



The Trumpet

Genesee Valley Association
New York Conference
United Church of Christ

October 2, 2015

GVA UCC Fall Assembly

Date: Sunday, October 25, 2015

**Location: Parma Greece UCC, 1211
Manitou Road in Hilton**

Agenda:

12:30 pm – Registration and lunch of soup and sandwich

2:00 – Welcome and introduction of Susan Orr of the Resource Center and Diane Ellis, GVA Communications Coordinator

2:10 – Worship led by Rev. Kurt Traugott

2:30 – Business Meeting

- Resource Center in-depth overview – Susan Orr
- Communications Coordinator overview – Diane Ellis
- Financial/budget session – Kurt Traugott

3:00 – Program: Report from Synod



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Please share the work and play of your church with your GVA sisters and brothers. Send your church news to gvauc@gmail.com Thanks!

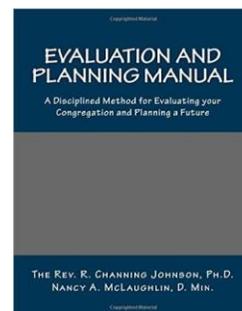
- ❖ The Women's Guild at First Congregational Church in Spencerport will have a cookie class on Nov. 14 to teach the children and youth in the church to make cookies for the church's annual Cookie Walk on Dec. 13. The Needles Mission Club will be offering knitting and crocheting lessons at their Oct. 7 meeting to anyone interested in learning these skills.
- ❖ Parma Greece UCC started its new program year using the Whirl Lectionary Sunday School materials published by Sparkhouse (wearesparkhouse.org). In addition to the program, the church includes a craft activity with each lesson. The church was inspired by a UCC Worship Bulletin cover article for 4/26/15 titled ENFOLDED BY LOVE which told about 1,000 origami peace cranes which were created and have been shared with congregations that have experienced profound tragedies. Parma Greece invites other churches to share the work of folding the cranes with them. They have a resource person who is willing to teach people how to fold the cranes. If you or your youth group are interested, contact Ann Weitzel, 392-6273 or 53vette@msn.com.
- ❖ UCC of Castile has called Rev. Harrison Putnam to be their pastor, beginning the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29. Rev. Putnam will be moving to the area from Scranton, PA.
- ❖ Community Christian Church in Chili will hold a Sabbath Retreat Nov. 14-15 from 9 am to 9 am at Abbey of the Genesee. For more information, contact the church at 247-2494.
- ❖ When death threats were received about a talk by the Rev. Graylan Hagler at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, the school had to rescind its invitation due to lack of adequate security systems. Rev. Hagler was scheduled to talk about racism in the US and Israel/Palestine. Henrietta UCC members decided to offer space for Rev. Hagler's talk after lengthy and respectful discussion. Another location was chosen for the talk but HUCC benefitted from the process of discerning together how to live their faith. HUCC youth will participate in a "Shed Blitz," on Oct. 12 at Asbury First United Methodist Church, using pre-made kits to construct several back-yard sheds to accompany the new homes built by Habitat for Humanity in the city of Rochester. The church is offering free Rosen Method Movement low-impact exercise classes on Wednesdays from 10-11 am which include stretches, joint mobilizations and dance-like movements that are done to music.
- ❖ First Congregational Church of Canandaigua will hold a Fall Adult Retreat from 9 am to 2 pm on Nov. 7 and discuss Joan Chittister's thought-provoking new book, *Between the Dark and the Daylight: Embracing the Contradictions of Life*. The church will provide coffee and snack and the group will order subs for lunch. The only cost will be a donation to help cover the subs and snacks. You do not need to read the book beforehand as there will be excerpts available. For additional information call the church at 394-2184.
- ❖ First Congregational UCC at Fairport is in the process of establishing a Pastoral Search Committee to begin the process of finding a settled minister. The church hopes to have the committee in place by the end of October.

CHURCH NEWS CONTINUED

- ❖ Mt. Rise UCC began providing its first in-house three-month long Stephen Ministry in September. Seven people are involved in this program to train to be part of the pastoral care team.
- ❖ UCC of Warsaw is having a Leaving a Legacy campaign, encouraging people to leave a bequest to the church's Endowment Fund to support the long-term financial capacity of the church to fulfill its missions.
- ❖ On the second Sunday of the month worship at the 10:45 Webster UCC service will be sign-interpreted for the deaf of our community. This service will also be taped for playback on the local cable access channel, increasing access to worship for more people in the community.

Resource for Congregations in the Midst of Change

The *Evaluation and Planning Manual: A Disciplined Method for Evaluating your Congregation and Planning a Future* was developed from the Rev. Channing Johnson's earlier book *Where Have All the Young People Gone*, and is a guide for churches in interim periods wishing to strengthen their understanding of where God is calling them.



The manual helps a church team study the church's strengths and weaknesses as well as its potential for both spiritual growth and growth in numbers. The process provides several evaluation tools with a means for brainstorming and recording solutions along with spiritual insights, and then walks the group through developing those into a draft vision statement and a time line of action plans to present to the larger church and its management for implementation. The *Evaluation and Planning Manual* is available on Amazon in both print and Kindle versions (http://www.amazon.com/Evaluation-Planning-Manual-Disciplined-Congregation/dp/149372150X/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8). You may request a complimentary electronic PDF preview copy from Nancy McLaughlin at nmclaughlin2k@yahoo.com.

Thank You

I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to my supportive, caring, encouraging and loving church community for your presence at my Ecclesiastical Council and Ordination. Thank you to the Committee on Ministry for your affirmation, support, encouragement and care during my journey to Ordination. My beloved church community and the Committee on Ministry have been a significant part of my journey. A heartfelt thank you also goes to all the local clergy that were present for my Ecclesiastical Council and Ordination. Your input was invaluable.

I am humbled by the affirmation and support from all of you. I could not have done this without each and every one of you. You all have been my great cloud of witnesses, surrounding me and upholding me. I am blessed and grateful. I carry you all with me, as I minister to and serve our veterans. You all will always remain in my heart, my thoughts and my prayers. May Our Lord pour out his peace upon each of you. Rev. Beth Gobeli

First GVA Youth Event Great Success!



On Friday evening, Sept. 29, approximately 50 youth and adults gathered at Parsells Community Church in the city of Rochester for a “Seeking Christ in the City” event.



K-9 unit visitors

The group shared food and activities while learning about those who do ministry at night in the city, including the Rochester Police Department K-9 unit, first responders at the fire station, youth services, and medical personnel in the Strong Hospital emergency department.



Rochester firefighters

Information Verification Forms (IVF) Needed

Updated IVFs are needed from all authorized ministers (ordained, licensed and commissioned) as well as from Members in Discernment. Please record your Continuing Education Credit (CEC) as the NY Conference expectation is that you earn 25 hours each year.

Annual reporting of your CEC will occur at the Spring Assembly and this record will be placed in your GVA file with a notation of the hours completed during the year from Spring Assembly to Spring Assembly.

Guidelines include certified hours from reading books, papers, Boundary Awareness Training, conferences, seminars, webinars as verified by completion certificates or other written confirmation of completion you will copy and include in submitted paperwork.

The form is attached to this email and should be completed and returned to the GVA Registrar.

Calendar of Events

Please be sure to send information on your church's events to gvaucc@gmail.com

Oct. 7

Spaghetti Dinner benefitting UCC Tech Support from 5 to 7 pm at Honeoye UCC.

Oct. 9

Oktober Fest Dinner at Salem UCC from 5 to 7 pm featuring bratwurst and gravy, German potato salad, sauerkraut, butternut squash, hearty breads, beverages and homemade desserts. Adult tickets are \$8; tickets for children ages 5-12 are \$4.50 and children under 5 are free with a paid adult ticket. Take-out is also available. Tickets will be available at the door or by calling the church office(454-5978) or Michelle Wrue (227-5331).

Oct. 13

Screening of a thought-provoking documentary film titled "Cowspiracy" at 7 pm at Henrietta UCC. The film discusses the science behind animal agriculture and its impacts on global climate change, and is presented by Living in Harmony, an interfaith environmental group. Popcorn will be served!

Oct. 15

Clergy Colloguia at 10 am at Mt. Rise UCC in Fairport. Topic will be Worship, Technology and Experience presented by Rev. Greg Osterberg.

Oct. 18

- Financial Health presentation on creative ways to save money at 12:30 pm at Community Christian Church in Chili.
- "Love Songs III" concert at 1 pm at First Congregational Church in Canandaigua featuring Connie Fredericks-Malone, Mike Yacci, Dan and Jeff Sawyer. All donations will benefit Gleaner's Community Kitchen and Herb Haven. For further information, contact the Church office at 394-2184.

Oct. 19

"Pastors as Waiters" to support the Harvest Home Coalition/Habitat for Humanity will be held at Peppermints Restaurant, 4870 West Henrietta Road from 4:30 to 6:30. Pastors David Inglis and Martha Koenig Stone from Henrietta UCC will be serving.

Oct. 24

Holiday Arts and Crafts Sale at Community Christian Church in Chili from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Oct. 26

"*Navigating the Closing Call*" from 8:30 am to noon at Asbury First United Methodist 1050 East Avenue. Clergy considering retirement and newly retired clergy of any denomination are encouraged to sign up this half-day retirement retreat. 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. Register by Oct. 13th. For more information call Lynn at [585-330-1340](tel:585-330-1340) or email her at RevLynn@Congogram.com. <http://congogram.com/>

Calendar of Events continued

Oct. 26 - 28

Fall Clergy Retreat: "With Joyful Abandon" at Sky Lake Camp & Retreat Center to play, rest and rejuvenate your spirit and ministry. As we approach the Advent season join us as our facilitator, Rev. Rachel Hackenberg, guides us in the use of words that not only refresh us, but will breathe new life into our seasonal preparation. <http://uccny.org/assets/2015-10-NY-Clergy-Retreat.pdf>

Oct. 31

Wellspring Resource Center Work Day from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Come for an hour or two, no costume necessary. Help glean the Resource Center shelves of all those non-circulating things to make way for the Wellspring (UCC) collection. You'll get first crack at the freebies too! Coffee and goodies will be provided. Please notify Susan Orr at sorr@pbygenval.org if you are coming.

Nov. 1

Daylight Savings Time ends.

Nov. 5

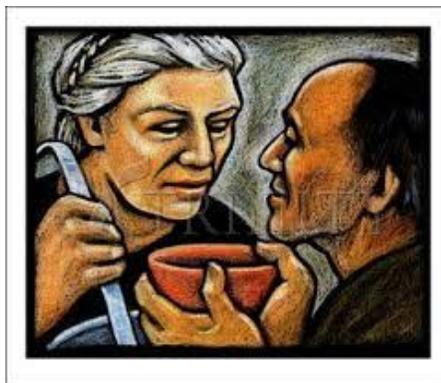
Boundary Awareness Training from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Community Christian Church in Chili. Penny Cannon and Carl Richter will be the facilitators

Nov. 7

Jazz guitarist and singer Miche Fambro will be performing at St Peter's Episcopal Church at 4 pm in a concert to benefit the Harvest Home coalition. Miche fuses elements of flamenco, jazz, classical as well as pop and soul in a style all his own. His web site is: <http://michefambro.com/>

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you? (Matt 25:37)

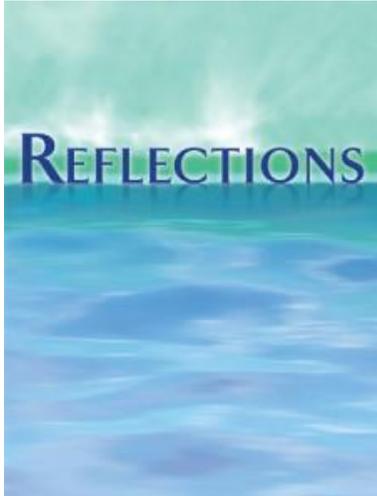
Our GVA churches practice what they preach and are all involved in reaching out to the "least of these" our brothers and sisters. Some of the ways in which we are doing mission work are described below. If you would like to let your colleagues know what your church is doing in the world, please send information to the Communications Coordinator at gvaucc@gmail.com.



- Missions and Outreach at First Congregational UCC in Fairport provides both financial and hands-on support to 21 needy organizations, primarily within the greater Rochester area. To better inform the congregation about these organizations, their needs, services and who they serve, the church has resurrected a program from the past, entitled "Moments for Missions."

Once a month at the Sunday service, a representative from one of these 21 organizations speaks to the congregation and has a table in Fellowship Hall during the coffee hour. They began this process in July with a representative from the Perinton Food Shelf, and in August with a representative from the Senior Options for Independence (SOFI). In the remaining months of 2015 representatives from RAIHN, Bethany House, and Dimitri House will share their messages.

- Webster UCC does a Hot Lunch program once a month at Baber AME on Meggs and Broadway. This year a Thanksgiving Dinner will be provided for the first time and Webster folks will be helping with the preparing and serving. They will also be purchasing turkeys for the dinner.
 - First Congregational at Spencerport is collecting used plastic prescription bottles to send to the Malawi Project, a health-focused non-profit organization that will provide these bottles to pharmacies and hospitals there which now use torn pieces of paper to wrap medicine or hand out loose pills.
 - Henrietta UCC is part of a coalition building houses with Habitat for Humanity. The church will work on a house on Reis St. the weekend of Oct. 10 as well as providing donations for building supplies.
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Reflection pieces are always welcomed for the Trumpet. Consider sharing your thoughts with your colleagues as well as your responses to reflections written by others. Thanks to Rev. Tim Hamlin at Bristol for this month's reflection

***“Better to ring the bell...
than wring my hands”***

I serve a small church...and it's getting smaller. If you do not, I urge you to disregard what follows and count your blessings. This is for the rest of us. Our shrinkage is the subtext for many of our gatherings these days. Where are the younger families? How can we get the word out? How do we bring folks IN? There's too much soccer on Sundays. And how come the church down the road is packed?

It never goes very far in terms of constructive responses. I know I don't have any. We don't even harken back to the “good ol' days” much anymore. More often than not, we direct our attention to our favorite distraction: money. And so thoughts turn to diminishing dollars rather than people – at least for a while.

There's a very, very thin consolation in knowing that, aside from that one “packed” church down the road, many churches – and other organizations, for that matter – are in the same leaky boat. But it's scant comfort. A bit like the two desperate sailors in said leaky boat, madly bailing water, furtively glancing up at each other, vaguely relieved to know that at least the other guy has a hole in the hull too!

I've occasionally sought consolation in the notion of the “faithful remnant,” nursing the conviction that the path of spiritual integrity is, by nature, a lonely road. “Quality, not quantity,” as though I'm buying a fifth of premium Jamaican rum.

But ultimately, there's little solace in knowing that the last person left standing to turn off the lights in the church will be a freaking spittin' image of Christ! The lights are still going out!

Frankly, all intellectual digressions aside, my deepest desire is to just plain share the party! The good news. The great joy. The spiritual acetylene torch that can pierce even the darkest night. I find such irrepressible LIFE on the road with Christ...even the offbeat country roads that I typically traverse. And I just can't understand why others don't share my passion. I played soccer, for crying out loud. Yes, I love the sport. But even the great Pele can't hold a candle to the risen Christ! Do we need Jesus to come back and, once again, insist that we "leave our (soccer) nets" and follow him?!

I write all this for more than mere catharsis. I think my thinly veiled hope is that others will have an answer...or at least a response. That somewhere out there is a cross between the Unified Field Theory and the Rosetta Stone, which will puncture the dam and let loose a flood of impassioned humanity that will clog our pews and drain our coffee machines. A man can dream, can't he?

Supplies for Nicaragua

A small delegation from the UCC New York Conference is visiting the weekly educational programs offered at various churches of the Iglesia Mision Cristiana, which serves children from the poorest neighborhoods in Managua, Nicaragua. The group recently visited the First Church in Managua which serves more than 300 children from ages 3 years to 15 years old in an afternoon program that focuses on the areas of cognitive, social, emotional, spiritual and physical development.



The next group going in January would like to bring supplies for the programs and is asking UCC Fall Association meetings to do a campaign with their local churches to collect the following items: pencils, pens, crayons, markers, coloring books, cash (we would like to buy the notebooks there), and children's story books in Spanish. Each Association will be responsible for sending these items to the conference office in Syracuse no later than January 15, 2016. <http://www.uccny.org/news/show/special-collection-of-school-supplies-and-medicine-for-the-after-school-program-in-nicaragua-0>

Note from the Editor: Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter! It is wonderful to hear what is going on in GVA churches. Please continue to keep me updated on what you and your church are doing. I'd especially like to hear from our smaller churches. You are important, too! I look forward to meeting many of you at the Fall Assembly on Oct. 25. The next Trumpet newsletter is October 27 with the newsletter distributed on November 1. Send your information to gvaucc@gmail.com. Thanks!