

*The Network... a Publication of  
University Presbyterian Church  
November 2023*

Annual Reports for Committees

As 2023 is winding down, it's time to start thinking about the annual reports for each committee to be submitted for the Congregational Meeting in February 2024. Peg will need them by the beginning of January 2024. Thank you.

Message from Nominating Committee

It's fast approaching the most wonderful time of the year, and no it's not Christmas! But seriously, soon the current nominating committee will be convening for the first meeting to brainstorm new members for Session, Deacons, and 2024 Nominating Committees. In the past we have fallen short of acquiring the needed amount of officers for Deacons by 3 and the Session by 1 making the total number of positions needed at 9 for this year instead of 6 if we fill them all. We are aware of the burn out that is among the congregation by some members, but we also need to keep the church alive with finances and member support. Soon we will be asking members who are available, to consider filling one of the positions in Session and Deacons. Recently we have been discussing in Session on how we cut services for Deacons in order to make it possible to fulfill their obligations. It was suggested to cut back on coffee hours to 2 per month. But the Session didn't want that to happen, so we thought of a way to continue offering fellowship after church. When I was younger I admit I had trouble finding time to be involved in church so I simply did what was possible for my schedule. I'm asking you to look in your heart and see if you'll be able to fill one of vacancies coming up in 2024. If you would like to find out more of what is expected from these positions in the church, please feel free to ask anyone on Session and Deacons.

Thank you,  
Amy Erickson, Chair of Nominating Committee



### Alternative Christmas Gift Giving

Comfort. Coziness. Homey. Playful space. Safety. We have an opportunity to provide these gifts for asylum seekers in WNY. VIVE, founded in 1984 by a local group of Catholic sisters, was originally created to support the many people from Central and South America who were arriving in Buffalo, en route to making a refugee claim at the Canadian border. In 2015, Vive became part of Jericho Road Community Health Center. Vive provides safety, shelter, food, medical care, and legal aid, and supportive programming to help asylum seekers get on their feet in a new country.

Now, having outgrown its home in an old school building with dormitory style living, Vive is moving to 1500 Main St., into the former Bristol Home. The Help Pave a Path to Hope campaign is raising money to renovate this building to provide a comfortable and dignified space for asylum seekers from around the world. This new building looks more like a home with large windows and a solarium providing lots of light. There will be an outside recreation area, indoor play space for children, and living areas for families.

Beginning Sunday December 3 and throughout Advent you may make your gift for VIVE's new home. With your donation you will receive a card to give to your loved one or friend letting them know you have honored them this holiday with this Alternative Christmas gift of hope. Cards will be available following the service or you may print a card online. Please make checks payable to *University Presbyterian Church*, memo: *Alternative Gift* We invite you to learn more at [www.jrchc.org](http://www.jrchc.org)

Our relationship with Calvary Baptist Church continues.

Recently our church family's generous donations provided school uniforms for 30 students at the Dr. Charles R. Drew School. In fact, after that purchase, we still had a surplus of more than \$500. So, with that surplus, you all are helping to teach children to swim!! Yes!

We were able to purchase swimsuits for Drew students who would not have been able to participate in required swim classes because they did not have swimsuits. Swimming is not just great fun, but an important life skill that every child should have the chance to learn. Thank You – Again!!



Thanksgiving Outreach – continued

In addition to our Thanksgiving Dinner financial contributions through the Joy Jar, there is still time to VOLUNTEER to help with the actual meals in the following ways:

(a)for food preparation at Calvary Baptist from Monday, November 13

through Friday, November 17 from 10 am to 5 pm (or partial days as able) and

(b)for plating, packaging and delivering meals on Saturday, November 18 from 8 am until ???.

More details and signup sheets are available in the Narthex and at coffee hour each Sunday. These signup sheets will also help with carpooling.

Please contact Howard Henry [hwhjr98@gmail.com](mailto:hwhjr98@gmail.com) or Val Macer [13vmacer@gmail.com](mailto:13vmacer@gmail.com) with volunteering questions.



## Worship Column

### **Wednesday, November 1**

*All Saints' Day*

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22;  
1John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

### **Sunday, November 5**

*23rd Sunday after Pentecost*

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 22-27;  
Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43;  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

### **Sunday, November 12**

*24th Sunday after Pentecost*

Joshua 24:1-3a. 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;  
Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70;  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

### **Sunday, November 19**

*25th Sunday after Pentecost*

Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18;  
Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11); 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11;  
Matthew 25:14-30

### **Sunday, November 26**

*Christ the King/Reign of Christ*

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100;  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23;  
Matthew 25:31-46



## **For Pastoral Care**

**If you are in need of pastoral care While UPC is searching for an Interim Pastor please contact Elena Delgado at 716-860-2881 or edelgado47@gmail.com. Thank you.**

# GRACE

AFTER CENTURIES OF handling and mishandling, most religious words have become so shopworn nobody's much interested any more. Not so with *grace*, for some reason. Mysteriously, even derivatives like *gracious* and *graceful* still have some of the bloom left.

Grace is something you can never get but only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring it about any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or earn good looks or bring about your own birth.

A good sleep is grace and so are good dreams. Most tears are grace. The smell of rain is grace. Somebody loving you is grace. Loving somebody is grace. Have you ever *tried* to love somebody?

A crucial eccentricity of the Christian faith is the assertion that people are saved by grace. There's nothing *you* have to do. There's nothing you *have* to do. There's nothing you have to *do*.

The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you *are* because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it.

Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.

-Written by Frederick Buechner published in [\*Wishful Thinking\*](#)

www.FrederickBuechner.com

*Birthday Wishes Go Out to.....*

**NOVEMBER**

- 10 Molly Anthony
- 11 Sarah Smith
- 11 Brian Belus
- 12 Peg Kovach
- 16 Jim Whitefield
- 17 Joysline Chia
- 18 Gary Melius
- 22 Grace Burker
- 23 Doug Harbison
- 26 Nicholas Harbison
- 28 Alma Kelly
- 29 Elizabeth Johnson
- 30 Alma Safulko



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

## **What's Happening in November**

<i>Wednesday, November 1</i>	<i>All Saints Day 2:00 pm Ukulele Lessons</i>
<i>Thursday, November 2</i>	<i>12:00 pm Food Pantry Open 12:00pm Calligraphy 7:30 pm Choir-Fellowship Room</i>
<i>Sunday November 5</i>	<i>Daylight Savings Time Ends, Turn back your clocks 9:30 am Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Fellowship</i>
<i>Monday November 6</i>	<i>7:15 pm Deacons Zoom Meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday November 7</i>	<i>Election Day 5:30 am-9:30pm Voting 12:00 pm Food Pantry</i>
<i>Thursday November 9</i>	<i>12:00 pm Food Pantry Open 12:00pm Calligraphy 7:30 pm Choir-Fellowship Room</i>
<i>Sunday November 12</i>	<i>9:30 am Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Soup &amp; Pie Sale</i>
<i>Tuesday November 14</i>	<i>12:00 pm Food Pantry</i>
<i>Wednesday November 15</i>	<i>2:00pm Ukulele Lessons 7:00 pm Session</i>
<i>Thursday November 16</i>	<i>12:00 pm Food Pantry Open 12:00pm Calligraphy 7:30 pm Choir-Fellowship Room 6:00pm Rehearsal ARS Nova Chamber Orchestra</i>
<i>Sunday November 19</i>	<i>9:30 am Choir 10:30 am Worship 11:45am University Students Bible Study 6:30 pm ARS Nova Chamber Orchestra Concert Viva Vivadi</i>
<i>Tuesday November 21</i>	<i>12:00 pm Food Pantry</i>
<i>Thursday November 23</i>	<i>Thanksgiving, no Food Pantry Church Office Closed</i>
<i>Friday November 24</i>	<i>Holiday Church Office Closed</i>

*Sunday November 26*

*9:30 am Choir*

*10:30 am Worship*

*11:30 am Fellowship*

*Monday November 27*

*12:00 pm Mobile Food Pantry*

*Tuesday November 28*

*12:00 pm Food Pantry*

*Thursday November 30*

*12:00 pm Food Pantry Open*

*12:00pm Calligraphy*

*7:30 pm Choir-Fellowship Room*

On Sunday evening, November 12, the UPC Choir will join with the choir at Christ United Methodist Church in Snyder to present the Requiem by Gabriel Faure in the Christ UMC sanctuary. The concert will honor the life of Paul Staley, the late Organist and Choir Master at Christ UMC. The memorial concert will become an annual event and The UPC choir is honored to participate in this venture. Greg White will be the organist, and Allan Andrews and Nicholas Stelzer, the Minister of Music at Christ UMC will divide the conducting. The two soloists are Julia Anne Cordani and Brandon Mecklenburg, both of whom have sung at UPC. The concert begins at 7:30 pm and donations will be accepted. Please join us as these two congregations join together to present the beautiful Faure Requiem.



**Adult Bible Study:** The suggested theme for the adult Bible study is the current Presbyterian Women focus: Sacred Encounters: the power and presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts, by Olive Mahabir. The study shows that, in Luke-Acts the message of Jesus Christ includes all people regardless of their race, class, gender, or sexuality....Throughout the Gospel, Luke shows Jesus caring for the poor and lowly, the outcast, the sinner, and the afflicted. In Acts, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the apostles continue this mission of mercy and compassion.

We will consider how our congregation and the larger community can demonstrate these same traits of mercy and compassion. How may our lives embody the transformational love of Jesus Christ?

Gladys Gifford will organize the first few meetings; she invites others to share leadership roles. Sessions to be offered via Zoom, on Monday mornings, 9:30-10:30 am. The meetings plan to begin November 6th, with schedule to be arranged at that time.

Shalom!

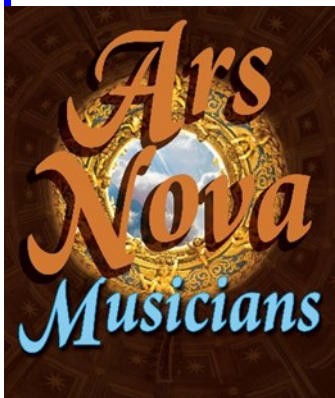
**Attention Soup and Pie lovers: The Deacons Soup and Pie sale is BACK!!!!** The sale will be Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup> immediately following the service. So what can you do to help? Donate a tasty soup, Donate a yummy pie, Come and buy some samples of soup and pie on the 12<sup>th</sup> There is even a take-home option if you can't stay! All proceeds go to the Deacon's Fund which is used to help members of the congregation when they are in need. Hope to see you there.

### **Thanksgiving Outreach:**

Volunteer opportunities for food prep will be available November 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> and packaging and delivery on the 18th. Talk to Val Macer or Howard Henry for details and sign up.

**Annual University Presbyterian Church Family Christmas Dinner** will be held on Sunday, December 17th following the morning service. Tickets will cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for Youth (4-15), and children under 4 are free. R.S.V.P either through the church office (716-836-7660) or Pat Cookfair-Casseri.

University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo was host to the Vocalis Chamber Choir in its 22<sup>nd</sup> season opening concert, Friday, October 20, a program titled "Phenomenal Women" featuring extraordinary contributions of female composers. An exquisite professional choir performed to a very appreciative audience. James Burritt, Director



Join us for a concert with **Ars Nova Musician's Chamber Orchestra** - Buffalo's Premier Chamber Orchestra - as they present "Viva Vivaldi" in University Presbyterian Church, 3330 Main Street, Buffalo, NY (across from UB South Campus) on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 6:30pm.

There will be a pre-concert talk given by Donna Lorenzo, Director, at 6:00pm. Recognized for their creative and inventive musical programming, Ars Nova Musician's Chamber Orchestra is well-known as one of Western New York's greatest treasures. The Viva Vivaldi Festival, held

annually, features Buffalo churches with architectural significance. As the first local chamber orchestra to perform in Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in New York City, they were well received by audiences and garnered praise from the New York Times. The orchestra received the prestigious Peabody award nomination and were featured in a nationwide broadcast on PBS-TV network. Their various recordings are extremely popular and have all received four stars from the Buffalo News. This upcoming program will feature the Buffalo Suzuki Strings as well as Soprano, Holly Bewley. Also on the program will be the famous Albinoni: Adagio for Strings and Organ in G Minor (attributed to Giazotto) featuring the rich and bold sounds of the 3-manual Kegg Organ of University Presbyterian Church. Admission is \$20; 17 years and under are free. A reception will follow the concert.

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

When in sorrow.....call John 14  
When men fail you.....call Psalm 27  
When you have sinned.....call Psalm 51  
When you worry.....call Matthew 6:19-34  
When you are in danger.....call Psalm 91  
When God seems far away.....call Psalm 139  
When your faith needs stirring.....call  
Hebrews 11  
When you are lonely and fearful.....call  
Psalms 23  
When you grow bitter and critical.....call  
1 Corinthians 13  
When you feel down and out.....call  
Romans 8:31  
When you want peace and rest.....call  
Matthew 11: 25-30  
When the world seems bigger than God.....  
.....call Psalm 90  
When you want Christian assurance.....call  
Romans 8: 1-30  
When you leave home for labor or travel....  
.....call Psalm 121  
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish...  
.....call Psalm 67  
When you want courage for a task.....call  
Joshua 1  
When you think of investments and  
returns.....call Mark 10  
When you feel angry.....call  
Ephesians 4: 26-27  
When you are hurting.....call Matthew 5:4

When you lack patience.....call Psalm 37:7  
When your procrastinating.....call  
Luke 9: 59-62  
When you feel sad.....call Psalm 30:11-12

If you are depressed.....call Psalm 27  
If your pocketbook is empty.....call Psalm 37  
If you are losing confidence in people.....  
.....call 1 Corinthians 13  
If people seem unkind.....call John 15  
If you are discouraged about work.....call  
Psalm 126  
If self-pride/greatness takes hold.....call  
Psalm 19  
If you want to be fruitful.....call John 15  
For understanding of Christianity.....call  
2 Corinthians 5: 15-19  
For a great invention/opportunity.....call  
Isaiah 55  
For learning to get along with others.....call  
Romans 12  
For Paul's secret to Happiness.....call  
Colossians 3: 12-17

## ALTERNATIVE NUMBERS

For dealing with fear.....call Psalm 147  
For security.....call Psalm 121:3  
For assurance.....call Mark 8:35  
For reassurance.....call Psalm 145:18

## PLEASE NOTE:

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct.  
No operator assistance is necessary. All  
lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day!