

WEEKLY UPDATE

March 14, 2025

Erwin First UMC

920 Euclid Ave, Syracuse, NY 13210

(315) 472-4082

"A dynamic network of disciples of Jesus Christ

Growing deeper in faith. Growing wider in mission."

<http://www.erwinfirstchurch.org>

Dear friends,

I want to extend a personal invitation to join our Lenten Bible study, "Believe Like Jesus: Rising from Faith in Jesus to the Faith of Jesus," from March 11 to April 8. This powerful study promises to deepen your understanding of Christ and invigorate your spiritual journey.

We'll meet on Zoom on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. for engaging discussions and fellowship. This study invites us to shift our perspective, embrace Christ's teachings, and truly live like Him.

Click the Zoom link below to be part of this enriching experience

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85285834322?pwd=mU03giaBT7Hjeiw3XFekbZGJ2AtdpD.1>

Meeting ID: 852 8583 4322

Passcode: 292088

When: Mar 18, 2025, 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEvf-ygrT8pGNbpiAnmnaS6dYsSGJ2XfA94/ics?icsToken=DPjuyPINc3fjPKIrwaALAAAAMwTzhPegHdXMX87M-5L5U--NkA6dqsImWib-MUa7c7g45rEo8FKY3SUz5wM_X5UHonwex4KvOSlmmrfDAwMDAwMQ&meetingMasterEventId=250Ip3ZHR YyF1ym0FOKZA

The Scripture reading for Sunday, March 16, is from Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 The sermon title is "From Darkness to Discovery."

Below are the links for Sunday's service.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/510737488357995/>

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/live/L5FMBLa2UN0?feature=share>

May God bless you richly as you journey through this Lenten season.

Nola Anderson, Rev.

Easter Plants for Purchase for Easter Sunday



Order forms are out for those who would like to help decorate our sanctuary by purchasing spring flower plants. They will beautify our Easter morning Service! Afterward, you can take them home to honor your loved ones.

Tell us whom you want to honor or memorialize on the order form. Your name and your honorees' names will appear in the Easter Sunday worship bulletin. Forms are *attached to this email*. There are also printouts on our Community Board table (with envelopes). You may put orders in the offering box in the Sanctuary. Checks can be made out to Erwin First UMC and place Easter plants in the memo line.

THE ORDER DEADLINE IS NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

Easter Lilies

Chrysanthemums (yellow, white, pink/purple or mix)

Daffodils

Tulips (yellow, pink, white, or red)

Hyacinths (pink, white or blue)

Here at Erwin First

The Office is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

Upcoming Activities/Events

March

March 18- Bible Study, 6:30 pm on Zoom

March 25- Bible Study, 6:30 pm on Zoom

April

April 1- Bible Study, 6:30 pm on Zoom

April 8- Bible Study, 6:30 pm on Zoom

April 13- Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 am

April 18- Good Friday Service at 7 pm

April 20- Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 am

A Letter from Erwin First Trustees.

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

After approximately 15 years of service, the boiler failed, and we replaced most of it. This was a necessity to ensure our space remains welcoming and functional for all who come to encounter Christ. Of course, replacing a large piece of equipment that is vital to the use of this large building came with a significant cost.

The cost of the boiler repair is \$38,500, which includes the boiler parts and installation. We have an outstanding balance of \$18,262

Will you join us in preserving our church home by making a special financial contribution towards the boiler repair? Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. If you can't contribute financially, please keep this community of faith in your prayers. Your support, in any form, is a profound act of faith and love.

This community of the United Methodist Church is here, at this corner in Syracuse, as a beacon to all. We are on a drumlin (a small, rounded hill) at a place where so many can see our steeple or hear our carillon ringing out. In this space, on this little hill, we can represent Jesus as written in Matthew 5, also known as the Sermon on the Mount, where he gave us the Beatitudes.

We are here to minister to those around us in whatever state they are in. We are surrounded by families and students. We are called to make disciples of Christ.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak with Rodney.

Please consider contributing to help with the cost of the boiler repair.

Thank you to those who have already responded to this appeal. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Blessings and Peace!

The Trustees of Erwin First UM Church

The House of Light Bible Study

Our young adult group meets on Fridays at 5:30 for college students and young adults from the community. We are also looking for volunteers to provide dinners. Please contact Dorcas for the dinner schedule if you would like to provide or donate a dinner.



Exciting News for Erwin: Erwin's Thrift Store is Opening Soon!

Contact Rebecca at redecaserves1111@outlook.com or Dorcas at deerdz28@yahoo.com for more information



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Birthdays

March 3 Rachel Munnett
March 6 Jeff Jordan
March 14 Tom Abbot
March 21 Rebecca Plank
March 25 Kim Parr

No March Anniversaries



Pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones:

Families of all those who lost their lives in the recent plane crashes. The families of those who lost their lives in the stampede in India. Families of those who lost their lives in the fires in LA. All others mourning the loss of loved ones.

Pray for the sick:

Charlie, Ralph Vincitore (Lisa's dad), Ruby, Glo, Carol, Cindy, Diane, Barbara, Taylor, Yong Kim Fah (Monica's brother), Ann Crawford (Terry's sister), Lisa, Elsa, Laurena, Dennis, Myrta, Debbie, Connie, and two of our congregants with ailing parents in other parts of the world.

College Students:

Asriel, Evelyn, Natalie, Precious, and others

Other Concerns

Pray for all Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Migrants, Immigrants, and Emigrants, as well as those who are victims of snowstorms, wildfires, typhoons, hurricanes, tornados, and other natural disasters. Also, pray for the unemployed and underemployed, those in detention centers, and those being deported.

The Church

Upper New York Conference Staff, Bishop Héctor Burgos, the Cabinet members, and the SUMM congregations.

World Concerns

People in Lebanon, Congo, Venezuela, Syria, South and North Korea, South Africa, Italy, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Afghanistan, Haiti, Taiwan, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Greece, and Indonesia. Pray for humanitarian relief efforts around the world.

Our Country

Pray for all elected leaders, peace, and security in our country. Pray for the unemployed and those who are fearful and anxious; also, pray for the homeless and solutions and support for the most vulnerable in this country.

Do you have a prayer request?

A sign-up sheet has been set out on the entry lectern where we place the service bulletins for you to write your prayer concerns, send us an email, or call the church office.

SYRACUSE UNITED METHODIST MINISTRIES (SUMM)



The 45th United Methodist and Friends Night at the Ballpark- July 24, 2025

Syracuse United Methodist Ministries is sponsoring

A Family & Friends Fun Night

NBT Bank Stadium

1 Tex Simone Drive

Syracuse NY 13208

Syracuse Mets vs Omaha Storm Chasers

Game starts at 6:35pm

Tickets are \$18.00

Syracuse Mets vs Omaha Storm Chasers

There will be no tailgate party, but food and beverages will be discounted (Dollar Thursday). Like last year, we will have 200-level assigned seats. We will gather at 6.15 pm at Home Plate to sing the national anthem.

Please do not miss this fun event. Order your tickets by JULY 10, 2025.

For more information or ticket reservation, please call or email

Rev. Andy M Anderson – at 917-723-0901 Email: andmcand@hotmail.com

Darlene Dennis – 315-345-6338 Email: rdennis31@verizon.net

Bellevue Heights UMC – 315-475-0011 Email: bellevueheightsums@gmail.com.

Make Check Payable to: Bellevue Heights UMC with Game written on the memo line and mail to: Bellevue Heights UMC, 2112 S. Geddes Street, Syracuse, NY 13207

Please, do not miss this fun event. Order your tickets by July 10.

[CLICK HERE for Flyer and order Form](#)

MONTHLY MISSION: March -Bag lunches for the homeless in Syracuse

We, the members of Syracuse United Methodist Ministries, which includes members from Bellevue Heights, Brown Memorial, Erwin First, Gethsemane, St. Paul's, and University UMC, reaffirmed the importance of strengthening collaboration within the Syracuse community. We agreed to focus on deepening our relationships, staying informed about activities at each site, and providing mutual support to foster this collaboration. Our goal is to create a culture of shared learning and growth. To this end, each month we will spotlight one of our locations or engage in a mission project. For the month of March, SUMM will provide bag lunches for the homeless in the city of Syracuse.

SUMM WEEKLY ONLINE PRAYER GATHERING:

Join with clergy and members of Syracuse United Methodist Ministries online on Wednesday mornings at 7 am to 7:30 am.

Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83291458243?pwd=SNOf0yFq4Faerv0PWn44NIPwF7ibaP.1>

Meeting ID: 832 9145 8243

Passcode: 668210

SUMM FUNDRAISERS

The Syracuse United Methodist Ministries leadership team, consisting of Bellevue Heights, Brown Memorial, Erwin First, Gethsemane, St. Paul's, and University UMC, is attempting to raise \$12,000 to assist with the ministries. We have planned some fundraising events to help us realize that goal. Your support for the following is needed.

Lenten Booklets- February- March-Collected so far \$40.00

Coins for Lent -March 5 to April 20 -see attachment

Bottles and cans – collected so far \$272.15

See the details for the bottle and can drive below.

SUMM Bottle and Can Drive:

The Syracuse United Methodist Ministries (SUMM) has organized a yearlong bottle and can drive.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE – YOU CAN BRING RECYCLE CANS & BOTTLES TO ERWIN

Erwin has two designated drop-off places at the church:

1. A smaller recycling container is in the narthex area for smaller amounts.
2. For full bags, you may set them in the stairwell off the main floor (parking lot level).

Volunteers at Erwin will periodically take them to the **Express Bottle Return, 2312 Erie Blvd. East.**

We welcome volunteers who are willing to take a turn to make that run. Please let them know that you are depositing toward the Syracuse United Methodist Ministries Fundraiser.

The RESTART Ministry Needs twin, full and queen size blankets in new or like new condition

For the families we are helping, this is something they are always needing. We run out of them quickly! And please, they must be in good condition. **Thank you!**

We can also use volunteers:

Mondays: 1 – 3 pm at the RESTART headquarters (4845 West Seneca Turnpike, Syracuse, NY) - to help sort and put away donated items, focusing mostly on linens and kitchen supplies.

Tuesdays – Picking up and delivering donations. 2 different shifts: 12pm – 4:30pm & 5pm – 6:30 pm

Household Repairs: Restart needs someone to repair lamps and small furniture (tables and chairs).

Your help would be greatly appreciated! If interested, call or email Evelyn Disinger at 315-857-7634 or edisinger235@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES from the Interfaith Community Co-op at University UMC

For more information contact Galyn Murphy-Stanley at University United Methodist Church outreach@uumcsyracuse.org or 315-475-7277

Friday, March 14, 2025 8:45am-12noon Assist with the Emergency Food box distribution

Saturday, March 15, 2025- after 2pm Set up lower level kitchen/gather needed supplies for Community Breakfast *MUST contact Joyce Flynn jhflynn56@gmail.com for more information

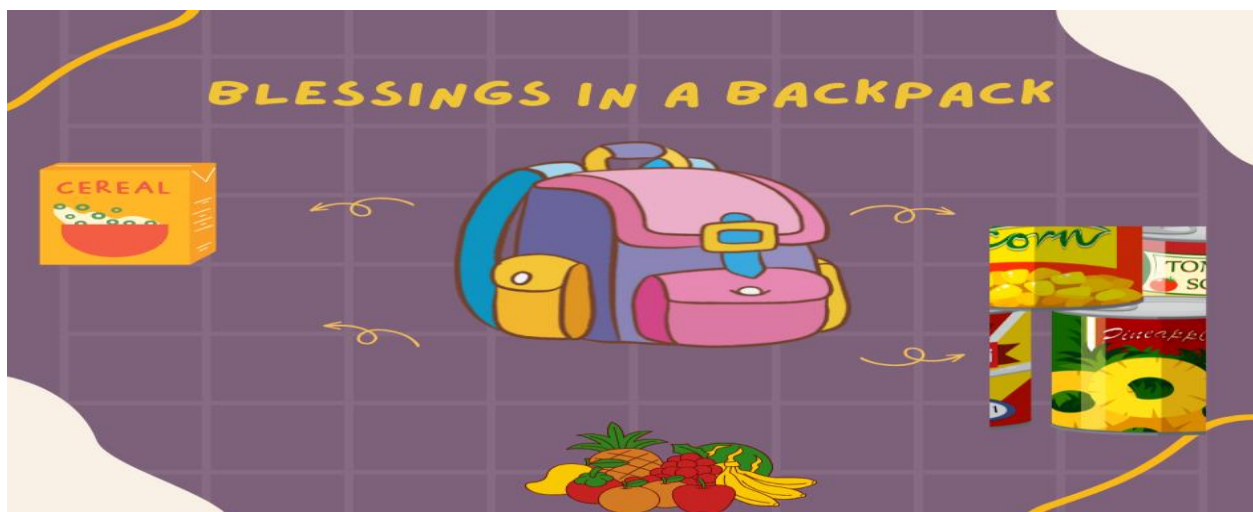
Sunday, March 16, 2025 8-10:30am Assist with To-Go Community Breakfast and supporting access to Clothing Room, sorting, organizing clothing for guests

SIRDN (Syracuse Immigrant Refugee Defence Network) is a group of volunteers who work for immigrant justice in CNY and beyond in organizing, advocacy and solidarity support for directly affected individuals and their families. Born of the Workers' Center of CNY who join with us in showing up as allies and accomplices in the fight for human dignity for all people.

Interest in volunteering? Contact sirdn315@gmail.com for more information

Want to be part of our (volunteer) driver pool? Please get in touch with us at sirdn315@gmail.com.

About financial support: SIRDN is an all volunteer organization, under the umbrella of the Workers Center of CNY. We have a limited amount of funds which are exclusively used for supporting the people affected by the unfair immigration system. If you wish to support SIRDN financially, please send a check made out to the Workers Center of CNY, and put SIRDN in the memo line. The WCCNY is a 501c3. The address is WCCNY, 2013 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY, 13210



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church Chapter

Celebrating 9 years of ensuring hunger-free weekends for over 400 Delaware Primary School students throughout the school year.

The children receive school breakfast and lunch during the week. Our Blessings in a Backpack program at Delaware Primary School makes sure they're getting healthy, kid-friendly, ready-to-eat breakfasts, entrees and snacks over the weekend.

Your gift of \$150 will feed one child every weekend of the school year. Our program is made possible through charitable giving. Your gift in any amount is gratefully appreciated.

Please give today:

1. **Securely online** by clicking [Donate](#).
2. By **Check** payable to Bellevue Heights UMC with **BIBP in the memo line**. Mail to Bellevue Heights United Methodist Church, 2112 S. Geddes Street, Syracuse, NY 13207

Join us in making a difference. For more information about BIBP at Delaware School, click [HERE](#)

**Donation forms can also be found on the Erwin community board table with self-addressed envelopes.*

DISTRICT & CONFERENCE NEWS

Conference info

UMHEF Scholarship April 1st Deadline

Apply by April 1 for Scholarships from the UM Higher Education Foundation!

Applications are due April 1st for scholarships from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Don't miss out on some of the \$2+ million awarded every year to students attending United Methodist-related colleges, universities, and seminaries. Learn more and apply by April 1st at <https://umhef.org/apply>. (Note: UMHEF scholarships are separate from those offered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.)

UM Dollars for Scholars Program Awards up to \$4,000!

The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation offers the UM Dollars for Scholars program. A \$1,000 scholarship from a student's church is matched by UMHEF as well as participating UM-related schools and UM conference foundations for up to \$4,000 to help pay your higher education. Learn more and apply by April 1st at <https://umhef.org/umdfs>. (Awards and final amounts are not guaranteed.)

[SCHOLARSHIP FAQs](#)

[2025 UMHEF REFERENCE GUIDE](#)

ERT Basic Training:

Celebrate UMCOR Sunday a day early by joining an

Early Response Team Training on March 29th!

This training will give you the skills you need to make a difference when disaster strikes in your community.

You'll learn key skills like roof tarping, debris removal, and how to care for survivors.

Date: March 29th, 9AM - 5PM

Location: Rush United Methodist Church (6200 Rush Lima Rd, Rush, NY)

Cost: \$35 (includes materials, lunch, background check, and ID badge)

Register here: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/vimtraining/event/ertspring25/>

Questions: disasterresponse@unyumc.org

2025 Safe Sanctuaries Training Dates

Below are all the 2025 Safe Sanctuaries Training Dates with Registration Links. There is also attached a flyer to post and share.

We are back to doing in-person trainings, so if anyone is inquiring, please send them my way and we will do what we can to set them up. Please make sure they know that we will not do an in-person for less than 10 people in attendance. So, we are encouraging churches that want an in person to let you know, so you can send out information to either area churches or to your entire district, the more we can train at one training the better.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

3.5hr Basic Training

Saturday, May 3, 2025 9am - 12:30pm Registration Opens April 1, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes April 30, 2025 @ Midnight (no exceptions)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/UGSg1m3ASA9yLsqW8>

Saturday, August 2, 2025 9am - 12:30pm Registration Opens July 1, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes July 30, 2025 @ Midnight (no exceptions) Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/NZbjx91525fEw5629>

Saturday, November 1, 2025 9am - 12:30pm Registration Opens October 1, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes October 29, 2025 @ Midnight (no exceptions)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/c7vuv36VFcT2315F7>

TOT – Train the Trainer

Saturday, October 4, 2025 9am - 12:30pm Registration Opens September 1, 2025 @ Midnight & Closes October 1, 2025 @ Midnight (no exceptions)

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/2N1Vv8h4nWHb6V1k7>

****In-person training available for 10+ participants by contacting safesanctuaries@unyumc.org*

Click on the link below to stay up to date with what's happening in the Upper New York Conference.

- [Weekly Digest: March 12, 2025](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTCOTT COMMUNITY CENTER FOOD COLLECTION

A large, designated bin is located in the sanctuary area.

Aside from its food pantry, the WCC offers an array of services for the elderly, youth, and people with basic needs, including legal advice, mental health, education, job training, and job search programs. To take a closer look, check out their website: <https://westcottcc.org/>

Thank you for your donations.

WESTCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC. Actively engages the greater Westcott neighborhood in order to strengthen the quality of life in the Westcott community. They aim to enable residents to collectively enjoy and improve “their” neighborhood.

To see their calendar of events or how you can get involved click the link to their website.

<https://westcottsy.com/>

Blessings!