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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church December 2012

## Pastor's Column

This Advent season, University Church has launched a "Fill the Stable" campaign to raise money for Heifer International. Heifer is an organization that seeks to lift people around the globe from poverty through the gift of livestock. The cows, sheep, goats, ducks, chickens, etc. generate food and income for impoverished families, giving the gift of sustainability rather than a one-time handout of aid. One of the core values of Heifer is that a family will pass on the offspring of their livestock to another family in their community.

Many of our members make donations to Heifer as an alternative gift to family members and friends. What could be more meaningful than a gift that could substantially improve a person's life?

Our "Fill the Stable" campaign seeks to raise \$1640: the cost of purchasing a donkey, a sheep, a heifer, a flock of chicks, and a camel—all those animals we traditionally think of as being present in the stable at the birth of Jesus. It's a lot of money, but I think we can do it!

The campaign to "Fill the Stable," however, is more than just a fund-raiser for a good cause. It is also a theological theme for our season of Advent. The incarnation of Christ was about filling the empty places in our hearts and lives with the tangible love of God. In Advent, we acknowledge our emptiness and the yearning we have to be filled. We confess our efforts to fill our lives with all those false things which never provide lasting meaning. And we rejoice in the coming gift of Christ—the one whose life and sacrifice have filled us with good things.

And now, in the spirit of Heifer's values, we pass on the gift. Let us "fill the stable" for others with tangible signs of God's love.

Shalom,  
Tracy



**THIS WEEK'S  
MESSAGE**  
Worship Column

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 AM** Worship - Communion  
**10:00 AM** Education Hour– Adult & Children  
**11:00 AM** Worship - Communion  
**Lectionary:** Jeremiah 33:14-16;  
Psalms 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

**December 9<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 AM** Worship  
**10:00 AM** Education Hour– Adult & Children  
**11:00 AM** Worship  
**Lectionary:** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;  
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

**December 16<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 AM** Worship  
**10:00 AM** Education Hour– Adult & Children  
**11:00 AM** Worship  
**Lectionary:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;  
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**One Worship service at 11:00 AM**  
**11:00 AM** Worship Service with Children's Pageant  
**Lectionary:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm  
80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**

**7:00 PM - Christmas Eve Worship Service**  
**Lectionary:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

**December 30<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day**

**11:00 AM - Worship**  
**Lectionary:** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalms 148;  
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

**Please Note:**

The Church Office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and January 1<sup>st</sup> for the Christmas Holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May you all be filled with peace and happiness along with many blessings for a joyous New Year.

Happy Holidays  
Denise



**“The Network”**  
is published monthly for friends and members of University Presbyterian Church. If you wish to submit an article, please contact the church office.  
**Co-Editors:**  
Brian Belus  
The Reverend Tracy Daub



## Advent and Christmas at UPC

2012

- ❖ **Sunday, December 2—First Sunday in Advent**  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (communion at both services)  
Advent Potluck and Program: “More Than A Magi” 12:15 p.m. in the Auditorium with guest presenter Denise Reichard
- ❖ **Friday, December 7—First Friday Taize Service**  
5:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- ❖ **Saturday, December 8—Cookie Sale, Book Sale and El Buen Amigo Gift Table**  
9 am – 1:30 pm
- ❖ **Sunday, December 9—Second Sunday in Advent**  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Christmas Caroling at 1 p.m.
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 11– Service of Peace, Hope, and Light**  
7:00 p.m. at North Presbyterian Church
- ❖ **Sunday, December 16—Third Sunday in Advent**  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Church Christmas Dinner at 12 noon in Reid Hall
- ❖ **Sunday, December 23—Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
Single Worship Service at 11 a.m.  
Children’s Christmas pageant.
- ❖ **Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service**  
Worship at 7 p.m.  
Carols, Candles, and Communion
- ❖ **Sunday, December 30**  
Single Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m.

## FOOD PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS

Each month, the UPC Food Pantry submits a report to the Food Bank of Western New York, indicating how many households were served during the month, and how many individuals make up those households. We share these statistics with our congregation, which provides such generous support to our pantry, both in time and in donations.

Anyone interested in volunteering one afternoon a month at the Pantry can call **Barbara Pearson, 833-3163**.

<u>October 2012</u>	
<b>Infants</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>Elderly</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Households:</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Equivalent meals</b>	<b>2,745</b>

**New Pantry Volunteers Needed. Please take a moment and think about volunteering in our Food Pantry. One day a month for about 4 hours. What a way to begin a new year, by helping others.**

## December Birthdays

- 4 Alea Cotto-Ecklund
- 6 Jim Moran
- 9 Bob Dewitz
- 9 Dannish Patel
- 12 Eric Moodie
- 15 Adele Jackson-Gibson
- 15 Bonnie Dahl
- 16 Untae Kim
- 19 Jim Kline
- 19 Elizabeth Ball
- 20 John Maddock
- 22 Donald Holzman
- 29 Mark Masters
- 31 Tiffany Whitefield

## YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS

- 26 Arjun Singh
- 28 Ajay Singh
- 30 Abigail Wadkins-Daub



## INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

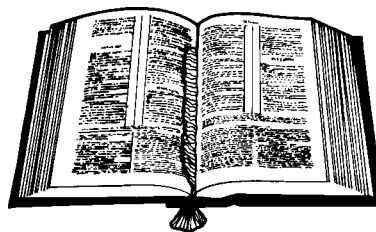
December 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

**Light Meal: 5:00 pm – Study until 6:30 pm**

**Holzwarth Room**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch**



## **“More Than A Magi”**

On **Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at our Advent Pot Luck Luncheon**, Denise Reichard will present “MORE THAN A MAGI”. Ms. Reichard is a public speaker and performer who recreates the lives of great women of history. You are about to experience one of her stories.

Denise researches and gathers all of the information she uses about each historical portrayal and writes a story that reflects the unique life.

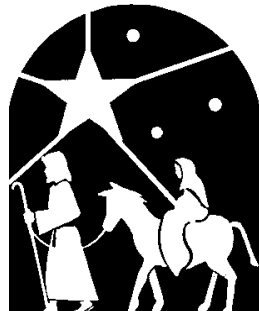
Each tale reveals many historical accounts using vivid details and authentic material. All this takes shape in a 35 minute performance presented in characterization and costume.

Our speaker has been engaged in this line of work since the 1980’s. She has delighted audiences all over western New York, in the states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio and the province of Ontario, Canada.

Her background includes degrees in speech, education and communication; specifically, a Bachelor’s Degree from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio and a Master’s Degree from The University of Pittsburgh. In addition to her work as a public speaker, she teaches speech communication courses on a part-time basis at Niagara County Community College.

Want to learn more about Denise and her programs? She can be found on the world wide web at [www.denisereichard.com](http://www.denisereichard.com).

Now it is time to sit back and relax. Go back in time and hear the beloved story of “MORE THAN A MAGI ”



## Christian Education Opportunities This Fall

### Children's Class:

Children (ages 5 years through 7<sup>th</sup> grade) will meet in a multi-aged class, taught by a team of rotating teachers. Class time will start with music, offered by Tiffany Whitefield, collective time as an entire group, followed by smaller groups for age-based activities.

Teachers this fall will be: Marge Waldron (Sept. 16-Oct. 7), Amy Erikson (Oct. 14-Nov. 18), and Ginna Coon (Dec. 2-23). Jude Hammer and Sandy Robertson will alternate as classroom aides.

### Adult Class:

The remaining Sundays in the fall semester will be taught by Dr. Timothy Wadkins, Professor of Religious Studies at Canisius College. Dr. Wadkins, always a popular and engaging teacher, will lead us in a discussion of the following topic:

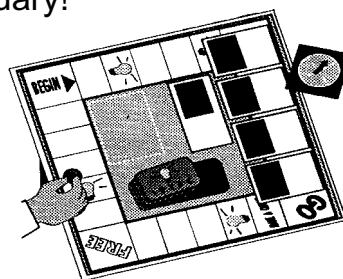
“The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: The Bible and Christian Faith”

Part history, part theology, and part autobiography, this series will discuss questions about the Bible in the context of faith. How exactly are we to understand the role of the Bible in Christian history? What does it mean to affirm the inspiration and authority of Scripture? How should the Bible be interpreted? What are we to do about difficult parts of the Bible, such as those which depict infant sacrifice or genocide in God's name? All of these questions and more will be addressed in this series.

Come join in what promises to be a most stimulating conversation!

## Family Game Night

During the month of February we plan on having a Family Game Night. This is for all ages, and everyone is encouraged to bring a game of their choice. If you don't have any, you're welcome to attend and join those who do bring their favorites. Whether it's Monopoly, Clue, Apples to Apples, Pass the Pigs or card games, come out for a fun evening. Details will follow for a date and time in February!





## **Baby Blessings Basics**

Crossroads Lutheran Church has a new caring ministry to babies and young families which began on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Its official title is “Baby Blessings Basics.”**

**It is located right inside the church building at 4640 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226.**

If you would like to help stock the shelves with baby items we’d love to have you help. We need new or clean, gently used baby clothing from newborn to 3T, baby blankets, bedding, diapers, etc. We cannot take toys or baby equipment. Contributions can be put in the shed off of the parking lot at the back of the church at any time. Financial contributions are also appreciated so we can purchase needed items. Checks may be made payable to Crossroads and note in memo line Baby Blessing Basics.

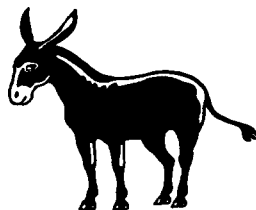


## **Help UPC “Fill the Stable”**

Donkeys, cows, sheep, camels and chickens they waited at the stable for the birth of Jesus. As we await the birth of the Christ Child, help people around the world whose stables are empty.

Visit the Fill the Stable table in the Holzwarth Room after the 11 am service to sponsor an animal.

Animal sponsorships make an excellent alternative Christmas present, too.



# Holiday Cookie Sale, and more . . . .

University Presbyterian Church  
3330 Main Street (@ Niagara Falls Blvd.) Buffalo,  
Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
9 am-1:30 pm (or until sold-out!)  
Reid Hall and Auditorium

Homemade Holiday Cookies: \$9.00/ Pound.  
A Great Variety. Choose your own assortment, or select one of  
our pre- wrapped plates. Great for parties or gifts.

Used Book Sale: Adult and Children's books. A  
wide selection to choose from. Prices for everyone!

Holiday Gift Tables- courtesy of El  
Buen Amigo, located at 114 Elmwood Ave.

Fair Trade items from Mexico, Central and South America will  
be available for unique holiday gift shopping

For information call the Church Office at 836-7660.







*First Friday*  
AT UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*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 Taize 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, December 7th from 5:30 – 6 p.m.** 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 Taize Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation*

[www.upcbuffalo.org/firstfriday](http://www.upcbuffalo.org/firstfriday)

## December 2012

Saturday	1	10:00 am	Grief Support @Family Tree
Sunday	2	9:00 am	Worship Service - Communion
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service - Communion
		12:15 pm	Advent Pot Luck & Program – “More Than A Magi”
Tuesday	4	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	5	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice – NOTE DIFFERENT DAY
Thursday	6	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
		NO -Choir Practice today – see Wednesday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	
Friday	7	5:30 pm	Taize’ Service
Saturday	8	9:30 am – 1:30 pm	Cookie sale, Book sale & Holiday gift sale
Sunday	9	9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		1:00 pm	Christmas Caroling – Meet in HolzwarthRoom
Monday	10	12:00 pm	Presbyterian Women Meeting
Tuesday	11	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	12	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch
Thursday	13	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Sunday	16	9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Annual Christmas Dinner
		tickets available at the church office prior to this date.	
Tuesday	18	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	19	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday	20	12:00 pm	Food Pantry (News Neediest)
Sunday	23	11:00 am	Worship Service with Children’s Pageant
		(no Education Hour)	
Monday	24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
		(Office Closed today)	
Tuesday	25	Merry Christmas – Church Office Closed today – No Food Pantry	
		There is no choir practice the week of December 23 <sup>rd</sup> to December 29 <sup>th</sup> .	
Thursday	27	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Sunday	30	11:00 am	Worship Service -
		(1 service & no Education Hour)	
Monday	31	New Year’s Eve	
		(Church Office Closed today)	
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> of January	Happy New Year	Church Office Closed today
		<u>No Food Pantry</u>	