

# Bellvue Heights UMC Signal – April 2016

## A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

(a paraphrase of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi)

Lord, make your church to be an instrument of your peace. Rather than striving for success and growth, may it be a witness of love in the midst of competition and violence and hatred.

May it be a voice of reconciliation and grace in the midst of all kinds of injury to the spirit and body and soul of people and communities and nations.

May its vitality of faith always be evident to a doubting world.

May its ministries and words of hope counter the despair that is all too prevalent.

May it be a beacon of the light of Christ to penetrate the darkness of the world.

May joy always be visible in the life of your church and your people in all circumstances.

O Divine Master, grant that we, your church, seek not so much to be privileged or pitied as to be present to console and comfort; that we seek not so much to be understood and accepted by the world but to understand the needs and pains and hurts and the seeking of people everywhere; that we seek not so much to be respected or praised as to be a beacon of light reflecting God's love-starved world; for it is in giving beyond our established programs and ways that we will find ourselves; it is by pardoning the slights and assaults that come our way that we, the church, are pardoned for our hypocrisy, self-righteousness and pride; and it is by being willing to let go of our established ways, even our own identity, that we come to know our eternal purpose and God's eternal love for us and all His human family.

(A paraphrase written by Gary Bergh while on retreat at Wellspring Retreat Center, Church of the Savior – Fall 1997)

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## CITY-WIDE UMC CELEBRATION

The Syracuse United Methodist Churches, along with District Superintendent Rev. Nola Anderson, are coming together, celebrating our successes and looking forward to our continued work together in mission and ministry. Please come to worship, share ideas and celebrate on **Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2200 Valley Drive, Syracuse, NY 13207.**

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## ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to those who donated altar flowers for April. We now need donors for the following May Sundays – 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>. The May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> dates have been filled. If you wish to provide flowers in memory or honor of loved ones or for some other special reason, please contact either Pauline Filsinger at 475-6025 or the church office 475-0011. The cost of a floral arrangement is \$20.00.

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## NOTE FROM FORMER MEMBER

Our family lived on Hancock Drive for 30 years. Our memories at both Bellevue Churches are many and precious. March 16<sup>th</sup> birthday – Deborah Rosecrans – she is Deborah Wanamaker. If you have Sharon/Shari Hall, she is now Shari Hall Smith. I'm sure you have been notified that Lois Shanebrook passed away February 29<sup>th</sup>. The church sounds very active and involved. I am delighted. I still see many familiar names and we have been gone 25+ years. Blessings to all. Connie Hal

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## EARTH DAY

Submitted by Maxine Adams

Friday, April 22, 2016 is Earth Day. The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970. On that day, twenty-two million Americans celebrated clean air, land, and water.

Psalm 24:1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” He has given us the responsibility of taking care of the earth. One of the ways we do this in Syracuse is by planting rain gardens. These gardens are not only attractive but help keep excess water and sediment out of storm drains, streams and lakes.

There are Traditional Rain Gardens, Winter Rain Gardens, Wildlife Rain Gardens and Aromatic Rain Gardens. Their foundation consists of mulch, soil, landscape fabric and gravel. The plants are chosen according to what kind of rain garden it is.

As caretakers for the earth simple acts can create a foundation for humans to build on:

- Compost.
  - Get a rain barrel.
  - Plant a rain garden.
  - Plant a tree.
  - Let your voice be heard. Join the effort to stop global warming.
  - Reduce, reuse, and recycle.
  - Give a hoot, don’t pollute!
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## UPCOMING STRATHMORE SPEAKER SERIES EVENTS

Sunday, April 17, 2016, 2:00 pm – Former Professional Football Player  
Billy McBride

Thursday, May 12, 2016, 7:00 pm – Ed Riley of the Hotel Syracuse

Strathmore Speaker Series Events are held at the Fire Barn in Onondaga Park six times per year and provide a platform for recognized local experts to share the power of their ideas with the community.

## NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS

The flowers are just about to blossom and we couldn’t be happier! Even though we had a gentle winter, spring will still be most welcome!

We’d like to invite you to another **BHNS Night at Gannon’s Ice Cream at their Valley store location on Wednesday, April 20, from 6-8 pm**. A portion of all sales will be donated to the nursery school! We are always so grateful to the many, many church families that come out to support us and we hope to see you at this one, too. Gannon’s is also donating an ice cream cake and you can be chosen to bring it home with you with \$1 ticket donations that night. This is always a great fundraiser for us and the children and families seem to have a lot of fun, too! Please mark your calendars to join us.

We were treated to a performance on St. Patrick’s Day from the Roisin Academy of Irish Dance. What a talented group of dancers; we were very impressed! Not only did our students and staff enjoy the show, we were joined by many parents, grandparents and members of the dancers’ families! It was a true community celebration!

In April, we are looking forward to visits from the Rosamond Gifford Zoo’s Zoo to You Program. We will also be holding parent/teacher conferences and enjoy our Spring Break the last week in April!

Wishing you all a peace-filled season with family and friends as we step into Spring!

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## SYRACUSE LATIN SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The Syracuse Latin School is part of the Syracuse City School District (SCSD) and is located on Jamesville Avenue. It is a brand new school – in its second year. It is a public school for the gifted and talented and there are many students from the Strathmore area. They will be holding their Spring Vendor Event (approx. 30 vendors) and SCSD Clothing Drive here at Bellevue Heights on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, from Noon until 5 pm. They will be accepting clothing for all age students – from young children to teenager

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**Poverty is the noose that strangles humility and breeds  
disrespect for God and Man. – American Indian Proverb, Sioux**

- 1 in 6 people in America face hunger
- Households with children reported a significantly higher food insecurity rate than households without children in 2011
- Food insecurity exists in every county in the United States. 17.9 million households were food insecure.
- 50.1 million Americans struggle to put food on the table.
- In the U.S., hunger isn't caused by lack of food, but rather the continued prevalence of poverty.
- More than 1 in 5 children is at risk of hunger.
- Over 20 million children receive free or reduced-priced lunch each school day. Less than half of them get breakfast and only 10% have access to summer feeding sites.
- For every 100 school lunch programs, there are only 87 breakfast sites and just 36 summer food programs.

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## **OUR BLESSED ABUNDANCE (Read Psalm 12:5)**

Something is terribly wrong in our world. Some of God's children are ill-fed, homeless, diseased, and abused. Many people do not know the comforts of a home, nor the security of a free state. Who will care for these lowly children of God?

The Bible says that the Lord will rise up in behalf of these people, but it also says that He will do so through His servants and followers. That means that God will provide for His poorer children through the grace of His richer ones. We are called to give from our blessed abundance, that others less fortunate might live. This is not an option for Christians, but a basic mandate upon which our faith is built. We are the hands, the feet, the eyes, and the voice of the Lord. Let us serve Him well.

From *Wisdom from the Psalms*

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## **A BIT OF HUMOR**

I had decided to retire from the ministry, and one Sunday I explained my decision to the congregation: "I wear two hearing aids and trifocal glasses; I have a partial plate, and I sometimes walk with a cane. It seems to me," I concluded, "that the Lord is telling me it's time to retire."

After the service, a white-haired lady told me, "Reverend, you have misinterpreted what the Lord has been saying to you. He's not telling you it's time to retire; he's telling you that if you keep going, he'll keep you patched up."

*Ivan P. Downing  
1001 Quotes, Illustrations & Humorous Stories for preachers, teachers & writers*

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## **UMW NEWS**

Many thanks to all who participated in the annual Spaghetti Dinner/Auction for Love Gifts. A nice evening of bidding, music and dinner was had by all. A special thank you to Ann Barnes for entertaining us with her piano playing and being one of our auctioneers. Another special thank you to Dottie Montgomery and all of her kitchen staff for preparing and cleaning up the delicious spaghetti dinner. Thank you to Steve Mattice who was our other auctioneer. A big thanks to all who donated all of the special items. If it was not for all of you wonderful donors, we would not be as successful as we are every year. Our profits from the dinner and auction are approximately \$1,700. Again, a big thank you to all who participated in any part of this event.

The next UMW meeting will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. We will be doing a program of the Prayer and Self-Denial Offering. Circle of Concern will be hostesses. We are happily accepting baked goods and crafts for the bazaar on the stage at the Roast Beef dinner on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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## April Birthdays



Happy Birthday to you!!!

Please notify the office by phone or e-mail with additions or corrections.

- 01 Leslie Streissguth
- 02 Constance Kelly
- 03 Arthur Snow
- 04 Kailya Kritzer
- 05 Kimberly Jameson
- 08 Peter Wallace
- 09 Greg Hamilton  
Michael Wojenski, Jr.
- 10 Brishen McGuire
- 11 Michael Swift
- 12 Sandra Cutler  
Jada Doss  
John Strong  
Lily Strohecker
- 13 Linda Lear
- 14 Nancy Arnold  
Kenneth Lombard
- 15 Lucas Starkey  
Amy Collin
- 16 Mary Drake
- 17 Todd Gloo  
Emily Crain  
Joseph Strock  
Sandra O'Connor
- 18 Adam Shanebrook
- 19 Jim Montgomery  
Dawn Starkey  
Gloria Brunner

- 19 Judith Sands
- 20 Bryan Leonard  
Dana Lynn Wade  
Melissa Ulm
- Molly Callaghan  
Rev. Nola Anderson
- 22 Lucy Anne Brown  
Robert Large  
Janet Davis
- 23 Alfred Nielsen  
Michael Berman
- 24 Dori Ann Fischer  
Matthew Townley  
Patrick O'Connor
- 25 Casey Callaghan  
Craig Martin, Jr.  
Nancy James
- Shirley Scott
- 26 Patricia Gloo
- 28 Allison Cherundolo  
Joan Vosbury
- 29 John Dancks  
Oliver Crain
- Adalynn Grier
- 30 Jeanie Brown  
Katelyn Bygall

## City Wide Youth Group 2016

Save the following dates for some exciting activities for youth in Grades 7-12:

### Schedule:

- April 3 Movie after Church "Miracles from Heaven" – Time TBA
- April 10 Wonder Works at the Mall after Church
- April 17 Earth Day – Clean up Church yard and picnic lunch after Church
- April 23 Serving at Roast Beef Dinner – 4-7 pm
- May 1 Movie/Game night 6-8 pm at Church
- May 8 No meeting – Mother's Day

If you have any questions, please call:  
Diane Dermody or Laura Mattice

**Please save & post**

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## *THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION:*

From: The Youth Group

Thank you to all who pledged money towards the 15th Annual S.W.E.A.T. Habitat for Humanity Bowl-a-thon. We were 21 strong representing Bellevue Heights UMC, including both adults and youth. The group received pledges totaling \$845.00. The Bowl-a-thon total collected by all of the groups who participated was approximately \$6,000 or more. A great time at bowling was had by all.

And from **S.W.E.A.T. For HABITAT:**

Dear HABITAT Bowl-a-thon Supporters:

Congratulations and a huge thank you to all of you from the church congregations and business firms which supported the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth/Adult S.W.E.A.T. for HABITAT Bowl-a-thon on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Once again it was a great success. About 108 bowlers raised \$5,474 and we anticipate that amount will increase to at least \$6,000.00 as we continue to receive sponsor pledges.

As you most likely already know, all of the pledged dollars are used to build a Syracuse HABITAT house or tool sheds for HABITAT homes, which do not have garages or basements. All expenses are donated including door prizes and promotional mailings.

Again, none of this could have been accomplished without you and all the others who organized the teams. You did a wonderful job!

Ray and Barbara Leach, Co-Chairs

## *THANK YOU FROM THE CONGREGATION*

To: **Leslie Swift Rosenzweig, Alison Swift MacTavish, David Wackerle, Jane Coons, Marcia Hill, Esther Laventhal and David Hall for their faithful donation of flowers to grace our altar in memory of their parents who were long-time members of Bellevue Heights. We very much appreciate your generosity!**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL:

**April 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter:** Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

**April 10 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter:** Acts 9:1-6 (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**April 17 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter:** Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

**April 24 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter:** Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

## COFFEE HOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

April	Friends in Faith and Fellowship
May	Choir
June	Finance
July/August	Congregation Signups
September	Church Council
October	Youth Group
November	Worship
December	United Methodist Women
January	Trustees
February	Staff Parish
March	Christians in Action

## USHERS FOR MARCH:

Head Usher – Charlie Brown

Regular Ushers: Al Nielsen, Martha Madura, Will Streissguth

## GREETER:

Dawn Daggett

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## CAMILLUS ERIE CANAL PARK

An advertisement from our members who volunteer at Camillus Erie Canal Park, 5750 Devoe Road, Camillus:

**WELCOME ABOARD OUR 2016 DINNER CRUISES**, an unforgettable evening of dining and entertainment. A delicious Prime Rib Dinner with all its trimmings is prepared by our favorite local restaurant, Ernie's of Lakeland. Two alternative menus are available: Stuffed Breast of Chicken and Vegetable Primavera with Red Sauce.

Dinner cruises will be held on Wednesday evenings starting July 13 and ending August 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$30.00 per person.

Sailings begin promptly at 6 pm from Sims Store and bring you over the restored Aqueduct, the only one of its kind in New York State. Also, join us for a special Chicken Barbecue followed by a foliage cruise on Saturday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Make your reservation early. For reservations for all dinners, please call Vicky at 487-7895.

Proceeds from the cruises will be used for maintaining the restored Aqueduct. New volunteers are always welcome. It's great fun and we can easily train newcomers.

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## FREE CONCERTS

Temple Concord proudly presents the 2015-16 **Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series**, a monthly series of FREE concerts performed at Temple Concord, 910 Madison Street, Syracuse - open to everyone! All performances unless otherwise noted are on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. Free parking in the Temple lot, on the street, or 1200 E. Genesee St. Medical Building lot.

April 12, 2016 – **Syracuse City Ballet** – Artists from Central New York's premiere professional ballet company will perform dances from the classical repertoire as well as some more modern dance selections.

May 31, 2016 – **Symphoria Wind Quintet** – Come enjoy a variety of musical styles performed by the principal winds of Symphoria.



## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

### Congratulations to:

Kathryn and Robert Steel

4/03/1953

Elizabeth and Jeffrey Morey

4/06/1968

Joanne and Randall Bygall

4/16/1983

Linda and Patrick Rankin

4/19/1980

Lisa and Stephen Shope

4/20/1996

Janet and John Ott

4/23/1984

Please notify the church office, either by email or phone, of any necessary changes.

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## Roast Beef Dinner Coming Up!!

Bellevue Heights' annual spring Roast Beef Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please let Jim Morgan know now that you are willing to help in some capacity – setting up, cooking, serving, cleaning up, etc. Also, be sure to invite your family, friends and neighbors to our wonderful dinner!

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## LOVE GIFT APPLICATIONS

On Student Sunday each June, Love Gift checks are presented to those student members who are continuing their post-high school education in a two-year, four-year or five-year undergraduate degree program or in a state-certified educational program of study for six or more months.

Applications are available at the end of the mailboxes next to the stairs or by going to our website ([www.bellevueheights.org](http://www.bellevueheights.org)-click on Forms & Downloads). They are to be completed and returned to Linda in the church office or Gloria Brunner by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember: Students must re-apply for each qualifying year. If you need an application mailed, please call the church office (475-0011) or Gloria Brunner(492-3393).

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