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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church

March 2014

Pastor's Column

Wednesday, March 5 marks the beginning of Lent—a season of preparation for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. In some traditions, Lent is a somber season of penitence and sacrifice. I prefer to think of it as an opportunity to reflect upon what it means to be a follower of Jesus. In other words, Lent affords us the chance to look honestly at our need for Christ in our lives and to take stock of God's abundant grace to us. Thus, this is both a profound as well as joyous season.

University Presbyterian Church will celebrate Ash Wednesday with two events: First, we will enjoy table fellowship with one another at a simple soup supper at 6 p.m. Second, we will gather at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary for worship which this year will focus on reaffirming our baptismal covenant. In baptism, we confront our need for God, renounce our sins, and, with God's grace and power, embark upon the new life in Christ. On Ash Wednesday, we will reaffirm this special covenant and calling we have from God.

All are welcome at both events as we undertake to walk with Christ through Lent and through our lives.

Shalom,

Tracy



**THIS WEEK'S
MESSAGE**

Worship Column ~ March 2014

March 2nd ~ Transfiguration of the Lord

9:00 AM Worship Service with
Communion

11:00 AM Worship Service with
Communion

Lectionary: Exodus 24: 12-18; Psalms 2 or 99;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

March 9th ~ 1st Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Deacon's Meeting

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalms 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

March 16th ~ 2nd Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalms 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

March 23rd ~ 3rd Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Exodus 17:1-20; Psalms 95;
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

March 30th ~ 4th Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalms 23;
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Donate Your Sole!

The Ministry in Community Committee is partnering with Hearts With the Homeless which is a charity that has a city mobile soup center and clothing distribution site on Tonawanda Street in Buffalo. If your gently used adult and children soles (shoes, sneakers, sandals or boots) can be used by those who have nothing for their feet, please wrap up your soles in a small grocery bag and place in the designated box located in the Narthex by the food collection basket.

As an added note we have already sent them one full box of shoes, sneakers and boots. – Thanks to everyone who has donated!

Thank you from those who have no soles.



“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

Hello Members



It is in your best interest to use your church envelopes. This helps us with weekly accounting procedures and is *beneficial for your contribution accountability*. Your boxed envelopes are in the Narthex of the church. Please pick them up as soon as you can.

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

Do you have a “Blessing Story”?

Blessings come to us in many ways. They surprise us at the best and worst of times. Sometimes we don't recognize them until they've passed by. Our *New Beginnings* focus this year is “*Blessings*”. *Maybe you have a story that could bless another through the monthly newsletter. Use the space below or as much as you'd like to share and submit to one of the deacons. Some of you may prefer to e-mail your 'blessing story' for editing to:*

universitypresbyterian@verizon.net SUBJECT: Blessings article

Name: _____ **Contact Info:** _____

Food Pantry By The Numbers

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.

2014 January	
Infants	0
Children	58
Adults	170
Elderly	59
Total	<u>287</u>
Households	175
Equivalent Meals	2583

Please Help Us Recruit New Volunteers – New Pantry Volunteers are always welcome! But right now we are in great need of more folks.

- Can you give us an afternoon a month?
- Do you know someone who might like to join us?
- Come and bring a friend along.
- Ask a neighbor.
- Post a flyer at work or at your library.

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.

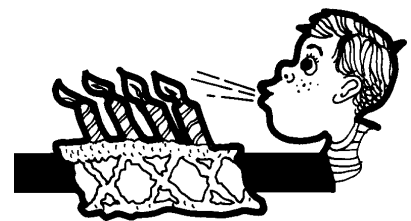


March Birthdays

- 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

Young Presbyterians

- 13 Timothy Moorhouse



Opportunities to Become a Blessing

Volunteer in the Food Pantry

Help with the Children's education hour

Prepare a meal for the University Student Program

Serve as a Liturgist

Call someone you haven't seen at church in a while

Join the choir

**INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL
BIBLE STUDY**

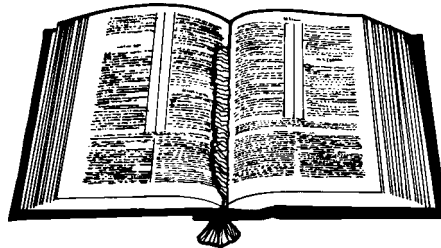
March 12th & 26th and April 9th & 23rd

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

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



CAMP DUFFIELD

Camp Duffield is looking for individuals who want to experience the wonder of God's world. We need~

~CHILDREN to sign up for summer camp.

~ADULTS who are willing to volunteer their time by working as a counselor, lifeguard, nurse, crafts person, or kitchen help and can commit to one week of service.

Camp Offerings available to you:

~**Parent/Child 24 Intensity-May 23rd-24th-** A fun-filled 24 hour retreat to spend quality time with your child with a structured program.

~**Challenge Camp-July 6th-12th-**a camp for adults with developmentally challenged adults. Cost \$500

~**Science Camp-July 15th-19th-** Children who have completed grades 3-8) get to explore the wonder of the great outdoors.(Cost \$330)

~**Chipmunks-**For our younger folks who want to just participate in a shortened version of the camping experience. (during Science camp or Leapin'Lizards)(Cost \$330)

~**Leapin' Lizards-July 20th-25th-**For those who have completed grades 3rd-8th. (Cost \$330)

~**Night Owls-** A perfect schedule for teens who stay up late and sleep in. (for those who have completed grades 9-12) (Cost\$340)

~**Camp Hope-Aug.10th-16th-** an opportunity for single parent and blended families to enjoy a camping experience of family camping with others who understand.(Cost \$195)

~**Alumni Reunion retreat-Aug.8th-10th**

~**Women's Retreat-October 10th-12th**

~**Men's Retreat-September 26th-28th**

Camperships are available upon request.

For more information, please call Pat Cookfair-Casseri at 440-9833.



**UPC invites everyone to the 2nd Congregational Movie Night.
Saturday, March 22nd at 7:00 pm
Come and enjoy an evening with members and friends and watch**

“Babette’s Feast”

A rousing paean to artistic creation, a delicate evocation of divine grace. It is the lovingly layered tale of a French housekeeper with a mysterious past who brings quiet revolution in the form of one exquisite meal to a circle of starkly pious villagers in late nineteenth-century Denmark. Babette’s Feast combines earthiness and reverence in an indescribably moving depiction of sensual pleasure that goes to your head like fine champagne.”

Danish with English subtitles. 104 minutes. Children would not be interested in attending.

Lenten Meditations

Lent prepares us to get ready for Easter, by walking with Jesus on his relentless march to the cross—the destination of those who challenged the unjust systems of his day. *How may we be fed by Jesus, sharing his walk to the cross?*

A thoughtful devotional resource for Lent, published by **Presbyterians Today**, guides us along Jesus’ journey. Titled, *“Cross-bound,”* this resource brings meditations and art work to our attention, as we contemplate Jesus’ call to take up our cross and follow him.

Individuals may use this resource in personal devotions. Also, Gladys Gifford has offered to facilitate group devotions using *“Cross-bound”* on selected Wednesdays, 7-8 pm, in the Holzwarth Room. **Dates are: March 12, March 26, April 2.**

UPC has made a few copies available now: contact Gladys for your personal copy. You may also order your copy on line: pcusa.org/today

Deacons at University Presbyterian Church

Many of you may think of deacons as the people who provide the refreshments after worship and, along with the ushers, greet worshipers and take the collection on Sunday mornings. Our deacons do these activities and much more. When we greet members and visitors we are extending an invitation to join us in worship. The coffee time provides a weekly opportunity of fellowship in which we become better acquainted with each other and welcome all.

Jesus said, "Feed my Sheep." Deacons are active in pastoral care. When we become aware of someone in our congregation who is experiencing health problems, grief and loss, loneliness or other upsetting circumstance or when we know of members who are unable to attend services, we try reach out. We provide pastoral care under the guidance of Rev. Daub. Every deacon is in contact with one or more people on the pastoral care list. We seek to provide spiritual support through listening, prayer, Scripture reading or by just adding a bit of sunshine on a cloudy day.

The Deacons' Fund provides for tangible ways to follow our Lord's admonition to feed his sheep. These efforts are paid for through the Deacons' Fund. This fund is used to purchase the daily devotional booklets, "These Days", that are available to all without charge. It is used to purchase the "Journeying Though Grief" book series that we make available to anyone who has lost a loved one and currently we are reviewing additional printed materials that deal with life problems from a faith perspective. University Presbyterian Church is blessed to have a group of knitters who make prayer shawls for those experiencing difficult times and the cost of yarn is paid through the Deacons' Fund.

The Deacons' Fund is used to assist members who face unexpected and very difficult financial situations. These funds have been used for a variety of problems. For example, there was a child who needed medical care that involved considerable out-of-pocket expenses and a donation was made from the Deacons' Fund. The money provided is intended to be a loan although we understand that circumstances may make it difficult or impossible for the loan to be repaid. The decision to provide money from this fund is made by the pastor, the chairperson and treasurer of the deacons. Information regarding the details of the loans or gifts from the Deacons' Fund remain confidential.

You are part of providing this help through the Deacons' Fund. The Deacons' Fund does not receive money from your weekly envelop donations, but is funded through specific means. Our major fund raiser for the Deacons' Fund is our "Soup and Pie Sale" each fall. We sometimes receive designated funds. All proceeds after payment of costs from the Sunday "Coffee Fund" go to the Deacons' Fund. When you put your contribution into the basket on the coffee table, you are keeping the "coffee perking" and supporting the Deacons' Fund.

Member Interview

Marietta Bratton

Marietta grew up in Hartford Connecticut with her extended family, consisting of her sister, parents, grandparents, aunt, uncle, and great-aunt. They lived in a 2 family house owned by her grandparents, and her mother called it home for almost 75 years! Marietta was raised Catholic, and attended a very large Polish Roman Catholic Church.

After 40 years of teaching she made the bittersweet decision of retiring this year. During her teaching career she taught pre-k through high school, and for the past 25 years she's proud to say she has been a special ed. teacher for Erie 1 BOCES.

Now that she's retiring she'll have more time to read, spend time with friends, family and their 6 grandchildren. Also she can go out to breakfast with her husband, Rev. Stanford Bratton more than once a week. They enjoy traveling through northern Canada and in 2011 were very excited to see a polar bear on a beach in Churchill, MB. Marietta was an avid runner for 30 years until she injured her knee 3 years ago. She ran in many 10 K races and one, half-marathon through Letchworth Park. Her favorite race was through Central Park in NYC with her closest friend and 5000 other women. Now she gets her workouts at the Y or taking walks around her neighborhood.

Marietta's faith has given her strength to deal with the ache of being childless. She read many books about childlessness, kept journals, prayed and still struggled. However, a poem written by a childless woman touched her deeply and set her on a journey to find as many poems as she could. Somewhere on that journey she decided to publish a collection of poetry by childless women. During the 3 years that followed, she took workshops, traveled to NYC for a conference with publishers and agents, and researched how to publish. God's presence was deeply with her throughout the process and she could actually feel His arms around her. The process of becoming public about a private issue by publishing a book changed her life. After 8 years, "I Will Bare This Scar: Poems of Childless Women", is still available and selling on Amazon. I'm certain many women have received great comfort reading the poetry in her book.

Marietta became a member in 2003 after being welcomed by the warmth and friendliness of the congregation. Since joining, her faith has grown by the wonderful moving music and worship. She especially enjoys the blessing of the Taize service, and also the many opportunities to be a blessing to others. She has served as a deacon and an elder, and also has been a member of the Ministry to Community since 2004. Marietta is excited about the New Beginnings group and looks forward to working on that mission with UPC.

Good luck in your retirement Marietta!



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 7 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

THE NETWORK

March 2014

Saturday	1st	10:00 am	Grief Support Meeting at Family Tree Restaurant
Sunday	2nd	Transfiguration of the Lord	
		9:00 am	Worship Service w/Communion
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service w/Communion
Tuesday	4th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	5th	6:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thursday	6th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Friday	7th	5:30 pm	Taize Service
Sunday	9th	1st Sunday in Lent	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		9:30 am	Deacon's Meeting
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
Monday	10th	12:00 pm	Presbyterian Women – Holzwarth Room
Tuesday	11th	10:00 am	Food Pantry – Volunteer Meeting in Auditorium
		12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	12th	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch –all welcome
		7:00 pm	Lenten Devotions with Gladys Gifford
Thursday	13th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday	16th	2nd Sunday in Lent	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour

Tuesday	18th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry (delivery date)
Wednesday	19th	7:00 pm	Session Meeting – Holzwarth Room
Thursday	20th	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice
Saturday	22nd	7:00 pm	Congregational Movie & Snacks – “Babette’s Feast” – See article in this edition
Sunday	23rd	3rd Sunday in Lent	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	25th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	26th	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – all welcome
		7:00 pm	Lenten Devotions with Gladys Gifford
Thursday	27th	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice
Sunday	30th	4th Sunday in Lent	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
PREVIEW for First week of APRIL 2014			
Tuesday	1st	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	2nd	7:00 pm	Lenten Devotions with Gladys Gifford
Thursday	3rd	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice
Friday	4th	5:30 pm	Taize Service
Saturday	5th	10:00 am	Grief Support Meeting at Family Tree Restaurant