

# *The Network ... a Publication of University Presbyterian Church November 2022*



## Message from our Pastor

Good things sometimes take place in church basements. Church basements are rarely the most attractive spaces in church buildings. But they are often the site of important activities—like the UPC Food Pantry.

The UPC Food Pantry operates very Tuesday and Thursday from noon until 4 p.m. serving people in our community in need of life's most essential resource: food. This vital ministry can only take place because of the commitment of an amazing corps of volunteers.

More than thirty of the Food Pantry's volunteers attended an organizational meeting a few weeks ago.



I was so impressed by the diversity and commitment of these individuals. Some of the volunteers are members of UPC. Some come from other churches. Some of the volunteers

come from a day program for developmentally disabled adults. And some are from the broader community who heard about our pantry and decided to give their time to this effort. Together they represent a wonderful collaboration which bridges many social, religious, and personal conditions.

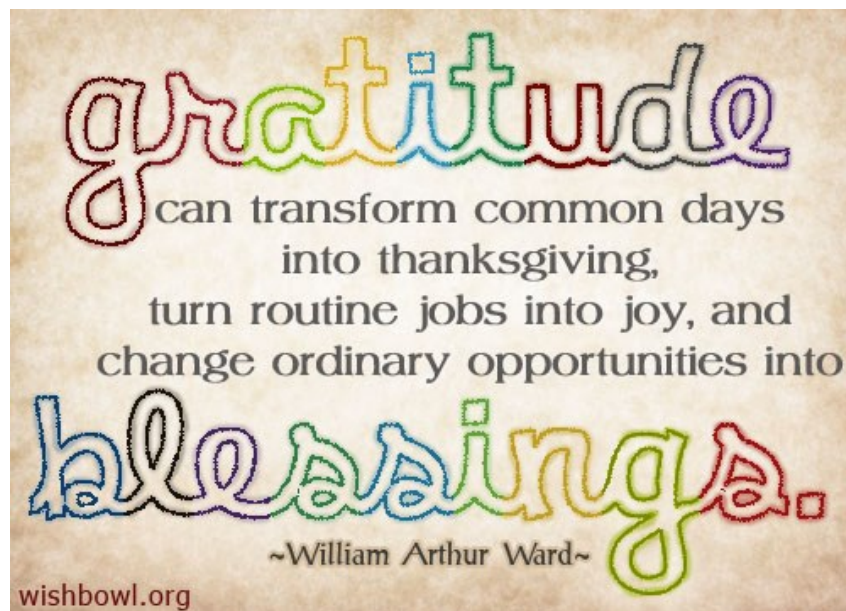
Sitting in that meeting, I realized how each of these volunteers was part of a miracle of grace and care taking place in our church basement twice a week. The world is indeed a troubled place. The problems are often overwhelming. But twice a week, in the basement of a building at Main Street and Niagara Falls Boulevard, people are sustained with food and respect and kindness. And it comes at that hands of all those amazing volunteers.

In my welcoming remarks to the volunteers, I told them to never doubt that their efforts made a difference to people. And I say the same to us as a congregation. Never doubt that twice a week, University Presbyterian Church is making a difference to people in our community.

As we enter the season for giving thanks, I am grateful and humbled by the steadfast commitment of the Food Pantry volunteers, and for their witness of compassion and care.

Shalom,

Tracy



## Worship Column

### **Tuesday, November 1**

*All Saints' Day*

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149;  
Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

### **Sunday, November 2**

*22nd Sunday after Pentecost*

Hag 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98;  
Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17;  
Luke 20:27-38

### **Sunday, November 13**

*23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12;  
Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

### **Sunday, November 20**

*Christ the King/Reign of Christ*

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79;  
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20;  
Luke 23:33-43

### **Sunday, November 27**

*1st Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122;  
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



## **All Saints Sunday, November 6, 2022**

We will commemorate All Saints Sunday on November 6th in our litany of remembrance for those who have died.

# November Adult Class

Beginning Wednesday, November 2, the Adult class will undertake a 3 week series based on Anne Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. You are welcome to purchase the book and will likely find reading this short book very enjoyable. However, it is not essential for you to read the book in order to join our conversation. Excerpts will be read during the class and discussion will follow.

An important change: **The class will meet via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. rather than our previous time of 1 p.m.**

A zoom link is sent out each week prior to the class.

Hope you can join us!



## Reverse Advent Calendar

*Each day add an item to a box.*

*On Christmas Eve donate the contents to a Food Bank.*

December 1—box of cereal  
December 2—peanut butter  
December 3—stuffing mix  
December 4—boxed potatoes  
December 5—macaroni & cheese  
December 6—canned fruit  
December 7—canned tomatoes  
December 8—canned tuna  
December 9—dessert mix  
December 10—jar of applesauce  
December 11—canned sweet potatoes  
December 12—cranberry sauce  
December 13—canned beans  
December 14—box of crackers  
December 15—package of rice

December 16— package of oatmeal  
December 17—Package of spaghetti  
December 18—spaghetti sauce  
December 19—Chicken noodle soup  
December 20—tomato soup  
December 21—can corn  
December 22—can mixed vegetables  
December 23—can carrots  
December 24—can green beans

Advent begins November 27th

This was taken from *PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM*

***Here's what's happening in....***



Tuesday, November 1	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, November 2	9:30 am	Zoom Adult Ed
Thursday, November 3	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Saturday, November 5	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends <i>Turn your clock back at bedtime!</i>



Sunday, November 6	<i>All Saints' Sunday</i>	
	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Hour

Tuesday, November 7	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, November 8	9:30 am 7:00 pm	Zoom Adult Ed Session



Thursday, November 9	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
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Friday, November 11	<i>Veterans' Day</i> <i>TBD</i>	<i>Church Office Closed</i> Youth Grp Olympics & Lock in @ Youngstown
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Presbyterian

Sunday, November 13	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
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Tuesday, November 15	10:00 am 12:00 pm	Youth Support Team Food Pantry Open
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Wednesday, November 16	7:00 pm	Bible Study @ the Gifford's
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Thursday, November 17	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
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## ***What's Happening in November continued .....***

Saturday, November 19	TBD	Youth Group to fill Thanksgiving bags @ North Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 20	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
Tuesday, November 22	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, November 24	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday Church Office Closed</i>	
Friday, November 25	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday Church Office Closed</i>	
Sunday, November 27	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
Monday, November 28	1:30 pm	Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist Church
Tuesday, November 29	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open



## **Interview with our Interim Organist Gregory White**

Gregory was born in Buffalo and grew up in West Seneca and Orchard Park. He currently lives in Hamburg with his wife Patricia. They have two sons, Ryan and Sean. Sean is married to Josie and has two children, Julian and Karmyn. Both Sean and Ryan live in the area.

After graduating from West Seneca HS, he went to SUNY Fredonia School of Music and did his post graduate internship at the University of Rochester, NY. Besides playing piano and organ he is also an expert on the harpsichord.

Greg has worked since 1992 as the Director of Gender and Racial Justice at Catholic Charities in Buffalo which offers the Domestic Violence Program for Men, Caring Dads Program and Public Policy work throughout the 8 county region of WNY. During this time, he has also served as music director at Parkside Lutheran, Clarence Presbyterian, and Orchard Park Presbyterian churches. He is also the director of the 85-voice Advent Chorale of WNY, offering annual performances of Handel's greatest masterpiece "Messiah" along with world-class soloists and WNY Chamber Orchestra.

When he isn't skiing the hills and moguls of WNY, you will find him performing with many musical ensembles and groups. He has been a harpsichordist with the Ars Nova Musicians Chamber Orchestra for 25 years. You may have also seen him perform with the BPO as a harpsichordist and organist. He has performed as an organist in France, Germany and England in recitals and masterclasses. He accompanied the Parkside Choir to Bach cities throughout Germany whereby the Mayor and Common Council issued proclamations as Musical Ambassadors of the City of Buffalo.

Greg still manages to have time to be a member of the NOMAS (National Organization of Men Against Sexism; Member of Voice Buffalo, NCADV (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence); served on the NYS Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. He is a member of the Buffalo's Musician Union (American Federation of Musicians) and the American Guild of Organists – Buffalo Chapter where he served as a member of the Board.

We are certainly very fortunate that Greg was available to fill in after John's departure. His music adds an enriching experience to our worship services.

## **Food Pantry Needs**

The Food Pantry is running short of the following: tuna, soups, pasta and macaroni and cheese. Donations can be dropped off in the church office if the pantry isn't open when you bring your donation.



## **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CAMPAIGN: EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT**

The focus of this Advent's Alternative Christmas Gift Campaign will be on Education and Empowerment for Women and Girls, as offered through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Across the world, when women and girls receive education and economic opportunity, communities thrive. Your gift will help provide agricultural and vocational training, teacher training to reach girls in remote areas, literacy education, and access to loans and credit services. These efforts help reduce hunger and poverty in their communities. Starting on Sunday November 27, there will be a table in the narthex staffed by a Ministry to Community Member where you can make a donation and receive a card or cards (designed by Janet Mazaroppi) to let a friend or loved one know you have made this gift in their honor.

### **The Sabbath**

Are we living like the White Rabbit, always crying "I'm late! I'm late! For a very important date!" -- hurrying through our lives like we are being chased by a train?

Perhaps it is time to accept God's gift -- God's gift of Sabbath.

The Bible study for 2022/23 offered by Presbyterian Women leads us through nine sessions, each of which focuses on a Bible passage that deals with Sabbath. And each session offers an invitation to practice Sabbath in real and practical ways.

Gladys Gifford will facilitate these sessions at her home. Sessions to be held 7:00-8:30 pm, beginning in November. First session planned for November 16th; remaining dates to be scheduled by the group. Please contact Gladys directly to sign up: [schuford@earthlink.net](mailto:schuford@earthlink.net) or 716 836 2825.

