. We have folks who attend from all over. I preach each Sunday attempting to plant seeds for the future we long for, bringing heaven to earth. Erin and I are happy and our nervous systems are healing. In New York. !!! We'd love for you to come visit us in our new community and get to know the people who are showing me how to be an Activist Theologian and do Practical Theology. Come meet the people who model social change to me! Come experience masculinities that are not toxic! Come sit with me on the ground where I am finding myself more and more. Come walk with me in the woods and let us talk about how God is in all things. The Orishas have been guiding me all this way. We are in a theological crisis in this world. I'm going to focus on my vocational life and be a theologian in the church. I'll continue to write the things that matter to me, like on Substack at www.ourcollectivebecoming.com. Some of you are subscribers! There are 20k there. Some of you support this work financially! Thank you! I'm working out a more sustainable schedule for writing theology, living theology, and preaching theology. Come join us on Substack, if you want to join in on the writing I'm doing. If you're wondering why I'm taking a step back from public life, it is because people treated me differently and I felt othered by celebrity culture and my world was not surrounded by real people facing real problems, like life. My world was surrounded by other "high profile" speakers, and I don't play the game of trying to remain high profile nor do I give up my values. I want to be with real people having a real life. Celebrity Culture is toxic, even the celebrity culture of progressive Christianity and more left-leaning spaces. I'm not going to give up my values just to get another gig. That's not how I was taught to be a theologian. My teacher, Dr. Nancy Elizabeth Bedford taught me two important lessons: 1. Continue on the Way following Jesus and 2. Be faithful in the small things. That's what I want to do and how I want to be in the world. The other person who created conditions for me to arrive here and helped me discern for many years is Rev. Alba Onofrio. I am here making this decision because I have had good teachers. Strong women of color who have been my guides.



Church News & Events

April Youth Sunday

Submitted by Deb Stephens

In keeping with Pastor's message on darkness and light (not to mention the eclipse the next day) the youth tried finding puff balls while blindfolded.



Church People & Activities

Congratulations Graduates!



Candy Zhou

Is a senior at Alfred-Almond High School. She will be attending Georgetown University in the fall to study International Politics and Economics.

Luci Lee

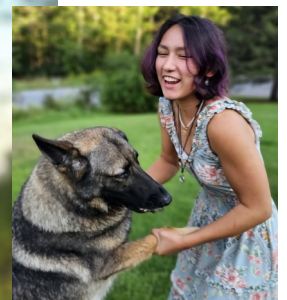
graduates from SUNY Brockport in May.. Here is a thank you note to the UUC Family from Luci and Jayden.



Preston Ordway graduates from Alfred University in May with a major in Marketing and a minor in Business Analysis.



Samantha McCormick



Church News



Mission of the Month

Hart Comfort House

Hart Comfort House of Allegany County has been a benevolence for our congregation many times in the past, and has again been chosen as the Mission of the Month for May.

The 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 people in their last 3 months of life, and support for those peoples' families. Hart Comfort House provides care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for two residents 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 go to:

<http://comforthouseofalleganycounty.org/>

Checks for the May benevolence should be made out to UUC, with "Comfort House" in the memo line. Designated envelopes will be available in the back of the sanctuary to use for donations.

May 19 is



It is also the **Youth Breakfast** and the **Annual Meeting!** Mark your calendars!



Heifer International Votes

Submitted by Lana Meissner

On behalf of the Board of Elders: Thank you all for your support for this year's Heifer International Lenten project. We collected a total of \$775.15 which was once again tripled by HI. The table below shows the results of the congregational poll that was taken throughout Lent both online (thank you Melissa Jusianiec) and on paper.

Gift	Number	Price	Total
Clean Water	3	\$300	\$900
Water for Life	1	\$750	\$750
Goats	2	\$120	\$240
Tree Seedlings	3	\$60	\$180
Chicks	2	\$20	\$40
Bees	3	\$30	\$90
Sheep	1	\$120	\$120
Where Needed			\$5.45
Total			\$2,345.45





Mission of the Month



"May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope."

~ Emily Brontë

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 11 am Sit & Be Fit 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 3:30 Book Group	3 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 1 pm: Farmers' Mkt kitchen	4 8 am: Farmers' Mkt Fundraiser
5 10:30 Worship Communion 1:30 pm: Farmers' Mkt Mtg	6 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	7 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm Boy Scouts	8	9 11 am Sit & Be Fit 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 3:30 Book Group 6 pm: Knit Night	10 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	11
12 10:30 Worship	13 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	14 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm: Boy Scouts	15	16 11 am Sit & Be Fit 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 3:30 Book Group 6 pm: Knit Night	17 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	18 9 am: Box of Books Program 1 pm: Family party
19 9:30 Youth Breakfast 10:30 Worship Annual Meeting	20 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	21 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm Boy Scouts	22	23 11 am Sit & Be Fit 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 3:30 Book Group 6 pm: Knit Night	24 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	25
26 10:30 Worship	27 11:30 am: Nutrition Site	28 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 6 pm Boy Scouts	29	30 11 am Sit & Be Fit 11:30 am: Nutrition Site 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 3:30 Book Group 6 pm: Knit Night	31 1 pm: UUC Offices Open 7 pm: AA	

May Board Members of the Month

Deacon Regina Burke ((941) 661-5960)
 Elder Heather Meacham (meachajo@yahoo.com; (607) 587-8313)
 BOCE
 Fellowship
 Trustee Michele Hluchy (fhluchy@alfred.edu; (607) 368-6290)

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.

Mother's Day: Honor Your Mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.



At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they “symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying.”

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	Usher
May 5	B. & C. Rees	Deb Stephens	Communion	Edwards/Ninos	J. Meacham
May 12	Tim Nichols	M-L Cartledge	Cartledges	J. & L Casey	J. Meacham
May 19	D. & J. Porter	Heather Meacham	Bill Sortore	Perkins Family	J. Meacham
May 26	H. & J Meacham	Amie Acton	Linell Soule	D. & J. Porter	J. Meacham
June 2	J. Fasano	Anna McHale	Communion	Soule/Sortore	J. Meacham
June 9		John Buckwalter	Cindy Tucker	Jusianiec Family	
June 16	Tichy Family	Nancy Evangelista	L. Buckwalter		
June 23		Sharon Smith	Deb Stephens		
June 30		Cait Dewey	Sharon Smith		

Just for Fun

The Gift of Humor

Gifted pianist and comedian Victor Borge once said the shortest distance between two people is laughter. He was right. Laughter does indeed quickly break down barriers.

Collect a few stories that make you laugh and have them ready when an occasion calls for more intimacy.

For example: A woman and six children were walking toward a park. An elderly man who was also headed there stopped the woman and said with a smile, "My, what a nice group of children! Are they all yours ... or is this a picnic?"

The woman's response was immediate. "Yes! They're all my children, and it ain't no picnic!"

Lessons in Chemistry

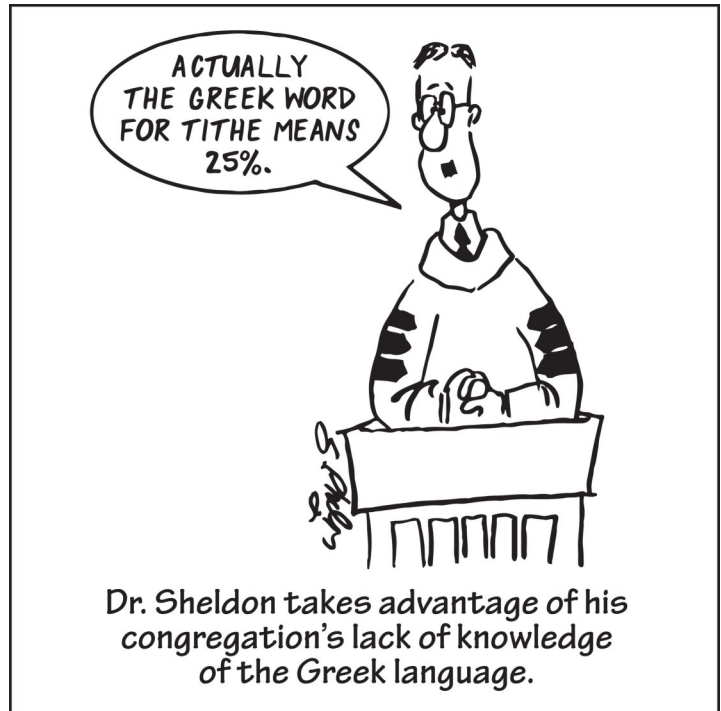
Teacher: What's the chemical formula for water?

Student: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Student: Yesterday you said it was H to O.

Stewardship Humor!



The famous question is asked for the first time.





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