Beginning on a personal note – Thank you to everyone who prayed for me, sent me cards, provided us meals, and who were there for us during my eye surgery and prolonged healing in August. I had a corneal transplant in my left eye (and cataract removal) early in August, but it didn’t heal properly and one week turned into three weeks for that. I am doing well now. I will have the same procedures done on the right eye in November. Then, God willing, my eyesight will be better than it has been in years.

Thanks to Briana Hanson who did a great job as our summer office admin while Leta Williams was helping direct the summer camping program with American Baptist camps in New York. Briana has started back at Nazareth College for her senior year, and Leta has returned from her summer job to resume work as our Minister of Education (and office admin).

And…please welcome Chen Liang who is our new organist and pianist. (Sara Hoffee has started a new job in Boston.) Chen is a doctoral student at Eastman in piano performance. He began work with us on September 1, and we are delighted to have him with us. (See his photo and bio in this Dialogue.)

SANCTUARY UPDATE

It’s not a remodeling, not really a refurbishing, or the latest word – repurposing. Our sanctuary is still there for the same purposes as always, but it will soon have a different “feel” to it. Perhaps our experiences in worship will have a different “feel” to them as well.

What we’re doing – By the end of September, if all goes well ….

- We already purchased a baby grand piano and have been enjoying the beautiful sound for several weeks already.
- We will have new carpeting in the library, entrance, congregation level, and pulpit and choir area. (And in the offices as well)
- We will have new ceiling fans, and the wiring for the hanging mics will be finished and not as visible.
- The pews (except in the balcony) will be sold, and new pew chairs will be there for seating – giving us a lot of flexibility in the way we arrange the space for different occasions.
...and a lot of color and warmth will be added to the sanctuary in a yet-to-be-revealed way!

**How and why we’re doing this** – At a June 3 congregational meeting (after 3 months of Council and Congregational discussion), we decided to do all of the above as one Sanctuary Project. It will give us comfortable, moveable seating and allow for arranging the space for worship and for other purposes throughout the year in new ways. It will open up that space for greater use other than on Sunday morning, perhaps for community concerts or plays. – And it’s being paid for with a generous bequest from Don Smith, memorial funds, sale of the pews, a generous gift from Tom and Wenda Silco – and other donations yet to be received from other members and friends of the church. … **The Trustees invite individuals to help match the $5,000 gift from the Silcos.** And we will need an additional $3,000 or so beyond that. Then all will be finished.

**When?** – If the sale of the pews happens as anticipated (by September 16), Messner Flooring will install the carpet that week and the pew chairs will arrive that week. We may be out of the sanctuary (and in Howard Hall) for one Sunday (Sept. 22 if this schedule works). Then we will have a celebration service the following Sunday.

**WELCOMING COUPLES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

You may not realize this, but we have six couples in our church with young children (infants through preschool), several of them for whom this is the first child. We invite the whole church to welcome the children and their parents in three ways:

1. Parents with young children often welcome help in caring for the children’s needs during the worship service. Especially, **our nursery** must be staffed every Sunday with willing, caring volunteers. That includes times other than worship, too, so parents can participate in other events. Please call Leta at the church office (586-6870) to volunteer.

2. By the end of September, we expect to have **an e-booklet with photos and information** about each couple. Our hope is that the couples can interact with one another more easily that way, and others who want to encourage and serve these families will have a good way to know who they are.

3. Some of our younger couples do not have a lot of **family support** in the immediate area and would welcome offers for childcare for an evening out, or the wisdom of adults who have gone through this part of life. Maybe they have questions about what’s available in the community for them and their children, and you could help with that.

Thank you for serving and caring in these ways – and welcome to our families with young children.
COMING UP THIS FALL

- **Way of Life series** – I will lead this group, open to adults and teens. Through video and discussion (and reading the book for those who choose to), we will learn more about where the Church is moving and how it is changing. Based on Brian MacLaren’s, *The Great Spiritual Migration*, this series will focus on how the gospel is about a way of life – the way of love – and how when Christians follow this way of life in this world, everything changes! *The sessions will be on Sunday after worship once a month for eight months, beginning September 22.*

- **Community nights** will be on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in Howard Hall this fall. Our invitation and promotion will go out widely in the community.
  - In **October and November**, we will complete the *Transforming Lives* series for people whose lives are affected by addiction. We will hear the stories of people who know what it’s about and learn more about how to live in families and communities where addiction touches our lives. Women from the Coffee Connection will cater each event and sometimes share their stories and interact with all of us.
  - In **December**, we will partner with The Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies at Nazareth (www2.naz.edu/interfaith), led by Dr. Muhammad Shafiq. We will explore the holiday traditions and beliefs of several faiths in the midst of our own Christian celebration of Christmas.

- **Bible Story Basics**, published by Abingdon Press, will be the new curriculum for children on Sunday mornings. It is designed for churches our size and easily adaptable to a range of ages in small groups. – We will also do some training for adult leaders in how to use movement, role-playing, video, and diverse learning styles to create exciting, captivating experiences for the children. Maybe you haven’t helped lead the children’s sessions before and would like to learn. Call Leta at the church and let her know – 586-6870. *You can learn more the curriculum at https://www.biblestorybasics.com.*

- **“Sundae School”** on Saturday, Sept. 28 is an ice cream social – a fundraiser for the church and an opportunity for us to interact with people from the community. Michelle Kwarta and her group have been planning this for months. There will be displays from groups and missions we support throughout the year for them to learn about those as well. And we’re hoping the sanctuary will be complete and we can invite people upstairs to see that. *(See this Dialogue for more information.)*

- We are creating a new **communications team**. Briana Hanson, Richard Ashworth, and I did some early work this summer and would welcome a few other people with skills and interest in any of the following to volunteer:
  - photo, video, and graphic design
  - writing text
  - website and social media
  - traditional media PR
  - “about town” distribution
I want to create a new mission team – not what the Missions Committee already does, but exploring creative ways for UCP to live into our new Mission Statement. If you are interested, please contact me. Our mission statement:

**The United Church of Pittsford**

*is an inclusive community of hope and love serving, caring, and learning together for transformation in our world.*

**Save the date!**

- Sept 29 – congregational meeting
- Oct. 13 and 20 – shepherd luncheons
- Oct. 26-27 – relaunch of Legacy Giving campaign – planned giving workshops
- Watch the slideshows during coffee hour – thinking about ….
- Nov. 5 – Election Day pie and bake sale

**MUSIC NOTES**

**WELCOME OUR NEW ORGANIST: CHEN LIANG**

Chen is a doctoral student in piano performance and literature at Eastman School of Music. He graduated in 2010 from the Sichuan Conservatory of Music in China. As a high school student, his friends invited him to play piano for Christian worship services. He has played for Episcopal, Lutheran, and Jewish services in the U.S. Chen has played with philharmonic orchestras, played solo performances, and played in other venues around the world- in Florida and Texas, and in Austria, Italy, and China.

Chen, we welcome you to our UCP family!

**CHOIR NEWS**

The United Choir will return from its summer respite on September 15, Rally Day, happily singing “Walk Worthy”. They will sing again on September 22.

We are always delighted to welcome new members in the Choir! We rehearse at 9 AM on the Sundays that we sing for the service. What we can offer you is a lovely group to join, pleasant working conditions, and the opportunity to serve your church and your God by singing. No auditions necessary; just show up with a positive attitude and a smile.

Looking ahead, we will need soloists on September 8 and 29. Get in touch with Audrey Natale (audreyannenatale@gmail.com) if you're interested.

_Fearless Leader Dot Borden_
MISSION & MINISTRIES

FOOD CUPBOARDS
Serving our community and our city!

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD
September 8: Hearty Soup
September 15: Canned Fruit
Contact: Sue Gaze

PITTSFORD FOOD CUPBOARD
After 20 years at the Old Pickle Factory on Grove St., the Pittsford Food Cupboard is moving to 3800 Monroe Avenue #26!
Serving Pittsford Community; neighboring towns and 2 Rochester zip codes
Worship Services
Collection Sunday:
September 22
September 29
Contact: Marilyn Krager

Please consider the following food items:
• K-cups • Tea Bags • Pasta
• Cereals • Canned Fruits/Vegetables • Shampoo
• Deodorants • Laundry Detergent • Meals in Cans

Donate during the week!
There is a collection basket in the church office for PFC!

Thank you for your continued generosity both during summer and school year months.

OUR HABITAT BUILD
We are participants in a Habitat House build at 120 Holworthy Street, Rochester, NY. Check on the Habitat website and sign up under the Pittsford Coalition if you would like to help.

You do not have to have any construction skills to volunteer on this build!
The web site will give you further information.

A THANK YOU FROM THE COFFEE CONNECTION:
Dear Friends at the United Church of Pittsford,
I am writing to you on behalf of the women of the Coffee Connection for all the support you give us. We are so grateful for the check from the proceeds of the pancake breakfasts. Summer is a rough time for us financially, so that was greatly appreciated!

We are also so grateful for all the other support from the church, whether it be donations or business, or awesome volunteer work. We have benefitted in so many ways---and you have gotten to drink great coffee!!

These are changing times and we have to change with it. Operations of the Coffee Connection 8 years ago are no longer possible. What has remained the same is coffee, women, and support! We are in the midst of analysis of our future and how to secure it. 8 years ago when we took over, there were few coffee roasters in town. There were funds to help support hires then and women expected to be interns for up to a year before being hired. That is no longer the case. We are exploring the nature of our niche and what we want to be known for.

A huge blockade for women to become self-sufficient and for the Coffee Connection to have a future, is the linkage between wages and health insurance.

Currently, there is no way to lift a woman to self-sufficiency and provide health insurance available to us. We have moved the needle and we are looking under every rock we come across.

Jimmy and I are also grateful for the support you give us—and to Stacey and Jason. Thank you for being a partner with us!
Gratefully,
Joy Bergfalk
Executive Director

Thank you for your continued generosity both during summer and school year months.
It’s September, which means it’s time to rally everyone back together! Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 15. During the service, we will have a blessing of the backpacks—though we will bless briefcases and handbags too! Don’t forget to bring them in.

After the service, we will enjoy food on the grill and participate in a paper airplane design contest! Will yours be the fastest, go the furthest, or look the coolest?

Our Sunday School curriculum this year will be Cokesbury’s Bible Story Basics—easy to teach, bible-driven, and provides kids the basic tools for reading and learning the bible. We are always looking for volunteers to share their love of the Lord with our children—whether you are a biblical scholar or learning the basics yourself, we would love to have you!

We encourage all who work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults in our church to take the Safe Sanctuary training offered through the Genessee Valley District Fall Training event on Saturday, September 14th at Rush United Methodist Church. It is mandatory for each of our volunteers to attend this training through the district just once. The training utilizes several learnings styles that you can incorporate into your teaching and ministry at church.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER AS A PEACEFUL FOUNDATION FOR THE BUSY SCHOOL YEAR

With selections from www.contemplative.org

• Find a quiet space where you are unlikely to be disturbed.
• Sit in a way that allows you to be relaxed in body and alert in mind. Use a chair, meditation cushion or prayer rug, according to your own physical needs and preferences.
• Gently close your eyes.
• “Allow your heart to open toward that invisible but always present Origin of all that exists” (p. 6)
• Whenever you become aware of a thought, no matter what its nature, let it go.
• Use a “sacred word”. This is a word or short phrase that helps you to let go of thoughts. It is a reminder of your intention to remain open to the silence. Generally sacred words fall into one of 2 categories: “God” words/phrases such as “Abba”, “Jesu”, “Mary”, “Reality”, “Come Lord” or “state” words/phrases such as “love”, “peace”, “be still”. Sacred words are not used as mantras, as in constantly repeating them, but as a reminder of your intention to remain open.
• Continue this practice for 20 minutes. At the end of the time get up and go about your business, leaving the practice behind, in the same way you let go of your thoughts.
• People who are just beginning, and are particularly restless in mind and body, may find it easier to start off with shorter prayer periods, perhaps only 5 minutes per sit to start. Then after a few days extend the time to 10 minutes and so on until you are able to sit for 20 minutes. Give the practice at least 2 weeks before you decide if it is right for you.
Every Sunday after church until Sept 28th there will be a brief meeting in Howard Hall to discuss any open items/questions for the upcoming ice cream social and bake sale.

Note: $3 for ice cream with multiple toppings (vanilla and dairy free icecream)
- $1 for doggie ice cream
- $1 off coupon will be provided to people that bring a food cupboard items.

Bring your dog by and have it be blessed as you have ice cream, buy some great baked goods and have a coffee or snack (Coffee Connection coffee served).

Whoever brings the most people from outside of our church family to this event wins a prize!

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 28•1:30-3:30

UNITED CHURCH OF PITTSFORD
123 SOUTH MAIN STREET (AT SUNSET BLVD.)

Come to our
SUNDAY SOCIAL
and bring your pets!

ICE CREAM
including Doggy Ice Cream

BAKE SALE

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28
1:30 - 3:30 pm

We all know there will be an ice cream event on September 28, but did everyone know that the “famous UCP bakers” will offer their treats as well?

In conjunction with the Social, bake goods will be available for purchase and we need all of those famous bakers to produce! We would like to offer cakes, pies, muffins, cookies, brownies, breads, jam, pickles and anything else that can be produced from the kitchen. Hopefully the bakers will use their talents and their imaginations to produce goods that the community would love to purchase.

Sharon Toles and Audrey Johnson would be happy to hear from you as to what you may be planning to bake and to receive your delicious treats any time on Friday. Please leave them in the kitchen, tastefully wrapped and identified with your name. We will price them and arrange them in a manner that shouts “take me home!”

This is a ‘first time’ event and we would like it to be a roaring success and one that the community will look forward to just the way our dinners used to be, so please join in the effort!
FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDS

PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF PITTSFORD:
As we await the arrival of sanctuary improvements and the installation of the proposed cell tower I am writing to you on behalf of the other aspects of UCP’S existence and acceptance in today’s changing world. In quoting the following from Webster dictionary, I hope I can inspire you to consider more congregational participation.....

Participation:
1. the act or fact of participating
2. a taking part, as in some action or attempts
3. a sharing, as in benefits or profits

Please consider participation in one or more of the following opportunities as we all have varying and fluctuating degrees of interests, energy and availability in our daily lives.

Hospitality and Fellowship — contact Donella Ashworth
Acolytes, Ushers, and Shepherd groups — contact Donella Ashworth
Back Door/Howard Hall Greeters — contact Marilyn Krager
Habitat Interfaith House Project, Pittsford Coalition — contact Dick Krager
Coffee Connection Sales and deliveries — contact Dick Krager
Cameron Community Deliveries — contact Dick Krager
Mission Committee — contact Sally Stookey
Worship Leader - contact Audrey Johnson
Altar flowers — contact Judy Wolfe
Nursery helpers — contact Jen Cranch, Leta Williams
Sunday School leaders — contact Leta Williams

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:
Saturday, September 28 - 1:30-3:30pm
Sundae Ice Cream Social
Bake Sale
Blessing of the Animals
- contact Michelle Kwarta

Saturday, October 8 - 8:00 to 10:00 am
Pancake Breakfast (also November through June)
- contact Michelle Kwarta

Thank you for your time and willingness in advance,
Marilyn Krager
Participation & Membership Deacon

Brielle has moved to Seattle and misses her NY and UCP friends.
Please drop a note at:

Brielle Kwarta
5232 11th Ave. N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98105

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
9/6 Audrey Johnson
9/24 Nathan Strauf
9/26 Katelyn Vasile
9/28 Jack Lazenby
9/29 Donella Ashworth
FELLOWSHIP AND FRIENDS

SHEPHERD AND FLOCK LUNCHES

Once again this fall the Shepherds and their flocks will gather for lunch to celebrate the program and to socialize.

This year’s lunches will be on October 13th and October 20th at 11:45 AM in Howard Hall. We will again follow a buffet style with all the participating groups cooperating to offer a varied menu.

On the 13th will be the Ashworth, Krager and Page groups.

On the 20th will be the Merrifield, Toles and Wolfe groups.

Your Shepherd will be in touch with you to let you know what to bring, and we hope very much that you’ll be able to join the other members of your flock for a casual meal and friendly conversation. Details of the lunches will also be included in the weekly e-mail newsletters and Sunday bulletins.

A list of all the flocks, their Shepherds and members is included below so you can see who else is in your flock and other flocks.

LEMONADE
ON THE LAWN
THANK YOU

I hope that everybody who very kindly took a turn to provide the lemonade, iced tea, and goodies for us this summer enjoyed doing it.

A big thank you to you all.

—Donella

MERRIFIELD
Allen (Frank)
*Barnett
Burnett
Carley
Harrison
Kwarta
Miller
Nellis
Ogden
Reader/Bergfalk
Stookey

TOLES
Borden
#Brown
*Hazen
Johnson
Martin
McCollum
Natale
Wallace (Judy)
Zink

ASHWORTH
Cornell
Duprey
Hutchins
Reeve
Schunk
#Sheffield
*Snyder
Song

WOLFE
Bradway
Gaze
Kuimjian
Silco
Tyson

KRAGER
DeCotis
*Grunert
Hyde
Krebs
LaTray
Lazenby
Strauf
Vasile
Watkins
Weiss
Yaneka

* Substitute Shepherd      # Homebound

PAGE
Blood
Broker
Cranch
Dobbertin
Fisher (Jason)
Hanson
Muller
Passmore
Pum
Ratzel
*Wallman
White
Williams

6 GROUPS
63 FAMILIES
(including Shepherds)
UMCORS STARTS EFFORTS FOR BAHAMAS RELIEF
LINDA BLOOM, UM NEWS
As Hurricane Dorian continued to threaten the U.S. east coast, United Methodists were connecting with Methodists in the Bahamas to start relief efforts. The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church already is fielding requests to help those being evacuated from the “unprecedented devastation” to receive basic supplies and find a place to live, says its president, the Rev. L. Carla Culmer. But the survivors also need someone to hear their stories. “We want to see how we can counsel and listen and be there for them,” she told UM News in a Sept. 5 phone interview.
After striking the island nation on Sept. 1, Hurricane Dorian caused “vast devastation” and left 70,000 people in need of immediate humanitarian relief, says Mark Lowcock, head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Bahamas Prime Minister Hubert Minnis called Dorian the most damaging storm ever to hit the island group, Reuters reported.
Read more at: umnews.org/en/news/umcor-starts-efforts-for-bahamas-relief

IM RESPONDS TO DESTRUCTION WROUGHT BY HURRICANE DORIAN IN THE BAHAMAS
AMERICAN BAPTIST NEWS SERVICE
Hurricane Dorian, which over the Labor Day weekend was one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record, pounded Grand Bahama Island for more than an entire day, killing at least twenty people. Floodwater inundated homes in the Abaco Islands in the northern Bahamas ahead of its advance on the U.S. East Coast. Bahamian officials cite the destruction in the northern Bahamas as a “historic tragedy.” Communication lines on the islands have been down since the storm began, and therefore the full extent of the loss of life and property is only now being revealed.
Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutierrez-Lee, an Area Director at International Ministries, shares “I have spoken with Rev. Everton Jackson, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Caribbean Baptist Fellowship, to express our prayers and solidarity with our brothers and sisters of the Bahamas during this terrible time.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10AM Worship Service</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td></td>
<td>Back to School (Pittsford)</td>
<td></td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10AM Worship Service</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30AM Event Planning Mtg</td>
<td>7:00PM Trustees Meeting</td>
<td>7:00PM Deacons Meeting</td>
<td>6PM Village Squares</td>
<td>6PM Village Squares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9AM Choir</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10AM Worship Service</td>
<td>&amp; Rally Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9AM Choir</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10AM Worship Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30PM PUNS Staff Meeting</td>
<td>6PM Village Squares</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:30PM–3:30PM Sundae Social &amp; Bake Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30AM Way of Life Series</td>
<td></td>
<td>7PM PUNS Board Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10AM Worship Service</td>
<td>9AM PUNS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Sara Hoffee, Organist and Bell Choir Director 309-531-2792

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

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.