A new year … a new decade … a new future! While it’s always true that today is the first day of the rest of our life and that the future will always be different than the past, UCP has arrived at a point that our future must be intentionally different than it has been. The two youngest generations (Millenials and Gen Z) are very different from those of us who were born before 1960 – which is, of course, now 60 years ago.

Our focus now must be on the next 60 years. What will this church be like in six decades? How can we even know? We can, though, envision 20 years out – or 10 – or at least 5. Here are some thoughts to ponder and discuss:

1. How can we use our “new” sanctuary space which provides flexibility in how we arrange the chairs for different kinds of services and events?
2. What are styles of worship, music, and arts which are meaningful to younger people, and how can we incorporate those in our services?
3. How can we use multimedia (including video options) much more in our learning and other programs, as well as in worship?
4. What programs and ministries do people younger than 30 want to participate in – and how can we do more of that?
5. And how can we do all of this while continuing to serve and care for people born before 1960, who may well prefer more traditional ways of “being church”?

One essential change, I believe, for the United Church of Pittsford is to simplify and streamline our structure – how we govern ourselves during the year and make decisions and simply get things done. I proposed some options to Council in December, and they were agreed that we want to take a few months – maybe much of the year – to create a new structure that will “work” for this congregation. …. This is from the Council:

**WE WILL VOTE ON JANUARY 26**

The Church Council will ask the congregation, at our January 26 annual meeting, to **approve the start of a process toward simplifying our church structure**. The number of people willing to serve on a board or as an officer is declining each year for three reasons: (1) a long-term decline in membership, (2) people who have been serving wanting a break, and (3) a change in culture so that many people choose not to commit to a two (or more) year commitment to monthly meetings of a board.

*(continued on page 2)*
The cultural change includes a willingness by many people to give time and energy to a single responsibility or short-term projects or tasks. Many are willing to engage with tasks and programs off and on through the year, but not to monthly meetings for at least two years. Short-term tasks or projects also generally do not require many meetings but can be accomplished in other ways.

The motion from Council will be:

1) Approve an immediate start to a process of simplifying our structure with only one board (the Council) elected by the church to oversee the church’s ministry and with teams approved by the council to do the work of the congregation.

2) Temporarily suspend provisions of the constitution and bylaws related to this process until it is completed and approved by the congregation.

If the motion is approved, a team appointed by the Council will begin work to design a new structure and recommend a transitional process. A congregational meeting will be held April 26 after the service to consider the proposed next steps.

As your pastor for 6 ½ years, I believe we can make this transition within a year and that it will help strengthen and transform our congregation. Please pray with me and let’s continue to work together toward a good future.

MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR NEWS

A hearty round of thanks needs to go to all the Choir members who work very hard in singing for the worship services. We are smaller in number, but all the Choir singers are very faithful in being present whenever they possibly can. We have missed Marilyn Grunert and Bob Stookey a lot and hope that both of them will be back with us soon. Special thanks should go to Dan and Linda Burnett, and Leta and her sister for adding their musical talents to our worship. Our extraordinary organist/pianist/accompanist, Chen Liang, has done a fine job in providing music for all of us. We are fortunate to have him with us. Behind the scenes, our librarian Kim Blood takes care of finding and putting away music, performing an invaluable task for us. We appreciate her years of help in this manner, as well as her splendid singing. For five years, Marilyn Krager has set up the chairs for the Sunday morning rehearsals, another great assist for all of us.

Look for the Choir to sing on January 12 and 19. I’m not sure what we’ll sing, but I know the singers will show up and do their best! I am very grateful that I am associated with this Choir.

With love, Fearless Leader Dot Borden

UCP FAMILY QUILTS

In Howard Hall there are two hanging quilts made up of church family felt squares from past UCP congregation members. We have some blank felt squares and invite members of the current congregation to consider adding their completed family square to the Howard Hall quilts. Contact: Marilyn Krager
ARE YOU A CRAFTSMAN?
We would like to create new, moveable kneeling bench with rails for communion in the Methodist tradition. If they are lightweight, yet sturdy, we can put them on wheels with locks and set them on the Sundays during the year when we will use them. If you know someone who might be interested, please let us know. Contact the pastor of Don Reeve. Thank you.

SAFE SANCTUARIES TRAINING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
2:00PM – 5:00PM
FAIRPORT UNITED METHODIST
The Upper New York Conference of the United Methodist Church requires all who work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults to be part of this vital, one-time training. Renewal of certification happens annually through UCP. If you have any questions, or if you’d like to RSVP to this or another training, please email ucpchildrenandyouth@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED
The trustees are looking for someone who could commit to being at the church on any day it has snowed overnight to clear the entrance and sidewalks by the driveway to the parking lot. It must be done by 8:30 for PUNS parents to drop off their children for preschool. Two or three people might share the responsibility with clearly-defined schedules. If you are interested, please contact Don Reeve (704-3748) or the church office (586-6870). Thank you.

FOOD CUPBOARDS
Serving our community and our city!
ROCHESTER COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD
January 5: tuna
January 12: peanut butter
January 19: hearty soup
PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD
Worship Services Collection Sundays:
January 26
Contact: Marilyn Krager
Items appreciated in this cold weather:
Hearty soups, canned pasta and meat combinations, hot and cold cereals, canned vegetables and fruits, dry skin lotion, chap stick, deodorants, shampoos, hand and dishwashing and laundry soaps.

Donate during the week!
There is a collection basket in the church office for PFC!
Marilyn Krager
FAMILIES OF FAITH

CELL PHONE CONTRACTS
KARA POWELL, FULLER YOUTH INSTITUTE

Dan and Denise’s fourteen-year-old son has two cell phone contracts: one with his cell phone carrier and one with them. In order to clarify their family’s cell phone expectations and protocol, Dan and Denise printed the following guidelines and had their son sign them and post them in his room.

001 It is our phone. We bought it. We pay for it. We are loaning it to you. Aren’t we great?
002 We will always know the password.
003 If it rings, answer it. Say hello and use good manners. Never ignore a phone call if the screen reads, “Mom” or “Dad.”
004 Hand the phone to one of your parents before bed every night.
005 If it falls into the toilet, smashes on the ground, or vanishes into thin air, you are responsible for the replacement costs or repairs.
006 Put it away in public (for example, in church, in restaurants, in movie theaters, wherever you are with other people). You are not rude; do not allow your phone to change that.
007 Do not use your phone to lie to, fool, or deceive another human being. Do not involve yourself in conversations that are hurtful to others. Be a good friend first.
008 Do not text, email, or say anything through this device you would not say in person.
009 No porn. Nothing you wouldn’t want your mother to see.
010 Do not send or receive pictures of your private parts or anyone else’s private parts. Don’t laugh. Despite your intelligence, someday you might be tempted to do this. It is risky and could ruin your life.
011 Take pictures, but don’t forget to live your experiences. Keep your eyes up. See the world happening around you. Stare out a window. Listen to the birds. Take a walk.
012 Leave your phone home sometimes and be okay with that decision. Learn to live without it.
013 Download music that is new or classic or different from what your peers listen to. Your generation has access to music like never before in history. Take advantage of that gift. Expand your horizons.
014 Play a game with words or puzzles or brainteasers every now and then.
015 You will mess up. We will take away your phone. We will sit down and talk about it. We will start over again. We will always be learning. We are on your team. We are in this together.

What other ideas do you have for cell phone agreements with your kids? What types of limits have you set on kids’ use of technology to help strengthen your relationships with them?

INTRODUCING: SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE!
STARTS SUNDAY JANUARY 5
6:30pm on Facebook

We will be featuring a weekly live stream learning opportunity on Facebook. You don’t have to have a Facebook account to watch these; simply go to www.facebook.com/ucpittsford to join! This first series will explore different genres of the bible and why knowing each genre changes the way we interpret the bible. For further information, email ucpittsford@gmail.com

SERIES BREAKDOWN:

- January 5: Breakin’ the Law
- January 12: Does History Repeat?
- January 19: Poet and I Know It
- January 26: Prophets Foretold It
- February 2: No stream — Super Bowl!
- February 9: The Good News
- February 16: Snail Mail
- February 23: The End of the Beginning
STUDENT SHEPHERD PROGRAM
As a community centered around caring, we are excited to announce an opportunity for us to connect with one another! We will be pairing children and youth one on one with a shepherd, who may remain anonymous to them. Throughout the year, you are invited to write them cards, letters, or give them small gifts. If you choose not to remain anonymous, you may attend activities that the student participates in. You are invited to make this commitment for 2020. For applications, or to learn more, email ucpchildrenanyouth@gmail.com

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS
1/1  Dawn Hyde
1/1  Will Zink
1/3  Linda Burnett
1/3  Tom Silco
1/6  Diane Dobbertin
1/15  Carly Reeve
1/16  David Allen
1/17  Danny Page
1/19  Sylvia Watkins
1/22  Bob Stookey
ABCUSA YOUNG ADULTS CAUCUS MEETS, PLANS FOR FUTURE
VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/20/19) — Leadership of the Young Adult Caucus of American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) met November 8 at the American Baptist Home Mission Societies Leadership and Mission Building for a meeting of transition in leadership. The Young Adult Caucus became a recognized Caucus of the denomination in November 2016 at a Board of General Ministries meeting and has been gathering together and holding events at national gatherings since that time. In attendance at the meeting was new Caucus Chair Rev. Dr. Dan Brockway (from Rochester/Genesee Region), Rev. Kathryn Ray (BGM Director representing Metro Chicago), Rev. Dr. Don Ng (Caucus mentor and encourager), Tasha Wilson (retiring BGM director and past Chair of the Caucus) and Rev. Sarah Strosahl-Kagi (ABHMS partner).
Read more at tinyurl.com/abcYoungAdults

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES MISSION TABLE EVENT TO BE HELD MAY 2020
VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 12/18/19) — The American Baptist Churches Board of General Ministries announces a Mission Table, to take place May 19-21, 2020 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wis. The Mission Table will meet around the theme, “United in Christ, Together in Mission,” and will bring together representatives from American Baptist regions, affiliated ministry partners, national staff, executives and officers, to focus on common mission emphases. The Green Lake event is planned in coordination with the annual National Leadership Council (NLC) meeting, a council which is made up of American Baptist Regional Executive Ministers and denominational leaders from major national organizations.
The purpose of the Mission Table, as outlined in our ABCUSA Bylaws is “…to further refine and pursue areas of common mission emphases articulated by their respective constituencies and the Mission Summit, making recommendations for, and committing to, areas of action. The Mission Table’s sole focus will be the furtherance of God’s mission through American Baptists, not the institutional life of the Denomination, so that staff of the mission partners and congregations can effectively network around shared responsibilities and priorities.”
Read more at tinyurl.com/ABCmissionsTable2020

DELEGATES OFFER PROPOSAL FOR CHURCH UNITY
HEATHER HAHN, UM NEWS
Delegates pause for prayer at the 2019 special General Conference in St. Louis. A group of 2020 General Conference delegates and other church leaders from Africa, Europe and the Philippines is proposing a new form of unity. Christmas is a time for people to get together, and a group of church leaders is using this festive time to propose a way for the church to stay together. General Conference delegates and other United Methodists from the central conferences — church regions in Africa, Europe and the Philippines — released Dec. 19 what they are calling “A Christmas Covenant: Our Gift of Hope.” The covenant deposes “calls to dissolve or dismember The United Methodist Church, to liquidate its assets and distribute them to the highest bidder.”

“Such plans are harmful to the Body of Christ through whom people of faith seek to connect and live in gracious relationships,” the covenant continues. Instead, the covenant proposes the following actions:
- Suspension of all actions furthering any dissolution or separation plans and liquidation and distribution of the assets of The United Methodist Church.
- Formation of a U.S. regional conference.
- Establishment of legislative equality for central conferences and U.S. jurisdictions.

The Rev. Jonathan Ulanday, one of the covenant signers, noted that in addition to celebrating Christ’s nativity, Christmas is an auspicious time for the people called Methodist.


“Our prayer is that this Christmas Covenant could be a rallying point for a renewed and revived United Methodist Church around the world.”
Read more at tinyurl.com/UMCunityProposals

COMPARING PLANS HEADED TO GC2020
This summary compares proposals from various groups, in alphabetical order, about the structure of the UMC. It does not include proposals from individuals. Further details are in the documents and legislation. All proposals will be open for amendments at General Conference and may be subject to Judicial Council review.
Follow the link to see the chart: tinyurl.com/UMCplans2020
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**PLANNING AHEAD?**
Check out our calendar online!
NAMES AND NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Office Phone Number: 586-6870
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Reader, Minister 315-9241
Leta Williams, Minister of Education 315-360-6908
Dot Borden, Choir Director 624-2284
Chen Liang, Organist and Pianist

Scott Hanson, Moderator 586-6861
Don Reeve, Chair, Trustees 704-3748
Richard Ashworth, Chair, Deacons 381-2189
Jennifer Cranch, Chair, Board of Christian Education 749-4758

COLLECTION CONTAINERS

We have the following containers in the office:

Used eye wear & HEARING AIDS
(including batteries, etc.):
These go to Lions Clubs International.

Box Top$ for Education
These go to Pittsford and Brighton School District.

Labels for Education
Discontinued by Campbells Co (2018).

Can pull tabs
(from canned fruits, vegetables, soups, meats, sauces, and beverages):
These go to St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Penfield for Schriner project funding.