

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
December 2022*

Message from our Pastor

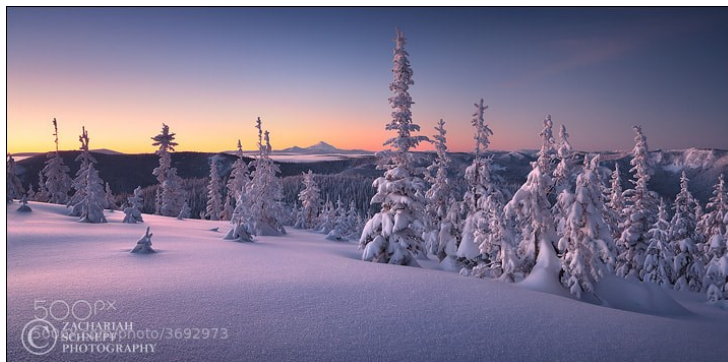
The Christmas season can be a bit of a sensory overload. Sometimes it feels as if there is too much of everything: too much noise, too many decorations and lights (very true for some houses!), too much eating and drinking, too much spending.

UPC is offering a much needed counterpart as we prepare to enter this season of excess. On Friday, December 2, UPC is holding an Advent Taize service from 5:30-6 p.m. We are very pleased to invite back our former Minister of Music, John Novak, to lead us in this service of contemplation, candles, and quiet meditative music. John will be joined by many of the musicians we have come to appreciate in our previous Taize services. So, quality music is for sure on the program!

What a gift this service offers us as we prepare our hearts, minds, and souls for this holy season. Maybe, perhaps, this is the gift you didn't even know you needed. Indeed, those are usually the best gifts ever!

Shalom,

Tracy





An Advent Taize Service

Friday, December 2

5:30-6 p.m.

Former UPC Minister of Music, John Novak, returns to lead a special Advent Taize service.

Enter a time of quiet contemplation, beautiful music, the glow of candlelight, and a rare opportunity to savor silence in the midst of a busy and often noisy season.

All are welcome!



For many people, the music of Advent and Christmas is their favorite music of the year. The UPC Choir is currently preparing beautiful music for the Advent and Christmas seasons here at University Presbyterian Church. On November 27, the First Sunday of Advent, the choir will sing "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven". December 4 will include "Of the Father's Love Begotten" accompanied by handbells. An old French melody, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" featuring Sarah Smith and the choir will be sung on December 11. The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, will feature the UPC Choir accompanied by organ, two violins, and a cello, singing the beautiful and joyful "In Dulci Jubilo" by Dietrich Buxtehude. Although originally this text was sung both in Latin and German "alternately, we will be singing a translation in English. Most of us know this melody as, "Good Christian's All Rejoice. Please join us throughout the Advent season as we present the story of Jesus' birth through choral music!

Worship Column

Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55;

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16s; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sunday, December 25

Nativity of the Lord/Christmas Day

Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2: (1-7) 8-20

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14



Christmas Worship at UPC:

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship at 7:00 p.m. for our traditional service of Carols, Candles, and Communion.

And again, Christmas Day, December 25 in Morning Worship at 10:30 am.

Note that the church office will close on December 23rd at Noon and reopen on December 27th at 8:00 am.

The church office will close for New Years on Friday, December 30th at Noon and will reopen on January 2nd at 8:00 am.





Advent and Christmas at UPC 2022

Sunday, November 27: First Sunday in Advent

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Each Sunday in Advent, members and friends have an opportunity to participate in the Alternative Christmas Gift campaign. This year's donations go to support the empowerment and education of girls and women globally, as offered through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog.

Monday, November 28: Adult Zoom Class at 9:30 a.m.

Using Rev. Daub's newly published book, *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark*, participants will meet over Zoom each Monday in Advent. Class discussions will center on the corresponding chapter from the book.

Friday, December 2: An Advent Taize service, 5:30-6 p.m.

UPC's former Minister of Music, John Novak, returns to lead a holiday Advent Taize service with prayer, beautiful music, candles, and quiet contemplation.

Sunday, December 4: Second Sunday in Advent

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Alternative Christmas Gift campaign

Monday, December 5: Adult Zoom Class at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 11: Third Sunday in Advent

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Alternative Christmas Gift campaign

Monday, December 12: Adult Zoom Class at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Worship at 10:30 a.m. includes special music by the University Chancel Choir. Accompanied by the organ, 2 violins, and a cello, the choir will sing *In dulci jubilo* (In Sweet Joy) by composer Dietrich-Buxtehude.

Alternative Christmas Gift campaign

The return of the church-wide Christmas dinner! This event takes place following the worship service. Tickets need to be purchased in advance.

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.

Service includes carols, candles, and communion

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day

Morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

What's Happening in December...

Thursday, December 1	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Friday, December 2	5:30 pm	Taize Service
Saturday, December 3	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, December 4	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
Monday, December 5	9:30 am	Adult Ed
Tuesday, December 6	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 8	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, December 11	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
Monday, December 12	9:30 am	Adult Ed
Tuesday, December 13	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 15	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, December 18	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
Monday, December 19	9:30 am	Adult Ed
Tuesday, December 20	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 22	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Saturday, December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, December 25	10:30 am	Christmas Day Worship
Monday, December 26	<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Tuesday, December 27	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, December 29	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open



Feeding the Community





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. From Sunday November 27 to Sunday December 18, 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 Mazzaroppi) to let a friend or loved one know you have made this gift in their honor. Or you may simply make a donation. Any amount is welcome! Checks may be made payable to "University Presbyterian Church" with "Alt Gift" in the subject line. Thank you for your consideration.

Celebrating December birthdays are:

- 6 Jim Moran
- 9 Bob Dewitz
- 9 Dannish Patel
- 12 Eric Moodie
- 15 Bonnie Dahl
- 19 Elizabeth Ball

Belated November birthday wishes going out to...

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



Peg's apologies for overlooking them in November

Trunk or Treat

A good time was had by all at the first UPC Trunk or Treat on Halloween. None of the participants had experience with this project previously so we were just doing our best to cover all the details. The kids seemed to be impressed with the event so I guess that would make it a success.

Heartfelt thanks to all the scary participants including Pat and Nick Casseri, Allan Andrews, Ginna Coon, Jude Hammer, Lee Ann Grace, Howard Henry, Dennis Erickson, Vicki and Jim Moorhouse, Barb Kraemer, Rev Daub and Dave Winiarski. Ginna was probably the most photographed costume. One of my friends, Kelly Skidmore and her daughter Hayley and Pat Casseri's friend, Anita helped out also with the festivities. Tops and Walmart donated candy and many members contributed to the candy supply for the trick or treaters. The Buffalo fire truck and the firemen were a big hit with the kids and parents. Even the weather cooperated with warm temps and damp dark streets.

The final count of children attending was 120 and 75 adults accompanying them. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success! Sincerely, Amy Erickson



New Member Interview with Eric & Amy Maundrell

Our new members, Eric and Amy Maundrell are both from Buffalo and raised in the city of good neighbors. They have faithfully attended UPC since they walked through our doors. Tracy's sermons were a big part of their decision to become members, and sometimes Amy feels like Tracy's speaking directly to her with her weekly homilies. UPC's friendly members outreach was another reason for their decision to join our congregation.

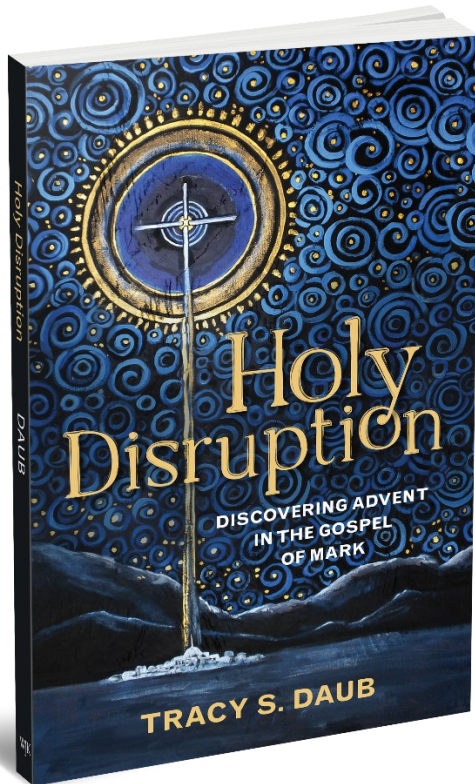
Amy grew up a few blocks from UPC and it was her childhood place of worship. She has 3 siblings, 1 sister, and 2 brothers. Before she retired, she worked at Materion located at the corner of Main & Hertel Ave. She was the Customer Support Manager for North America and worked there for 42 years. Her lifelong spiritual faith has given her an inner peace even during times when life was a struggle. Amy has become a regular volunteer at our Food Pantry. Her husband Eric grew up in the Central Park area of Buffalo, and he was an only child. He started working at the Marriott Corp. in their food division. He then worked 22 years at Macy's before retiring. Eric has found his faith keeps him grounded, and mindful of the gratitude for all his blessings in life. They have 2 children, their daughter Erica is married and has 2 daughters, Charlotte and Chelsea. Their son Zachary is not married and all their family lives locally.

Eric and Amy are enjoying their retirement spending time with their granddaughters whenever possible. Eric has been improving his golf game during the warmer months. Amy enjoys swimming and gardening during her spare time.

In 1980, Amy and Eric exchanged vows in our church, and now as they celebrate their 42nd anniversary they are now members of our congregation. We welcome you to our flock and look forward to many years of worshipping together.

JOIN US FOR AN ADVENT STUDY SERIES BASED ON

Holy Disruption, by Tracy S. Daub



Mondays beginning Nov. 28 – Dec. 19

9:30 a.m. via Zoom

Join us on Zoom each Monday in Advent for a discussion of the corresponding chapter in the book. Each chapter stands alone, so feel free to attend whenever you are able!

The Zoom link is emailed each week.

Books are available online through Amazon, Westminster John Knox press, or Barnes and Noble.

The Gospel of Mark doesn't have a nativity story—so where's the Advent message? It's in every aspect of Jesus' life, to his death and beyond. The Incarnation—God come to earth in human form to be baptized, teach, heal, eat, and die—is what we celebrate at Christmas, and Mark shows us just how radical and celebration-worthy it is! *Holy Disruption* presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world.

This year our church will use the season of Advent to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year.