May is often a busy month at the United Church of Pittsford, with Mother’s Day, sometimes Senior Sunday or Youth Sunday, preparations for Children’s Sunday, and often Pentecost Sunday. But not this year. We chose to publish a Dialogue for May, even though there are no planned activities, because we need to do all we can to stay in touch and offer encouragement and provide a sense of connection this year.

During April, I called the 80 families in our congregation to check in and see how everyone is doing. As of today, as far as I know, everyone is safe from the virus – including our extended families, mostly. This is our first concern. I do understand that the days and weeks get long for everyone who is staying at home. Some of you have essential jobs and still go out to work. Many of us are doing our jobs, but doing them mostly from home. A very few have been furloughed or are not able to work at all right now – and for each one, we pray.

I’m preaching this Sunday on “community” and what it means for the church. It’s easier to feel like a community when we are able to see each other, shake hands or hug each other, and just be physically present with one another. “Virtual community” is harder to maintain. Meeting on Zoom, making phone calls, exchanging emails, watching worship on video – these are all good to do, but they are not enough. I know. Some people are experiencing loneliness, anxiety, depression – or we just miss being together. Hang in there. Keep doing what you can do. And I’lI keep doing what I can – phone calls, emails, videos, Zoom meetings, prayer – and one of these days, we will be together again.

In 50 years as a pastor, I have never cancelled worship service for more than one Sunday at a time and always because of a bad storm. This time of sequestering is new for all of us. How do we worship God together when we cannot gather in the sanctuary? – Richard Ashworth volunteered to record a service on video each week, and a few people have joined Leta, Chen, and me to lead a service you can participate in at home each Sunday. We will continue that until services are in the sanctuary again. If you haven’t yet participated in this way, why not do it this Sunday – at https://www.ucpittsford.org/videos-of-worship.

When will that be – and what happens then? That’s a question we cannot answer yet, but it may be June. The latest word is that it cannot happen before May 15, and that depends on how much “the curve has flattened” in the Rochester area. We will certainly continue to keep you all informed every week through the email blast and in other ways. Feel free to call me (585-315-9241) or email me (jimmylreader@gmail.com) at any time with questions or ideas – or for any reason.

Once we do begin public services or any church activities, we almost certainly will need to maintain some “social distancing” and careful cleaning and disinfecting, perhaps offer masks for use, and so on. We really do not know at this point exactly what will happen, but our first concern is the protection of everyone’s health.
What else are we doing during this “stay-at-home” time?

- **Leta Williams** and others created **video lessons** for the final weeks of the Lenten season to follow through with the planned presentations during the coffee hour, once we had to stop public worship. They are posted on our Facebook page.
- Leta also has created **weekly videos for Sunday School** – also posted on the Facebook page – for all our children and their families. (And for other people as well, since Facebook is a public space.)
- During this time, our **church leadership** has continued to do essential work for the ongoing ministry of our congregation. The **trustees** have met on Zoom several times to be sure finances and maintenance are kept current. Our **financial team** (Karen White, Dick Krager, Verna and Logan Hazen) do their weekly work. And the **Church Council** has met on Zoom to address questions and make decisions to keep our ministry going well. They agreed to appoint a **New Structure Team** (Charlie Page, Sue Miller, Richard Ashworth, and Verna Hazen – and me) to continue work during May on creating a proposal on how simplify our church leadership structure and move to one board, with multiple teams appointed by the Council to do the work.
- The **church office** continues to be open two days a week – Monday and Thursday, from 9:00 to noon. If you have a donation (food or “pledge,” for instance), you can bring it then. Or if you have a question or a need, please feel free to call (586-6870) or email (ucpittsford@gmail.com).

**The needs of our nation and our world** are overwhelming right now. Remember the scripture: **Always pray and never give up.** We can all do that, if nothing else. There are nonprofit agencies in town – food pantries, especially – that need volunteer help during this time. If you are in good health and comfortable with going to volunteer, please contact the Pittsford Food Cupboard (264-9860) or call me if you want to volunteer, but are not sure where.

I am grateful for the privilege of being your pastor during this time, and I eagerly wait for the time (soon to come) when we will be able to be with each other at the church again.

**MUSIC NOTES**

First, thanks to the people who have been singing for the online church services: Audrey Johnson, Verna Hazen, Dick Krager, Leta Williams, Anthony Ratzel, Kathy Borden, Joy Bergfalk, Jen Cranch, and Sue Miller. The whole experience is enhanced by your voices. Thanks also to the people who have done solos: Joy, Kathy, and Chen. Keeping the music flowing has been flawlessly done by Chen on the piano. Thanks to you, Chen, as well. Jimmy and Leta have done an excellent job of planning and carrying out the services, which is not an easy task when you have no visible audience. It’s difficult to speak or sing to a microphone and a camera when you’re used to having a group of people in front of you. Lastly, I want to thank the brilliant Richard Ashworth! Without his superb technical knowledge and artistry, we couldn’t present a service on a weekly basis.

I watch the end result of all this effort on the part of many people and I surely appreciate it. But something is missing, and that something is you -- all the friends who are usually in the sanctuary at 10 AM Sunday morning. I keep thinking about the old Avery and Marsh song from the seventies: "We are the Church", which eloquently states that "The church is not a building ... the church is a people." With the current crisis in our world, we miss seeing and talking with our church friends, who make up the body of UCP. We miss singing hymns with them, listening to the scriptures and sermon with them, and socializing with them after worship. We miss the "communion of saints" (and that applies to all of us!).

It’s hard. Not knowing when this "down time" will end makes it even more difficult. Very soon, I’d like to get up early on a Sunday morning, hurry to church, rehearse my assorted-but-lovely choir members, and have a USUAL worship service! And I imagine that most of you would agree. We just have to be patient. One of the verses of the Avery and Marsh hymn says, "Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning, sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning." I guess this must be the "hiding" phase. During this time, let’s try to be in touch with our church friends and remember that we ARE the church, even though we're not all together in one place.

One more thing: keep singing!

**Your Fearless Leader, Dot Borden**
Hello everyone,

Below are some missional participation ideas while we continue to observe social distancing:

#1. PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD
A. Continue to leave PFC items at UCP for delivery.
B. Mail a check to: Pittsford Food Cupboard, 3800 Monroe Avenue, Suite 26, Pittsford to help cover ongoing running expenses and the purchase of certain grocery item shortages.
C. Know that you can contact Claire Zaepfel (PFC coordinator) at pittfoodcup14534@gmail.com or 585-264-9860 with any questions you might have including doing any volunteer work. Right now PFC only provides take-out service and so they don’t need food assistants or food shelf stockers as they are observing the 6 foot distancing ruling at this time. However, Claire does say PLEASE CHECK BACK IN THE FALL!

#2. ROCHESTER FOOD CUPBOARD
is presently closed until future notice.

#3. CAMERON COMMUNITY CENTER clothing house, food service and Teen Center is presently closed but you can mail a check to: Cameron Community Center 48 Cameron Street Rochester, NY 14606 to help cover ongoing running expenses.

#4. WOMEN’S CLUB OF PITTSFORD—donation box in UCP parking lot continues to accept clothing donations for sale to St. Pauley’s Textile, Inc

#5. In UCP OFFICE are the following collection containers:
A. Eyeglass and hearing aid items (including batteries) for Lion’s Club.
B. Metal tabs from drinks and canned goods like soup, meats, fruits and vegetables for Shriner projects.
C. Box tops for education for Pittsford School District.

Thank you for your consideration and participation in these worthwhile projects as we continue our necessary social distancing and caring for others.

Peace and blessings,
Marilyn Krager

“HIP” HOORAY!
Habitat House Complete!
The Habitat house sponsored by the Habitat Interfaith Partnership in Pittsford is now occupied! Landscaping will be completed later this spring. Thank you to everyone who participated in supporting this project.
MISSIONS & MINISTRIES

UPDATE FROM THE COFFEE CONNECTION
from Joy — Thank you for your generous support of the Coffee Connection by drinking our awesome coffee! In this challenging time, the Coffee Connection is working hard on keeping our women safe and provided for financially. Here are some details:
1. While we are cooking at the Greenhouse Café, it is not open for business.
2. South Avenue is open for pick up and take out — you can come and have your favorited beverage and/or buy your favorite coffee to brew, along with cookies and muffins and quiche. You can also order a quiche or a family meal. That makes everyone happy!
3. A significant SBA PPP loan that keeps both the Coffee Connection and our women afloat!
4. We have also received our 3rd Kiva loan — we were the first to receive a Kiva (international, crowd sourcing, 0% interest) loan in Rochester!
5. Our wholesale business is up and running and we have some great customers supporting us through this time.
6. You (long distance friends and family) can use our on-line store, accessed through our website (www.ourcoffeeconnection.org).
7. 100s of pounds of Frontline Coffee have been delivered to hospitals (75 lbs to Strong), nursing homes, fire departments, pharmacies, RTS and so many more. A donation of $11.25 brews 80 cups of coffee. We deliver in 5 lb bags, which is 400 cups of coffee. Donations support our frontline workers and the Coffee Connection and can be made through checks mailed to the Coffee Connection, 681 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620, or through our website. Coffee is considered very essential by our frontline workers and why shouldn’t they have the best!
8. Significant attention is being given to our future as we collaborate and partner with other organizations and agencies!

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS UPDATE
from Leta
Anthony and I are currently making arrangements to delay our wedding and mission trip to Hungary, but hope to have completed both by the end of the calendar year. Thank you to everyone for your support thus far! If you are still interested in buying one of our t-shirts or making a donation to support our trip, please visit www.bonfire.com/love-hungary/
To read more about the mission, please visit www.internationalministries.org/trailblazers/
Hello everyone,

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FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

ZOOM “COFFEE HOUR”

Sundays at 11:30am

Although we haven’t been able to select a delicious cookie and find our favorite spot in Howard Hall, we have still enjoyed being together virtually through Zoom. For those wishing to change up the setting of the home they’ve been staying in for so long, some have figured out how to use virtual backgrounds to make it look like they are joining the call from the beach, a different country, even outer space! We have enjoyed receiving updates about everyone’s health, family, and happenings. From baby pictures to wildlife, there’s always something wonderful to see and hear about!

For those who don’t have a computer, you can still join us! Just call the phone number included in the Zoom information in the email blast. If you don’t have access to email, please give us a call at the church during office hours (Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 12:00pm) so that we can get you connected!

FROM THE KRAGERS: GREETINGS TO ALL OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

I hope all of you have been able to tune into the weekly worship services, Miss Leta’s Sunday School lessons and now the Zoom connection on Sundays. Dick and I joined the Zoom connection this past Sunday for the first time and 15 of us chatted, joked and did a lot of smiling/laughing and story telling from 11:30-12:30 and then finally broke for lunch! Hope more of you join us next Sunday!

SOMETHING NEW: THE CHURCH APP

Did you know that people spend an average of 3 hours a day on their phones? Besides making phone calls, we text, email, find information, use the GPS, watch videos, listen to music … and so much more. Anyone with a cellphone (iPhone or Android) uses “apps” – to check the weather, watch something on YouTube, check in on Facebook or Instagram, and on and on.

Starting in May, anyone can find us on The Church App. Go to the App store on your phone, search for the Church App, download it, then search for United Church of Pittsford – and there we will be. And that location will be saved from then on.

What can you do on our church app?

- Find out details about Coming Events
- Watch videos of sermons and worship and S.S. videos (or just listen to the audio)
- Read the Bible – with a daily Bible reading plan (or just listen to it while you drive)
- Learn more about our church (for people searching for a church)
- Sign up for events or programs in the church
- Get text notifications for a group you’re in
- And much, much more.

Our website will be linked to the Church App, so you can easily move from the app to the website for more information about almost everything – including our monthly church calendar, as it has always been.

WATCH THE FRIDAY EMAIL BLAST FOR WHEN THIS WILL GO LIVE!
**GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

May 31 — information TBA

It’s hard to imagine a demographic that is missing out on more in these times than high school seniors. Did you know UCP has five students who are graduating high school this year?

They are:

- **Jocelyn Lin**, Pittsford Sutherland High School
- **Kennedy Martin**, Honeoye Falls Lima High School
- **Audrey Natale**, Honeoye Falls Lima High School
- **Aiden Ogden**, Pittsford Sutherland High School
- **Nathan Strauf**, Pittsford Mendon High School

We want to celebrate their accomplishments and congratulate them for enduring one of the most challenging finishes imaginable! Be on the lookout in the email blast for our plans to celebrate these wonderful seniors.

If you would like to share some advice or well wishes to our seniors, please send a note to ucpchildrenandyouth@gmail.com or mail something to the church and we will present them as part of our celebration.

**NOTE TO BASEBALL FANS:**

We don’t know when sporting events will open back up, so keep your calendars clear for a June 12th Red Wings game if we can go. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date. There will be fireworks and a special guest appearance by… Sasquatch!

**THE UCP LIBRARY**

What better way to enrich your heart and mind than with a good book? The UCP library off the elevator has a wide range of inspiring novels, thought-provoking theology, amazing autobiographies, and more!

**Looking for short stories of inspiration?** Pick up a book in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series and enjoy “spoonfuls” of heart-warming inspiration!

**Want a randomly picked recommendation from a congregation member?** *Nebraska Legacy* is an inspirational romance with historical value involving a covered wagon and rustic cabin settlements in Nebraska.

**Need a good children’s book in the midst of this pandemic?** Read Murphy’s *God Cares When I Feel Worried*, which will equip children to face the many stresses of growing up.

**Are your plans in flux because of coronavirus?** Enjoy the lighthearted wisdom of *We Plan, God Laughs* by Sherre Hirsch.

Perhaps you need insight into the harsher realities of the consequences people may be facing in this time. Read through the deep reflection of *On Death and Dying* by Kubler-Ross.

These are just a few of the numerous books that are available to you, our church family, during this time when so many libraries are closed. Stop by the church during office hours to enjoy some reading by the library near the elevator.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/2</td>
<td>Dave Nellis</td>
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<td>Sally Stookey</td>
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<td>Adrianna Suttle</td>
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<td>Cindy Merrifield</td>
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<td>Harry Carley</td>
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<td>Makayla Young</td>
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<td>5/18</td>
<td>Ruth Nellis</td>
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<td>Joanne Bergen</td>
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<td>Bonnie Shaffer</td>
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<td>Cory Hyde</td>
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<td>Jon Lazenby</td>
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AMERICAN BAPTIST FOUNDATION RELEASES DIGITAL 2019 ANNUAL SUMMARY

VALLEY FORGE, PA — AMERICAN BAPTIST NEWS

As the global community comes to terms with the new norms of physical and social distancing due to the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), American Baptist Foundation (ABF) takes this opportunity to share our progress in 2019 with our wider American Baptist Churches USA family digitally. Please find attached the digital version of ABF’s 2019 Annual Summary Report. ABF’s 2019 Annual Summary report can also be found by clicking here. ABF’s goal is to ensure the health and safety of our team while providing continued service to our donor and ministry partners.

Hard copies of ABF’s 2019 Annual Summary are also available by contacting the Foundation office directly at abfadmin@abc-usa.org or 610-768-2035. Please do not hesitate to contact the Foundation office with any additional questions or concerns.

In these exceptional and extraordinary times, ABF remains committed to your planned giving needs by Connecting People who Care to Ministries that Matter. We are here for you! Since 1985, the mission of the American Baptist Foundation (ABF) is to support and strengthen the Christian witness fulfilled by our partners in ministry and mission. These include: American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Baptist International Ministries and the Multi-Region Corporation (comprised of a majority of American Baptist Regions.).

Source:

CHURCH HOSPITALS RACE TO PREPARE FOR THE CORONAVIRUS

EVELINE CHIKWANAH, UM News

United Methodist hospitals in Africa and the Philippines are racing to prepare their facilities to identify and treat patients with COVID-19.

While most United Methodist medical centers in Africa have yet to encounter patients with the coronavirus, preparation is underway for eventually treating such cases, even though most lack ventilators and other crucial equipment. The World Health Organization reports that there are fewer than 2,000 working ventilators available across the continent, with 10 countries having none at all, according to The New York Times.

There have been more than 22,000 confirmed cases of coronavirus in Africa and more than 1,000 deaths, according to data from the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At Old Mutare Mission Hospital in Mutare, Zimbabwe, administrator Monica Nzaryebani said possible isolation wards for COVID-19 cases are being set up. There have been 25 confirmed cases in the country and three deaths.

“We have identified four rooms in the building that were previously used as the waiting mothers’ shelter, which need to be renovated and furnished to cater for coronavirus patients,” she said, adding that the hospital needs a tent where screening and testing can be conducted.

Critical cases would be referred to the government’s district rapid response unit, as the hospital does not have equipment to treat seriously ill patients who may require ventilators, she said. Nzaryebani said the hospital, which is adjacent to Africa University, has prepared an inventory and identified immediate needs such as additional staff members for the new isolation unit and equipment including eight ventilators, infrared thermometers, oxygen tanks and personal protective equipment. Read more at:
tinyurl.com/UMC-hospitals-covid19
WEEKLY HAPPENINGS:
Online Video Worship Service
The Sunday School Show
Sunday Morning “Coffee Hour”

Check out the website
ucpittsford.org
for more information and links

SPECIAL DAYS AND HOLIDAYS:
Tuesday May 5
Cinco De Mayo

Sunday May 10
Mother’s Day

Wednesday May 20
Dialogue Deadline

Monday May 25
Memorial Day

Sunday May 31
Pentecost Sunday

Please look for further communications about changes to our calendar of events. Thank you for your understanding and patience in these circumstances.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
Be on the lookout for communications from your board chair about meeting alternatives, postponements, or cancellations.

Monday May 11
7:00 Trustees Meeting

Tuesday May 12
10:00 Deacons Meeting

Wednesday May 13
7:00 Board of Christian Education

Monday May 18
7:00 Church Council
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.

If you would like a hard copy of the Dialogue mailed to you, please contact us.