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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church

March 2013

Pastor's Column

Do you know why you are here? I don't mean why you are a member of UPC, but why are you here on earth? What's the purpose of your existence?

The Westminster Shorter Catechism is a question/answer kind of tool used by generations of Presbyterians for learning the core beliefs of our faith. According to this catechism, the chief end or purpose of humanity is "to glorify God and enjoy God forever."

Recently a church member and I had a conversation about what this answer might mean. How do we glorify God? And as for "enjoying" God, well, that may seem like a completely new concept for many. What does it look like to "enjoy" God?

Giving glory and honor to God might come through sincere worship or prayer or Bible study. But couldn't it also come when we drive our neighbor to the doctor, when we are the best teacher, doctor, or secretary we can be, when we send a card or prepare a meal for someone who is ill? Do we not glorify God when we are generous with our gifts, our money, our time? Glorifying God might include writing a letter to an elected official on behalf of the powerless.

When we are attentive to a stirring piece of music, when we appreciate a beautiful painting or poem, are these not means by which we enjoy God? Perhaps we are enjoying God and God's gift of life when we laugh with a group of dear friends, or take in the stillness of a forest, or savor the aroma of freshly baked bread. We are enjoying God when we hold our children in a warm hug and when we receive the unconditional love given to us by our pets.

Our lives are always changing. Illness might bring limitations we hadn't known before. Retirement or our children leaving for college might force us to re-evaluate what our lives will be about. And as we deal with life's changes, we will need to ask ourselves anew, "how can I glorify God and enjoy God given my new circumstances?"

Lent is an excellent time to explore this two-fold purpose. The journey we walk with God is one that has a purpose, a meaning. And our lives will be spent discovering and then re-discovering the diverse and wonderful ways we can live this out.

Shalom,
Tracy



Worship Column

March 3rd - 3rd Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship – Communion

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship – Communion

Lectionary: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 10th - 4th Sunday in Lent

9:00AM Worship

9:45 AM Deacons meeting

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

March 17th - 5th Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;
Philippians: 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

March 24th - Palm Sunday

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Palms: Luke 19:28-40; Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isaiah: 50: 4-9a; Philippians: 2:5-11;
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

March 31st - EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Easter Breakfast

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25;
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

An Intergenerational Event What a Wonderful World!

Coming in April!



Celebrate God's Gift of the Earth
With a special Earth Day Program!
More information to follow.



“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

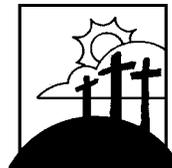
HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 24:

9 a.m. Worship

11 a.m. Worship with the Parade of Palms

Dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing Gifts



Easter

Maundy Thursday, March 28:

8 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Readings from the Passion story, communion, and the extinguishing of candles.

Easter Sunday, March 31:

8 a.m. Worship (please note the change in the hour of this service)

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Holzwarth Room

A complementary continental breakfast for all! Drop in anytime during these hours to share a light meal and enjoy the fellowship of others.

11 a.m. Worship with Brass

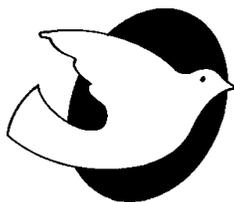
Our Community in Prayer

**“May your hope keep you joyful,
be patient in your troubles,
and pray at all times”**

(Romans 12:12)

As we begin the New Year and undertake the challenges of developing our New Beginning plan for ministry, it is important that our congregation joins in prayer for the life and ministry of our church. **You are invited to join a time of prayer each Sunday morning from 9:45- 10 a.m.** We will gather in the Mary and Martha Room (located across from the coat rack in the entry to the sanctuary) for 15 minutes of both directed as well as silent prayers. Participants are welcome to come and go as able. Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

**Join us in praying that we may be open to the movement of
God’s Spirit within the community of UPC.**



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.**

January 2013

Infants	2
Children	79
Adults	217
Elderly	46
Total	344

Households: 203
Equivalent meals: 3,096

These numbers only tell part of the story of this important and meaningful ministry. It is the people behind the numbers, those who receive this food and offer us their thanks and their blessings, and this congregation who provide such generous support, both in time and in donations, that are the essence and the real story that these numbers represent. Our thanks to all of you.

March Birthdays

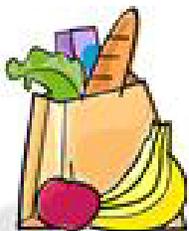
- 1 Lori Lopinski
- 5 Patricia Grisante
- 5 Sandy Maiwald
- 8 Arthur Cookfair
- 11 Cindy Hickey
- 12 Karen Stamos
- 12 Elaine Swaine
- 13 Kathy Hallborg
- 16 Karen Guggemos
- 17 Jim Grisante
- 19 Dorothy Ward
- 22 William Guggemos
- 23 Claudia Weiss
- 23 Jane Somerville
- 28 Kyle Townsend
- 30 Tracy Daub

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 13 Timothy Moorhouse



New Pantry Volunteers are always welcome! Bring a friend along. For more info, call Barb Pearson, 833-3163.



When would I work?

- on a Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30am to 4:00pm.
- one afternoon a month (or as many as you wish).

What would I do?

- You would work with 3 or 4 other volunteers.
- You might guide a client through our “store” to help them choose their groceries.
- You might greet and “check in” our clients.
- You might help to stock shelves .
- If you and a friend would like to work together, we can schedule that for you.
- You will feel good about the time you spend with us, helping our neighbors.

A Pantry Story

On the last Thursday of January I was helping a client choose her groceries when I heard Sandy Boag exclaim from the intake desk, “Really! And you just came in to tell us that!?”

Sandy was talking with a current client who had started with us just a few months before. Mr. “A.” had come in this day to tell us that he had found a job, and would not need our help any longer - and to thank us for helping him through this difficult time. He was beaming. He was so pleased, and so were we. The client I had been helping said, “Oh, what a blessing.”, expressing what we were all feeling. We congratulated him, shook his hand and wished him well in his new job. His smile stayed with us for the rest of the day.

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 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

(Continued on P. 7)

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.

A Note Regarding The Monthly Profile

I hope everyone is enjoying the monthly member interviews since I started in last summer. It has been a delight to explore the many personal stories that I've discovered about the people I see every week at church. Sometimes I am surprised at the adventures and many facts my questions have revealed. I find it particularly enlightening to read about the testimonies that members have experienced through their life as a Christian. My goal is to interview everyone so get ready to be next!

Amy Erickson

INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

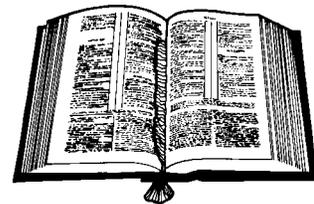
WEDNESDAYS: March 13 and 27, 2013

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

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



Monthly Profile

Everyone in church knows Janet Mazzaroppi, by all her duties and roles she has taken on since joining UPC in 2004. Here's an in depth look at her life personally and what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Janet was born and raised in New Hartford, NY just outside of Utica in a large close loving family with many relatives nearby. Her family attended a little Congregational church called Messiah that her father's side had been long time members. The Rev. Jack Takianaki was the minister, and she remembers his gentle demeanor, and kindness. His daughter became a good friend at the age of 5, and still remembers many early church experiences with her and the other children. The church was a place of social activities for the children such as choir, and a youth fellowship where everyone takes turn being president, VP, etc. (this explains her love for committee meetings today!)

In Janet's senior year, she had an opportunity to be in a student exchange program in Colombia, South America. She recalls writing down all the Beatles' songs lyrics for the local girls at the parochial school she attended. After high school she went to William Smith College, in Geneva, NY. During her junior year she studied for a semester at the University of Madrid in Spain. It was during the turbulent protest years against the dictator Generalissimo Franco. She was thrilled by the experience, and was a huge confidence builder for her.

After college she worked for the county in the social services department in Utica. Shortly after starting her job she received word from a college friend that she was going to stay in Italy after her year of working overseas. She invited Janet to join her and she accepted, where she worked for a year before returning home. Now we know where she gets her travel bug!

Upon returning to the states, she got a job in Washington, DC, where she met her husband Armand. A year later, they moved to Syracuse where Armand's family lived. Janet worked for 4 years as assistant to the school psychiatrist in the Syracuse School District, which she found very rewarding. When considering grad school she thought about psychology but instead went for her MBA at Syracuse University. She then was hired in the finance department at the local GM plant. The plant closed after 13 years, and she relocated to the GM facility in Lockport-Harrison. After 10 years there she happily accepted an early retirement offer.

Since retirement she has taken up drawing and painting, and also small sewing projects with the help of Brian Belus's wife, Mary Ann. In the summer she gardens, although she admits that the weeds usually get the best of her. Of course her adventurous spirit has taken both of them on many trips traveling all over.

Janet first heard about UPC through the Greater Buffalo Counseling Centers, where she became a board member in 2003. Kathy Hallborg, a board member also, introduced her to UPC, and all that it offered. She was intrigued by the church's community involvement and also Tracy's thought provoking sermons. Since joining in 2004, she has served as a Deacon, and is currently in her third term as an elder. She has also been a member on the personnel, stewardship, and community committee, as well as helping with the Christmas cookie sale every year. She has faithfully volunteered at the food pantry for many years, helping to keep that a successful venture for UPC.

Janet credits her early foundation by her parents and church to develop her faith to help her get through many trying times. Because of her faith, she never feels alone.

Thanks Janet for all your work in the church, and we look forward to growing together in our ministry with Christ.



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, March 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

MARCH 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
		12:15 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
		12:15 pm	University Student Luncheon
Monday	11	12:00 noon	Presbyterian Women
Tuesday	12	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	13	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch
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
Tuesday	19	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	20	7:00 pm	Session Meeting
Thursday	21	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
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
		8:00 pm	Maundy Thursday evening service
Sunday	31	8:00 am	Worship Service – note earlier time
		9:00 – 10:30 am	Intergenerational Easter Breakfast
		11:00 am	Worship Service