



The Trumpet

Genesee Valley Association
New York Conference
United Church of Christ

October 3, 2016

FOOD AND FAITH At Fall Assembly



Join your colleagues for the Genesee Valley Association UCC **Fall Assembly** from 12:30 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, **October 16**, at South Livonia UCC.

The assembly will start at 12:30 with registration and a soup luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Welcome and Worship in the sanctuary will begin at 2 p.m. and will be led by Rev. Sue

Forsyth and the South Livonia UCC congregation. The offering taken during worship will benefit the Salem Nutrition Center in Rochester.

At 2:20 p.m. the business meeting will begin and include receiving the financial report, approving the 2017 budget and hearing the Program and Mission Support (PAMS) Committee report.

Announcements will be made at 3 p.m. and the program will begin at 3:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The theme is Food and Faith: At the Table and will be led by Rev. Steven Price.

South Livonia UCC is located at 5087 So. Livonia Road in So. Livonia. It is approximately 40 minutes (31 miles) from Rochester going south on I-390. For directions from your church, visit <https://www.mapquest.com/>.



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What's Inside

Page 2: Moderator's Moment, Interfaith Clergy Support Group

Pages 3: PAMS report, People News, Trumpet Deadlines

Page 4: Calendar and Directory Update

Pages 5: Resource Center and Retreat Information

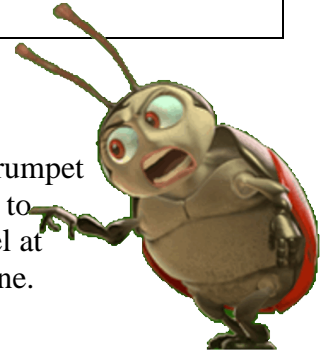
Page 6: Reflections

Page 7 - 9: Information Verification and Continued Education forms

Moderator's Moment

BUG YOUR PASTOR!

OK, I'm guilty. There are some months when I forget to print and post the Trumpet for our congregation to peruse. It gets worse. There are times when I neglect to mention what is happening on the association, much less the conference level at all! I've searched for reasonable excuses to offer, but honestly, I can't find one.



Here are some justifications the clergy person in your life might offer:

- Have you seen the pile of mail I get every day?!
- Our dog ate the trumpet before I could get it posted (not very original!)
- I'm running from meeting to meeting and can't recall what I've shared or not.
- My email is full to overflowing, I can't keep up!

Pretty lame reasons aren't they? Do your church a favor and simply ask your pastor what's happening around the association and conference. I'll bet there are good answers; they simply got lost during the four different conversations that happened between the cookie tray in the Fellowship Hall and the council meeting waiting to start in the pastor's office.

We all recognize the value of clear communication - making it happen, however, can be a challenge. Perhaps you have great ideas for improving the dissemination of information to and within churches... if so, then share them with our association's Communications Coordinator and we'll post them in an upcoming newsletter! (gvaucc@gmail.com).

Here's a test: Before looking at this newsletter did you know there is a Fall Assembly on Sunday, October 16, in South Livonia?! Aha! Very telling response.

Gently bug your pastor to keep your congregation in our association's communication loop; we'll all be better at ministry together because of it. Remember though, I said "gently."

Humbly, Steven Price, CCC

Interfaith Clergy Support Group to Start

A monthly Interfaith Clergy Support Group will begin in October and provide facilitated discussion as well as resources and educational materials around key issues faced by clergy. The group will be facilitated by Lynn Acquafondata, a mental health counselor and ordained minister who has served churches and worked as hospice chaplain.

Specific dates and times will be determined by the schedules of those who express interest. Monthly participation will be encouraged, but not required. The sessions will be one hour and a half and each session is \$25. The group will be held at Pastoral Counseling & Family Therapy Group, 2000 South Winton Rd. For more information visit <http://www.pcftgroup.com/clergy-support-group/>.

Check out pages 7 - 9 for the Information Verification Form and the Continuing Education Form. You may complete these and turn them in at Fall Assembly.

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 these is the Salem Nutrition Center whose mission is to serve people who come to the center hungry and in need. Free services include, but are not limited to, serving healthy meals, giving out bus passes, and distributing clothing and personal hygiene items.

A community of volunteers from local churches comes together two days a week (Mondays and Tuesdays) to provide nourishment of body and spirit from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Last year the organization was able to purchase a commercial refrigerator that has increased the capacity of the center to provide safe fresh fruits and vegetables and properly thaw out frozen meats for meals.

In other news, the PAMS Committee recommends that GVA continue supporting the important work being done by the Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern. To be considered for future grants, the agency needs active UCC /Disciples involvement on its board. If you would consider serving in this capacity, please visit their website at <http://www.ministryofconcern.com/> or contact Nyla Gaylord, Development Director at development@ministryofconcern.org.

TECHNOLOGY NEWS!

Congratulations to Henrietta UCC for creating a new and improved website! The website (<http://henriettaucc.org/>) includes the latest church news, monthly newsletters, sermons and inspirational pieces. Look for weekly blogs by Pastor Dave and Pastor

Martha in the future. Thanks to Steve Organek for making it all happen!

YOUR NEXT GVA TRUMPET NEWSLETTER

The deadline for the November Trumpet will be Wednesday, Oct. 26, with distribution of the newsletter on Wednesday, Nov. 2. Please send your news to gvaucc@gmail.com by the deadline.

People News

- ❖ Congregational Church UCC in Gaines has called the Rev. Cheryl Stewart as their pastor.
- ❖ Agnes Remsen, the wife of Gerry Remsen, has given Rev. Brian Krause her husband's stole and academic hood from Bangor Theological Seminary to pass on to anyone who would like them. If you are interested, contact Brian at briankrausemail@gmail.com.
- ❖ Rev. Tim Meyer is the new representative from GVA to the UCC New York Conference Board.
- ❖ The Rev. Rhett Travis was approved for Privilege of Call status at an Ecclesiastical Council held on August 25th at Webster UCC. Rhett's profile has been circulated, and he is receiving church profiles on a nearly daily basis.
- ❖ The Committee on Authorized Ministry of the GVA is in agreement with new documentation from M.E.S.A. (Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization) which allows ordination for a call to interim ministry. Diane Ellis will be moving forward with ordination as a result.

Calendar of Events

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

October 7

Day of Reflection – a Time of Blessing sponsored by Church Women United. Dr. Deni Mack leads the day from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at First Baptist Church, 175 Allens Creek Road in Rochester. More information and to reserve a complementary lunch at 342-2790.

October 15

“Where’s Your Ice Cream Cone?” is the theme of the Woman’s Prayer Brunch at Castile UCC, 4 Washington Street in Castile. Guest Speaker Tammy Lathan will lead the program from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

October 20

GVA Clergy Colloquy on Preparing for Advent at Irondequoit UCC; convened by Rev. Tim Meyer.

October 22

Community Christian Church’s Second Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 2647 Chili Avenue in Chili. Free admission, plenty of parking, bake sale/snack bar, handicapped accessible.

October 29

Todd Wynward, nationally known activist and educator and author of the recently published book “Rewilding the Way: Break Free to Follow an Untamed God,” will present two workshops at Spiritus Christi Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh Street. Workshop 1 is from 9:30 a.m. to noon and Workshop 2 from 1 to 3:30. Both are free. To register call the church office at 325-1180.

November 18-19

NYSOM Fall Learning Event: “*Discerning the Body: What We Need to Know About Churches to Lead Then Effectively Through Change*” will be led by Rev. Dr. Mark Lawson at Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road in Canandaigua. The event will include Friday dinner and continue through worship mid-afternoon on Saturday with a focus on small and medium-size congregations with an average worship attendance of less than 120. This program fulfills six hours towards the continuing education requirement for authorized ministers. **Cost:** Overnight: \$105; Commuters: \$50. To register, go to:

<http://www.uccny.org/ministries/nysom/24-hour-learning-events/>

GVA DIRECTORY UPDATES

New, updated GVA Directories will only be distributed at the Spring Assembly but you may request an electronic copy at any time from gvaucc@gmail.com. Updates to the directory are included in each monthly newsletter. This month’s updates are:

- * Page 1: **Vice Moderator: The Rev. Sue Forsyth**, 81 Indian Spring Lane, Rochester, NY 14618 442-0125; sjforsyth1@aol.com
- * Page 2: Change **Committee on Ministry** to **Committee on Authorized Ministry**
- * Page 4: 8. GAINES: Add the Rev. Cheryl Stewart



The Resource Center News

These are some of the newest additions to the Resource Center. For more information, visit <http://pbygenval.org/about-us/missions-ministries/resource-center/>. The Center may also be reached by calling 585-242-0099.

NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH (AN ADVENT STUDY) by Walter Brueggemann

In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. Names for the Messiah ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

WAKING UP WHITE AND FINDING MYSELF by Debby Irving

For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan.

A LETTER TO MY ANXIOUS CHRISTIAN FRIENDS: FROM FEAR TO FAITH IN UNSETTLED TIMES by David P. Gushee

In a clear and readable style, leading Christian ethicist David P. Gushee explores the many social and political changes that are causing Christian anxiety, offering ways to understand and act on these issues that are grounded in the reign of God rather than in human fear. What do we see when we look at a given political issue, argument, or candidate? What do we wish to see? And what might Christian faith contribute to seeing, interpreting, and acting rightly in this particular moment?

HOLY CURRENCY EXCHANGE by Eric H.F. Law

Eric Law's foundational Holy Currencies (2013) demonstrated a new way ministries can think about the resources needed to do their work in their communities. Law's follow-up book, Holy Currency Exchange, shares a variety of tools for thinking differently about how those resources can mobilize ministries into new life, mission, and vitality. Examples include a restaurant ministry, programs for youth, an emergency rent loan fund for people in the neighborhood, worship service in Mexican restaurants, and many more. What could your ministry do?

STEWARDSHIP by Bob Sitze

The collective groan that greets stewardship campaigns in most churches can be quelled. This book offers theoretical and practical propositions by which lay and clergy leaders can ensure the sustainability of stewardship ministries to help their congregations flourish. Bob Sitze invites stewardship leaders into a broader conversation of how shifted biblical and secular stewardship concepts, practice, and identity can be incorporated into a congregation's life and helps bring about lasting change.

FEASTING ON THE WORD: CHILDREN'S SERMONS FOR A YEAR by Carol A. Wehrheim

Many pastors are confused about what to say during children's time in churches. Feasting on the Word Children's Sermons for A Year offers practical suggestions for preparing and delivering the children's sermon. After explaining the purpose of the children's sermon, noted Christian educator Carol Wehrheim provides a story for each Sunday of the church year based on the Revised Common Lectionary. In addition, she provides a few stories for special moments in the churches life, such as when a mission group is commissioned, church leaders are ordained, or a death occurs.

Catch Your Spiritual Breath at Cobblestone Springs Retreat House

Perched just up the hill from the Glenora Winery on the west shore of Seneca Lake in Dundee, this interdenominational retreat and renewal center is nestled into Mennonite farm country. It is set on 16 mostly-wooded acres and features a large front porch, a screened gazebo, an outdoor chapel and trails with benches. The facilities include two formal parlors for gatherings of 10-15 people, overnight retreat accommodations for three people, and a library filled with a variety of spiritual reading. For more information, contact Tim Hamlin at Redcedar58@gmail.com or 585-727-2938 or visit <http://cobblestone-springs.org/>.



The Reflections column is a place where you can share your thoughts with others or tell people about something you have experienced that has made you think. Please send your reflection to

gvaucc@gmail.com. Thanks!

Reflections on a Conversation on Race By Pastor David Inglis, Henrietta UCC

At our recent Conversation on Race and Institutional Racism the small break-out group I was in had the assignment of talking together about whether we thought racism would ever disappear in our society, what keeps it in place, and what helps dismantle it. It felt so good to be talking about these things together in a mixed-race group!

We agreed that humans are tribal by nature, and we tend to affiliate with people we are most comfortable with, which usually means people who are like us. Yet one of our group members comes from Jamaica, which is made up of different races, but where race is not a key part of people's identity. She said, "We don't identify as 'black Jamaicans' or 'Hispanic Jamaicans' or 'white Jamaicans.' We're just Jamaicans." Someone else reminded us that we have seen apartheid fall, the Berlin Wall come down, the Soviet Bloc dissolve, and an African American elected as U.S. president for two terms. We shouldn't put limits on what is possible. And in a culture where mixed marriages, cross-racial adoptions, and the relative population of "minorities" are increasing, we could envision a day when racism recedes and we begin to see ourselves as a unified multicultural nation.

But there are daunting obstacles to that. The inhumane enslavement of blacks by whites branded very different racial identities into our culture, leaving a legacy of "slavery of the mind" as well as deeply entrenched institutional racism, double standards, and "white privilege" that is

virtually invisible to whites because it's the water they swim in.

Our group pondered how we dismantle all of this. We all agreed that everyone should be encouraged to take responsibility for their life, no matter their background and obstacles. But for more than just a few exceptional people to succeed, the structures of institutional racism in housing, banking, education, employment, policing, and criminal justice need to be faced and taken down. As white people, we need to become aware of white privilege—not to feel guilty about it, but so we can work together to create a fair chance for everyone. We need to have conversations like this that raise our awareness of these obstacles and that invite us to wrestle with the differences in our experience. We need to intentionally interact with people of different races in our daily lives to experience the common ground of our humanness and to counter our human tendency to label each other.

We ended the evening with each of the four small groups sharing with the whole group what they had learned from this experience, and the action steps they were inspired to take. And as all 25 of us joined hands for the closing, I shared the thought experiment of mathematical physicist David Ruelle, who showed how neutralizing the gravity of a single atom in a galaxy billions of light years away would have an observable effect on clouds and wind on earth. We are invisibly connected to everything. Each of our words and actions has an effect, and when we work in unity, the effects are multiplied.

I think we all left with a sense of hope, because we realized that we could *embody* hope by "being the change we long to see in the world."

In the face of continued police shootings of unarmed black people and numerous states' attempts to suppress votes of minorities, it is gratifying to know that there are meaningful things that we can do to create a society of liberty and justice for all.

INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORM

2017

In accordance with the guidelines of the Parish Life and Leadership Team of the United Church of Christ, it is time for the annual information review for all GVA clergy and ministerial partners. Please fill out the form below and return to the Registrar (contact information below).

1. NAME _____

2. ADDRESS _____

3. CHURCH WHERE YOU HOLD MEMBERSHIP _____

4. PHONE (____) _____

5. EMAIL _____

I authorize this phone number and email to be published in the Yearbook. ____ Yes ____ No

6. DATE OF BIRTH _____

7. WHAT AUTHORIZATION FOR MINISTRY DO YOU HOLD?

____ UCC

____ CCDC (Christian Church/Disciples of Christ

____ Dual Standing; Year granted? _____ Primary Denomination _____

____ Ordained; Year Ordained _____ Ordaining Body _____

____ Licensed; Year Licensed _____

____ Commissioned Ministry; Year Commissioned _____ Area of Specialty _____

____ NYSOM Program; Year completed _____ Projected to Finish _____

____ Member in Discernment (MID) Year began? _____

____ Privilege of Call (POC) Year granted? _____

8. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF YOUR MINISTRY?

____ Active (Please indicate your called position, year called and name of church /setting)

____ Retired but currently active in ministry – supply, lead workshops, preach, teach etc.

____ Retired; not currently engaged in ministry as defined above

____ Leave of Absence; Year Leave began _____

____ Other (Please explain) _____

9. All those with ministerial standing are expected to take part in Association meetings, Ordinations, Installations, etc. How have you participated this year? (Use back if needed)

10. Please share any association, conference, ecumenical committees/projects you currently serve _____

11. Please share any association committees you would be interested in serving in the future.

12. **Continuing Education Credits:** The NY Conference and GVA expectation is 25 hours per year. Annual reporting in GVA will occur at the Spring Assembly by submitting provided form to the Registrar listing activities and hours. This record will be placed in your GVA file noting hours completed during the year from Spring Assembly to Spring Assembly. Qualified items include certified hours from reading books, papers, BAT, conferences, consultations, seminars, webinars.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Please return either by email or snail mail...
Email: gvaregistrar2011@gmail.com.

Snail mail: 1181 Hidden Valley Trail, Webster, New York 14580.

Carole Kohler, GVA Registrar

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Continuing Education Report Form

Every Authorized Minister in NY Conference is asked to report his/her required 25 Continuing Education Units annually. Please use this form to list your CEU activities for the 12 months from Spring Assembly March 2016 – Spring Assembly March 2017. Return to Registrar; information below.

<u>EARNED*</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
<u>CONFERENCE Activities</u>	
Annual Meeting of NY Conference	_____
Spring Authorized Ministers Retreat (10 hours)	_____
Fall Authorized Ministers Retreat (10 hours)	_____
Other:	_____
 <u>GVA Activities 3/2016 - 3/2017</u>	
Spring Association Meeting (1 ½ hours)	_____
Fall Association Meeting (1 ½ hours)	_____
Boundary Awareness Training (8 hours)	_____
Other:	_____
 <u>LITERATURE read independently and/or in a group</u>	
1)	_____
2)	_____
3)	_____
4)	_____
 <u>OTHER: Seminars, Webinars, Conferences, etc.</u>	
1)	_____
2)	_____
(Use additional sheet for additional books /activities)	_____
 <u>TOTAL HOURS EARNED 2016 – 2017</u>	 _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

RETURN: BRING to Spring Assembly;
SNAIL MAIL: 1181 Hidden Valley Trail, Webster, NY 14580;
EMAIL: gvaregistrar2011@gmail.com

*Hours earned are 1:1 to hours participated in event/activity (e.g. 2 hour seminar = 2 CEU)