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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church November 2014

## Pastor's Column

It's Thanksgiving time. Below is my Thanksgiving prayer that I share with you this season:

Dear God,

I am grateful for a way of life that is more important than how I happen to feel about it on any given day.

Thank you for the way of Jesus Christ,  
which teaches me:

To be generous,  
even when I don't feel like being generous.

To forgive,  
even when I would prefer to hold a grudge.

To serve others,  
even when I am tired and they are ungrateful.

To extend compassion,  
even when I would rather think about myself.

To give thanks,  
even when I have plenty of reasons to complain.

To stand up for others,  
even when this makes me unpopular.

To love everyone,  
even when there are many people I don't like.

And thank you, God, for my faith community  
which gives me plenty of opportunities to live out your way of

generosity, forgiveness, service,  
compassion, gratitude, justice, and  
love,

Even on days when I don't feel like it.

**Shalom,  
Tracy**



## Worship Column ~ November 2014

### November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**9:00 AM** Worship Service with  
**Communion**

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship Service with  
**Communion**

**Lectionary:** Joshua 3:7-17; Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

### November 9<sup>th</sup> - 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**9:00 AM** Worship Service

**9:30 AM** Deacons Meeting

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship Service

**Lectionary:** Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-125;  
Psalms 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;  
Matthew 25:1-13

### November 16<sup>th</sup> - 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**9:00 AM** Worship Service

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship Service

**Lectionary:** Judges 4:1-7; Psalms 123;  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

### November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Christ the King

**9:00 AM** Worship Service

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship Service

**Lectionary:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalms 100;  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

### November 30<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**9:00 AM** Worship Service

**10:00 AM** Education Hour

**11:00 AM** Worship Service

**Lectionary:** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

## Save these dates for December

**Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Deacon's great tasting  
Soup and Pie sale**

**Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – UPC's yummy Cookie  
Sale**

**More info 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

## 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 September	
Infants	0
Children	81
Adults	197
Elderly	<u>48</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>326</b>
Households	192
Equivalent Meals	2934

**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.

## November Birthdays

- 1 Karen Stucker
- 3 Jennifer Cotto-Ecklund
- 5 Lauren Mook
- 7 Mary Jean Conibear
- 11 Sarah Smith
- 11 Elizabeth Harbison
- 11 Brian Belus
- 16 Jim Whitefield
- 17 Joysline Chia
- 18 Gary Melius
- 23 Doug Harbison
- 28 Alma Kelly
- 29 William Harbison
- 29 Elizabeth Johnson

## YOUNG PRESBYTERIANS

- 22 Grace Burker
- 26 Nicholas Harbison



## **“Donate Your Sole”**

Remember...Hearts for the Homeless “**DONATE YOUR SOLE**” program. This on-going ministry to collect gently used and possibly new shoes for those in our community is always in need. Winter is coming soon boots, winter shoes and sneakers will be replacing the summer look. If you plan on new boots or sneakers for yourself or family members please think of us by bringing the gently used items to church and place them in the shoe box in the **narthex**. As always your donations are most welcome.

*We thank you from the bottom of our SOLE!*

## **Sunday Suppers**

University Presbyterian Church is going to hold the last Sunday Supper for this year on **Sunday, November 16**. All students, neighbors and members are welcome.

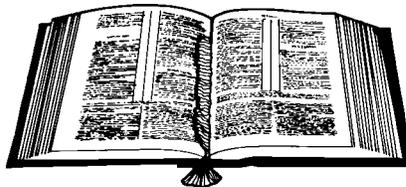
**Dinner starts at 5:00 pm; followed by a Ted Talk\* Program or guest speakers at 6:00 pm.**

Vegetarian meals will be offered, and the meal is free.

\***TED** is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks.

TED began in 1984 as a conference where **T**echnology, **E**ntertainment and **D**esign converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages.

**Bible Study ~ Intergenerational-International  
with Rev. Stuart Buisch  
Bible Study will be held on  
Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 – 6:30 pm ~ a light meal is served.  
Open to everyone and all are welcome.**



# Joyful Giving!

By Jerilyn Hickey

I am a fundraiser for the American Red Cross, and people often say to me, "Oh! I couldn't do what you do...ask people for money". This is almost always accompanied by a full body shudder, as though it were the most fear-inducing job on the planet. I completely understand. It's how I feel when contemplating a room full of 4-year-olds.

I wonder, though, why so many folks feel that way. There is so much need in our community, in our nation, indeed, in our world and so many people willing to do the work, if only they had the money and resources. There are also many, many generous people who feel called to provide that money and those resources. So, why shouldn't we talk about the need? Why shouldn't we be bold in talking about money and asking for support for things we believe in? Most of all, why shouldn't we be joyful givers!

Back in 2012 when Hurricane Sandy devastated the East Coast, people all over Western New York made donations - from banks to grocery stores to folks walking in off the street because they wanted to help. Many of these gifts had quite a few zeroes, and we were very happy to arrange photo ops with big checks and issue press releases to thank our donors for their generosity. Then Jacob came in. Jacob was 5 years old and proudly presented a large can filled with money he had collected to "help the kids". I really can't adequately describe how happy he was to be giving the money except to say he was unabashedly joyful. Have you ever given a gift like that? Written a check to your favorite cause and had that almost euphoric feeling of knowing you were making a difference?

This month we are launching a new **Every Member Campaign** to raise the money our church needs for next year. We are asking every member and friend of UPC to make a gift, no matter how large or small. There are no small or insignificant gifts – every gift is important and every gift makes a significant difference in the life of our faith and mission. I hope you will give generously, and most of all I hope you will give joyfully!



*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, November 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](http://www.upcbuffalo.org/firstfriday)

## **Voice 2014 Public Meeting Campaigns**

**Erie County Local Conditional Release Program** – The program provides 25 individuals currently serving time at the Alden Correctional facility who committed low-level non-violent offenses to qualify for early release and receive wraparound services such as housing, job training and placement, mental health care and addiction treatment in return for one year of probation. We believe that those who have struggled at times in their lives deserve the opportunity to seek reconciliation and to receive the support they need to get back on their feet. We are working with County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Sheriff Tim Howard, the Erie County Legislature and the John R. Oishei Foundation to fully reinstate the program by early 2015.

**Restorative Justice in the Correctional Facility** – In a partnership between Prisoners Are People Too, VOICE-Buffalo and Open Buffalo we are currently in dialogue with the Erie County Sheriff's office about creating a restorative justice program to work with youth at the Erie County Correctional Facility. The Sheriff's office and leadership with VOICE and Prisoners Are People Too have been engaged in conversations about developing a program that will introduce trained community leaders to conduct peace circles and conferences at the correctional facility to resolve tensions and conflicts. This initiative will also support the youth as they transition out of the correctional facility to the community by linking them with Back to Basics Outreach Ministries where they will be connected to mentors and receive ongoing support.

**THE NETWORK**  
**November 2014**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Grief Support Meeting at Family Tree Restaurant</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
		<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Communion</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth Sunday Education Hour</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Communion</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00 am to 9 pm</b>	<b>General Election – voting will be held here</b> <b>NO FOOD PANTRY TO BE HELD TODAY DUE TO ELECTIONS – SEE WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study w/Rev. Stu Buisch – Holzwarth Room</b>
		<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry **** SPECIAL DAY FOR PANTRY</b>
		<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Taize service</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>32<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
		<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Communion</b>
		<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Deacon’s Meeting</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth Sunday Education Hour</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Communion</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Presbyterian Women Meeting – Holzwarth Room</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Ministry to Community Meeting – All welcome</b>
		<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>33<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
		<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Adult &amp; Youth Sunday Education Hour</b>
<b>–</b>		<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday Suppers – Students &amp; Neighbors welcome</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>18<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>

