



# The Trumpet

Genesee Valley Association  
New York Conference  
United Church of Christ

February 2, 2016

## **Calling all Congregations!**

Congregations around Rochester are being asked to help feed the hungry this winter at the REACH Home Homeless Shelter at 80 Prince Street. Volunteers are needed to provide a hot, hearty meal for the guests at the shelter, which is open 24 hours, seven days a week to those in need of housing and other services.

The program's goal is to provide at least one well-balanced meal to shelter guests each day. Churches interested in serving this program should plan enough food for 60 people.

Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. and volunteers are asked to arrive in time to set up and serve by that time. The serving and eating take approximately a half hour and time should also be scheduled for clean-up. There are paid staff on-site at all times as well as some volunteers.

The most current meals calendar showing dates when meals are needed can be found at [www.reachrochester.org](http://www.reachrochester.org). If interested, contact Bridget Carey for more information at [585.747.8836](tel:585.747.8836) (call or text) or [bcarey128@gmail.com](mailto:bcarey128@gmail.com). This is an especially good project for youth!

The following dates are currently available for serving:

- Sundays: 4/10, 5/1, 5/8
- Tuesdays: 3/8, 3/22, 4/5, 4/19, 5/3
- Wednesdays: 3/16, 4/27, 5/11
- Thursdays: 3/24, 4/14, 4/21, 5/5, 5/12
- Fridays: 3/11, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13
- Saturdays: 4/9, 4/30, 5/14

### **GVA Spring Assembly – April 16**

Spring Assembly will be at Mt. Rise UCC, starting with a worship service at 10 a.m. and including a technology in worship workshop with presenter Greg Osterberg from Mt. Rise UCC. New officers and committee members will be installed and the assembly is scheduled to conclude by 2 p.m.



Genesee Valley  
Association  
P.O. Box 67263  
Rochester NY 14617  
[gvaucc@gmail.com](mailto:gvaucc@gmail.com)  
(585) 200-9512

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## ***Moderator's Moment - February 2016***

*“The world is waiting for new saints, ecstatic men and women who are so deeply rooted in the love of God that they are free to imagine a new international order. . . “*

This quote from the beloved Henri Nouwen energizes and entices those of us who have stood as wallflowers too long to dance with God's Spirit and dream of a new way! As I step into the role of Moderator of the Genesee Valley Association, I do so excited to work alongside saints new and old to imagine our Association through our rapidly changing socio-religious landscape.

Your Executive Council is taking a hard look at our Partner/Structure document. What needs refreshing? How can we do similar work within the Association more efficiently? We will not dismantle this significant document, but honestly assess who we are and joyfully imagine who God wants us to be moving forward.

While the winter winds howl outside, spring seems a distant dream, but please put our Spring Assembly on your calendar. Join us on Saturday, April 16 in Mountain Rise's sanctuary at 10 a.m. There we will experience the integration of worship and technology... once unimaginable.

Peace, Steven Price



### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: RECEIVE CHILDREN, RECEIVE ME**

“Receive Children, Receive Me” is the theme of the World Day of Prayer hosted by Church Women United in Rochester and Vicinity March 4 at 2 p.m. at Lake Avenue Memorial Baptist Church, 72 Ambrose Street.

Women of Cuba invite us to consider these words: Receive Children, Receive Me and hear their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions and experiences of God's profound love and acceptance. Participants at the event will learn how Jesus responds to his disciples when the little children come to him, exploring Jesus' adoring and passionate acceptance of the children.

The stories of the women of Cuba throughout the worship service invite participants to seek Jesus with childlikeness and boldness, and to wholly receive others, as Jesus calls us, into the kingdom of God. Rev. David Ryder, pastor of Flour City Church, will reflect on this theme. Conversation and refreshments will follow the worship service. No advance registration needed, and there is no registration fee.

### **New York Conference Annual Meeting in Rochester**

The fifty-third Annual Meeting of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ will convene at the Hyatt-Regency Rochester , 125 E Main St, Rochester, at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, June 9, and will be in session until after the Morning Service of Worship on Sunday, June 12.

As host for the event, the Genesee Valley Association is looking for volunteers to help out all weekend long. Tasks will range from baking cookies beforehand to welcoming folks at the registration desk. Please send your availability and interests in volunteering to Pat Cannon at [pjcannon@aol.com](mailto:pjcannon@aol.com). There will be more details in the March newsletter on how you can help. Let's show these visitors some Rochester hospitality!

## Report from Board of New York Conference, UCC

Important discussions were the major part of our most recent Conference board meeting. With eight board and staff members around the table in DeWitt, and six others joining by video or telephone conferencing, we were able to move ahead despite the blizzard conditions which interfered with travel. It was a great first test of the new teleconferencing capacity based in our Conference offices.

With our associate conference minister Ryan Henderson about to depart for Nicaragua to lead a service and study group, Marsha Williams was the associate conference minister offering spiritual centering to open the meeting, and also presenting the Commission on Ministry's recommendations for the creation of a Conference Fitness Review Board. The nine associations' Executive Councils and Committees on Ministry will soon be hearing more details about this plan.

Financial updates are part of every board meeting, and in reviewing preliminary reports for 2015, the Board learned of disappointing participation by congregations in the Covenant Share initiative. What would otherwise be a rather bleak balance sheet for 2015 was greatly softened by receipt of some \$251,000 from the final dissolution of Christ

Evangelical Reformed Church in Brooklyn.

As readers of "Happenings," our weekly Conference e-newsletter may already be aware, the primary agenda for this meeting was discussion of a new ministerial partnership currently under consideration by our Conference and the Regional Synod of New York, Reformed Church in America. Our conference minister, David Gaewski, and Amy Nyland, executive minister of the NY Regional Synod, RCA, led us in a spirited discussion of the benefits which such a cooperative venture would yield. The corresponding RCA board is considering the proposal even as I write this report. For some of the detail of this exciting possibility, please refer to the attached "Vision and Goals" document at the end of this report.

To learn more about our New York Conference and its many ministries go to the website: [www.uccny.org](http://www.uccny.org).

Watch for more information in "Happenings" as this potential unfolds. To receive "Happenings," the weekly email updates, click on: [Sign up for conference emails](#). -- Lyle Jenks, member of New York Conference Board



The UCC New York State Youth Event will be held March 4-6 at Watson Homestead Convention and Retreat Center with a theme of "Heart over Hype." Participants will look at the way we can hear God's Voice over the Hype of society. This will be an opportunity for youth in grades 9-12 and adults from all over the state of New York to meet, learn, have fun, and worship together. For more information, visit <http://www.uccny.org/ministries/youth-ministries/>.

## **What's New at the Resource Center**

These are some of the newest additions to the Resource Center. Visit the online catalog at <http://pbygenval.org/about-us/missions-ministries/resource-center/line-catalog/>. For more information on the Resource Center visit <http://pbygenval.org/about-us/missions-ministries/resource-center/>.



### **GOD WE CAN KNOW, THE by Fuquay, Rob**

The God We Can Know is a 7-week study designed for the entire congregation to explore the "I Am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Perfect for Lent or any time of year, this series will help you find and form an answer to the most essential question in the Christian faith, "Who do you say I am?"

### **MAKE ROOM; A CHILD'S GUIDE TO LENT AND EASTER by Alary, Laura**

While the Advent season is filled with fun and expectations, Lent can be hard for children. It travels through frightening places, loaded with themes of self-denial and death. How can children approach this season in a way that is meaningful and not frightening?

### **UNDER THE FIG TREE by Hutchison, Roger**

In John 1:48, Nathanael says to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus replies, with a twinkle in his eye, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree." Lent is a time to slow down and journey with Jesus through his life, death, and resurrection. Under the Fig Tree is a book of 46 drawings, photographs, and paintings inspired by Lenten themes, readings, and stories for each day of Lent and Holy Week.

### **HOLY SPIRIT I PRAY by Levison, Jack**

Whether your spiritual life is in shambles or your faith is robust, whether you attend church or not, are angry at God or resting in God's embrace, you will discover in this book a path to authentic faith sifted through intense joy and disheartening loss, and the nearly hidden reality of the Spirit tucked away in everyday life.

### **WHERE JESUS PRAYED by Shroyer, Danielle**

When Danielle Shroyer went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, she had one goal: to enjoy God, fully present to the presence of the Holy. Tired of her own wordy prayers and theological thoughts as a pastor, she wanted her prayers to be quiet listening rather than incessant speaking. When the Lord's Prayer came to mind in the midst of her silence, she welcomed the words of Jesus as the only words she needed. Thus began a rhythm that lasted for two weeks of pilgrimage, as she traveled, praying only the words Jesus taught.

### **ROOM TO GROW by Copenhaver, Martin B.**

In this volume of rich pastoral meditations, Martin Copenhaver offers rare insight into the myriad ways we try to live the Christian life, showing us that there is indeed "room to grow" in Christ and into the Christian faith.

### **HAZARDOUS SAINTS; CHRISTIANS RISKING ALL, by Robertson, C. K.**

A new six-session DVD study invites small groups and individuals to explore the lives of six Christian "saints" who risked all for the sake of the gospel. Like Jesus, each of the featured leaders was a change agent in their times: the Subversive Bridge-Builder, Barnabas; the Lovable Rebel, Francis of Assisi; the Tightrope Walker, Thomas Cranmer; the Persevering Prophet, Sojourner Truth; the Idealistic Realist, Dorothy Day; and the People's Voice, Oscar Romero.

### **GROUNDING; FINDING GOD IN THE WORLD by Bass, Diana Butler**

The headlines are clear: religion is on the decline in America as many people leave behind traditional religious practices. Bass argues that what appears to be a decline actually signals a major transformation in how people understand and experience God. Grounded explores this cultural turn as Bass unpacks how people are finding new spiritual ground by discovering and embracing God everywhere in the world around us—in the soil, the water, the sky, in our homes and neighborhoods, and in the global commons.

### **FOOD FIGHT, STRUGGLING FOR JUSTICE IN A HUNGRY WORLD by Herlinger, Chris & Jeffrey**

This dramatic work of photojournalism and powerful storytelling describes how the "battle to end hunger" is being won, bit by bit, in places like Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States, through the compassionate work of grass-roots communities of faith involved in anti-hunger efforts. A 72-page color insert of photos from hunger around the world is included.

## Resource Center (continued)

### **WORSHIP IN THE GARDEN; SERVICES FOR OUTDOOR** by Pratt, J. Wayne

From Easter sunrise services to church retreats, the special worship experiences described in *Worship in the Garden* can enhance one's experience of God as a congregation worships together outdoors.

### **PRAY LIKE A GOURMET** by Brazeal, David

David Brazeal stirs together a love of French dining and his innovative prayer practices with a dash of international adventure to concoct an inspiring, reinvigorating prayer experience. Fun, yet profound, from confession to meditation, from observing to lamenting to praising, this book is full of practical ideas.

### **INCLUSIVE MARRIAGE SERVICES, A WEDDING** by Long, Kimberly Bracken

As the country moves toward marriage equality for gay and lesbian people, same-gender and straight couples alike are seeking inclusive wedding services. This sourcebook provides marriage liturgies with updated and gender-neutral language that is adaptable for a variety of couples and situations.



How are we participating in Lent this year? Many churches have Lenten soup suppers or lunches, along with a study series. Ash Wednesday services begin the season and offer a variety of worship experiences.

#### *Ash Wednesday Services*

Castle UCC will offer an Ash Wednesday Tureen Dinner & Service with the Tureen Dinner

starting at 6 p.m. and the Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service led by Rev. Harrison Putnam beginning at 7 p.m. (Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.)

Parma Greece UCC will host both an afternoon (12 noon) and evening (7 p.m.) service on Ash Wednesday.

UUC Congregational in Webster offers a different type of Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. at the church, with no formal worship, music, choir or sermon. Three meditation stations (water, communion and candles) will be available for personal meditation.

#### *Lenten Soup Suppers and Study*

Union Congregational Church in Churchville is participating in a series of Joint Church Lenten meetings including several soup and bread suppers. Participating churches include Riga Congregational Church, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, United Methodist Church, and Union Congregational. The program includes a study series on "The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, led by Riga pastor Susan Lancaster Garofalo.

First Congregational Church UCC of Spencerport will host Lenten Dinners & Programs on Wednesdays, February 17 - March 16, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. and the program at 6:30-6:45. The February programs are: Mental Health and the Church with Gary Ferner (February 17), and Zion House (February 24). The evening typically ends around 7:30 p.m.

United Church of Bristol will begin their Lenten season with their first soup supper before Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 10. Soup suppers will continue through the Lenten season.

Parma Greece UCC will host a series of Lenten Soup Suppers on Feb. 17, 24, March 9 and 16 which will begin with homemade soup and bread at 6 p.m. followed by viewing and discussion of the video series "Questions of Faith."

Salem UCC will offer a Lenten Supper each Wednesday at a different location.

### *Lenten Lunches*

Immanuel UCC in Ontario will host a series of Lenten Reflections and Bag Lunches at the church from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent.

Castile UCC will host a Lenten Bible Study, “Soup & Scriptures,” on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 10 through March 16 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Participants are asked to bring their Bibles and a sandwich. Soup will be provided.

### *Lenten Studies and Other Activities*

Community Christian Church will take a Lenten Journey through three meetings to explore progressive Christianity. The group will meet Feb. 16, March 8, and March 22 and use Phoenix Affirmations to guide the conversation.

First Congregational Church in Fairport will begin Lent with a brief Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. and will offer a variety of programs during Lent. These will include Lenten Devotional discussions at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, an opportunity to share about work and outreach being done by individuals in the community after worship on Feb. 21, providing a meal to guests at the Reach Home Homeless Shelter on Feb. 27, and Sunday programs on advocacy and the genealogy of Jesus.

Salem UCC will offer a full range of Lenten activities this year including an Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m., a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday, and a Good Friday service at noon on Good Friday.

UCC Congregational in Webster will offer a Good Friday Camp on March 25 from 9 a.m. to noon for children in pre-school through grade three. The event will include interactive storytelling, cooking, games, crafts and an Easter egg hunt.



## **Spotlight on a Program and Mission Support (PAMS) Grant Recipient**

Twelve program agencies are being supported in 2016 by grants from the Genesee Valley Association of UCC, with funds that come from GVA member churches. This issue focuses on the Rochester Blue Star Mothers.

The Rochester Blue Star Mothers, in conjunction with a coalition of other community organizations, is reaching out to identify female veterans and retirees throughout western New York State of all branches of the United States military and the United States Coast Guard.

The group created and supports a twice monthly Drop-In Coffee House to provide a private and safe location for women veterans to meet to get to know and support one another. As needed, the group will connect female veterans and their families with benefits and services to which they are entitled through the Veterans Administration and other local agencies. For additional information, please contact Barbara Coe at [blcoe@rochester.rr.com](mailto:blcoe@rochester.rr.com).

# People News

- Rev. Joyce Peebles has been called as the new interim minister at Christian Temple - First Congregational Church in Wellsville. Rev. Peebles began serving the congregation on January 10.
  - Elizabeth Gobeli has received the endorsement she has been seeking that will allow her to work as a chaplain in the Veterans Administration. She has already been ordained in the UCC but needed the additional endorsement to work as a chaplain in the VA. She is currently working at a VA facility in Texas.
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## Calendar of Events

Please be sure to send information on your church's events to [gvaucc@gmail.com](mailto:gvaucc@gmail.com)

**February 4** - 2016 VBS Preview from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern with Debbie Kolacki. Free webinar from PRC – Practical Resources for Churches and UCC NY Conference. <http://www.prcli.org/webinars-2/>

**February 16** - Not Safe for Church from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern with Rev. F. Douglas Powe & Rev. Jasmine R. Smothers. Free webinar from PRC – Practical Resources for Churches and UCC NY Conference. <http://www.prcli.org/webinars-2/>

**February 17** - Women's Interfaith Coalition will host Sister Eileen Conheady who will give a talk on the history of St. Joseph's Order. The event will begin at 10 a.m. at the Jewish Community Federation, 441 East Avenue.

**February 20** - A Cabin Fever German Dinner and Chinese Auction will be held at Castile UCC from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. The menu will include authentic Sauerbraten, German Potato Salad, Red Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Apple Strudel Cake and beverages. Free will offering.

**February 22** - Annual Meeting of GRCC/ Faith In Action Network from 4 to 6 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Avenue. Over the past year GRCC/Faith In Action Network has transitioned to new leadership and recommitted to enlarging our vision for racial and social justice in Rochester. For more information visit <http://grcc-fian.org/>.

**February 23** - Quick & Dirty Intro to Live Streaming Worship from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern with Christopher Harris Free webinar from PRC – Practical Resources for Churches and UCC NY Conference. <http://www.prcli.org/webinars-2/>

**February 27** - Free Pre-Screen for Anxiety and Depression from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pastoral Counseling & Family Therapy Group Crossbridge Office Park, 2000 S. Winton Road, building 4, Suite 200. No appointment necessary. More information at (585) 473-2671 or [pastoralcounseling@frontier.com](mailto:pastoralcounseling@frontier.com). [www.pcftgroup.com](http://www.pcftgroup.com)

**February 29** - Free Pre-Screen for Anxiety and Depression from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pastoral Counseling & Family Therapy Group Crossbridge Office Park, 2000 S. Winton Road, building 4, Suite 200. No appointment necessary. More information at (585) 473-2671 or [pastoralcounseling@frontier.com](mailto:pastoralcounseling@frontier.com). [www.pcftgroup.com](http://www.pcftgroup.com)

## **Calendar of Events continued**

**March 3** - Faith Formation in Children and Youth from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern with Elizabeth Christie. Free webinar from PRC – Practical Resources for Churches and UCC NY Conference <http://www.prcli.org/webinars-2/>

**March 8** - From Membership to Discipleship from 7 to 8 p.m. Eastern with Rev. Jeffrey Jones. Free webinar from PRC – Practical Resources for Churches and UCC NY Conference <http://www.prcli.org/webinars-2/>

**March 24** - World Day of Prayer hosted by Church Women United at 2 p.m. at Lake Avenue Memorial Baptist Church, 72 Ambrose St.

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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](mailto:gvauc@gmail.com) Thanks!

Rushville Congregational Church is holding a “Valentine’s Day” Food Drive for Friendship House. This organization serves as a food cupboard for all in need in the Marcus Whitman School District.



First Congregational UCC in Fairport will host a Trivia Game Night on February 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. to benefit the REACH mission trip to Fulton, NY in July 2016. Teams of 6-8 people will compete for prizes and bragging rights.

Christian Temple-First Congregational Church in Wellsville is starting a new Helping Hands Freezer Ministry. A 15 cu. Ft. upright freezer was recently purchased as a memorial gift and has inspired a new outreach program which will have volunteers preparing and freezing meals to be delivered to those in need.

Community Christian Church in Chili continues its tradition of Souper-Soup Sundays that provide homemade soup after church on board meeting days. Volunteers bring in a hearty variety of soups each month.

United Church of Bristol and Parma Greece UCC will each host a Souper Bowl event on Feb. 7 following worship. At Bristol there will be a fellowship meal of soup, bread and cookies with proceeds from the free will offering going directly to the church’s food cupboard. At Parma Greece, people are challenged to bring a pot of their favorite soup to compete for the Soup-er Bowl prize following worship.

**Sign up for UCC Daily Devotionals emails at**  
**[http://www.ucc.org/daily\\_devotional](http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional)**