

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



*February 2021*

Message from our Pastor

History has something to teach us. That is true of our family histories, our personal histories, and our national history. The triumphs and joys, the mistakes and failures, the trials and tribulations, all contribute to our present day realities.

February is designated as national Black History Month. By focusing on black history for the month, we are really seeking to learn about *American* history. When we learn about the achievements and accomplishments of African Americans, we learn more about our country as a whole. Learning about black history in this country opens us to appreciating the courage and resilience of ordinary people when faced with unthinkable cruelty and oppression, as well as the ability of people to create beauty out of unimaginable sadness and adversity.

UPC will start the month off with a recognition of Black History Month in our service on February 7th. The hope is that this service would not stand alone but would challenge each of us to further engagement with what our history has to teach us.

Blessings,

Tracy

# **A Call to the Annual Meeting of University Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 12 noon**

UPC will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 7 at 12 noon. At this meeting we receive the committee reports from the past year, review and answer questions regarding the budget for the new year, and conduct two necessary votes as delineated in the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Book of Order:

The election of church officers

The approval of the Pastor's compensation for the new year

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the means for conducting this Annual meeting have been altered. These changes are as follows:*

**1. The Annual Report will be emailed to you.**

Please read it carefully and note any questions or concerns you have for later discussion. A hard copy of the Report will also be available at the Church Office.

**2. The Annual Meeting will be conducted via Zoom on Sunday, February 7 at 12 noon.**

At this meeting we will answer any questions and receive members' comments regarding any part of the annual report and/or nominations of officers and the Pastor's compensation. A link for this meeting will be emailed to you.

**3. The Election of Officers and the Approval of the Pastor's Compensation will be conducted by mail-in ballot.**

A ballot will be mailed to those who are official members of UPC.

***Everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Meeting but we ask that only those who have officially become members of UPC cast a ballot.***

The deadline for receiving the ballots is **Friday, February 12th**. The results will be emailed to the congregation.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the procedures for this Annual Meeting, please contact the Church Office.

## **Ash Wednesday Service**

**Wednesday, February 17**

**Live-streamed at 7 p.m.**

**“A Service of Grief and a Cry for Help”**

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not about showing off one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die. And so we turn to God in grief and in need.

This year's Ash Wednesday service will be an occasion to grieve the more than 400,000 Americans who have died and to call upon God's help in confronting the various kinds of deaths we endure.

Worshippers are welcome to gather their own ashes/dirt for the service: from a fireplace, or by safely burning some paper in advance, or by gathering some soil from a potted plant or from outside your home.

The service will be live-streamed on our Facebook page at 7 p.m. or you can watch the recording at a later time.

## **Lenten Adult Bible Study**

During the season of Lent, the mid-week Adult Bible Study will explore the concepts of **“Sin and Salvation.”**

How can we modern people understand these two “old-fashioned” words? What do these concepts mean to us?

This four week series begins on Wednesday, February 17 at 1 p.m. The link is emailed to the congregations each week. Hope to see you there!

## **The Blessings Behind Per Capita Giving**

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is part of what is called “a connectional system.” What that means is that our congregations are not isolated units but, rather, they are connected to one another. Just as the denomination supports individual congregations in a variety of ways, the congregations also support the larger ministries of the national Church: mission projects, disaster relief, worship materials and resources, personnel support, etc. We believe this “connectional system” reflects our theological beliefs that we are all part of the larger Body of Christ.

To support this larger system of relationships and ministries, each church is asked to pay \$30/member to the larger denomination. That contribution is called our “per capita” giving.

This year, UPC will send the denomination \$4,464 in per capita giving. We ask our congregational members to help off-set that contribution by making a gift of just \$30 per person to cover the per capita expenses. If you are able to make an additional gift of \$30, please earmark your envelope or check with the words, “Per Capita Contribution” or use the Per Capita envelope found in your box of pledge envelopes. And thank you!

## **Alternative Christmas Giving Results**

During the Christmas season, UPC conducted its annual Alternative Giving fund drive. This year’s recipient was RIP Medical Debt, an organization which uses donations to cancel the crushing burden of medical debts born by millions of Americans. Through your contributions, UPC raised \$2,070—which cancels \$200,070 worth of medical debt!! Well done everyone!

## **Camp Duffield Virtual Meat Raffle**

Camp Duffield is sponsoring a Virtual Meat Raffle on March 20, 2021 at 7:00p.m. on Facebook Live. An opportunity to win costs \$45 (Package 1-15 rounds), \$85 (Package 2-15 rounds, finale, 3 tickets for 50/50, lotto board, and a chance at the "Easter Box"), \$10 or \$20 (Package 3- includes either 1 chance at the 50/50 or 3 chances for the 50/50). All proceeds will benefit Camp Duffield. We hope you are able to join us. To buy a ticket or ask questions, please contact Pat Cookfair-Casseri at 716-440-9833 or go to our webpage ([www.campduffield.net](http://www.campduffield.net)) to purchase your ticket online. You do not have to be watching to win. If you win, we will be happy to contact you!

## **Did You Know?**

Did you know it has never been easier to support UPC? No more hassles with writing a check or searching for a stamp to mail in your pledge! All you have to do is go to the church's website ([www.upcbuffalo.org](http://www.upcbuffalo.org)) and you can make your contribution through our on-line giving app. You can make a one time gift or arrange for regular giving.



**2021 Envelopes are located in the Church Office.**

**Please pick up your envelopes  
Mon-Thurs 8-3:30 or Friday 8-12:00**

## Worship Column

### **Sunday February 7**

*5th Sunday after Epiphany*

Isa. 40:21-31 and Ps. 147:1-11, 20c;  
1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

### **Sunday, February 14**

*Transfiguration of the Lord*

2 Kings 2:12 and Ps. 50:1-6;  
2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

### **Wednesday February 17**

*Ash Wednesday*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa. 58:1-12 and Ps.  
51:1-17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10;  
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Sunday February 21**

*1st Sunday in Lent*

Gem/ 9:8-17 and Ps. 25:1-10;  
1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 19:9-15

### **Sunday February 28**

*2nd Sunday in Lent*

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16 and Ps. 22:23-31;  
Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



### *February birthday wishes go out to...*

- 1 Connie Michael
- 1 Derek Fisher
- 2 Andrew Safulko
- 6 Linda Moorhouse
- 8 Jim Smyton
- 12 Grace Agbemenu
- 17 Barbara Lyons
- 24 John Schimminger



## What's Happening in



|             |           |                                             |                                                               |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 2  | Tuesday   | 2:00 pm                                     | Food Pantry Open                                              |
| February 3  | Wednesday | 1:00 pm                                     | Zoom Bible Study                                              |
| February 4  | Thursday  | 12:00 pm                                    | Food Pantry Open                                              |
| February 7  | Sunday    | 11:00 am<br>12:00 pm                        | Online Worship Service<br>Online Annual Meeting               |
| February 9  | Tuesday   | 12:00 pm                                    | Food Pantry Open                                              |
| February 11 | Thursday  | 12:00 pm                                    | Food Pantry Open                                              |
| February 12 | Friday    | <i>Deadline to return ballots</i>           |                                                               |
| February 14 | Sunday    | 11:00 am<br>7:00 pm                         | Online Worship Service<br>Zoom Deacons' Meeting               |
| February 15 | Monday    | <i>Presidents' Day Church Office Closed</i> |                                                               |
| February 16 | Tuesday   | 12:00 pm                                    | Food Pantry Open                                              |
| February 17 | Wednesday | 7:00 pm<br>1:00 pm                          | Ash Wednesday Service<br>Zoom Lenten Series                   |
| February 18 | Thursday  | 12:00 pm                                    | Food Pantry Open                                              |
| February 21 | Sunday    | 11:00 am                                    | Online Worship Service<br>Youth Group to Buffalo Zoo-time TBD |
| February 22 | Monday    | 2:00 pm                                     | Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist                        |
| February 23 | Tuesday   | 10:00 am<br>12:00 pm                        | Zoom Youth Team<br>Food Pantry Open                           |
| February 24 | Wednesday | 1:00 pm<br>7:00 pm                          | Zoom Lenten Series<br>Zoom Session                            |
| February 25 | Thursday  | 12:00 pm                                    | Food Pantry Open                                              |
| February 28 | Sunday    | 11:00 am                                    | Online Worship Service                                        |





## **A Valentine Prayer**

I said a Valentine prayer for you  
And asked the Lord above  
To fill your heart and bless your soul  
With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love  
The kind that's meant to stay  
Just like the generous love  
You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family  
And from every cherished friend  
Then I asked the Lord to give you  
His Love that knows no end.

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