Who would have thought in early March that we would not be able to meet for worship at the church for nearly 5 months? Or that most of us would work from home or just stay at home – even parents “homeschooling” – or wearing masks when we go out and staying six feet away from other people? No handshakes, no hugs, no smiles (that we can see)? This has been a difficult time for many people, and it’s not over. In fact, outside of New York state, especially in the south and the west, cases and deaths are multiplying. So who knows what still lies ahead?

What we as Christians do “know” – what we are confident of in our faith – is that **God is with us in the midst of it and will provide a way through for all of us.** God will be faithful and compassionate, and we can live with hope. Better times will come.

**Sunday, July 12 – mark it on your calendars!** We will begin public worship services at our church on Sundays at 10 a.m. that day. It will be different. We have had an annual outdoor service for several years now in front of our church, but this year it will be FIVE Sundays! We will have a large tent (in case of bad weather – so rain or shine). Please bring your lawn chairs – and bring your masks. We will have everything else you need and a team prepared to help guide people and answer questions and keep people safe. [*Please read the full letter in this Dialogue.*]

Back in January – what seems like a year ago now – we agreed to engage in a process that would lead to **restructuring our church organization**, reducing the number of elected leaders. We had thought we could do that quickly and bring a proposal back to the congregation in late April – come and long gone. The council appointed a team to work through the details and have considered the developing document twice already. By the time we are fully reopened as a church and able to have open forums to discuss the proposal and then a congregational meeting to vote on the final document, it will all have been carefully worked on. Nothing will be finalized until we have those congregational meetings. Thank you for being patient with us.

**A few quick items to let you know about:**
1. In January no one had agreed to be church moderator for 2020, so I have been filling that role with the council temporarily. It would be best if someone were willing to volunteer to finish out this unusual year of transition and change. – **Any volunteers?**
2. By September, when Sunday School starts up again (we hope), we will need a S.S. Coordinator. We knew early this year that Leta would be leaving her position, and so we budgeted to pay someone a stipend of $100/week to coordinate S.S. – to schedule two adults for each Sunday and to be sure the curriculum and resource materials were available on time. (This person is not expected to be there each Sunday with the children.) [*If you are interested, please contact me – 585-315-9241 or jimmyreader@gmail.com.*]
3. A job search will begin this week for a new administrative assistant. Leta has agreed to do that job for us through August, but we need someone trained and ready to assume responsibilities by September 1. [*Please see the job description in this Dialogue.*]
I have decided to take an unpaid Leave of Absence from my job as Choir Director for UCP. As I have explained previously, we truly can't have a Choir when the church begins services in the sanctuary in the Fall. It's just not safe. So, along with many other aspects in our lives, we have to adapt and adjust to the realities of our lives. I'm not at all comfortable being paid for doing a job that doesn't exist, which is why I requested a Leave to begin July 1, to be re-assessed at the end of the year.

One of the best things that ever happened in my life was being hired in 1979 to direct the UCP Choir. I thought after 20 years in that job that my career was over when I retired in 1999. But this reinvention of my career in 2014 has been another deeply satisfying phase for me. Being able to serve with people I love, doing something which I still can do with ease, joy, and deep satisfaction, has been another "best thing" for me.

It sounds like I'm leaving, but that's not my intent. We all need to follow the rules and be safe for now. I usually am not great at "rule-following", but this time I know it's critical and I want to help keep my people in the choir and in the congregation safe. So I'm pausing -- and I'll be back.

Keep singing -- even if it's only in your head!

With love from the Fearless Leader

P.S. I still sing all day long -- sometimes to myself, but sometimes out loud. Music has been my love, my solace, my life's work, and my energizing force.

We love you, Dot!
PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD

During July and August they could use:

- Cookout condiments *(ketchup, mustard, etc)*
- Canned mandarin oranges
- Oatmeal
- Sunscreen
- Hand sanitizer
- Tampons
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap

Thank you for donating and purchasing with a purpose!

MISSIONS DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING:

During these times of social distancing we are still collecting:

- Can tabs
- Eye glass and hearing aide items
- Box tops for education

Please just leave these items in the respective church office containers during summer hours 9:00am — 1:00pm, Tues-Wed-Thurs

UPDATE ON ANTHONY AND LETA

Thank you again to everyone who has supported us as we approach our time of marriage and mission. We are monitoring the situation, and unfortunately, there is a possibility that our mission trip rescheduled for leave in mid September may be delayed once again. We have already made the decision that we will marry in September regardless of the circumstances. With you, we long for so many of the opportunities that remain yet impossible. But as the scripture goes, “with man it is impossible, but through God, all things are possible!” We have continued ongoing conversations with Sandra Dorsanvil, the director of short term missions through International Ministries, as well as our missionary hosts, Jon and Amanda Good. In the meantime, we have continued to grow closer and more excited for marriage. Leta has taken on opportunities to work with Katelyn this summer, and she has become a delivery driver at the same Salvatore’s that Anthony works at. Anthony has started reading through scripture live on Facebook each evening. There are so many possibilities that remain before us. In these times especially, we are thankful to know a trustworthy and faithful God.

Sweet Charity Resale Boutique and Shop has re-opened and is accepting household donations on Wed thru Saturdays during summer.
Call 364-0317 for more info, or check web site.
Dear UCP Members and Friends:

We are grateful that no one in our church community has been sick with the virus. In fact, almost no one has been in the hospital or faced emergency health issues during these months of shut-down. We give thanks for your continued generosity to God and to the church. With your continued gifts and the help of a forgivable loan to cover payroll and utilities, our financial health stays strong. Thank you all for staying in touch with each other in a variety of ways. As I make phone calls and talk with people and have Zoom meetings with some of you, I am aware of your love for one another and how well you express it.

The good news is that we can begin meeting together for services. We have missed being together in person and look forward to this. However, it will be different than ever before. You need to know that:

- For now, we are limited to 33% capacity in the sanctuary (up to 50 people). If we have more than that, on a given Sunday, some people will need to sit in Howard Hall (where they can hear the service, but not see it).
- However, for the first 5 weeks – July 12 through August 9 – we will have outdoor services in front of the church, with a large tent set up. Please bring your own chairs, if possible.
- We all must wear masks. Please bring your own.
- We will maintain social distancing practices, meaning people who do not live together will need to stay 6 feet apart even when seated. (We will mark chairs or remove them to indicate that.) Families or couples can sit together.
- We will have hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes for people to use and will clean everything between all activities. Feel free to bring your own hand sanitizer.
- We will remove hymnals and Bibles from the pew chairs and provide all the music & scripture in the printed bulletins.
- We are urged to limit both choir and congregational singing. (We are still figuring this out.)
- When we have communion, we will do it in an appropriate way to protect everyone’s health.
- We will have offering plates available, but we will not “pass the plate” as we normally do.
- We will not be able to have a coffee hour after the service since this is another social distancing and health concern at the moment.

The NYS guidelines ask that people at high risk for contracting the virus stay at home as we begin to reopen. We will continue to record on video our services when they are live and post those online as we have been doing for those who cannot come back yet. I’m at high risk myself, and I will be there, so I know some people will make the decision to come anyway. We do ask that if you think you have been exposed to the virus, or if you have symptoms, that you not come to the service until you know you are healthy.

We will have a team of people trained for how to manage traffic flow in the building and for seating people and attending to specific needs. We will have a badge or tag of some kind so you know who they are. Please cooperate with their requests so we can keep everyone safe as we reopen. Thank you for your patience with all of this. We are excited to see and worship with you again!

Jimmy Reader, Minister
A poem shared by friend Terry Hershey in
Sabbath Moment – Terry Hershey
What if 2020 isn’t cancelled?

What if 2020 is the year we’ve been waiting for?
A year so uncomfortable, so painful, so scary, so raw
— that it finally forces us to grow.
A year that screams so loud, finally awakening us
from our ignorant slumber.
A year we finally accept the need for change.
Declare change. Work for change. Become the change.
A year we finally band together,
instead of pushing each other further apart.
2020 isn’t cancelled, but rather
the most important year of them all.
- Leslie Dwight

The Coffee Connection is choosing to see 2020 from this perspective. Perhaps it fits the farming metaphor I grew up with, plowing up the old in order to plant the new. In November 2021 I will complete 10 years as Executive of the Coffee Connection—and that’s just how many years I said I would give it. So the time for plowing is here and now, with the confusing events of 2020 and little ability to prognosticate the future.

Thank you so much for your support! Thanks to you, other faithful donors, a generous Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Plan loan, a new Kiva loan of $15,000 with payments deferred to November, and a $10,000 check on the way from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, the Coffee Connection still lives at 681 South Avenue and the Greenhouse Café at 2271 E. Main Street. The future will still present significant challenges. To meet those we are doing a thorough overhaul of the Coffee Connection to ready it for the next 20 years, after its 20th Anniversary celebration in 2021. We will invest all that we have learned over the past 8 ½ years to secure a successful future:

- Under review: all practices, staff, board members, goals
- Search for a new executive director
- Significant fundraising
- Significant promotion

An exceptional candidate for an executive director has been identified and the conversation progresses. Sufficient financial support required is a part of the discussion and negotiations. We are scheduled to complete this process by December 31, 2021.

So thank you for all your support over these past years. Here’s how you can continue to help:

- Keep buying great coffee
- Experience our great coffee and food at our two locations
- Promote us through Facebook and other means of communication
- Hire us to cater your events
- Sign up to be a monthly donor for $10 a month (or more)
- Help us locate new wholesale customers

We are so grateful for your partnership on this journey. Hundreds of women have been served, many moved on to other careers and lives and some who want to spend the rest of their career lives with the Coffee Connection.
CONNECTIONS ON THE APP

Stay up to date with push notifications!

1.) If you haven’t downloaded the church app yet, text UCOP to 888-364-4483

2.) Find the church app icon on your device and select it.

3.) On the home page, click the 3 lines at the top left.

4.) Click the "gear" icon (top right)

5.) Click “Notifications”
6.) Click “Turn On Notifications”

7.) Click “United Church of Pittsford”

8.) Your device may prompt you to change the notification settings. If so, click “Go To Settings” and make sure notifications are turned on for this app.

9.) Turn on any “group” listed that you wish to be notified about.

Thank you for staying up to date! The “Reading the Bible” group will take us through the entire New Testament over the next six months — by the end of December. All other teams on the app at the moment will be given direction as we start to open up.

While you’re at it, check out videos and other content on the app today!
BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

2021

AMERICAN BAPTISTS INVITED TO “IMAGINE” AT BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

VALLEY FORGE, PA (ABNS 6/9/20) — Planning is well underway for the American Baptist Churches USA 2021 Biennial Mission Summit to be held June 25-27, 2021, at the San Juan Convention Center in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In a new video, Interim General Secretary Dr. C. Jeff Woods introduces and gives an update on planning for the event. We encourage you to watch the full video to learn more about the 2021 Biennial Mission Summit.

In the introduction, Woods notes, “As you can imagine, an event like this takes a couple of years of deep, integral planning to pull it off. Earlier this year, the program team met to develop a theme for the event, to surface potential speakers, and to map out an initial design. The theme for the event is, ‘Imagine.’ The speaker list is incredible and the design is new and innovative.”

“Mark your calendars for June 25-27 of 2021. We will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19, and if we can hold an event like this in a safe and responsible manner, then we will do so, and we will be together again as the American Baptist family.”

Save the Date and plan now to Imagine with American Baptist brothers and sisters in Christ at the American Baptist Churches USA 2021 Biennial Mission Summit.

Watch the video invitation here: https://youtu.be/I5OPlxc5ZMI

BISHOPS PLEDGE MORE EFFECTIVE ANTI-RACISM CAMPAIGN

JIM PATTERSON, UM NEWS

“This time will be different,” vowed United Methodist bishops participating in an online launch of a new anti-racism campaign on a day set apart for commemorating the end of slavery.

“I will not lead or participate in another effort full of ‘sound and fury, signifying nothing,’” said Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi of the Western Pennsylvania Conference during the announcement of the campaign on Juneteenth (June 19), a significant day in the history of slavery. The announcement was broadcast on UMC.org/EndRacism and Facebook.

“The lives of my people, of all people of color who have been systematically disrespected, disregarded and extinguished by the sin of racism are too important to settle for anything … less than uncompromising action in dismantling racism,” she said. The new program, “Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom,” is a multi-agency effort that includes participation from the Commission on Religion and Race, the Council of Bishops, United Methodist Women, Discipleship Ministries, the Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Communications. Other agencies and many annual conferences are contributing.

Read more at tinyurl.com/umc-bishops-anti-racism
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
Be on the lookout for communications from your board chair about meeting alternatives, postponements, or cancellations.

Monday
July 13 at 7:00pm  Trustees Meeting

Tuesday
July 14 at 10:00am  Deacons Meeting

Wednesday
July 8 at 7:00pm  Board of Christian Education

Monday
July 20 at 7:00pm  Church Council

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00am – 1:00pm

OUTDOOR SERVICE DATES
July 12, 19, 26 • August 2, 9
10:00am

JULY BIRTHDAYS
7/4  Brielle Kwarta
7/6  Jim Gaze
7/13  Dick Krager
7/15  Scott Hanson
7/15  Lee Johnson
7/25  Steve Harrison
7/25  Lynda Page
7/26  Melinda Lazenby
7/27  Kennedy Martin
7/28  Brian Kwarta
7/28  Jen Lazenby
7/28  Stacey Pum
7/30  Sue Gaze
7/31  Bradley Kwarta

SPECIAL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS:

July 4  Independence Day

July 12  First outdoor service

July 15  Tax Day

July 20  Dialogue Deadline
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

Don Reeve, Chair, Trustees 704-3748
Jennifer Cranch, Chair, Deacons 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.