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

Pastor's Column

The Worship and Education Team has decided to name the new program year for 2013-2014 as a Year of Blessings. We would like our congregation to focus on the theme of "blessings" for this year. But what exactly does that mean? When one thinks about it, the concept of blessing is complex. The scriptures are certainly filled with passages about God blessing people. But so too can we find passages of people offering a formal blessing to one another. And then again, what about simply *being* a blessing to others by the way we live, care, and love?

We hope to touch on all of these aspects of blessings. This year, as we continue to discern UPC's "New Beginning," we pray that we might be blessed by God with the gifts of insight, wisdom, enthusiasm, and trust. We also pray that our congregation would *become* a blessing to our community and to those who enter our doors. Where there is suffering, division, despair, we pray that we can in some way be part of God's activity to bring healing and hope. We want to also bless the work and ministries and endeavors of members of our congregation. And of course, there is the important aspect of "counting our blessings"—to remember to give thanks to God for all that is good and holy in our lives and the chance to walk God's holy way.

Our Sunday morning Adult Class will begin in September with a 4 week exploration of this theme of blessings. The classes will be on the following topics as they relate to A Life Of Blessings:

September 8: A Life of Blessings: Gratitude (Rev. Daub, leader)

September 15: A Life of Blessings: Compassion (Rev. Daub, leader)

September 22: A Life of Blessings: Simplicity (Kathy Hallborg, leader)

September 29: A Life of Blessings: Forgiveness (Kathy Hallborg, leader)

You are warmly invited to join us in these conversations.

In our committee meetings, in our worship time, in our formal and informal conversations, we want to seize every opportunity to focus on this theme of blessing—to lift up people and circumstances to bless, to pray and explore how we can become a blessing in any given situation, to "remember to remember" the gifts we already enjoy. In doing so, we may find ourselves more able to see the hand of God at work in our midst.

Shalom,
Tracy



September Worship Column

Sept. 1st - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship – Communion by Intinction

Lectionary Jeremiah 2:4-13;
Psalms 81:1;10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16;
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sept. 8th - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

RALLY DAY

9:00 AM Worship

9:30 AM Deacon's Meeting

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Jeremiah 18:1-11;
Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18; Philemon 1-21;
Luke 14: 25-33

Sept. 15th - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28;
Psalms 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Sept. 22nd - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1;
Psalms 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Sept. 29th - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Worship

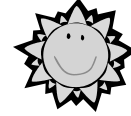
10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15;
Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6: 6-19;
Luke 16:19-31

Rally Day - Sunday, September 8th.

September 8th is Rally Day.



Following the **11 am Worship service** we will celebrate with a Summer Pot Luck.

Bring your favorite summer picnic dish. Please remember the **Pot Luck rule of thumb** Bring enough for your family PLUS 10 more. because everyone wants to sample what you made. Sign up in the Holzwarth Room.



“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

And Another Pantry Story

On a Thursday morning in July, I was talking with Denise in the church office when a tall young man rang the buzzer to come in. He was holding a grocery bag, and inquired as to when the food pantry would be opening. You see, he and his mother, who was waiting for him downstairs, had brought several bags of food to donate to the pantry. I offered to go back downstairs with him to bring the donation into the pantry. When I greeted his mother, I told her how kind it was of them to bring this donation. She replied that in the past, when she and her son were going through a very difficult time, they had been helped out as clients of our pantry. It had meant a great deal to them. Now that they were doing better, they wanted to repay that help. They asked some questions about what types of food items would be best for future donations.

As they were leaving, I thanked them again and said how glad I was that their situation had improved. Mrs. "D" turned with a smile and said, "Oh yes, things are so much better now". Her eyes were glistening as she and her son said goodbye.

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.



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.

2013	June	July
Children	72	86
Adults	169	195
Elderly	41	44
Infants	1	1
People	283	326

BIRTHDAYS

September Birthdays

11	Laura MacDonald
12	Margaret Twisdale
19	Juanita Mattison
19	Richard Strub
19	Josef Beamer
20	Russell Williams
22	Mackenzie Maddock
25	Barbara Moran
26	Marietta Bratton
28	Barbara Vossler
29	Joseph Beamer

Young Adults

22	J. Aiden Ward
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Holzwarth Room Renovation Update

Our Holzwarth Room renovation fund drive has generated a total of **\$6,998.16**. Since this is an on-going project, we hope everyone will rally with us to help meet the total that is needed to purchase the first section of furniture.

Thank You!

Sunday School Sleepover

The date is set

Friday, October 11th UPC will hold its Sunday School Sleepover.
Mark your calendar now. More information to follow.

Have you visited the Farmers Market?

The University Community Farmer's Market takes place every Saturday until mid-October. This market is collaboration between the University at Buffalo, the surrounding South Campus neighborhoods and local organizations to promote wellness and community sustainability through the availability of fresh produce and locally grown food while promoting local entrepreneurs. **Stop by to check out the fresh produce.**

University Community Farmers Market 2013 Information

Dates:

Saturdays, May 18 - October 12, held rain or shine

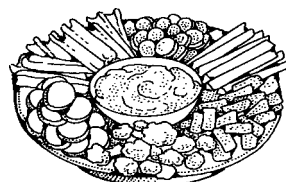
Time: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: UB South Campus on Main Street at Kenmore Avenue in Buffalo, NY

Parking is available right behind the market by entering campus across from the University Plaza on Main Street.

<http://www.ourheights.org/farmersmarket/>

After shopping why not check out the UPC Flower Bed at 73 Tyler Street. See how all the vegetable beds are growing and sprouting new plants.



Choir Information

September brings another beginning in the church life, and that is the start of the choir. If there are any singers who would like to participate in the choir we would gladly welcome you and your talents. It's not necessary to be a trained vocalist, just enthusiasm to sing and join in the fellowship of praising God. We have a lot of fun, and a deep satisfaction of performing to the best of our abilities. If you are unable to commit to every week then just attend when you're able to even if it's only during special times during the year like Christmas or Easter. Rehearsal is **every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.**

Hope to see you there.

Sunday School Assistants

We will **need volunteers to be assistants in the Sunday school classes beginning in the fall.** If you are able to dedicate one or multiple Sundays this school year, it would be greatly appreciated. No preparation is necessary, only your attendance and support. If you've never been a leader in Sunday school I'm sure you would find it very rewarding sharing your gifts with the youth of the church. Last year Jude Hammer volunteered all year, so now it's time to pass on the torch.

Thank you Jude for all your dedication.

Contact Sandy Robertson if you can help out with any of the Sundays. The old adage is very true *"It takes a village to raise a child"*.

**INTERCOLLEGIATE - INTERGENERATIONAL
BIBLE STUDY**

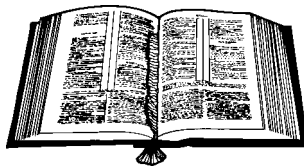
**Wednesdays, September 4th and 18th
October 9th and 23rd**

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

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch



Just Coffee!!!

The coffee we (UPC) buy through Frontera de Cristo is Now on Sale at:

**El Buen Amigo, 114 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY
14201**

Hours: Mon-Sat 11:00-7:00 PM; Sun 11:00-4 PM

Telephone: (716) 885-6343

Member Profile

Our member featured for the month of September is Jane Somerville, the mom of Thomas Somerville who we featured a couple of months ago. Jane was born in Ridgeway, Ontario, Canada. She grew up in a Catholic church which was 2 miles away in Crystal Beach. Her family didn't own a car, so when the weather was stormy, they would attend a Methodist church right around the corner. Once she moved to the states, she didn't become an American citizen until 1962, so that she could become a den mother for the Cub Scouts.

Jane worked as a secretary in Fort Erie, Ontario, and in California. After she was married she worked with her husband who had his own business as a C.P.A. After her husband's death, she worked at the Council of Churches as the purchasing agent and managed the supply store.

Jane is the mother of 3 sons, and also has 11 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and 4 grand cats! She enjoys going to Home Bureau, and also attends the Tonawanda Senior Citizens center daily for lunch and biweekly for movies. When friends are sick, Jane makes it a point to visit them while they're laid up.

When her two oldest boys were ready to join the church in 1967, Jane and her husband decided to transfer to UPC from First Presbyterian on Symphony Circle. The friendly congregation is what sold them on UPC, and still is today. Jane can be found every week 40 minutes before the service socializing in the Holzwarth Room. Jane has been very busy through years working in church functions. For years, Jane and her friends Margaret Twisdale and Doris Haley did all the dinners and lunches. Before the church switched over to disposable communion cups, Jane and June Welch would collect and wash all the glasses.

Becoming a widow 42 years ago was a major test of her faith, and she believes it was her faith that helped her raise her 3 boys. They grew to become deacons at UPC, and are all presently involved with their churches. Bob attends a church in Troy, NY, and Peter at N. Presbyterian in North Tonawanda.

Thank you Jane for all your dedicated work through the years, and we look forward to celebrating many more years in the service of 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, September 6th 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
SEPTEMBER 2013 CALENDAR**

Sunday	1st	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion by Intinction
Monday	2nd	OFFICE CLOSED	Labor Day
Tuesday	3rd	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	4th	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – Holzwarth Room
		6:00 pm	Ministry to Community Meeting – Room 104
Thursday	5th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Friday	6th	5:30 – 6 pm	Taize Service
Saturday	7th	10:00 am	Grief Support Meeting at Family Tree Restaurant
Sunday	8th	RALLY DAY	Two Worship services and Education classes begin
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		9:30 am	Deacon’s Meeting
		10:00 am	Education Hour for Adults and Youth
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Rally Day Pot Luck Luncheon
Monday	9th	12:00 pm	Presbyterian Women Meeting – Holzwarth Room
Tuesday	10th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
		7:00 pm	University Heights Collaborative Meeting – Gloria J Parks CC
Thursday	12th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Sunday	15th	9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour for Adults and Youth
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:30 pm	New Beginnings Meeting – Holzwarth Room
Tuesday	17th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday	18th	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – Holzwarth Room
Thursday	19th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Sunday	22nd	9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour for Adults and Youth
		11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	24th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Thursday	26th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Sunday	29th	9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour for Adults and Youth
		11:00 am	Worship Service