



# The Trumpet

Genesee Valley Association  
New York Conference  
United Church of Christ

September 12, 2015

## **Resource Center/Wellspring News: Happy "New" Year!**

*Greetings from Susan Orr, Presbyter for Mission & Education*

It may not be the first day of the calendar year or even the first day of the liturgical year, but around these here parts, a new *program* year is gearing up and taking off! It's the most wonderful time of the year at the Resource Center, which is abuzz with materials for Sunday school, and youth groups, and confirmation and adult education, and stewardship...and more! Stop by and see for yourself any time Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm.

The Wellspring Resource Center for the Genesee Valley Association of United Church of Christ has officially moved into its new digs as part of the Resource Center at the Presbytery office, 1190 Winton Rd S at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church. Many books and other curricula resources that have been a part of the Wellspring Collection have been (and continue to be) enfolded into the Presbytery of Genesee Valley collection. A section of UCC-specific materials is also available. GVA is providing funding to the Presbytery for new resources, data entry costs for the materials received from Wellspring, training for Susan (who attended General Synod in June) and a stipend for staffing costs for 2015, with a possible renewal for 2016 and beyond.

The Resource Center catalog is available on-line and it's easy to use! Whether looking for a specific title, a specific author or a particular category using the Advanced Search option, check out what is available for borrowing at: <http://www.rqmweb.com/pbygenval>. Once you find a resource that suits your need, follow the simple instructions to reserve the item. An email will be sent to the Resource Center and the requested item(s) will be set aside for pick up at your earliest convenience or mailing if that is your preference.

Each month, a listing of some of the new resources ("Fresh Picks") will appear in the Trumpet with complete information always available at the center website (<http://pbygenval.org/about-us/missions-ministries/resource-center/>). The Center can also be reached by calling 585-242-0099.

**Save the Date for GVA Fall Assembly  
Sunday afternoon, October 25**



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## "Let the little children come to me" (Matt. 10:14) – Sunday School at UCC

Thanks so much to the 13 churches who responded to the request to share with other GVA churches how they are working with their children in Sunday School.

There is so much creativity out

there and many different ways of helping our children in their faith formation. Some are using published curriculum (see links when a specific curriculum is mentioned), many are creating their own materials, and there are puppet shows and musical plays going on as well! Some of the smaller churches do not have regular Sunday School programs due to the small number of children in attendance, but all of our GVA churches are welcoming to our youngest followers!

Some of this month's new items at the Wellspring Resource Center include:

- ✓ **Books on end of life** (*A Faithful Farewell, Toward the Better Country*)
- ✓ **Veterans** (*Coming Home*)
- ✓ **Preaching and Christian education** resources (*A Feasting on the Word Commentary; Girlfriends; God's Word, My Voice*)
- ✓ **Rural ministry** (*Practicing Care in Rural Congregations*)
- ✓ **Mental illness** (*Blessed are the Crazy*)
- ✓ **Racism** (*The New Jim Crow Study Guide*)

See page 6 of this newsletter for a complete report on what your colleagues are doing in Sunday School.

### New Alateen Group Starting Oct. 3

Do you know a young person who is being affected by parents, relatives or friends who have a drinking problem? If so, please consider informing them about a new Alateen group starting Saturday mornings from 11:30 to 12:30 at Transfiguration Lutheran Church, 3760 Culver Road in Irondequoit in conjunction with the Simple Beginnings Al-Anon group meeting at that time. Alateen offers an opportunity for teens to share ideas and experience to gain a better understanding of alcoholism and so lessen its effect on their own lives. They learn they are not alone and have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about how to manage their lives even though they have no control over the alcoholism in their family. For more information, contact Diane M at 317-7060 or visit <http://aisrochester.org/>.

### People News

- Mark Dibelka was ordained on August 23 at First Congregational UCC in Spencerport and has been called to Epiphany UCC in Clarence Center and now has transferred from GVA to the Western Association of UCC
- Beth Gobeli was ordained August 30 and was called to Chaplain Fellows program at the Veteran's Administration, North Texas Health Care System in Dallas, TX
- Heidi Tyler and Diane Ellis were licensed by the Committee on Ministry in August
- Chad Kyler has left First Congregational Church in Riga
- Kathy Bindig has left the United Church of Christ in Castile
- Konrad Emmert will be leaving Union Congregational in Churchville at the end of December

## **Update on GVA Website**

The Executive Council discussed a GVA website at its June meeting and decided to move forward on this project. First steps will include purchasing a domain name at a minimal cost, setting up an email to administer the site and starting off with a free version of Weebly.com as a hosting service. A committee will be established to oversee the content and structure of the site. If you are interested in being part of this project, please contact Diane at [gvaucc@gmail.com](mailto:gvaucc@gmail.com).



## **Calendar of Events**

### **September 15**

- “How to Make Your Worship Service More Engaging for All Ages” webinar will be held from 7 to 8 pm EDT. This Practical Resources for Churches (PRC) program is offered at no cost through an agreement with the UCC. More information is available at <http://www.prcli.org/>.
- UCC Office of Communication invites people to make a commitment to peace by fasting from media violence from Sept. 15 through the 21<sup>st</sup>. More information is available on Irondequoit UCC’s Facebook page.

### **September 20**

National Week of Moral Action for Climate Justice Discussion of Pope Francis' new encyclical, Laudato Si' at St. Monica's Church, 2:00-3:00, 731 Genesee St.

### **September 21**

National Week of Moral Action for Climate Justice Interfaith Prayer Service  
St. Mary's Church, 5:30-6:30pm, 15 St. Mary's Place - park for free in St. Mary's lot across from Geva & the church

### **September 22**

“Worship for All Ages: Ideas for Advent” webinar will be held from 7 to 8 pm EDT. More information is available at <http://www.prcli.org/>

### **September 23**

National Week of Moral Action for Climate Justice Prayer Vigil - "Care for Our Common Home" at St. Marianne Cope Parish at Good Shepherd Chapel, 4:00 pm, 3318 East Henrietta Rd.

### **September 24**

- “Connecting the Dots: Ferguson to Palestine” will be presented by Rev. Graylan Hagler, Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational UCC, Washington D.C., at 7 pm at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. For additional information and flyers, visit [www.WitnessPalestineRochester.org](http://www.WitnessPalestineRochester.org).
- Rochester Moral March for Climate Justice, Liberty Pole, 4:30pm
- Your Faith and Climate Change: A talk with Catholic Climate Ambassador Dr. Gerry
- Gacioch at Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 7:00 pm, 150 French Rd.

### **September 25**

GVA Youth Kick Off Event “Seeking Christ In The City” will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 11:45 pm. The event will begin at the Parsells Church, 345 Parsells Avenue, with supper and ice-breakers, followed by visits to the Rochester Police Department K-9 unit, first responders at the fire station, and medical personnel in the Strong Hospital emergency department.

## **Calendar of Events (continued)**

### **September 26**

- Webster UCC will celebrate Oktoberfest, a German celebration that takes place when the late summer/early fall crops are harvested. Two of the forbear denominations that merged to create the UCC (the German Evangelical and German Reformed traditions) will be honored in this celebration, which will be from 6 to 9 pm at the church, 570 Klem Road). There will be music for singing and dancing - plus a performance by members of the Schuhplattler Verein, a German dance club! Tickets are \$5.00 per person, and German specialties like Schnitzel, Sauerkraut, Potato Salad, Bratwurst, and desserts like Apple Strudel and Black Forest Cake will be available for purchase. Call the church office at 585.671.3757 to reserve your ticket or to get more information.
- Fall for Irondequoit Festival will take place in the Titus/Cooper/Hudson neighborhood from 12 to 5 pm at I-Square. Irondequoit UCC will be participating in the event which includes live music, hayrides, storytelling, a pie eating contest and family games.

### **September 27**

The 2015 Witness Palestine Film Series will begin at 2 pm at the Little Theater with the screening of "The Wanted 18." Each film will be followed by a panel discussion including film directors and experts in the fields covered by each film. Additional information can be found at [www.WitnessPalestineRochester.org](http://www.WitnessPalestineRochester.org).

### **October 3**

A new Simple Beginnings Alateen Group will start on Saturday mornings from 11:30 to 12:30 at Transfiguration Lutheran Church, 3760 Culver Road in Irondequoit. For more information, contact Diane M at 317-7060.

### **October 9**

Celebrate Palestine cultural event will be held at Asbury United Methodist Church on Friday, Oct. 9th. All are welcome and RSVPs are requested. For additional information, email [reedelaine68@gmail.com](mailto:reedelaine68@gmail.com).

### **October 25**

GVA Fall Assembly hosted by Parma Greece UCC, 1211 Manitou Road in Hilton. The assembly will begin in the afternoon and will include Reformation Sunday worship led by Kurt Traugott. The business session will include consideration of the budget for 2016, including Program and Mission Support grants. More details will be forthcoming.

### **October 26**

Navigating the Closing Call, a program for clergy considering retirement and newly retired clergy of any denomination will be held from 8:30 am until noon at the Asbury First United Methodist, 1050 East Avenue, Rochester. The morning will include two workshops on changing identity and changing relationships designed to guide clergy in making the shift between one's role as a working pastor and one's role as a retired pastor. Workshops will be led by Rev. Dr. Lynn Acquafondata, a mental health counselor with the Pastoral Counseling & Family Therapy Group who specializes in family and congregational systems. The cost is \$40 per person. A continental breakfast will be available at 8 a.m. To register call Lynn at [585-330-1340](tel:585-330-1340) or email her at [RevLynn@Congogram.com](mailto:RevLynn@Congogram.com).

### **November 5**

Boundary Awareness Training will be held from 8:30-4:00 at Community Christian Church, 2647 Chili Avenue.

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## YOUTH NEWS



GVA youth will join youth from the historic Parsells Church (American Baptist) for a “night on the town” on Friday, September 25. They will experience life in the city with people who do ministry in a variety of settings. The event begins at 6:30 pm at the Parsells Church, 345 Parsells Avenue, for supper and ice-breakers, followed by visits to the Rochester Police Department K-9 unit, first responders at the fire station, and medical personnel in the Strong Hospital emergency department. The group will end up at

Wendy’s on Mount Hope Avenue for a late-night snack and wrap-up discussion. Each group needs chaperones/drivers for the various sites. Youth & adults, let your group leader know you are attending. Group leaders, contact Suzanne Gangemi, Mountain Rise, 223-2433 or [suzanne@mtriseucc.org](mailto:suzanne@mtriseucc.org) with your response.

### Ways to Continue to Support Palestine

At its General Synod recently the UCC decided to divest funds from companies involved with the occupation of Palestine. Locally there are several events that continue to focus on the situation for Palestinians. The first is on Thursday, Sept. 24th at 7 pm at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, when Rev. Graylan Hagler, Sr. Pastor of the Congregational UCC Church in Washington, D.C., will speak on the subject, "Connecting the Dots: Ferguson to Palestine." This is a pre-event to the Witness Palestine Film Series, beginning Sept. 27th at the Little Theater. For additional information and flyers, visit [www.WitnessPalestineRochester.org](http://www.WitnessPalestineRochester.org). Following the film series, there will be a Celebrate Palestine cultural event at Asbury United Methodist Church on Friday, Oct. 9th. All are welcome and RSVPs are requested. For additional information, email [reedelaine68@gmail.com](mailto:reedelaine68@gmail.com).

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## **Church News**

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Neutral Ground will be having a craft show and sale on Oct. 17 to benefit Henrietta UCC’s parking lot fund. A portion of each vendor’s fee will be donated to the church and the church has been given a table free of charge. In other news, the church is encouraging members to sign up to take the initial free training in the use of their Automated External Defibrillator.

Irondequoit UCC plans to dedicate a new peace pole on Sept. 20 that will include messages in English, Spanish, Hebrew and Ukrainian.

Henrietta UCC and Salem UCC are part of the Habitat Harvest Home Coalition that will help build a new home on 57 Ries Street in Rochester. Building will start in September and volunteer positions will be needed in October. On Nov. 7 at 4 pm the Coalition will be sponsoring a fund raising jazz concert with Miche Fambro at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.

*Note from the Editor: Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter! I am especially pleased that so many of you shared information on what you are doing with your children in Sunday School. Please continue to keep me updated on what you and your church are doing for by the October Trumpet deadline on **Sept. 29** . Send to [gvaucc@gmail.com](mailto:gvaucc@gmail.com). Thanks!*



## "Let the little children come to me" (Matt. 10:14) – Sunday School at UCC (continued)

Bristol's Christian education program has been intermittent due to sporadic presence of kids. This fall they are initiating a lectionary-based approach involving a couple of teenagers who will be doing the bulk of the instruction with guidance from our CE committee. Teenaged instructors are not new at the Bristol church, but basing the program on the lectionary in a consistent way is.

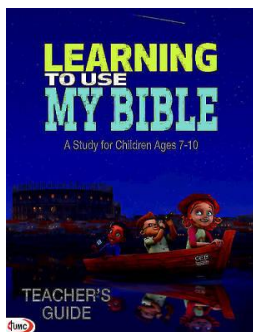


Churchville will be working this fall on a multigenerational musical performance of "Peace in the Kingdom" (<http://www.christianpub.com/default.aspx?pg=sd&st=Peace+in+the+Kingdom&p=370>). There are basic themes presented that the play encourages participants and audiences to explore further. Activities will be planned for the youth and the whole church based on issues of poverty (local and global) nonviolent conflict resolution, and taking care of the environment. Since play preparation will take up much of the time this fall, they may continue studying these issues through the rest of the year until June. Performances will be Sunday, Nov 22 at 10am and 2 pm.

Chili's Community Christian uses a modified rotation model and for the last four years have used Sparks curriculum (<http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/spark/>). In the past they used Rotation.org, but it was a lot more expensive. They group the three year-olds through grade 2 children together and use some of the Sparks material but also develop their own. The leader of the older children's group uses Sparks and other materials as well. The first week of the rotation all the children are together for a video that ties in with the unit. Then there are two weeks of rotations, then the fourth week all the children are together for an outreach week (cookies for coffee hour, cards for shut-ins, posters for the church, etc...).

Henrietta UCC has a lively Sunday School program with traditional classes grouped by age. Children and youth are in worship through the passing of the peace, and then go to their classes until the service is over. On communion Sundays, youth stay in worship for the whole service.

For infants & toddlers, teachers put together their own materials--usually a story and a prayer followed by play time. For kids in Pre-K through 6th grade, they use a curriculum called "Gather 'Round," published by Brethren Press and promoted by many of the mainline denominations (<http://www.gatherround.org/>). It's a Bible-based curriculum focused on following Jesus: loving God, interpreting God's word, belonging to God's gathered community, and sharing God's good news. The same texts are used across all aged groups, to promote discussion in families. They have used it for several years, and the teachers seem to like it, but they adapt it freely as needed.



Every other year, HUCC also uses a curriculum called "Learning to Use My Bible" for the 3rd & 4th grade class (<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=1101070>). This is a short-term study for children who have just received their first Bible and can read and write at an elementary level. When this is completed, they revert back to "Gather 'Round."

For the youth class (grade 7-12) they have used and enjoyed the "Caffeine" series (<http://www.uccresources.com/products/caffeine-series-for-youth?variant=985375396>), and the "Nooma" video series (<http://nooma.com/>), but have exhausted those resources and are currently looking for something new.



Honeoye will be exploring the *Fruit of the Spirit* from Galatians 5:22-23 this year. They will spend about 2-3 weeks on each fruit, identifying and exploring how it relates to God working in and around us. Children will be given the opportunity to identify the Fruit of the Holy Spirit as found in some of the foundational Bible stories such as the Prodigal Son, Jesus Feeding 5,000 and The Good Samaritan.

In addition to the Bible stories they will explore how they can share fruit with others, and how others have shared it with them. Seniors will explore the Fruit of the Holy Spirit on a larger scale through exploring social justice issues. Honeoye will include the entire congregation on this journey by having them share their experiences on a giant fruit tree as they move through the year.

They will be having fun with actual fruit to help identify the Fruit of the Holy Spirit as follows:

- LOVE: Strawberries remind us of love because they are sweet and heart shaped.
- JOY: Oranges remind us of joy because they we can make smiley faces with them in our mouths.
- PEACE: Pineapples remind us of peace because they are crazy and prickly on the outside, but sweet on the inside. When life feels hard we can find God's peace inside our hearts.
- KINDNESS: Grapes remind us of kindness because they make it easy to show kindness to others by sharing them one at a time.
- PATIENCE: Lemons remind us of patience because they must be eaten very slowly (while adding a bit of sweetness) because of their sour taste. Patience is reacting slowly without complaining.
- GOODNESS: Blueberries remind us of goodness because they are a "super food" with so much goodness packed inside.
- FAITHFULNESS: Bananas remind us of faithfulness because they are in bunches that stick together. God is faithful to us and we can be faithful to one another.
- GENTLENESS: Peaches remind us of gentleness because they must be handled very gently as to not bruise them. They are a wonderful example of how we should treat each other.
- SELF CONTROL: Apples remind us of self control because in the Garden of Eden Eve ate the apple and did not show shelf control.

Irondequoit UCC uses Grow, Proclaim and Serve from Cokesbury (<https://www.cokesbury.com/forms/DynamicContent.aspx?id=254&pageid=959>) for pre-school, preschool, grades 1-3, and grades 4-6. 1st - 3rd grade and 4- 6th grades. They do not use a particular curriculum for junior and senior high students.

Morganville is like many small churches with few children in attendance that have found that a structured, planned-out Christian Education Program can be counter-productive. Morganville, however is a "child friendly" place. When children and/or youth are present, they are invited to greet, ring the church bell, or read scripture so they may be included in worship. Children and youth also participate in a monthly Foodlink Mobile Pantry hosted by the church from April to October. Christian Education for Morganville is an ever changing process with a focus on being relational as they remain flexible to the needs of God's children. They also use a variety of wonderful resources from the Wellspring Resource Center.

Mountain Rise's nursery class does not use a specific curriculum but uses a format that includes lighting a candle, singing and signing, a Bible story or thematic story, a short prayer, blowing out of the candle and playtime.

Komma Kids are children in kindergarten through grade five and for the last five years the church has used the *Spark* curriculum (<http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/spark/>). They use a rotation model, rotating the modality & teachers for the same Bible Story with one unit lasting 3-5 Sundays. A teacher chooses the format (cooking, science, drama, video, music, games, art, etc.) and teaches one or more Sundays; the shepherds (assistants) remain throughout the unit. The children seem to be engaged, the teachers & shepherds are happy not to be out of worship for long periods of time, and the Faith Formation Ministry Team is hopeful that the Bible stories are understood (at some level) and remembered.



*Seasons of the Spirit*, (<http://www.seasonsonline.ca/>) has been used for more than ten years with youth in grades 6-12. Teachers teach for 3- 4- Sundays in a row, and then a new leader/team takes over. Youth remain in worship on communion Sundays. There is a ritual for the beginning of each class and the youth sign a covenant at the beginning of the year. Lots of conversation, not always on topic, works for us.

Spencerport has a multi-age classroom, serving kids in grades kindergarten - fourth, that will use Group Publishing's *All in One Sunday School, Volume 1* (<http://www.group.com/>) for the first time this year. It was chosen because it teaches some of the most popular Old Testament Stories (reminding us of our Jewish history), as well as emphasizing basic beliefs about God's love and relationship with humanity. Likewise, it is formatted in such a way that fits any size class, which is helpful when attendance fluctuates.



The Tween Classroom, serving kids in fifth and sixth grades, is using Group Publishing's Grapple curriculum, *Living, Loving, Leading: Tackling Tough Questions About God, Others, and Me*. This is also a first and it was chosen because the lessons are pertinent to the developmental stage of tweens. It invites them to talk about, review, and develop their own beliefs regarding things like the purpose of prayer (can't God just read my mind anyway?),

loving everyone, and what it means to identify as Christian. The lessons are adaptable so they can be tailored to our group.



The Youth classroom, serving teens in grades nine through twelve, is using Sticky Faith Curriculum, *Can I Ask That? 8 Hard Questions about God & Faith*, by Jim Candy, Brad M. Griffin, and Kara Powell (<http://stickyfaith.org/student-curriculum/>). Another first for Spencerport, this was chosen because the topics covered in each lesson are relevant not only to the times but also to this stage in a teenager's life. Fuller Youth Institute, behind the Sticky Faith curriculum, has done years of research regarding young adult faith after high school. They have found that many young adults leave their faith for a variety of reasons, including not discussing tough questions. So the church is taking on the task of opening the Bible, asking about its reliability, and trying to make sense of it in the context of the world.

Warsaw's faith-building and faith-sharing material is unconventional. About 65% of the members are farmers, 20% are teachers, and the remaining 15% are subsidized by county, state and federal governments. The church's faith-seeking, faith-sharing and faith-building materials have been shaped from in-church resources and are scheduled around church traditions, liturgical seasons and multiple long-term sermon series. They have found the cost of published curriculum to be cost prohibitive and impractical for their needs and so have developed curriculum which reflects their motto "faith is a life style."

Warsaw has four regular teachers who engage with children ages two-years-old through eighth graders. These teachers receive information on Scripture and sermon themes three months in advance so they may parallel what is offered in Sunday morning faith-sharing.

Examples of some of the ways in which the church works with our children and youth include the second Sunday of the month puppet ministry with "Amanda," a very mischievous and life-like hand puppet who "whispers" messages to the pastor that she then says aloud to all present; the creation by children and youth of a composite "Portrait of God" on the third Sunday of every September; "Living Testimony Sunday" in which the longest-living members of the family of faith are honored by children who sign their names to a specially made card and then "swarm" the Living Testimony honoree and present the card to her/him; and a seasonal bell and chime choir that is principally composed of children and youth. The pastor at Warsaw urges other pastors to "know your people."

Webster doesn't use published curriculum but their "amazing" Christian Education Director Wendy Lesko writes all of the lessons - often with input from other published materials. Webster got so frustrated with curricula that just didn't express their unique theological views, or depict the diverse, Open and Affirming congregation they've become, that they just designed their own! And with GREAT appreciation by our congregation! The church has kids with same-gender parents, kids of mixed-race parents, kids being raised by grandparents, kids who have handicapping conditions, and kids who have parents from two religious traditions so they want to always make sure that they are sensitive to all, and welcoming of all!

Ontario and Hall have no regular Sunday School programs due to the small number of children attending.

