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## Something to think about

Now that we are re-emerging from pandemic isolation, my wardrobe is in need of an update so I have been doing some online clothes shopping. This, of course, also means that Google is suddenly

blanketing my search page with ads for clothes and footwear, and one recent ad trumpeted the tremendous health benefits of the MBT shoe, MBT standing for “Masai Barefoot Technology.”

The shoe is manufactured in Switzerland but the company claims its design is inspired by the Masai tribe of East Africa.

“Dating back to 1400 BC” the ad claims, “the Masai people have always walked barefoot on the soft sandy ground of the Mara plain. This ever-shifting, uneven terrain causes the Masai’s muscles to work harder developing into natural shock absorbers that protect their back, knee, and hip joints. Instead of slouching, the Masai’s barefoot lifestyle forces them into an erect, better balanced posture that alights the skeletal system properly, and takes the pressure off muscles and joints.”

Supposedly, a Swiss engineer was inspired by the Masai’s gait to develop a superior walking shoe and so for only \$100, you too, can get the same health benefits that Masai people get for free by walking barefoot.

The Masai are an indigenous people who originally lived nomadic lives near Mount Kilimanjaro but have been pushed into smaller and smaller territories as their lands are turned into wildlife and nature preserves or gobbled up by encroaching settlements. The loss of land has forced them to sell many of their cattle, become semi-agricultural, and even get jobs in the Tanzanian economy threatening their traditional lifestyle. While Americans are walking around in expensive shoes inspired by the barefoot Masai, the Masai are struggling to maintain their communities and not fall into poverty. The rich have always romanticized the poor: teenagers pay \$50 to buy a pair of jeans carefully designed to look faded and torn making poverty into a fashion statement; homeowners decorate their houses with distressed furniture so that it looks like it’s been banging about the house for years; and of course, our movies and stories perpetuate the myth that the poor in impoverished places are happier than the wealthy because they aren’t distracted by possessions. It is true that when I visited Haiti and the impoverished neighborhoods of the Dominican Republic with the church youth, I did observe strong community and family ties and we attended joyful worships filled with music and laughter, but we also saw malnutrition, children who sucked on mangos to fill their empty stomachs, depleted soil and deforested hills, and daunting health care problems which caused great suffering and anxiety for the families with whom we worked. Poverty when it leads to misery is not glamorous at all. Like the Masai people, women in Haiti have a posture that would

be the envy of Americans bent from years of slouching over desks, but their erect posture is the result of having to carry jars of water on their head for long distances. I'd guess any one of those women would trade their posture for a neighborhood well in a heartbeat.

June's Mission of the Month is "Choose Your Own Organization," and I chose to make an extra donation to Haiti Outreach which works with Haitian communities to dig wells in impoverished areas. Access to clean water helps prevent disease and lightens the burden on women who are the primary water bearers, adding to the quality of their lives. Christ cared for the poor but he never glamorized them. He never said to a beggar on the streets, "How I envy you your free time to sit and watch the people in the city. My followers could learn a lesson in mindfulness from your lifestyle." Instead, he told his followers to sell what they had and give it to those poor. My small donation isn't even close to what Jesus asks of us but it is a start. Added to the donation of others it may make one village in Haiti more livable and the lives of its people easier; and I know without a doubt that it will be of more help to those struggling in poverty than if I spent it buying expensive shoes emulating the "healthy lifestyle" of the impoverished.

O Lord, you are my God;  
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.....



For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

Isaiah 25:1, 4



THINK OF US IN  
THIS WAY, AS  
SERVANTS OF  
CHRIST AND  
STEWARDS OF  
GOD'S  
MYSTERIES.

**I CORINTHIANS 4:1**

# Church News & Events

## Summer Worship

Fusion Church will continue throughout the summer with members of the congregation offering the message along with Sarah Jacoby—Murphy who we enjoyed hearing from last summer.

## When the Pastor is Away ...

While Rev. DeMott is away this summer, if you have concerns about worship-related or spiritual matters please contact Deb Stephens, chair of the Board of Elders (617.304.9332). If there are concerns or needs relating to members of the congregation, please contact Diaconate chair, Sharon Burdick. (607.769.8344).



*You are invited  
To*

*The Annual UUC Prayer Breakfast*

*On*

*July 25, 2021*

*At 10:30 am*

*In the Side Yard of the Church Center*

***Due to concerns about sharing food  
during a pandemic, we ask you this  
year to***

***Please Bring Your Own Breakfast***

## “Where Charity & Love Prevail”

Our Mission of the Month for June was for members to donate to a charity of their choice. What follows is a list of the organizations that benefitted from your generosity:

UNICEF  
Catholic Medical Missions Board (CMMB)  
Cancer Fund  
USA for UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency  
Alfred Ambulance  
Lutheran World Relief  
Operation Smile  
St. Jude’s Research Hospital for Children  
code.org  
TNR (Carrie Jefferds)  
Planned Animal Life  
Trevor Project (gay teen suicide prevention)  
Hart Comfort House  
World Vision child sponsorship  
Compassion child sponsorship  
Amnesty International  
Mennonite Mission in Guatemala  
Meserete Kristos in Ethiopia  
ACC FFW  
Matthew 25 Ministries  
Haiti Outreach

***“Where charity and love prevail,  
There God is ever found;  
Brought here together by Christ’s love,  
By love are we thus bound.”***



**God is love.**  
Whoever lives in love lives in God,  
and **God** in him.

1 John 4:16

## Church Transfer

The transfer of the church property from the SDB to UUC was completed on Tuesday afternoon with the signing of the deed followed by its filing at the court house. The trustees have formed a committee to assess the conditions at the church building and make recommendations for the trustee board to consider. Members of that committee are Walter Schulze, Jerry Jusianiec, Dave Porter, Lana Meissner, and John and Laurel Buckwalter. The trustees had voted several months ago to replace the carpeting on the stairs and platform area. Installation of the new carpet will be July 12-13.



## Transitional Minister Update

The Transitional Minister Search Committee was disappointed to learn that our first candidate was unable to accept an offer from us. Co-chairs Larry Casey and Dave Porter have identified two additional candidates and the committee interviewed one on July 1 and will interview the other during the following week.

## UUC Centennial Activities

will begin on Rally Day, September 12, 2021 with a video “teaser” and timeline. A variety of events will be held during each quarter of the 2021-2022 church year culminating in a Centennial dinner celebration in September, 2022.

**Videos, photos, etc.:** Larry Casey is working on putting together a series of video presentations and has requested materials from members of the congregation. He is especially interested in any materials from past Rally Days, Christmas programs, and Easter events. If you have any items to share please contact Larry directly ([lcasey1834@gmail.com](mailto:lcasey1834@gmail.com)) or notify the Church Office ([uucalfred@gmail.com](mailto:uucalfred@gmail.com)). **The deadline for submissions is July 18.**

**Memories, stories, etc.:** Mindy Smith & Mary Ann Whittemore are working on a church timeline and are looking for any stories or special memories you have of UUC. Please contact Mindy (607.644.6283) or Mary Ann (252.676.0951) if you have things you’d like to share.



## Save the Date

October 23, 2021

Retirement Celebration  
for Rev. DeMott

**Rev. DeMott will be retiring on December 31, 2021 and we will celebrate her 38 years of ministry as our pastor at a catered celebration in her honor on October 23rd. Please mark your calendars for this important time together.**

# People



## *From*

**Alfred Area Food Pantry:** *On behalf of the Alfred Area Food Pantry and the Alfred Station Seventh Day Baptist Church, we extend our warmest thanks for your kind donation to the Food Pantry. It is the dedication and generosity of the community members that help our area residents in time of need. We are indeed grateful for the valuable contribution you make to our community. God bless you for your generosity. In His service, Linda S. Butts*

**Equal Justice Initiative:** *Thank you very much for your generous donation supporting the work of the Equal Justice Initiative. Your support of \$1,090 received on May 11, 2021, is crucial to the success of our efforts to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenge racial and economic injustice, and to protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. With so much important work ahead, we are energized by your commitment to EJI and are grateful that you choose to stand with us. Your partnership makes our work possible. With Warm regards, Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director.*

**Bob Fitzrandolph (regarding the Church tree removal and garden plantings, accompanied by a generous donation toward the project):** *Laurel, Thanks so much for working on this! You seem to be a serious gardener, as is my wife. Let me know if you have any other expenses. We all still consider ourselves Alfredians. Bob*

## *To*

### **Church Maintenance Volunteers:**

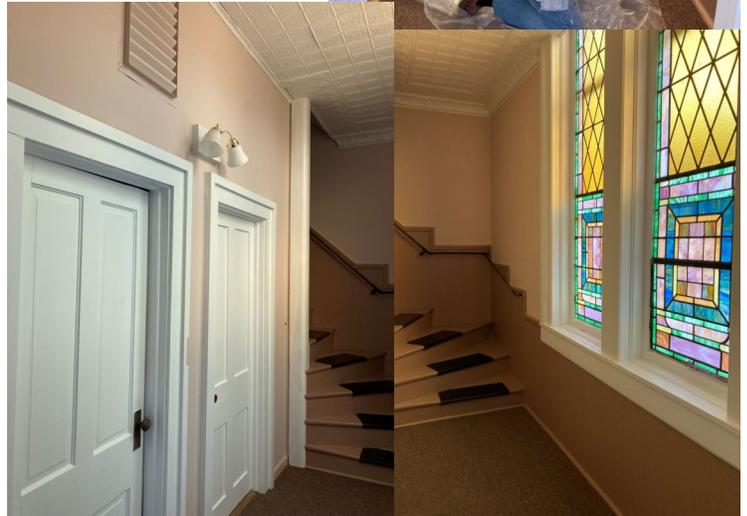
**Painting**—Laurel & John Buckwalter, Lana Meissner

**Grounds**—Jerry Jusianiec, Laurel & John Buckwalter, Lana Meissner, Steve Smith, Deb Stephens, Luanne Crosby, Myrna Berrios, Denise Grandusky.

**Weather Stripping**—Linell Soule & Bill Sartore for weather stripping the church foyer door to prevent heat loss.

**Closet Repair & Cleaning**— Dave Porter for replacing the broken sliding door guides and cleaning the church center closet.

John Buckwalter & Lana Meissner put finishing touches on the church hallway paint job.



Praying for...

Ding Jiaxi & family, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Lois Stiles, Wes Bentz, 3 yr. old Lowin, Marnie Johnson (Joan Schulze's niece), Sharon Burdick, Michele Hluchy's father (Rev. Stephen Hluchy), Tiersa Watson's mother (recovering from hip surgery), Sharon & Roger Smith, Nolan Tormey (recovering from knee surgery).



**Church Office Closed**  
Monday, July 12—Tuesday, July 20  
Thursday, July 29—Wednesday, August 4

**July**

*July 18: August 8 Rev DeMott will be away from the pulpit*  
July 18: Fusion Church, Rick Stephens providing the message  
July 25: Prayer Breakfast (bring your own breakfast)

**August**

August 1 - Fusion Church, John Buckwalter providing the message  
August 8 - Fusion Church, Sarah Jacoby-Murphy  
August 15 - Rev. DeMott returns to the pulpit



**Remember your  
pledge this summer**



## July Board Members of the Month

Deacon.....Sharon Burdick (vernsharon@frontiernet.net; 607.769.8344)  
 Elder.....Larry Casey (lcasey1834@gmail.com; 607.382.2772)  
 BOCE.....TBD  
 Fellowship.....TBD  
 Trustee.....Laurel Buckwalter (laurelbuckwalter@gmail.com; 607.968.0669)  
 & Denise Grandusky

## August Board Members of the Month

Deacon.....Barb Willis (bjw2112@verizon.net; 607.382.8636)  
 Elder.....Jen Smith (smith08family@hotmail.com; 607.661.0320)  
 BOCE.....TBD  
 Fellowship.....TBD  
 Trustee.....Laurel Buckwalter (laurelbuckwalter@gmail.com; 607.968.0669)

Who do you call? Flowers or lay leading—call an Elder; greeting or coffee hour—call a Deacon;

## Upcoming Sunday Leaders

If you are not able to serve as scheduled, please switch with someone listed on the charts below and notify the Church Office. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, please contact either the Elder of the Month or the Deacon of the Month.

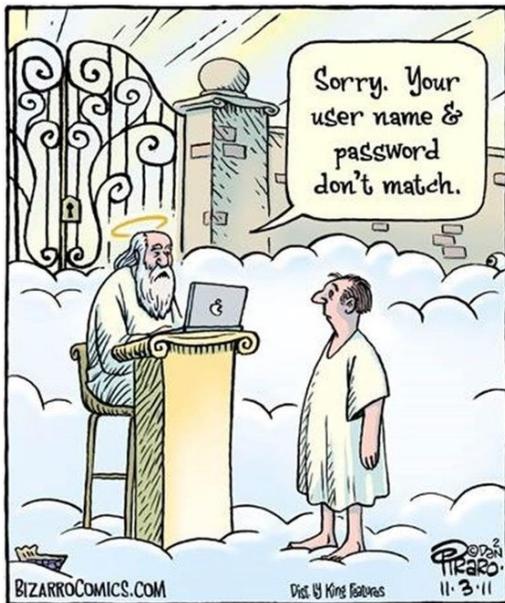
Date	Lay Leader	Flowers	Coffee	Usher
July 4	Casey	Communion	Burdick	Heineman
July 11	Meissner	Cartledge	Willis	Heineman
July 18	J. Bowden	Whittemore	Bowden	Heineman
July 25	Prayer Breakfast Elders	Prayer Breakfast Elders	Prayer Breakfast Fellowship Comm.	Heineman
Aug 1	Jen Smith	TBD	Cartledge	Heineman
Aug 8	R. Stephens	Buckwalter	Soule	Heineman
Aug 15	Dewey	Meissner	Slack	Heineman
Aug 22	Sharon Smith	Luo	McHale	Heineman
Aug 29	D. Stephens	Stephens	Edwards	Heineman

# Just for Fun

## A minister decided to do something a little different one Sunday morning.

He said "Today, in church, I am going to say a single word and you are going to help me preach."  
Whatever single word I say, I want you to sing whatever hymn that comes to your mind.  
The pastor shouted out, "Cross."  
Immediately the congregation started singing in unison, "The Old Rugged Cross." The pastor hollered out "Grace." The congregation began to sing "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound."  
The pastor said "Power." The congregation sang "There is Power in the Blood."  
The Pastor said "Sex." The congregation fell into total silence.

Everyone was in shock. They all nervously began to look around at each other afraid to say anything. Then all of a sudden from way in the back of the church a little 87 year old grandmother stood up and began to sing..... "Precious Memories."



## Pope John Paul II gets to heaven. St. Peter says, "Frankly, you're lucky to be here."

Pope says, "Why? What did I do wrong on earth?"  
St. Peter says, "God was very angry with your stance on women becoming priests."  
Pope says, "He's mad about THAT?"  
St. Peter says, "She's furious."

One day 2020 will be the one-word Catch-phrase for everything messed up. "How's your day?", "A total 2020.", "Say no more."



## Father O'Brian, a young priest, was sent to a very small church in the backwoods of Alaska.

After a couple of years the Bishop decided to pay the priest a visit to see how he was doing.  
Father O'Brian said "this is a very lonely job and I don't think that I could have made it this long without my Rosary and two martinis each day."

"What?!" Exclaimed the Bishop. "You've taken to drinking? What kind of example is that to set for the community? This doesn't reflect well on the church."

"But the loneliness, I just couldn't stand it. If it weren't for my Rosary and those two martinis a day, I would surely have gone insane."  
The Bishop thought a moment, then said "I guess that is understandable considering..."

With that the priest said to the Bishop, "Would you like to have a martini with me?"

The Bishop said, "well, I really shouldn't but...Yes, that would be nice. I think I will, but just this once."

The priest turned around and hollered toward the kitchen, "Hey Rosary, would you fix us two martinis please?"



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**July/August, 2021 Newsletter**