

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
April 2018*

Message from our Pastor

This April, a group of youth in our church will begin to explore their faith as part of a Confirmation class. The theme we will focus on during the class is “The Story of our Faith.” There is a common story that is told in the Bible and that unfolds in our lives. It is the story of God’s goodness and love toward us and all creation. The story next involves how we humans can reflect that goodness and love—and indeed we have. The story also includes the reality that we have also turned from that goodness and love—in other words, we sin. And then most importantly, the story includes God’s response to our brokenness: how God reaches out with redeeming love to forgive and transform us. That is what we celebrate at Easter—the ways God’s mercy and love triumph over sin and death.

This is the story of our faith. It is played out over and over again in the Bible. It is played out in our lives. It is a story of hope to each and every one of us.

This is the story we pray for our youth to understand and embrace in their lives. And so I ask you to join with me in praying for our youth as they explore this story in their own lives. And maybe holding these youth in prayer will motivate each one of us to also ponder how that story is unfolding in our lives. Where do you find yourself in this story of faith at this moment in your life? Where has the story let you down? Where has the story sustained you and given you hope? And how might this story transform you even now at this stage in your life?

The tomb is empty. New life awaits us. Thanks be to God!

Wishing you a blessed Eastertide!

Tracy

Upcoming Adult Education Classes

10 a.m.

Back by popular demand is our "This I Believe" series where people from within our congregation share about their faith. These opportunities to hear about the faith journeys of one another have always been very meaningful. Please join us to hear the reflections by the following individuals:

Sunday, April 15: Bilquis and Eric Dass

Two long-standing members of UPC

Sunday, April 22: Sheena Ratnam Priya and Allen Daniel Yesa

Two university students in our congregation

Then, our own Jim Moran, professor at Daemen College, will offer two classes:

Sunday, April 29: "Life Realities, Medicine, and Christian Responses"

Sunday, May 6: "The Role of Christians at the End of Life"

Everyone is Welcome!

Worship Column Lectionary ~ April 2018

Sunday, April 1 ~ Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 118:1-2,
14-24; 1 Cor.; 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8

Easter Evening

Isa. 25:6-9; Ps. 114; 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

Sunday, April 8 ~ 1st Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Os, 133; 1 John 1:1-2;
John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 15 ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Ps. 4; 1 John 3:1-7;
Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 22 ~ 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Ps. 23; 1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 29 ~ 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40; Ps, 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21;
John 15:1-8





Gladys Gifford to be Honored at Network of Religious Communities' Annual Appreciation Dinner

University Presbyterian Church is pleased to share our nomination of Gladys Gifford to be our Religious Service awardee at this year's Network of Religious Communities Appreciation Dinner

It was the call to be organist and choir director that brought Gladys Gifford to University Presbyterian Church in September of 1985. After serving in that position for two years, she resigned to become more directly involved in the work and mission of the church. Guided by Pastor Peter Nord, she became active in community outreach and in implementing the actions of the General Assembly within our congregation, especially regarding caring for creation.

Gladys has faithfully served our UPC congregation in many capacities. For 12 years she helped lead the congregation as an elder and Session member. She has helped us grow in faith through her leadership in the education ministries; as Sunday School teacher and adult education leader. She has been involved in the university student ministry, leading bible studies and helping to keep a focus on the spiritual maturity of our students. Gladys has also opened her home to a small group bible study for congregation members.

Gladys continues with her music ministry, having organized a junior choir, helped with a hand bell group, and remained a loyal member (and sometimes drummer!) in the adult choir.

On our Ministry to Community Committee, Gladys is a strong voice in addressing issues of justice and community need. She is one of UPC's representatives to VOICE-Buffalo. Gladys feels that "*Voice Buffalo represents a real opportunity to put feet under our faith. They put into action the mission of Jesus Christ as we understand it in the gospel – to represent the outcast, the imprisoned, and those abandoned by society.*"

With the support of UPC, Gladys served from 1996 to 2010 as environmental educator for the Presbytery of WNY. She took part in the formation of an Eco-Justice committee. Their role was to alert Presbytery members to critical environmental issues, such as the West Valley nuclear site and the nuclear waste in Tonawanda.

In 2000, Gladys was commissioned as a lay preacher by the Presbytery of WNY. She has had the privilege of preaching in pulpits across WNY. She still continues to provide this ministry.

Gladys is very active in Presbyterian Women (PW) at the Presbytery level, having been brought in to that group by Rev. Dorothy Kirk. One of her current responsibilities is to edit and write for the local PW of WNYnewsletter, *Patterns*(which can be subscribed to at pwinwny@gmail.com).

Continued on pg. 5...

In addition to her dedication to UPC and the Presbyterian Church, Gladys has been an active member of the League of Women Voters. She was introduced to the League through her husband, Al Shuster. The work she chose to do through this group was the study and advocacy for public transportation. Gladys says that *“Public transportation is an essential part of a healthy community. An effective and efficient public transit system reduces the environmental impact of transportation throughout the community. It also unites communities in ways that promote social justice.”*

Gladys shared her pondering about *“Does age change your call?”* Then she answered it, *“If you can, why stop? Look at Louise Slaughter!”*

We are grateful to be able to express our appreciation to Gladys for her dedication and service to UPC, the Presbyterian Church and the greater community. We hope you can join us to celebrate and recognize this special congregational member.

The 2018 Annual Appreciation Dinner will be held at 6:00 PM Thursday, May 3rd, at Samuel’s Grand Manor, 8750 Main Street, Williamsville 14221. The Featured speaker will be Bishop T. Anthony Bronner, Senior Pastor, Elim Christian Fellowship of Buffalo and Rochester.

Tickets for the dinner are \$45. You may place your check to **University Presbyterian Church** in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office by April 15th. Contact Marietta Bratton or Janet Mazzaroppi with any questions. To order tickets see page 5.



University Students and Friends Activity

There are many beautiful houses of worship in the Buffalo area. We are planning an outing to visit Our Lady of Victory Basilica and National Shrine and Temple Beth Zion on Saturday, April 14th.



We will meet at UPC at 1:00 p.m. and return about 4:00 pm.

We will arrange transportation so it is important to have a count of participants.

Please contact the church office at office@upcchurch.org to make a reservation or contact Kathryn Hallborg at k.hallborg@yahoo.com for more information.

**Network of Religious Communities
38th Annual Appreciation Dinner**

**Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.
Samuel's Grand Manor ~ 8750 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221**

The Ministry to Community Committee has selected ***Gladys Gifford*** as our honoree for the Network of Religious Communities Appreciation Dinner. We invite you to join us in honoring John at this special event.

Please complete this form and return it to the church office by Monday, April 16. Please contact Marietta Bratton or Janet Mazzaroppi if you have any questions.

The 2018 Keynote Speaker is Bishop T. Anthony Bronner, Senior Pastor of Elim Christian Fellowship in Buffalo and Rochester, NY.

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Please return to the church office by April 16th.

NRC Appreciation Dinner Reservation

Please include your payment with this form. Please make checks payable to University Presbyterian Church. Please add "NRC dinner" on the memo line. Thank you.

Name (s): _____

of tickets (\$45 per person): _____

Please indicate if you have dietary needs:

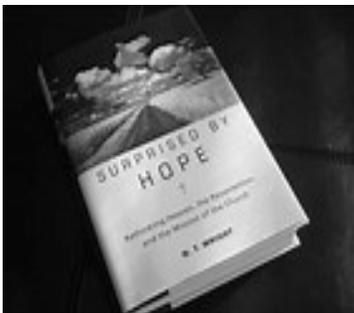
of vegetarian meals: _____ # of gluten free meals: _____



Message from Tom Somerville

I am participating in my 6th **RIDE FOR ROSWELL** June 23rd. It will be the 3rd year I have asked the UPC congregation for help. I have sent out Emails and you can visit my personal page on the Ride for Roswell 2018 website. Last year there were 7,400 riders and we raised \$4.7 million dollars for the 36,000 people who benefitted from Roswell Park in 2017. In the 22 years since the inception of the Ride for Roswell, \$42 million dollars has been raised for cancer research. Last year I rode with John Swaine. I will be doing the 65 mile course and John will be riding the 102 mile course. On April 15th I will supply coffee & refreshments for the coffee hour after the 11 a.m. service. John and I would like to thank you if you have already donated on our personal fundraising pages. If not, please come over and talk to us about the ride this June.

SUB SALE: The youth group will be holding our annual sub sale to raise funds for upcoming activities, including this summer's trip to the Montreat Youth Conference. Subs will be sold for \$5 and will be available after worship on Sunday, April 15. If you would like to order a sub, please fill out the order form found in your bulletin and drop it in the box in the narthex between now and April 14. **Sub orders can also be submitted online, by using the following URL:** <http://tiny.cc/NPYSubSale> . Payment (cash or check) will be due at the time of pick-up. Thank you for supporting our youth!



What is the meaning of life? Do we really believe in life after death? In literal and bodily resurrection? And how does our belief about life after death affect what we believe about life before death?

Shirley Herman and Gladys Gifford will lead us in a book study in June, to read and discuss N.T. Wright's Surprised by Hope.

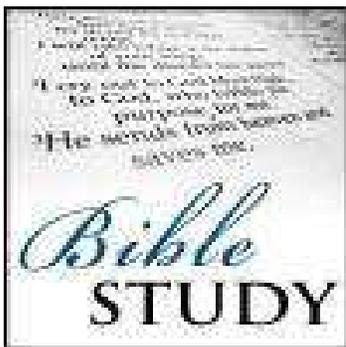
We want to share how this book helps us when we consider heaven, life after death, resurrection and the mission of the church.

We will meet at 11 am, after the worship service, in Room 101 (next to Holzwarth Room): June 3, 10 and 17th. Please join us. Thank you.

Birthday Celebrations for April

- 3 Marlene Kilga
- 4 Lee Ann Grace
- 5 Hazel Moodie
- 6 Julianna Sabol
- 11 Linda Krempa
- 13 John Lopinski, Jr.
- 15 Desmond Chia
- 18 Priscilla Kim
- 18 Jean Decker
- 21 John Novak
- 22 Henna Shirazi
- 23 Gladys Gifford
- 24 Meg Cheman
- 26 Olivia Smith
- 28 Jerilyn Hickey

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!



Join Rev. Stuart Buisch for his Bible Study classes....

Classes for April will be on Wednesday, April 11th and April 25th, starting at 5:30 pm.

Rev. Stu offers a lite meal. Topics are timely and interesting. These study sessions are held in the Holzwarth Room - Middle Level of the Church. An elevator is available too. Everyone is welcome to join him.



Welcome to Our Neighborhood

Little Free Library

Sponsored by University Presbyterian Church

Built and installed by the University Heights Tool Library

The Little Free Library belongs to everybody – neighbors, friends and people we don't even know yet. Anyone can use it. That's why we want to take care of it.

Help yourself to one or two of the books... Take the book home read it and enjoy. You can return it to our Little Library or any of the other Little Libraries you may find along your way. If you fall in love with it, keep it and bring another book when you can.

Give Books. Leave notes in them. Be a friend of all libraries by helping any way you can.

Tell your neighbors about the Little Libraries. If you want to donate books to the Little Libraries please visit the church office Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm –Call us before coming to visit... 836-7660.

You may also put them in the bag in the Narthex or the shelf in the Holzwarth Room. Children's books, novels - if it's a book you like, bring it to share.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church ~ Linen Pantry

Hours & Location

First and third Saturday 10-noon. Second and fourth Wednesday 10-noon.
205 Longmeadow Road, Eggertsville, NY 14226. 832-9764

The Threads of Hope Linen Pantry is a Mission of St, Peter's Episcopal Church. We receive gently used donated items and distribute them to families referred to us by various agencies and churches. We provide these individuals with bedding, towels and small kitchen items as they set-up their apartment so they can begin a new life for themselves.

All items are given away free of charge to our clients.

Needs:

Your linens and kitchen items (new or gently used) Sheets, blankets, bedspreads, quilts, bath towels, washcloths, hand towels, curtains, drapes, kitchen towels, dishcloths, potholders, dishes, lamps, small appliances, glasses, silverware, serving bowls, pots and pans. Monetary donations are always welcomed.



Too many of us lead hectic lives.

Our communities are filled with violence and suffering.

Our personal pain and struggles can overwhelm us.

How do we respond? How can we cope?

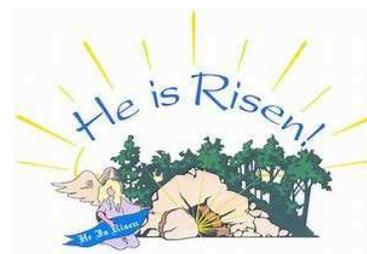
University Presbyterian Church welcomes Christians from all traditions to unite in a special contemplative worship experience as we seek spiritual strength for the living of our days. Based on the style of worship practiced in the Taizé Christian community in France, these services offered on the First Friday of each month provide an oasis at the end of the week for all who are weary, troubled, or rushed. Special music from guest musicians, meditative songs, prayers, candles, and scripture readings allow each of us to find a quiet place of prayer and spiritual centering.

We invite you to join us on **Friday, April 6, 2018 from 5:30 to 6:00 PM.** University Presbyterian Church is located at 3330 Main St., Buffalo (across the street from UB South Campus) with parking available in the church lot off Niagara Falls Boulevard. The church is also conveniently accessible using public transportation by taking bus or train to the University Metro station. Questions can be directed to the church office at 836-7660.

A Taizé Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org

April 2018 Calendar



Sunday, April 1

8:00 am *Note time change*
10:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter

Worship Service with Communion
Easter Brunch in the Holzwarth Room
Worship Service with Communion
Coffee Hour

Monday, April 2

Church Office is closed

Tuesday, April 3

12 pm ~ 4 pm



Food Pantry is open

Thursday, April 5

12 pm ~ 4 pm
7:30 pm

Food Pantry is open
Choir Practice

Friday, April 6

5:30 pm

Taizé Worship Service

Saturday, April 7

10 am

Breakfast with Friends. Join Kathy Hallborg at Family Tree

Sunday, April 8

9:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm

2nd Sunday of Easter

Worship Service
Worship Service
Coffee Hour with April Birthdays celebrations

Tuesday, April 10

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

Wednesday, April 11

5:00 pm

Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch ~ Holzwarth Room ~ All are welcome to join him. A lite meal is served too.

Thursday, April 12

12 pm ~ 4 pm
7:30 pm

Food Pantry is open
Choir Practice

Sunday, April 15

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm

3rd Sunday of Easter

Worship Service
Adult Education ~ This I Believe Series ~ see pg 2 for info.
Worship Service
Coffee Hour

Tuesday, April 17

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

Wednesday, April 18

5:45 pm
7:00 pm

Ministry to Community Meeting ~ Room 104
Session Meeting

April 2018 Calendar

Thursday, April 19

12 pm ~ 4 pm
7:30 pm

Food Pantry is open
Choir Practice

Sunday, April 22

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm

4th Sunday of Easter

Worship Service
Adult Education Hour ~ This I Believe Series—see pg 2 for info.
Worship Service
Coffee Hour

Tuesday, April 24

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

Wednesday, April 25

5:00 pm

Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch ~ Holzwarth Room ~

Everyone is very welcome. A lite meal is



served.

Thursday, April 26

12 pm ~ 4 pm
7:30 pm

Food Pantry is open
Choir Practice

Sunday, April 29

9:00 am
10:00 am

5th Sunday of Easter

Worship Service
Adult Education Hour ~ With Jim Moran ~ “Life Realities, Medicine,
and Christian Responses”

11:00 am
12:00 pm

Worship Service
Coffee Hour



Tuesday, May 1

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

Thursday, May 3

12 pm ~ 4 pm
6:00 pm

Food Pantry is open
Network of Religious Communities Annual Appreciation Dinner
UPC honors Gladys Gifford

Friday, May 4

5:30 pm
7:30 pm

Taizé Worship Service
Choir Practice

Saturday, May 5

10:00 am

Breakfast with friends at Family Tree with Kathy Hallborg

Sunday, May 6

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 pm

6th Sunday of Easter

Worship Service
Adult Education Hour ~ With Jim Moran—see pg 2 for info.
Worship Service
Coffee Hour

April

Showers

Bring



May

Flowers



Happy

Spring.....