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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church February 2013

### **From the Pastor:**

“Good Friends at UPC: below is an article which was published in The Buffalo News on Christmas Day. I think you will recognize the author! I share it with you now and invite our prayers for the soul of our nation.”

Tuesday December 25, 2012

The Buffalo News.com

## **Opinion**

### **On Christmas, questions about the nation’s soul**

By Tracy S. Daub

Before we even had a chance to celebrate Christmas, we were confronted with the reality of Herod among us. Scripture records that after the birth of Jesus, King Herod, threatened by rumors of the new “king” of the Jews, went on a rampage, killing all the babies he could find.

This month, Herod visited us again, inflicting upon us a contemporary Slaughter of the Innocents. Like Rachel, who wept and refused to be comforted (Matt. 2:18), our entire nation is mourning the precious lives lost in the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy.

Arising from this grief is the essential question of what we can do to protect ourselves from such similar tragedies. First is a public policy matter: the need to reform our nation’s gun laws. Just as any of our constitutional freedoms are subject to being curbed in order to protect the welfare of others, the Second Amendment need not be threatened by restrictions aimed at ensuring that only responsible individuals have access to dangerous weapons.

Some say this tragedy was mostly a result of failed mental health policies. While a fresh examination of such policies would be worthwhile, statistical information from similar countries gives one pause. Last year, gun violence in Canada took 52 lives compared to 10,728 in the United States. Does America really have so many more deranged individuals living within our borders?

The Newtown calamity also raises spiritual issues. Recently I accompanied my 11-year-old son to a video game store. I overheard an adult customer discussing the various “first person shooter” games he found most appealing.

Whatever role such games play as a contributing factor among those already mentally disturbed who commit violent acts, I will leave for the sociologists and psychologists to determine. What concerns me is the likely damage such games may inflict upon the developing soul – of any age.

The psyche is shaped by environmental circumstances as well as repetitive behaviors. Compassion, generosity, self-control and gratitude can be learned through behaviors that promote these qualities – as when we teach our children to say “thank you” long before they may actually feel gratitude.

Whether through video games, television or movies, killing has become a staple of how we entertain ourselves. I am concerned by what this routine consumption of violence may do even to those who are not mentally ill. What important parts of our souls are injured, numbed or stunted? What does it say about the soul of a culture that addictively turns to killing as entertainment?

In a violence-infatuated society, no one is safe, in body or soul. As I wept over the deaths of these precious children, I prayed we might yet stand up to Herod and the damage he has wrought.



**THIS WEEK'S  
MESSAGE**

### **Worship Column**

#### **February 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**9:00 AM** Worship – Communion

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship – Communion

**Lectionary:** Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6,  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

#### **February 10<sup>th</sup> - Transfiguration of the Lord**

**9:00 AM** Worship

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship

**Lectionary:** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

#### **February 17<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**9:00 AM** Worship

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship

**Lectionary:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:  
1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

#### **February 24<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**9:00 AM** Worship

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship

**Lectionary:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27,  
Philippians 3:17-4:1; :Luke 13:31-35

## **Ash Wednesday Service And Soup Supper**

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13. Join us for a light supper at 6:00 PM and stay for the worship service at 7:00 PM. This contemplative service will include the imposition of ashes



**“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

## 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.**

	<b>December</b>
<b>Infants</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Elderly</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Households:</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Equivalent meals:</b>	<b>2,250</b>

## February Birthdays

- 1 Gerry Ann Appleton
- 1 Connie Michael
- 2 Gladys Harbison
- 2 Andrew Safulko
- 3 Kamil Patel
- 8 Jim Smyton
- 9 Sue Castle
- 11 Tim Ecklund
- 12 Grace Agbemenu
- 12 Lidia Vieira
- 17 Barbara Lyons
- 17 Preston Rich

## YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Linda Moorhouse



## Everyone Is Welcome To Our Family Game Night.

On **Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at 7:00 PM we're going to gather together for a fun evening of games and activities for the entire family. Bring your favorite games to play and join us. If you don't have any special games, just bring yourself and/or family, as there will be many games to enjoy.

We are looking forward to a great night with family and friends. **Mark your calendar now and we'll see you on the 23<sup>rd</sup>**



# Heifer Women's Lambing Project

## April 4 – 7, 2013

### Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA (central)

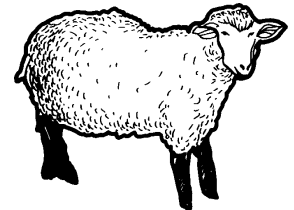
Join women of this Presbytery and women from across the country to watch a lamb take its first steps and reflect on the new beginnings that Heifer brings to millions of families around the world. We will participate in the daily rhythms of a working farm learning basic animal husbandry skills with specific focus on the birthing process of goats, sheep, swine, cattle, rabbits and the hatching of chicks.

A blend of facilitated discussions, experiential hands-on learning activities and direct interaction and work with farm animals will help us also understand the mission of Heifer International and appreciate the lives of those helped by the organization. It's a wonderful way to spend your spring vacation, learn more about Heifer and how animals help lift families out of poverty in the camaraderie of a diverse group of women. Have an international experience without ever crossing a border. Registration is \$475.

For more details, contact Amy Jelensperger at 874-3034 or via e-mail at [pastoramy@hotmail.com](mailto:pastoramy@hotmail.com) or Chris Wychorski, Reservations Coordinator at Overlook Farm, at 508-886-2221.

The **Women's Livestock Birthing at Overlook Farm** may include:

- Courses on birthing, pre-natal and post-natal care of livestock
- Nighttime birth checks
- An opportunity to explore Heifer's work throughout the world
- Educational sessions focusing on sustainable agriculture
- Culinary and food preservation techniques



**And the big question**— *Will I definitely see a birth?*

You will most likely see one species of animal give birth but there are no guarantees as Overlook does not induce birth. The program provides a plethora of learning opportunities (and fun!) regardless of the births.

#### **Registration Information**

Participants: Women ages 16 (those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult) and older of all backgrounds and experiences. The group is limited to 16 participants.

Per Person Tuition Fees: \$475 (not tax-deductible) due upon registration and is made directly to Heifer Overlook Farm on a first-come first-served basis. Please identify your participation as a member of WNY Presbytery.

Tuition Fee Includes: Educational programming including work projects, shared lodging in the bunkhouse and meals (dinner the first night to breakfast the last day).

Transportation to Overlook Farm: Participants must provide their own transportation to farm. Carpooling will be arranged.

**Update on Frontera de Cristo Activities**  
**By Lee Ann Grace**

I thought I would send you an update on our activities at Frontera de Cristo, in case you might want to share any of this with the congregation or the Ministry with Community Committee.

We arrived last Saturday afternoon around 4:00 p.m. and by 7:00 I was doing oral proficiency assessments with some of my prospective ESL students, whose number had multiplied significantly from what I had been told the week before we came. There is such a hunger and a need for folks to be able to communicate in English to make the Just Coffee operation function well and for others to be able to interpret their activities to the many groups that visit from the States without always having to depend on a translator.

Howard is doing conversation partnering with some of the additional students, but I will be helping the pastor in Agua Prieta and his wife (among the unexpected students) with specific needs that they have to interpret their work to visiting groups.

My students range from the Just Coffee sales manager (who is very proficient, but we are tidying up the language and formatting of his Power Points and grammar and punctuation in his correspondence) to the person who answers the phone when he isn't in (she is very motivated, so this is going really well) to the roaster manager (who needs to be able to tell the history of Just Coffee to visitors — he kept not having time to write the history, so I had him tell it to me in Spanish and I'll have materials for him Monday) to the people who work on the floor of the roaster (they are learning how to answer the basic questions visitors might ask — here I have the widest range of abilities imaginable!). I am also working with the Mission Education Coordinator, whose spoken English is very good but who needs help with writing the necessary correspondence with group leaders.

Sunday included church services at both the First Presyterian Church Douglas and El Lirio de los Valles in Agua Prieta. FPC Douglas lost their church musician in November, so I am signed up to play two flute pieces tomorrow and Howard and I will do two vocal pieces (unaccompanied, of course) the following Sunday.

Now that El Lirio de los Valles has established a couple of mission churches, we would like to try to attend a service at one of them before we come home, but the worship time conflicts with that of FPC Douglas, so we may have to wait until our last Sunday here, if we can manage it then.

**(Continued on P. 6)**

The Just Coffee book has been translated into Spanish and Howard (with some assistance from me, since he hasn't worked with Microsoft Publisher before) is formatting it for publication.

Last night we attended the meeting of the Frontera de Cristo board at the Nuevo Progreso Community Center (which Howard helped build years ago by being a translator for a work group that came with no Spanish speaker — the same year I ended up working with a group doing Vacation Bible School because they also had no one who spoke Spanish). Somehow the earphones that are used to provide simultaneous translation to monolingual board members had disappeared, so the translation was a little less simultaneous, adding to the meeting time. It was a LONG agenda, since the December meeting had been cancelled. Howard and I got there early (around 4:30 p.m.), because we had a ride from the Just Coffee roaster when the manager got off work. By the time most people arrived, it was 6:00 p.m. (for a meeting scheduled at 5:00) and the meeting started. There was a brief break for dinner at 8:00, by which time we were starving, though we had eaten quite a few of the cookies that were provided from the start. The meeting ended about 9:00 and we made our way back across the border (at that hour there were no lines), picked up our car, drove to the house where we are staying (houses the Frontera and Just Trade Center offices as well), and fell into bed.

Today we are doing household chores, working a bit on the book, and considering our recreational options (a possible movie or a ride out to a place where the sandhill cranes can be seen).

When we arrived it was unusually cold. We had seen snow on the shaded side of the mountains in Bisbee and, when we crossed into Agua Prieta the next morning, there was ice on the streets! Since we have always come in June or July, that was a real shock. Of course, we came with clothes to layer, so we haven't had a major problem with the cold (except inside some of the buildings), but we are quite happy that the temperatures are returning to normal. And there is sun even on the coldest days, so it is a big change from winter in Buffalo.

Que Dios les bendiga a todos en UPC!

Lee Ann

## **INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY**

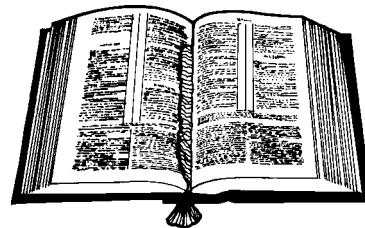
**WEDNESDAYS: February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

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

**Holzwarth Room**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch**



**Intergenerational Event:**  
***Love Thy Neighbor***  
**Sunday, February 10, 2013**  
**10:00 am**



**Take a tour of our Food Pantry to learn how we serve our neighborhood and make valentines for our UPC Food Pantry Clients and shut-ins.**

**Please meet in the Little Auditorium.**

**Epiphany Gifts for the Mind, Body and Spirit**  
**Healthy Cooking with Kandy Svec**

**February 17, 2013**  
**4:00 – 7:00 pm**



**Bring an apron and roll up your sleeves – Kandy Svec will be here to lead a hands-on cooking class featuring some amazing vegetarian cuisine!**

**In addition to being a yoga instructor, Kandy also happens to have trained at the Cornell School of Hospitality Management. We'll create a meal together and then sit down to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Please meet in the kitchen.**

**Come one, come All – ages 5 to 85!!**

**Please sign up in the Holzwarth Room.**

## New Beginnings Information

Our recent New Beginnings process involved small groups who engaged in prayer and Scripture meditation as part of seeking the Spirit's direction for UPC. Many participants found that the small group format fed our spiritual hunger and nourished our sense of community at UPC.

We wanted more! So let's continue!

Gladys Gifford has volunteered to host a small group for prayer and Scripture meditation at her home during February and March. We will follow the Lenten devotional guide, Learning from Jesus, a booklet published by Presbyterians Today.

Please contact Gladys directly to sign up: 836-2825,  
[schuford@earthlink.net](mailto:schuford@earthlink.net) >

**Small group schedule: 7-8 pm, 174 Capen Blvd., Amherst  
Tuesdays, Feb. 12, Feb. 26, Mar. 12, Mar. 26.**

## Editors' Request

The network editor is reminding all those who want to submit articles in the network, that all articles are to be submitted to Denise or Brian by the 15th of each month. If unforeseen circumstances arise then please contact Brian by the 15th so that space for the article can be left in the network.

Thank you,  
Brian Belus



## Member Profile

This month we feature a long term member Tom Somerville, who has attended since childhood. He has many fond memories of UPC Sunday school, and recollects as Brian Belus as being his last SS teacher. He remembers his first Buffalo Bills game with his dad and brothers as being the 1966 AFL Championship which he attended immediately following Sunday school. Presently Tom works as an usher, but has been on the Board of Deacons numerous times. He'd like to resume being a deacon when he retires this year from his job as a Child Support Investigator for Erie County. His work includes establishing child support cases for Family Court and enforcing court orders. He has worked for the county of Erie for 36 years.

Tom grew up in the Tonawandas' and after high school attended Genesee, and Erie Community College, Buffalo State and finished at U.B. His wife Pat, belongs to St. Timothy's in Tonawanda, and many weekends he attends both churches. They reside with their 4 cats, one of them named Fenway after the ball park of his favorite baseball team the Boston Red Sox. During his leisure time he enjoys reading, sports, history and travel, and just recently he and his wife have taken up square dancing. But his favorite activity is physical fitness during his down time. He was an avid runner for 30 years, attending 44 marathons, until knee surgery made him shift to bike riding a couple of years ago. He goes to the ECC City Campus gym for daily workouts and rides his bike when weather permits.

One of UPC's former minister's Peter Nord inspired Tom with a sermon message that has stuck with him through the years. Rev. Nord said "Christians have an inner self discipline", and he made that a life practice ever since that day. When transitional experiences have occurred this inspiration has proven to help especially when he made the change from running to biking. His weekly attendance to UPC keeps him on the right track to begin the new week..



*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, February 1 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)

## FEBRUARY 2013

Friday	1	5:30 pm	Taize'
Saturday	2	10:00 am	Grief Support Breakfast - Family Tree
Sunday	3	9:00 am	Worship-Communion
		9:45 am	Community Prayer
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship-Communion
		12:00 pm	Congregational Annual Meeting
		12:15 pm	University Student Luncheon
Tuesday	5	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Thursday	7	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	10	9:00 am	Worship
		9:30 am	Deacons Meeting
		9:45 am	Community Prayer
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship & Ordination & Installation of Officers
		12:15 pm	University Student Luncheon
Monday	11	12:00 noon	Presbyterian Women
Tuesday	12	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	13	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	14	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	17	9:00 am	Worship
		9:45 am	Community Prayer
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm			Epiphany Gifts for the Mind, Body, Spirit Event - Healthy Cooking with Kandy Svec. - Sign up in the Holzwarth Room.
Tuesday	19	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	20	7:00 pm	Session Meeting
Thursday	21	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Saturday	23	7:00 pm	Family Game Night
Sunday	24	9:00 am	Worship
		9:45 am	Community Prayer
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
Tuesday	26	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	27	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch
Thursday	28	12:00 noon	Food Pantry