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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church

March 2012

Pastor's Column

We do not typically think of Lent as a season of joy. Christmas is a joyful season. Easter is a joyful season. But not Lent. Lent is a time for serious reflection, of denial, of repentance for our sins.

But why not joy? Why wouldn't orienting our lives toward God be an occasion of joy? Why wouldn't we be filled with gratitude for the mercy we are shown by God and for the affirmation of God's unconditional love for us, while we are yet sinners?

As part of our conversations regarding the future of University Presbyterian Church, the Session has begun reflecting on this topic of joy. We have discussed how sometimes we lose track of the joy of our faith and ministry in the midst of solving some of the challenging problems of our congregation and in our efforts to do the necessary support work for our congregation's ministries. Yet, it is important that whatever new directions our congregation may take, that we do so with a sense of joy. The Westminster Shorter Catechism (one of the affirmations of faith in the Presbyterian Church's Book of Confessions), asks this question (slightly edited for inclusive language):

What is the chief end of humanity? The answer given: *To glorify God and enjoy God forever.* Imagine what your life or our congregational life might look like if we took seriously that our purpose in life is to glorify God and to *enjoy* God.

Lent is a call to return to faithful living, which includes practices, habits, and disciplines which are to glorify and enjoy God. This Lenten season, may we discover the joy of walking with God.

Shalom,
Tracy



Worship Column

March 4th 2nd Sunday in Lent
9:00 AM Worship - Communion
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship – Communion
Lectionary: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;
Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25;
Mark 8:31-38

March 11th 3rd Sunday in Lent
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 18th 4th Sunday in Lent
9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Numbers 21:4-9;
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10;
John 3:14-21

March 25th 5th Sunday in Lent
9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Jeremiah 31:31-34;
Psalm 51:1-12 *or* Psalm 119:9-16;
Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Movie Night Schedule Change

In the pew brochure it's listed that the next movie night **will be on March 24th at 6:30 PM.** Due to a scheduling conflict the date will have to be pushed **back one week to March 31st, but still at the same time at 6:30 PM.** Come out and enjoy a film and conversation following the movie.



“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

Lunch For University Student Fellowship

The Ministry with University Students Committee invites members of the congregation **to provide lunch or funding** to cover the cost of lunch for the University Student Fellowship on **Sundays at 12:15 PM.**

Adonation of \$30 will cover lunch for one Sunday. Payment is needed one week in advance and may be submitted via the offering plate with a designation for "University Student Lunches."

If preparing a meal, one person may bring the main course, another dessert and beverage, or one person may bring the entire meal. Though the number of students varies, please plan food for 8-10.

Simple foods work best. For the main course, sandwich fixings, a crockpot of chili or soup, or a casserole would be ideal. For dessert, fruit is an option, and other desserts need not be homemade. A 2-liter bottle of pop is the perfect beverage. Paper products and cutlery are provided, so you need not bring those. However, a ladle is appreciated for soup or chili.

This year we have a vegetarian student and one who has a gluten allergy, so it would be helpful to take this into consideration when preparing meals. Perhaps meat could be served separately and at least some components of the meal could be gluten-free.

Those who provide the lunch are encouraged to eat with the students.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Holzwarth Room for the fall semester. Please help us fulfill our mission of ministering to the university students in our midst by facilitating their fellowship over lunch before they begin their weekly study topic.

INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS: March 14th and 28th, 2012

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

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



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 2012

Infants	3
Children	92
Adults	216
Elderly	38

Households:	190
Equivalent meals:	3,141

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 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
22	William Guggemos
23	Claudia Weiss
23	Jane Somerville
28	Kyle Townsend
29	Ethel Hawes
30	Tracy Daub

YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS

13	Timothy Moorhouse
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Lenten Events For March And The Beginning Of April

On **Wednesday, March 14th** there will be a Special Lenten Supper with a Program to follow.

April 1st – Palm Sunday, Worship Service (Communion) at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

April 5th – Maundy Thursday, Service at 7:00 PM

April 6th – Good Friday – Taize' Service 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

April 8th – Easter Sunday – 8:00 AM - Early Service

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Easter Breakfast for all

11:00 AM – Easter Service with Brass

Monthly Interview With A Church Member

We will be featuring a new section in the Network where we will interview a different congregational member every month. We begin with a February birthday girl, Barbara Lyons who has been UPC's financial secretary for the past six years.

Barb was born in the NYC area, and due to her father's job moved from there to Albany. After that her family moved to Syracuse then back to NYC, and then finally ended up in Buffalo.

She is a retiree from the Town of Amherst where she worked for almost 28 years as the secretary to the Chief of Police. Besides being an active member of UPC, she also enjoys playing cards especially pinochle, and going antiquing. During the summer months you'll find her working in her garden or playing a round of golf.

Barbara has been a member of our church for 20 years, and was first drawn to it because of its warm friendly appeal. Her church family has developed into lasting bonds of friendship. Her faith has been tested throughout the years, especially when she lost her son 31 years ago. But due to her strong Christian background and her innate spirituality she remains a faithful follower.

For 6 years she has been an elder, and is now serving another term. She was also a deacon for 3 years, and served on the worship, personnel, nominating, and stewardship committees.



GARDENING WORKSHOP COMING TO UPC

University Presbyterian Church will host a gardening workshop on **Saturday, April 21st**. This workshop will feature **Master Gardener, Marlene Liberti**, who is associated with the Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Erie County. Marlene will cover two important gardening topics:

“Unfriendly Plants” and “Getting Ready for Spring”.

Bring your green (or not-so-green) thumbs and get ready to improve your gardening skills.

This workshop is free and open to the public. Registration will begin at **9:30 a.m.** in the Holzwarth Room, with the workshop running from **10:00 am to 12:00 noon**. *Come join us and bring your friends and neighbors.* For questions call Janet Mazzaroppi or Bonnie Dahl.



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 TaizÈ 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 2 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 TaizÈ Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org/firstfriday

MARCH 2012

Thursday	1	7:30 pm	Choir
		12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Friday	2	5:30 pm	Taize'
Saturday	3	10:00 am	Grief Support Breakfast - Family Tree
Sunday	4	9:00 am	Worship-Communion
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship-Communion
		12:15 pm	University Student Luncheon
Tuesday	6	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	7	7:00 pm	Committee Meetings
Thursday	8	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Saturday	10	2:00 pm	AGO Member's Recital
Sunday	11	9:00 am	Worship
		9:30 am	Deacons Meeting
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
Monday	12	12:00 noon	Presbyterian Women
Tuesday	13	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	14	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Stu
		5:30 pm	Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Lenten Program
Thursday	15	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Saturday	17	1:00 pm	Knitting Group
Sunday	18	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
Tuesday	20	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	21	5:30 pm	Soup Supper
		7:00 pm	Session
Thursday	22	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir
Sunday	25	9:00 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship
		12:15 pm	University Student Lunch
Tuesday	27	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	28	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Stu
Thursday	29	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
		7:30 pm	Choir

Note: There are no University Student Lunches on **Sunday, March 11th & 18th - UB vacation break**