

In partnership
with WNY District
of The Wesleyan
Church

Urban
Advocacy
Buffalo, NY
Fall 2019



Buffalo, NY

Thank you for
your prayers:

- For Mission of Christ Church—and Global Bridge tutoring and language classes.
- For Grace Community Church—Pastor Barbara Farrow, and son, Michael, worship leader.
- For students at three Houghton College Buffalo sites—Symphony Circle, Hope House, and Houghton East Side
- For Spiritual Care team at Jericho Road Community Health Center—to demonstrate Christ's love to our neighbors from Buffalo and around the world

*Opportunities
for Service—
please see
back*

A Call to Care

Recently, with crushing news in our nation, we turned to a new hymnal supplement to express the prayer that follows ([Sing the Story: A Worship Book Supplement](#)). Music can awaken us from complacency, and inspire us to action and prayer for our world.

“Almighty, All-Merciful God,

We pray for our nation in need of healing and transformation —

- With eruption of gun violence from Texas to Ohio, and from Brooklyn to Buffalo;
- With immigrants,

refuges, asylum seekers- vulnerable to fear, abuse & discrimination;

- With hateful words and actions that marginalize and dehumanize your children—

We long instead for communities of welcome, justice, and love.

Spirit of truth: at this point of crisis, give us your discernment, so we may accurately name what is evil and know the way that leads to life and peace for all your children.

Give us insight to see how urban neighborhoods struggle due to centuries

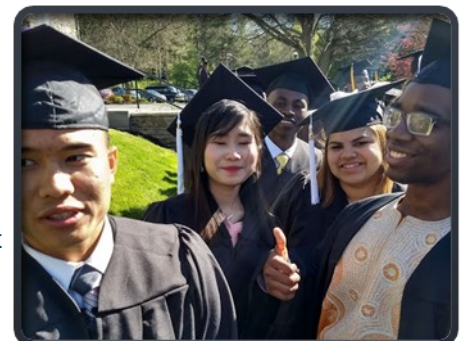
old racist and unjust policies designed to segregate and marginalize people of color. Forgive us for too long remaining silent about the cancer of structural evil and blatant racism that embolden those who would do harm.

Giver of song, we give thanks for songs that surround us in the dark of night, and for songs that waken us when morning breaks. Give a song to all those who need the comfort and reassurance of your presence. Move us toward a common dream for a new reality by the power of God's love to be in beloved community.

Houghton College Buffalo—a 3rd Site!

Liberation and empowerment are part of God's saving work. This spring, **Houghton College Buffalo -Symphony Circle** students participated in internships at Jericho Road Drop-In Center, Buffalo Legal Aid, a congress person's office, and a Buffalo publishing company. Two years ago, Houghton began collaboration with Peace Prints of

WNY to offer parolees opportunity to re-enter the workforce with an AA degree. This May the first two grads of the program at **Hope House** received their diplomas! This coming fall, we're excited about the opening of **Houghton East Side** at the beautiful King Urban Life Center.



To give online, please click here:

wnydistrict.com
(Urban Advocacy)

OR mail to:

The WNY District of the Wesleyan Church
4669 Pinecrest Terrace
Eden, NY 14057

Thank you!

Urban Advocacy
363 14th St., Upper
Buffalo, NY 14213

Phone: 716-640-2238 (Steve)
Email: strandsc@gmail.com

Phone: 716-640-5306 (Ruth)
E-mail: rewoolseystrand@gmail.com

Ways for you to connect:

1. Volunteer to support immigrants who have been detained or are going through court proceedings. Training sessions held at Pilgrim St. Luke's 335 Richmond, Buffalo. Wed., August 28 at 5 pm and future times.
2. Be a coach in the *Work Readiness* program of 716 Ministries, coming alongside Buffalo community members who are seeking stable employment. (www.716ministries.org)
3. Provide modeling and coaching support for young people at *Mission of Christ* who serve in the Children's Church program.
4. Serve as a tutor for students.
5. Be courageous in conversation and act: support policies of compassion. In May 2017 President Trump wanted to cut development aid to Honduras. Congress, even powerful Republican senators balked, and aid continued. (*Long Honduran Night*, p. 244)

For more info, please contact us.



Vacation Bible School at Grace Community Church, in collaboration with Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church! Thank you, friends!



First Wedding at Mission of Christ Church (above) and baptismal service with Ashwood Wesleyan at Lake Ontario (below)



Thank you for your faithful prayers, partnership in ministry and generous giving.

Steve and Ruth Strand