

Weekly Updates - November 21, 2023



*IN OUR HOUSE

Worship Services and Sunday Happenings:

***Sunday, November 26 – Worship at 10:00 AM** with UCF Elder and Lay Preacher William (Bill) Porter

***Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday in Advent -Worship at 10:00 AM** – The Lord’s Supper with Rev. Keith Fagerheim; **Children & Youth Activity with Mrs. Barb D. & Mrs. Sandy M. – 10:15 AM.**

***Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday in Advent – Worship at 10:00 AM** with Rev. Keith Fagerheim

***Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 PM-Brass and Bells** with the UCF Handbell Choir & the Syracuse University Brass- Enjoy the beautiful sounds of the season with this annual fund-raiser for our Haiti Education Mission (HEM), one of our international outreach programs that invests in education, food insecurity and medical care in Paulette, Haiti. Click on <https://theucf.org/ministries/outreach-mission/haiti-education-partnership/> to read more about UCF’s partnership. Invite a friend or neighbor to this Free-Will offering concert.

***Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday in Advent – Worship at 10:00 AM** with Rev. Keith Fagerheim, followed by our **Christmas Social at 11:00 AM**

***Sunday, December 24 – Fourth Sunday in Advent - Worship at 10:00 AM** with Elder-Lay Preacher Bill Porter & liturgists leading us as we light the 4th Candle and celebrate the **Fourth Sunday in Advent. The next part of our service will be our Children’s Christmas Eve, A Brand New Original Nativity.** This part of the service is designed so that whether visitor or regular participant, ALL children present have an opportunity to choose their role and take part in the Christmas Pageant. We ask that you bring out-of-town guests and children and your own grandchildren as part of this service with include them with Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus. Children and “children at heart” will be able to take the roles of angels, shepherds, sheep, cows or kings and help “tell the story with scripture and carols.

***Sunday, December 24 – Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 9:00 pm** with choir, brass and Elder-Lay Preacher, Bill Porter, and liturgists

***Sunday, December 31 – 10:00 AM - Traditional Lessons and Carols** with UCF led liturgists and Director of Music Ministries, Jon Bergman

***Special December Offerings & Collections-our chance to give to our neighbors in need!**

***The Salvation Army Tree is back! (Gifts due by December 10th .)**

Located outside of Beard Lounge is the Christmas tree with Salvation Army tags on it. You may take as many as you wish to make the season brighter for families facing economic challenges. There are all ages from newborn to those in their 90s. Your gifts should be new and unwrapped. You may place them with their tag under the tree **by December 10th**. MJ will take the gifts to the Salvation Army that week. Please contact Mary Jane at 315-637-5804 with questions. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

***-“Joy Offering” for retired Ministers and Christian Educators for both our denominations will be taken on December 3 through the end of the year.** By giving you honor God’s gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders in church-related colleges.

***-“Christmas Offering” for 2023 will go to both our denominations for relief efforts in both Gaza and Israel.** Funds will be used for distributing ready-to-eat food parcels, material support to churches and community centers hosting displaced families, the purchase of medicines and hospital supplies, confidential psychosocial support services for women and child victims of gender-based violence, and financial relief for displaced families in Gaza, Israel and Lebanon’s southern border who have inadequate financial resources to sustain themselves. **UCF Outreach Committee will match funds up to \$200.**

***-“White Christmas Collection” for the F-M Food Pantry (throughout December)**

We are collecting bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, paper towels, toilet paper and feminine hygiene products. These cannot be bought with SNAP funds. Please help us fill our baskets and bins! *Nico & family* (questions?)



***In Our Family –**

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to John and Karinda Trowbridge on the death of Jon’s brother, Stephen "Steve" Trowbridge, November 14, 2023. Cards may be sent to John and Karinda at 2039 Hoffman Lane; Cazenovia, NY 13035.

***Other Special Happenings in Our House**

***Thursday, December 7, at 2:00 PM, Women’s Lounge—Mmmmm! COOKIES!!!**

Who doesn't love a homemade Christmas cookie exchange?! Your Congregational Care Committee is sponsoring our annual appeal. Just bring 3 dozen small cookies (So we can get them in the tins)! **One dozen is distributed in the tins for our homebound**; the remaining two dozen we exchange among ourselves! Be sure to bring a container for yourself to cart the loot home. If you are unable to join us for this yummy activity and want to donate a dozen for our homebound friends, you may leave them in the kitchen labeled 'Congregational Care'. Hope to see you then!

Cindy Rosbrook, Chair



***Sunday, December 10, at 3:00 PM - Brass and Bells** with the **Syracuse University Brass** (including our own **Jon Bergman**) and the **United Church of Fayetteville Handbell Choir**. A Free-will offering for our Haiti Educational Mission (HEM) will be taken. **Donations can also be given with “Haiti” in the check memo.**

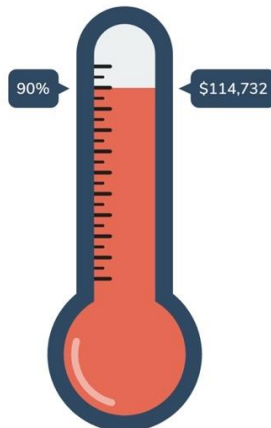
***December 17th, 11:00 AM - 🎄🎄🎄 The HORS D' HOUR 🎄🎄🎄 - Back by Popular Demand!**

**Join our Christmas Social Fellowship on Sunday, December 17, after worship.
Bring your best party appetizers and we'll have coffee and punch!
Sign up coming soon! Thanks, Marti**

***Stewardship Report**

Our goal for 2024 is \$128,000 and as of November 21st we have pledges totaling \$114,732. We are missing pledges from about nine families for about \$13,000. As we “move forward together”, won’t you soon pledge?

GOAL: \$128,000





*** UPDATES ABOUT THE TRANSITION**

The Interview process for a Transitional Pastor

The Change Workgroup received information on a potential intentional transitional minister candidate. The group interviewed the candidate on Sunday evening (Nov 12). Unfortunately, the candidate was not a good fit for UCF. They were not whom God is calling to guide us through the transition process. Both the ABC (American Baptist Church) and Presbytery (Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse) liaisons will continue to look for candidates that are closer to our theology and transitional needs. The power of prayer is immense. Please keep the church, Change Workgroup (Dave, Jenny, Beth, Gloria, and Janet) and denominational liaisons in your prayers. If you have questions regarding the process to hire an intentional transitional minister, please ask a member of the Change workgroup. Submitted by Convener, Beth

***UCF IN THE WORLD**

American Baptist Mission (ABC) Trip to Niagara Falls

UCF Outreach Chair, **Rich B**, represented UCF the last week in October traveling to Niagara Falls, NY to help at Community Missions. Since its founding in 1925, Community Missions (CMI) has provided a unique blend of services to address the needs of the Niagara community. In general, CMI serves a vulnerable population of individuals who, through a variety of circumstances, have been underserved, marginalized, overlooked and challenging in their presentations and behaviors. The initial population served was homeless individuals and families, which are still served today.

Rich worked alongside Rev. James Kelsey, American Baptist’s Church’s (ABC) NYS Executive Minister, and about a dozen others cleaning the kitchen and packaging food for distribution. Thank you, Rich, for representing UCF!



***Thanksgiving Offering –**

Our Thanksgiving offering for our Syracuse-based **SNUG (*Safer Not Using Guns!*)** was received and dedicated on November 19th **SNUG---guns** written backwards, is a preventative educational project with Syracuse children and youth. **The UCF Outreach Committee has also added a \$200 donation to be added to the total.**

***Brown Memorial United Methodist Church Dinners**

Diane and Rich wish to thank preparers, servers and cookie/brownie makers who made our last dinner such a success: Sarah C, Kim C., Henry and Nico C, Martha K., Carol L, Gloria M, Sandy M, Janet P., Betsy N, Mary Jane W. and Kathy Z. 70 meals were served and 24 take-outs, provided.

Sunday, Christmas Eve at Brown Memorial- *Stay tuned for how you can provide a gift of individually-wrapped brownies or cookies for a UCF December 24th meal offering. Diane and Rich have agreed to help deliver sandwiches, salad and dessert for a Christmas Eve meal to Brown Memorial folks who would otherwise be without. UCF Outreach will provide \$150 toward the meal. Please contact Diane at 914-649-7734 if you can provide individually wrapped cookies or brownies for Christmas Eve. Thank you! Diane and Rich

***Children and Youth Activities –**

Friday, Dec. 1, 7-10pm- *First Friday Youth Group* for all Youth at the Manlius Methodist Church (grades 5-12). Contact Mrs. Barb D. for more info.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 10:15am just after the Advent Ceremony – For children and youth at UCF (Join Mrs. Barb D. & Mrs. Sandy M. to learn more about Advent and to prepare special cards for our homebound members.) Bring friends!

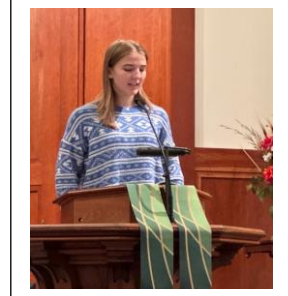
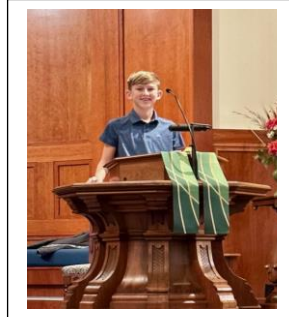
***This Week's Thanks -**

-Our Home Communion Volunteers

To all the angels who volunteered to extend our Communion Table in November with those who cannot be with us in worship, I am most grateful to: Sarah, Kim, Dave, Sarah, Gloria, Scott, Bill, Janet, and Gail.

HUGE thankful hugs to you all! *Cindy*

-To Several of our Youth (Aubrey, Henry & Lyla) Who Played the Roles of Composers for our Music Sunday! (Thanks to Lauryn G for photos!)



-Our Kitchen Helpers-

Take note of the clean kitchen at UCF. In order for Cuse Cleaning to complete the job, the cabinets had to be emptied. A big thank you from Marti and Janet and the Fellowship Committee to Debbie, Penny and her grandsons Liam and Harrison, Martha and Greg, Dick and Bob. Many hands make light work!

-Our Congregation, Church Board and its Committees, Director of Music Ministries Jon and Office Manager Mary Karen-

For your prayers and the work of your hands and feet as we continue our endeavors for Christ during this season of wonder and anticipation!

-Our Lawn Crew

Kudos to you for grass cutting and leaf removal!



Preaching November 26th and Christmas Eve 10:00am and 9:00pm-

Lay Preacher **William (Bill) Porter** is no stranger to UCF. Most of us know Bill in his role as a Commissioned Lay Pastor in the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse. Bill has had a long career in real estate management. He has a degree in history and attended SU's School of Law and is an avid golfer. Bill also participates in UCF's Congregational Care activities. We welcome Bill to our UCF pulpit!