

Issues Programs List

Quarterly Issues Programs List

Station(s): 99.1 WAAL, 98.1 WHWK, 1290 WNEF, 104.1 WWYL

January 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023

Section I. Issues

The stations have identified the following topics as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

- A. **Community Resources.** There is a wide variety of community resources available to help our residents with various issues. From mental health, to drug resources, to help for caregivers, or those suffering with Alzheimers. Many in our community are unaware that help exists in these areas right in our local community.
- B. **Hunger.** Churches and other faith-based organizations are reporting the increased need for support while food banks continue to struggle to meet the needs of low-income residents facing food insecurity as inflation hits the community.
- C. **Diversity.** There continues to be concern about inequity for Black and Brown individuals but also the elderly, women, trans-individuals, immigrants, and persons with disabilities in the community.
- D. **Elder Issues.** New York has the fourth largest population of older adults in the nation, with 25% of the Broome County population in the 65+ age group. Staying well, understanding health issues, and remaining active and mobile are all issues that are important to our older community.
- E. **Substance Abuse.** It is reported that the number of overdose deaths involving opioids is higher in Broome County than the overall average in New York State.

Section II. Responsive Programs

Encounter is a locally produced and hosted religious program originating from the Broome County Council of Churches that addresses topics selected by the council in a faith-based discussion.

Airs every Sunday at 6 a.m. on WWYL, 6:30 a.m. on WNEF, and WHWK at 7:15 a.m. on WHWK, and 7:30 a.m. on WAAL. The program is 30 minutes in length.

Date Aired	Issue Discussed. Description of Program
1/01/23	Religion, family. Host Rev. Jeff Kellam discussed the holiday season, playing Christmas carols, and interviewing guests Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard Dr. Bruce Borton (local choir director), Paul Ciennewa (Exec. Dir., Binghamton Philharmonic), and Presbybop Jazz Group performance. Discussed was the history of community nativities offered by various churches as well as the history of holiday music concerts offered for community members to enjoy.
1/08/23	Religion, Community Resources. Host Rev. Dr. Joe Sellepack interviewing new Encounter host Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard about her faith and calling. Discussed was that there are resources for community members wishing to get involved in religious experiences as well as engaging in community issues related to family and family violence through volunteer involvement in soup kitchens, supporting the YWCA, and fundraising for the Crime Victim Assistance Center.

1/15/23	Religion, diversity, health. Host Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard interviewing Rev. Rachael Helgeson, new BCCC hospital Chaplain Director. Discussed was clergy of all faiths being available to offer pastoral care with community members who are in the local hospitals whenever needed. Also discussed was the availability of Chaplains to be present with community members in need when facing difficult moments in their life and health journey and the need for more female clergy to volunteer to assist with the Council hospital ministry.
1/22/23	Family Resources, Healthcare, Human Services, Pregnancy. Host Rev. Mark Kimpland interviewed Christie Finch, director of perinatal programs with Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network discussing what the network is and how it helps people including helping mothers get the proper healthcare and services they need to have a healthy pregnancy. Discussed was how the organization walks community members through obtaining healthcare for themselves and their children. Parenting courses are offered as are support groups through the family resource center.
1/29/23	Religion. Host Rev. Dr. Joe Sellepack, Rev. Jeff Kellam, Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard, and Rev. Mark Kimpland discuss faith, worship services, and their experiences in the ministry and the importance of having various religious options for community members in order for them to have the tools needs to pick up their lives and make something of it.
2/05/23	Health, Community Resources, Caregivers. Host Rev. Jeff Kellam interviewed Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel regarding her early onset Alzheimer's Disease and how it affected her ministry and life in general. Also discussed was the need to better help community members struggling with Alzheimer's as well as the family members caring for them. Mentioned was the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and the resources it offers to those living with or caring for someone who has Alzheimer's.
2/12/23	Hunger, Food Insecurity. Host Rev. Dr. Joe Sellepack with guests Mike Leahy, CHOW Director of Development and Les Aylesworth, CHOW Director talking about CHOW, its development, operations, and needs. Discussed was the strong issue of food insecurity in the community and the resources that Broome County provides to those struggling. Also discussed was the need for additional volunteers to help with food distribution to the community.
2/19/23	Education, Black History, Diversity. Host Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard with Dr. Randall M-J Edouard, Asst. VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students, Binghamton University, and Pastor Maggie Wolford, Student Pastor at Central United Methodist Church, discussing Black History Month. Discussed were social justice issues and the history of Black history in Broome County and where community members can go to get involved in equality movements and the need for better education of social issues.
2/26/23	Religion, Community. Host Rev. Mark Kimpland with Rev. Corey Turnpenny, Planter and Pastor, Church in the Wild, talking about her relatively new congregation and the motivation behind it. Discussed was the need for a church in the community that was exciting and inviting that would appeal to a broad group of people, particularly those who feel they don't fit in to any other religious group so that they will have a place to worship and engage in fellowship with others.
3/05/23	Family Resources, Personal Relationships. Host Rev. Jeff Kellam interviewing Kelly Devine about her book "Argument Hacks", talking about how couples can get along better. Discussed were ways that community members can work on their relationships through better communication as well as what resources are available in the community to assist struggling couples and families.
3/12/23	Elder Issues, Hunger, Housing. Host Rev. Dr. Joe Sellepack with Sue Spencer, Faith In Action Director and Lorissee Isaacson, Faith In Action Program

	<p>Coordinator talking about the program how it helps elderly community residents with basic needs such as transportation and collecting groceries. This program discussed how the program is used to fight isolation and food insecurity among seniors as well as ways to help elderly residents gain independence and obtain affordable housing.</p>
3/19/23	<p>Women's Rights, Equality, Diversity, Education. Host Rev. Alicia Dixon-Garrard interviewing Carla Michalak, Professor of Political Science at SUNY Broome and Rev. Douglas Taylor, Pastor at Unitarian Universalist Church of Binghamton, regarding Women's History Month, women's rights, and equity. Discussed were ways community members can get involved in local groups and organizations that are on top of social issues, especially issues concerning women's rights. Also covered was the issue of women and minority women nationally and locally needing better equality education and what the community can do to step toward that.</p>
3/26/23	<p>Substance Abuse, Mental Health, Community Resources. Host Rev. Mark Kimpland interviewed Kathleen Gaffney-Babb, President, and CEO of Helio Health. Discussed various health services provided, especially substance abuse and mental health disorders and the steps a community member can take to receive the mental healthcare help that they need including talking about the mental health drop-in center which is open to anyone in the community who needs to speak with a mental health expert. Also discussed was information on how community members can receive substance abuse services no matter their income.</p>