



The Trumpet

Genesee Valley Association
New York Conference
United Church of Christ

July 5, 2016

UCC Churches Walk Their Talk

“Phoenix Rising” will be the theme for this year’s GVA United Church of Christ entry in the annual Rochester Pride Parade on Saturday, July 16. Volunteers from several UCC churches met on June 21 to begin planning for this year’s parade. Ideas brainstormed at the meeting including use of the Maya Angelou poem “Still I Rise,” mythical themes including ancient religions, and the idea of Christ being like a Phoenix and rising/resurrecting.



A “We Will Rise” logo will be accompanied by six people using fabric “wings to dance/fly through a church-like structure and throughout the parade as Phoenix birds. Marchers will carry the church structure, signage, and church signs, wearing UCC T-

shirts and white pants or shorts and bird-like masks, feathers or boas if possible.

Three people have volunteered to fly through the parade and three more are needed. These volunteers will be dancing/flying holding fabric wings for the entire parade route. Volunteers may wear whatever clothing/ dress/ costume they like as long as it is either red, orange and/or yellow, and are responsible for their own headdress. If you are interested in volunteering or having more information, contact Rev. Steven Price at revstevencc@aol.com.

Ryan Henderson, Associate Minister of the NY Conference, has created a UCC logo banner and a similar banner will also be coming from Syracuse. Music can be included if there is a volunteer to coordinate this. If you are interested, please contact Steven at the address above.



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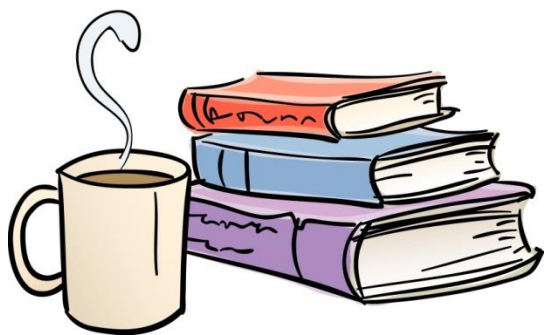
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Prep for the parade will take place at 6 p.m. on July 15 at Community Christian Church. Please bring a dish to pass. The theme for the parade is "Let's Make Magic" with the line up at noon on Alexander and step off at Meigs and Park at 1 p.m. The parade ends at Brunswick just before Culver.

In our divided society, we can shrug our shoulders and say "That's just the way things are." Or we can "be the change we wish to see in the world," as Gandhi said. We invite you to step up and be this change. Doing this together is how we create true community out of our diversity.



A Book Study Possibility Come September with Rev. Brian Krause

A Failure of Nerve, Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix by Edwin H. Friedman.

This is an invitation for those of you who might be interested in reading and discussing this book I am finding fascinating and so relevant about leadership now. It applies not only to pastoral and congregational leadership but also to UCC at the conference and national levels.

I find I need to discuss what I am reading with others because I believe this book's assessments and ideas may be one of the pathways to rethink how we go about being faithful to the church and how our leadership needs to function in this time. If you are interested in such a discussion of this book or have questions, let me know (briankrausemail@gmail.com). We would begin sometime in September.

**Save the date for Fall
Assembly: 1:30 to 4 p.m.
Sunday, October 16.
Location to be determined**

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

Twelve agencies are being supported in 2016 by grants from the Genesee Valley Association of UCC, with funds that come from GVA member churches. One of them is the youth ministry at UCC Webster.

The Rebel Beat Youth Ministry at United Church of Christ in Webster brings youth together in a life of faith and action while tackling spiritual and emotional needs and creating a network of supportive relationships. Rebel Beat focuses on Jesus' ministry and how we as disciples can carry on Jesus' mission of love, peace and justice.

We examine how Jesus defied the norms of society and reached out to the outcasts, loving each person unconditionally. The Rochester Summer Mission week puts faith into action through a week of intense service along with daily worship, devotions, meal-sharing and team-building activities.

**Requests for 2017 funding
through GVA's Program and
Mission Support will be
received over the summer.
Guidelines and application
materials will be available from
gvaucc@gmail.com after July 1
and will be due back at GVA
by September 1.**



**Prayer for Orlando (from the June 19
Democrat & Chronicle)**

Rochester's interfaith community mourns along with families, neighbors, and relatives of the victims in Orlando and with the LGBT people around the world. We, the Rochester Interfaith Community, together are grieved, shocked and shattered over the mass shooting in Orlando. It is a bone-chilling and despicable act, and we condemn it wholeheartedly. We are Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist and Hindu, and we believe such acts are against the moral teaching of every religion.

There can be no justification for such ruthless acts against innocents. We stand together with LGBT people here and around the world, sharing their grief and pain, and send out our heart-felt condolences. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those killed; we pray for swift recovery of those injured, and for their relatives.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, we as interfaith leaders of Rochester took a pledge of remembrance and peace. In order to respect one another and to stay in peace, we agreed to pray for peace in our world and community; to give space for disagreement on challenging issues; to remember the promises of relationships that can endure

through turmoil and grief; to remember that our acts can heal or divide; to encourage a climate of openness; to remember we are all children of God; and to remember that hope requires action to be fulfilled.

We reiterate our commitment to these principles, to each other, and to you. We are neighbors in this contiguous Rochester village; we have different faiths, cultures, ethnicities, races, colors, and sexual orientations. Sadly, in our village we will also meet people who may be mentally sick, angry at the world, or even radically or religiously fanatical – people who feel that violence is somehow justified.

We will not stand for that violence, we will not stand for hateful individuals committing violence invoking the name of our innocent neighbors, and we will not stand for violence against our neighbors. We urge all political and religious leaders, teachers and educators, print, electronic and social media in our country and around the world to be mindful and not incite hatred that pits one group against another. Let us engage each other with respect, let us stand for peace, let us stand for justice, and let us stand together. Salaam, Shanti, Shalom, Peace!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who volunteered to make Rochester's hosting of the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ a success! The warm welcome, smooth behind the scenes operations, and delicious cookies were truly appreciated by meeting attendees and conference staff. With Gratitude, Steven Price, Moderator, GVA

A great big thank you to all of the churches and individuals who baked and delivered cookies to welcome the registrants to the NY Conference of the UCC that met in Rochester June 10-12. I enjoyed talking to everyone and found you all to be willing and able. It was a pleasure doing business with you! Again, thank you. Ann Weitzel"

Henrietta UCC Celebrates 200 Years



The story of Henrietta UCC goes back to 1811, when the Pittsford Presbyterian Church took up a missions offering to “preach the gospel to the heathen.” Only \$10 was collected, so they gave the money to their pastor with the instructions to “preach the gospel to the indigent people of Westtown (now Henrietta). The church was established May 20, 1816.

Some might say we’re still indigent heathen, but we celebrated 200 years of surviving and thriving on Pentecost Sunday (May 15), with the theme of “Rich History, Promising Future.”

GVA Honors Salem Nutrition Center Cooks at GRCC’s Annual Faith in Action Dinner

The United Church of Christ Genesee Valley Association’s honorees this year are Lois Metzger, Ruth Howard, and Vonnie Dohr. These three women have contributed a total of 58 years volunteering for the Salem Nutrition Center, an outreach mission of Salem United Church of Christ that serves people who are hungry. Lois and Ruth coordinate and cook the Monday meals, and Vonnie cooks up three different



Ruth Howard: The invitation to serve at the Salem Nutrition Center was extended to Ruth Howard just before she retired from

soups each Tuesday. Salem Nutrition Center serves 15,000 meals a year.

the Fairport Public Library over 18 years ago. In her words “I accepted and the experience continues to be a wonderful blessing for me.”

She has been a member of Fairport United Methodist church for over 55 years and is currently involved as a certified Lay Speaker, leads Caring Ministries, is a communion server to homebound church members, and has been active in United Methodist Women on both the local and district levels.

Yvonne Dohr: Yvonne, commonly known as



Vonnie, is a member of St. Theodore’s Catholic Church. She has volunteered at the Salem Nutrition Center for 16 years making those delicious soups and she

is also good at enlisting her family members in volunteering.

In the community you may also find Vonnie volunteering at the Unity Hospital Gift Shop, St. Theodore’s Food Cupboard and on election day at the polls serving for the County Board of Elections.

Lois Metzger: Lois is a member of Irondequoit United Church of Christ.

She is currently a member of the church’s Outreach Committee and part of Concerning Women which funds local organizations working with women and children.



In 2016 she was instrumental at the Salem Nutrition Center because of her efforts to secure the NY State United Church of Christ Pennies for People grant. As a member of Material Aides, Lois also makes quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief.

People News

Rev. J.D. Jackson has been called as supply for the next four months at UCC Salem.

Bridge Project in West Virginia

The United Church of Christ is among the partners in the “Bridge Project” of the West Virginia VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), whose members collaborate on disaster recovery efforts.

Residents in the region’s hill and valley environment rely on hundreds of small private bridges to safely cross the many creeks that thread through the communities. The bridges are their lifeline to work, school, the doctor’s office, grocery store, and emergency services.

Last spring’s severe flooding damaged or destroyed 1,000 homes as well as washing out 3,000 “private access” bridges – forcing people to take inconvenient detours at best or to risk dangerous crossings at worst.

This region is marked by high poverty, unemployment and environmental degradation following the collapse of the mining industry, so few residents can afford to build more than a make-shift bridge on their property.

Summer 2016 Caring Community Concerts in Webster Schedule

Webster UCC has hosted summer concerts for 11 years on the church lawn (indoors if it rains) at 570 Klem Rd, Webster. Concerts are Wednesdays at 6:30 pm July 6-August 10 with a snack bar open at 6 p.m.

Free-will offerings go to local not-for-profit organizations, and the project has raised almost \$40,000 over the years. Bring your chair or blanket. For additional information, call the church office at 671-3757.



*** July 6 Allegro** - 8-member band with vocals. Rock /jazz/disco/ethnic. *Free-will offering to benefit Heritage Christian Services*

*** July 13 Dady Brothers** - Musical duo. American folk/Irish traditional. *Free-will offering to benefit camp scholarships for youth in need*

*** July 20 Ruby Shooz** - 7-member band with vocals. Rock & Roll from the '50s and '60s. *Free-will offering to benefit Webster Public Library book boxes for kids*

*** July 27 Johnny Matt Swing Band** - 15-member band with vocals. Big band swing music from '30s and '40s, *Free-will offering to benefit Webster Community Chest*

*** August 3 Black Rabbit** - 6-member band with 4 lead singers. Rock & Roll from the '60s, '70s, and '80s. *Free-will offering to benefit Challenger Miracle Field*

*** August 10 Rochester Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra** - 19-member orchestra. Jazz in the tradition of the Count Basie Orchestra. *Free-will offering to benefit Webster Comfort Care*

Calendar of Events

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

July 9

Partners' Project – A Free Workshop to Enliven and Strengthen Your Primary Partnership from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Henrietta UCC, 1400 Lehigh Station Rd., Henrietta. The workshop will help couples see and appreciate each other's uniqueness, practice teamwork skills, and create a shared partnership style that will help them deal with life's challenges together. To reserve a spot, call or e-mail the Henrietta UCC office at 334-0030 or adminassistant@henriettaucc.org. The workshop will be limited to twelve couples, so if this interests you, don't delay. Contact Pastor Dave Inglis at pastordave@henriettaucc.org or 334-0030 if you have any questions.

July 17

Henrietta UCC will be screening the acclaimed documentary "Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think," at 7 p.m. July 17 at the church. This one-hour film explores the first major world-wide opinion poll, conducted by the Gallup organization. It asked Muslims from Indonesia to South Asia, to the Middle East, as well as minority communities in the U.S. and Europe, what they think about issues such as Gender Equality, Terrorism and Democracy. It is presented by Islamic scholars and the Gallup members themselves who give context and try to provide explanation for the results. You can watch the trailer and learn more about the film at <http://www.upf.tv/films/inside-islam/>.

July 24

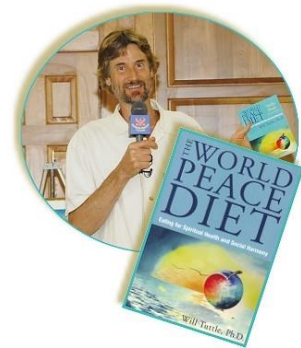
Paula Savage, International President of the International Peace Garden Foundation will be the guest speaker at the 10:15 a.m. Sunday worship service at Faith United Church of Christ, 1300 Maple Road (corner of Maple and Hopkins Road) in Williamsville, NY. Additional information at www.ipgf.org or by contacting Rev. Shirley Pudney Eilers at 585-506-8929 or kewlrev@aol.com.

August 21

➤ Immanuel UCC of Ontario will hold their worship service at the Heritage Square Museum on Knickerbocker Road. Worship is at 10AM followed by a visit from "Clara Barton" and a potluck lunch at noon.

➤ Eating for a Peaceful Planet

The Living in Harmony group is teaming up with the Rochester Area Vegan Society to bring Will Tuttle, Ph.D., to speak at Henrietta UCC on August 21. Will is an award-winning writer, educator, pianist, and composer, and has spoken widely throughout America and Europe. He will be in part talking about his World Peace Diet. His book, *The World Peace Diet*, became a #1 Amazon best-seller and is the first book to make explicit the invisible connections between our culture, our food, and the source of our broad range of problems—and the way to a positive transformation in our individual and collective lives. He will be sharing some of his musical compositions with us as well. Join us at 5:30 p.m. for a vegan share-a-dish dinner; program begins at 7 p.m. Non-vegetarians or others uncertain about how to make or bring a vegan dish, please call 234-8750 for guidance. The event is free but registration is requested by emailing adminassistant@henriettaucc.org.



GVA Youth Event Calendar for September 2016 - August 2017

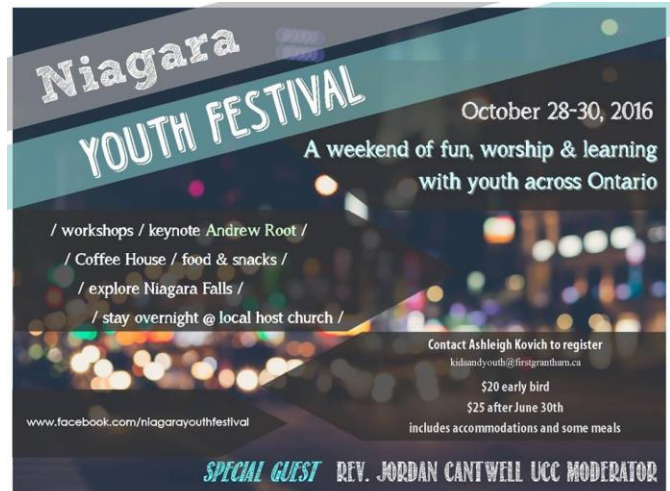
Please consider sending your youth to experience our wider church. If you have questions please contact Shirley DeMartinis at ksdemart@aol.com.

September 16-17

Lock-in at Henrietta UCC for youth in grades 6-12. 7 p.m. to 11 a.m. Participants will be grouped by age for some activities and discussion.

October 28-30

The Niagara Youth Festival in Canada. We have been invited by the UC of Canada. Cost is \$25 plus for youth in grades 6-12 for the workshops and program. Those attending will need a passport or other documentation to enter Canada and return to USA. If you want to attend, please let me know by July 30 and send your \$25 to Henrietta UCC --cash or check, payable to Henrietta UCC, with Niagara Youth Festival on the memo line. Scholarships are available. More information is available by contacting Rev. Martha Koenig Stone at associatepastor@henriettaucc.org.



November 11-12

Shanty Town at Spencerport UCC, 55 Church St., Spencerport. For youth in grades 6-12. Time to be confirmed and this may change to November 18-19.



January 14, 2017

Volunteer at Foodlink from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For youth in grades 6-12.

February 22-23

Mystery Trip for youth in grades 6-8. Time and cost to be announced.

March 3-5

State Youth Event at Watson Homestead for youth in grades 9-12. Time and cost to be announced.

April 29

Mission Madness: a one-day event for all ages. Time and place to be announced.

July 2017

Webster UCC Youth Mission Event. Dates and times to be announced.

August 2017

Summer Work Camp Sites - to be determined.

- 1) H.o.m.e. Inc. Homeowners Organized for More Employment, Orland, Maine
- 2) MINC Ministries in the North County, Watertown NY
- 3) Oldfirstucc.org/wellspring/shelter - the website for this mission with food cupboard and kitchen. Could stay overnight possibly at the church.
- 4) Quaker mission in NYC

Irondequoit UCC to Host Candidates' Night This Fall

The UCC is known for their justice work and Irondequoit UCC has a proud history of taking that responsibility seriously. IUCC's Outreach and Ministry Transformation Teams will host an evening for candidates that are running for local offices to come and interact with the community on Sept. 25. Please plan to attend this event which will combine the informational session with a BBQ chicken dinner. More information will be available.

Reflections on our Violent World from Rev. Dave Inglis and Rev. Martha Koenig Stone

We have all been affected by Sunday morning's mass shooting in Orlando. Both of us attended the clergy retreat that preceded the NY Conference Annual Meeting. The leader, Rev. Donna Schaper, talked about the discouragement she often feels as she looks at the political and social landscape with all of its conflicts and overwhelming problems. She said that when she feels like all her efforts are futile, she realizes that she has allowed her sphere of concern to overshadow her sphere of influence.

Her sphere of concern is vast, because she wants everyone everywhere to live in a world where God's peace, love and justice reign. And because we are all interconnected, she feels distressed and diminished when people suffer violence, injustice, rejection, poverty, and pain.

But she reminds herself that God hasn't called her to change the whole world. God has given her a sphere of influence—a small portion of this world—and her calling is to invest her time, energy and gifts to her part of the world, and do what she can to help this part reflect God's reign. So she begins each day by prayerfully pondering what the most important things are that she can do that day to touch the people and situations that are within her sphere of influence.

So, our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, let us all hold all the people who have been impacted by this terrible tragedy in our prayers. They are all within our sphere of concern. We can give them over to God, and pray that God will inspire those who are in their sphere of influence to do what they can to bring compassion, healing, hope, and peace. At the same time, let us renew our commitment to bring compassion, healing, hope, and peace to the part of the world that is within our sphere of influence. Because we are all interconnected, we know that our positive actions will ripple out into the world.

**Next Trumpet Newsletter Deadline: August 25 for September 1 Newsletter.
Email info to gvaucc@gmail.com and have a wonderful summer!**