

UMH Remains Committed to their Mission and Faith-Based Heritage

United Methodist Homes, in addition to five-star quality care and non-profit status, remains committed to raising the bar in senior living options that incorporate a holistic approach to care. When we look at the well-being of an individual, we must consider the entire person, physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Aligned with their faith-based heritage and belief in caring for the whole person, three of the four campuses within the organization have a full-time dedicated chaplain and a part-time chaplain for their smallest campus. The chaplains serve a very crucial role in leading and coordinating a multi-denominational program open to all faiths as well as providing individual counseling and support to residents, their families, as well as employees.

“We believe it is imperative to offer seniors the opportunity to continue to exercise their faith. Having a full-time chaplain in a senior living community is a great resource. Essentially, it provides another

level and dimension to our care, providing residents with virtually, an on-call type service,” stated Ron Patti, Hilltop Executive Director. Many residents are contending with illness and loss in their lives... loss of abilities, loss of a spouse. Therefore, grief counseling services on campus is a crucial resource providing a support system for the residents. In addition to regular services, residents have access to all of the special services throughout the holidays. Reverend Janet Abel remarked, “Lent is a very busy time at Elizabeth Church and St. Louise Manor. Receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday is extremely important to most of our residents. We do weekly Lenten study to observe Stations of the Cross each Friday. On Palm Sunday, I stop by every room in the nursing home, as many cannot get out to receive palm. After five Holy Week services, we gather to celebrate Easter with great joy. It’s a holy and meaningful time.”



Rev. Janet Abel



Rev. Lea Harding

(continued on page 7)

The Safety and Well-Being of our Residents and Staff Remains our Utmost Concern and Priority



While this is not the message I intended to write, I feel I must address the current public health emergency posed by the COVID-19 pandemic along with our efforts to prevent the spread to our campuses. I would like to commend our leadership, management and all staff on their prompt response and actions taken to ensure that our residents, staff, and communities remain safe.

On all of our campuses, we have been proactive in implementing every necessary guideline often before mandated. Visitor restrictions, employee screenings, canceled group activities and communal dining are some of the preventative measures that have been implemented to ensure the safety of our residents. Senior adults are one of the most vulnerable populations and we take our responsibility for their care very seriously.

We came into this situation as a strong organization with solid Board support, dedicated leadership, and amazingly resilient staff. I believe we see people's true character under pressure and the character of our staff is proving beyond impressive. They are working tirelessly to care for our residents, not only to meet their physical needs, but their spiritual and social needs. Now more than ever, they play a vital role in fulfilling the residents' need to feel connected to others. With this type of teamwork and unity, I'm confident we'll not only get through this, but come out even stronger.

The safety and well-being of our residents and staff remains our utmost concern and priority. Our task force is talking daily and reviewing guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC), and federal, state and local health departments. We are staying ahead of this to reach our ultimate goal—reduce the potential for the virus entering our buildings. As soon as we are safely able to lift visitation restrictions and resume normal activities, we will do so. In the meantime, we will continue to update our website with the most up-to-date information regarding each campus's restrictions: www.unitedmethodisthomes.org.

I would like to thank our Board, staff, residents, and families for their overwhelming support and understanding during these times. I look forward to the time that we can all gather again. Until then, thank you for your continued support, understanding, and cooperation.

Brian Picchini, President and CEO

Recurring Gift Program

New for 2020, donors can now make an ongoing monthly donation through our Recurring Gift Program. This is an easy and affordable way to continually make a positive impact on the lives of our residents. Amazing things happen when we join our resources!

For more information or to enroll in the program, contact **Heather Murphy** at the Foundation at **(607) 775-6400 x1281** or **hmurphy@umhwc.org**.

"I don't know of any other organization like this that supports their residents the way you do. That's one reason we chose to move here. We wish more people that could give, would. The need is only going to grow in the future."

- Dan & Bette Knight,
Donors & Residents

Brooks Estates Clubhouse Re-Opens Following A Complete Renovation

Located on the Wesley Village Campus, the Irene Raeder Community Center—named in honor of a former resident of Brooks Estates whose generous endowment made the center possible—underwent a complete renovation and re-opened this past November. Residents of Brooks Estates have been enjoying the newly appointed space with a plethora of activities occurring daily.

Focus groups were held with the residents in establishing the re-design. The community center now boasts a large and multi-functional community room, social hall and bar area, reading nook with a small library, fitness center equipped with treadmills, recumbent bikes, weight bench, and dumbbells. The space serves as a central hub drawing residents daily for regular activities as well as independent leisure



pursuits. It provides the perfect gathering area for special events in which catering options are also available to residents and staff. Some of the favorite pastimes include shuffleboard, “move and groove” exercise class, party on the patio, card games, scheduled excursions, and more! There is never a dull

moment and residents can be as social or as private as they care to be.

Throughout our entire organization and for all campuses, offering the “live-better lifestyle” remains a focus and central to the overall

resident experience. Residents can appreciate peace of mind with 24 hours a day, seven days a week maintenance and security, lawn care and snow removal. This is what draws most seniors to the community—the pursuit of a worry-free, maintenance-free lifestyle with amenities at their fingertips and the burdens of home maintenance and upkeep a distant memory. Additionally, access to care when care is needed is also a critical draw and focal point for prospective residents.



UMH Foundation 4th Annual Golf Tournament

After careful consideration, the 4th Annual United Methodist Homes Foundation Golf Tournament will be cancelled for 2020. Due to hardships related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we feel it's best for our sponsors and golfers to take this year and recuperate - both financially and in health.

All funds raised from the tournament directly benefit our Resident Assistance Program. This critical program provides continuity of care for residents that have



exhausted their financial resources. Your support gives them peace of mind that cannot be measured in dollars. In lieu of golf registration or sponsorship, those who wish may continue to support this program by donating at unitedmethodisthomes.org/giving or by returning the enclosed envelope.

We hope that you and your families stay well and look forward to seeing you on the course next year! You can follow golf updates at unitedmethodisthomes.org/golf.

Activity Highlights

Tunkhannock

Hands & Clay program with local artist Ellen Jamiolkowski is back at Tunkhannock Manor! Last year, the program

sponsored by the PA Council of the Arts was a big success and the inspiration for the



Grandparent's Day Pop-Up Art Show and Open House. Tunkhannock hosted local artist, Ellen Jamiolkowski for a residency focused on clay and ceramics. Ellen worked with the residents to create a collaborative piece that was unveiled at the Grandparent's Day event and now hangs at the campus for all to enjoy for years to come. The program's success inspired an anonymous donation, allowing the program to run twice a week for 12 weeks.

Elizabeth Church

The Elizabeth Church Campus was full of love in February! Elizabeth Church Manor residents and

their family members enjoyed a Kings and Queens Valentine's Day party. The staff voted on a Valentine's King and Queen for each floor, then crowned the winners at the party. Saint



Louise Manor residents attended Valentine's Traditional Tea,

complete with vintage tea sets. "One of our favorite events at Elizabeth Church is the King & Queen of Hearts party, our staff loves participating and voting for their choice of king & queen. Our residents are always so surprised when they win. The families enjoy seeing this special moment for their loved one. It is a great time had by all!" - Kathy Micha, Activities Director



Hilltop

In February, 30 students from the Cosmetology program at Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) made a special visit to the Hilltop Campus to treat residents to a Spa Day. The Spa Day Menu included

hair styling, makeup, and manicures. Residents also enjoyed time in the massage chairs while sipping mimosas. "This event was positive for both the residents and students. The students joined us for 2 hours, and they were busy the entire time. The interaction between our

residents and the students was delightful, and the smiles were never-ending. This event was so successful we are planning a repeat event in May." - Faye Clark, Campus Life Director

Wesley Village

Marti Calpin, a teacher at Wyoming New Story, reached out to Rachel Loefflad, Recreation Coordinator for Anderson and Myers Manor, about starting a volunteer program with her students. New Story is a private licensed academic school that provides special education and behavioral health services to children up to age 21. Since January, the students have visited the campus monthly for Word Games, Pokemo, and Ukulele Class.



The students also led Bingo and an arts & crafts activity.

"Volunteering has allowed our students to practice and develop their social skills, step outside of comfort zones, and connect with others. I can tell that the partnership between New Story and the Activities Department at Wesley Village has benefited the students just as much as the residents." - Marti Calpin

Memory Makers Project is Expanding

Last year, Hilltop Campus experienced becoming a Memory Maker Community in partnership with the local nonprofit; the Memory Maker's Project. This 10-month collaboration offered on-site programming with residents and their families in the Sun and Star memory units. Activities included using various art mediums, poetry, and meditation resulting in beautiful keepsakes and two public art exhibits. During one session, a participating resident was asked what a candle reminded him of. He responded with a vivid memory of home and his wife lighting candles



at night. This same resident often struggled with simple tasks such as putting on shoes or completing a sentence.

Meaningful engagement in the arts reduces anxiety, depression, and apathy—all symptoms associated with memory loss—while increasing confidence and the quality of a person's life. Staff, residents,

and families all saw the benefits of implementing the Memory Maker programs. Because of this, Hilltop & Memory Maker staff approached the UMH Foundation to renew and expand this program throughout United Methodist Homes. Recognizing the critical impact of this program, the Board unanimously approved the request.

We are pleased to announce that Memory Makers will not only be returning to Hilltop but also expanding to the memory units at Elizabeth Church Manor and Wesley Village in

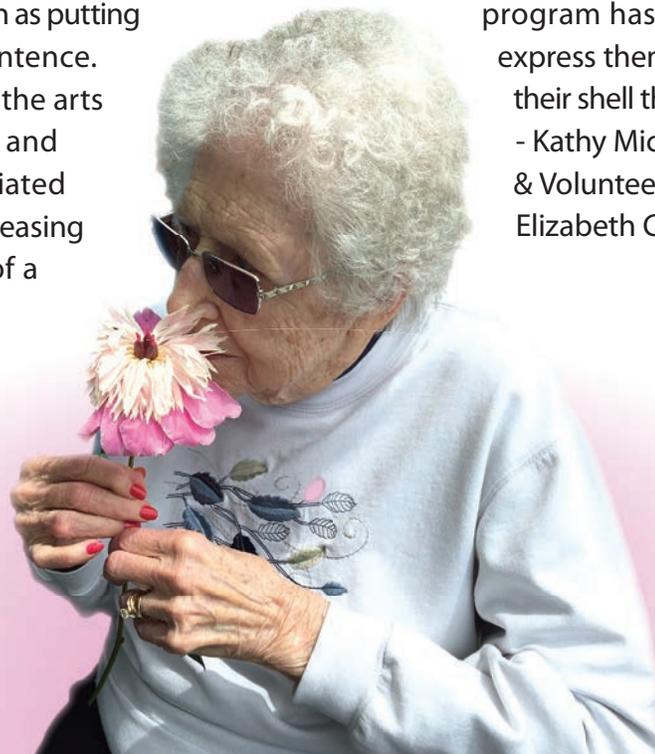


2020. "We are very excited to be working with the Memory Maker Project at Elizabeth Church Manor. I know our residents will benefit from the creative activities that Christina provides. The ability this

“The ability this program has to get our residents to express themselves and come out of their shell through art is outstanding.”

program has to get our residents to express themselves and come out of their shell through art is outstanding.”

- Kathy Micha; Activities Director & Volunteer Coordinator, Elizabeth Church Manor



Celebrating Longevity on our Campuses: Growing Strong Roots

An enhanced service awards program has been implemented throughout the organization to honor employees with anniversaries ranging from 5 to 40 years of service. We remain grateful to our employees for all of their hard work and continued commitment and dedication to the mission, vision, and values of our organization. We are blessed with a dedicated workforce that continually strives for excellence which positively impacts residents and their families. Every role, from direct care to management is crucial to the overall experience of our residents. Longevity amongst our staff also provides us with the ability to grow strong roots and expand our reach in the communities we serve. Not only does it impact the overall consistency and quality of our care, but it affects the overall employee experience. Many of our long-time employees take on roles of mentoring which helps newer staff to acclimate, adjust, and ultimately become part of the UMH family.

We extend our sincere appreciation and would like to congratulate all of our employees on their accomplishments!

CORPORATE

Brian Picchini 10 Years
Gary Gardner 20 Years

ELIZABETH CHURCH

Kimberly Sherman 5 Years
Nicole Sherman 5 Years
Gordon Gardner 5 Years
Patty Kendrick 5 Years
Jessica Sloan 5 Years
Ketia Jonathas 5 Years
Thomas Rinker 5 Years
Carol Ann Heller 5 Years
Katie Angeline 5 Years
Luann Snover 5 Years
Lauren Lobez 5 Years
Nicholas Gianakos 5 Years
Amanda Szczepanski 5 Years
Emily Parrish 5 Years
Faith Brown 10 Years
Diane Soutanis 10 Years
Breon Wilson 10 Years
Timnit Yishak 10 Years
Jasmin Reyes 10 Years
Agnes Lado 15 Years
Christina Wallan 15 Years
Eileen Elsworth 15 Years
Patricia Gregg 20 Years

Emily Hall 20 Years
Cindy Ardis 20 Years
Lee Hettig 20 Years
Jackalyn Morrison 25 Years
Tisha Brigham 30 Years

HILLTOP

Ashley Gillmer 5 Years
Kimberly Bernthon 5 Years
Trudy Sherman 5 Years
Karen Weeks 5 Years
Shannon Hayes 5 Years
Shantale Harris 5 Years
Kayla Spaulding 5 Years
Kathleen Gates 5 Years
Vanessa McCall 5 Years
Lisa Wagner 5 Years
Rebecca Jones 5 Years
Laura Sayers 5 Years
Autum MacDonald 5 Years
Lexa Chanthavong 5 Years
Michael Perkins 5 Years
Alicia Benjamin 5 Years
Edwidge Saintsume 10 Years
Stacianne Taylor 10 Years
Teresa Tompkins 15 Years
Katherine McHugh 15 Years
Angela Payzant 15 Years
Stacy Snyder 15 Years
Randy Rudock 15 Years
Jennine Best-baker 15 Years

Karie Smith 15 Years
Linda Utyro 15 Years
Joseph Drum 15 Years
John Vankuren 20 Years
Lisa Smith 20 Years
Lea Harding 20 Years
Johanna Tower 20 Years
Colleen Ashworth 20 Years
Kathleen Scherhauser 20 Years
Ida Sargeant 20 Years
Jocelynn Ramey 20 Years
Jacqueline Lindsley 25 Years
Ronald Netherton 25 Years
Teresa Felter 25 Years
Louise Hawley 30 Years
Sandra Lane 35 Years
Paul Pado 35 Years

WESLEY VILLAGE

Margaret Coolbaugh 5 Years
Tina Drake 5 Years
Samantha Crablo 5 Years
Ann Hughes 5 Years
Jessica Dulney 5 Years
Matthew Gardner 5 Years
Paige Norton 5 Years
Anna Stewart 5 Years
Jack Hapersberger 5 Years
Susan Lanning 5 Years
William Sweeney 5 Years
Sara Lyback 5 Years
Sharon Stehle 5 Years

Jodie Miscavage 5 Years
Lisa Ferry 10 Years
Lori Stillarty 10 Years
Eleanor Magowan 10 Years
Gina Pahler 10 Years
Lori Long 10 Years
Terry Skladzien 10 Years
Richard Beresovoy, Jr. 10 Years
Jane Lasecki 10 Years
Lindsey Maslar 10 Years
Amber Radocesky 10 Years
James Cortegerone 10 Years
Mary Battista 10 Years
Heather Shabazz 10 Years
Joseph Maslar 15 Years
Christine Zeller 15 Years
Denise Davailus 15 Years
Kelli Kowalczyk 20 Years
Mary Krutulis 20 Years
Andrew Balent 20 Years
Ann Imes 25 Years
Linda Matello 25 Years
Jeffrey Ross 25 Years
James Costantini 25 Years
Darlene Kamage 25 Years
Joann Lopresto 30 Years
Kimberly Tunila 30 Years
Elizabeth Richards 30 Years
Cheryl Connors 40 Years

TUNKHANNOCK

Amanda Myers 5 Years

United Methodist Homes Gets Creative with Social Distancing

As a premier healthcare provider in Pennsylvania and New York, United Methodist Homes has been taking a proactive approach to keep our communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff have risen to the occasion and quickly adapted to changes and restrictions, making sure that safety



and comfort are number one. We're beyond grateful for their unwavering commitment to quality care during a time when attention to detail is critical. Residents, along with staff, are making the best of their new situation. With social distancing requirements, they have been

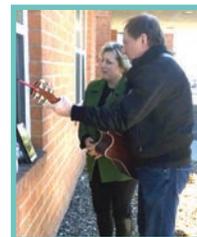


getting creative in order to stay connected with family and friends. Staff are ensuring residents

have everything they need to stay engaged. Many special projects and messages are being featured on the UMH social media pages. The Foundation is



working closely with staff to provide support with items like additional iPads, craft supplies,



streaming services, music and audio books, games, and so much more. You can support the Activities Initiative by donating online or returning the enclosed envelope.

UMH Remains Committed to their Mission (from front cover)

“Our organization recognizes that spirituality is an integral part of an individual’s makeup and their ability to cope with life’s challenges. As such, we know that it plays a pivotal role in maximizing the quality of life of our elderly residents, whose physical and psycho-social capacities are limited, but whose spirituality is strong. We have seen that if one’s spiritual needs are being met, they can best deal with their diminished physical and psycho-social capacities and improve their quality of life. We try to fulfill our residents’ spiritual needs by conducting weekly worship services, bi-weekly Bible studies, and one-on-one pastoral care visits. Additionally, a resident’s failing health has a significant impact on their family members. Therefore, we also offer pastoral care to families to



Pastor Gene Sperazza



Pastor Carl Folk

offer support in coping with their loved one’s end of life experience,” stated Pastor Eugene Sperazza, Chaplain, Wesley Village Campus.

Anyone who would like to learn more about our chaplaincy programs is encouraged to contact the campus chaplains. **Their biographies and contact information can be found on our website at unitedmethodisthomes.org.**

Currently, all formal gatherings for spiritual services are suspended in response to COVID-19 precautions. However, the chaplains remain available to residents to provide individual counseling and support while practicing social distancing, as well as coordinating live-streaming of spiritual services in resident rooms.



Caring. Connecting. *Community.*

10 Acre Place
Binghamton, NY 13904

unitedmethodisthomes.org



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 664



News & Announcements

Our events to report and promote are light this issue as many programs had to be canceled or postponed.

As many of you are aware, in the early part of March, all of our campuses were and continue to be heavily involved in preparation and response to the ever-evolving public health emergency as a result of the presence and spread of COVID-19 across our country. As an organization, we took prompt and aggressive action to prevent the spread to our campuses and communities. We followed recommendations set forth by all governing agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). We implemented policies that affected visitation to our campuses increasing restrictions to a “No Visitation” policy for all of our campuses. Our top priority is the safety, health, and well-being of our residents and staff. We hope that these temporary measures, along with all those imposed country-wide,

will do what it’s intended to do—prevent the spread throughout our country and communities.

When these restrictions can safely be lifted, and activities and events resume, we will be notifying all staff, residents, families, friends, and board of directors.

Wesley Village’s Annual Spring Brunch is canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions on visitors and large gatherings.

For an updated list of our upcoming events, visit UnitedMethodistHomes.org/news-events

Staff Updates

Hilltop: Nicole Policare is the new RN Staff Development Coordinator at JGJ.

Wesley Village: Selina Shotwell is the new Admissions Director at Partridge Tippet.

Corporate Office: Rachel Rubitski is our new IT Technician. **Renee DePrato** is our new Marketing & Fundraising Specialist.

Connections is published three times per year. It is designed for easier readability. Contact Abbie Evans at abevans@umhwc.org or 607.775.6400 x246. Like us on Facebook at UnitedMH and visit our website at unitedmethodisthomes.org

Corporate Office

Binghamton, NY
607.775.6400

Elizabeth Church Campus

Binghamton, NY
607.722.3463

Hilltop Campus

Johnson City, NY
607.798.7818

Tunkhannock Campus

Tunkhannock, PA
570.836.2983

Wesley Village Campus

Pittston, PA
570.655.2891