

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

*March 2024*



**Holy Week, Easter, Discerning God's Call to New Life for UPC**

Dear Friends,

I was out for a walk with a friend the other day and he stopped, stepped into the grass off the sidewalk and bent down to brush snow from the bright yellow blossom of a crocus—&#39;one of the pioneers' he said with a smile. It does feel good to be knocking on the door of March—the month that Spring allegedly arrives and the month, this year, we celebrate an early Easter! March 31 st . Can it be that Spring is almost here, then summer? Time seems like a fast car, and then it can feel like molasses on a cold day. So, seize every precious moment Our Town's Emily advises from Thornton Wilder's masterpiece on the hidden-in-plain-sight, fleeting eternal.

Holy Week begins on Sunday March 24th, here are some notes for that most high and holy time of the Christian year:

**Palm/Passion Sunday**—10:30 am, the mood and focus of the triumphal entrance shifts to the events of Holy Week in the sermon and continues through the prayers of the people and hymns.

**Maundy Thursday**—7:30 pm, March 28th . A joint service here at UPC with our friends from Calvary Baptist preceded by dinner in Fellowship Hall. The Rev. Corey Gibson will preach, the Calvary singers will join our choir, the Lord's Supper will be served.

**Good Friday**—March 29th . A service of Tenebrae to begin at sundown 7:38 pm. The service will feature the events of the passion with the extinguishing of candles, draping in black of the lectern, pulpit, and table, a meditation, hymns, prayers and departure in silence.

**Easter Sunday**—10:30am, March 31st . The traditional Easter Festival with lilies and brass,

organ stops pulled out, the great resurrection hymns and proclamation of the defeat of death and the forces of darkness.

This will be a year to celebrate new life and resurrection for University Presbyterian Church as we prepare with three congregational meetings April 21, May 5 and June 2 (immediately following worship and starting things off with a hearty lunch) that will explore UPC's past, present and future and will shape your hopes, dreams, and vision for outreach and mission for the next generation. These meetings will provide the substantive profile of UPC for the Pastor Nominating Committee to complete the Church Information Form that will be posted on the National PCUSA opportunity website and attract potential candidates for University's next permanent pastor. Please circle these meeting dates and plan to join us. The more participation, the clearer we will discern God's call for mission and ministry that won't just sustain this congregation but enable it to thrive as University Church continues its brave tradition of proclaiming the Gospel, making peace, and bringing justice to our city and world.



### Easter Flowers

Would you like to help beautify the sanctuary with flowers for Easter this year? We will be offering lilies and tulips. They are **\$ 10 per pot**. Please complete the form below and return it to the church office with payment by **March 17th**. In the Memo section of your check write Easter Flowers. Plants may be taken home after the Easter worship service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

## Worship Column

### **Sunday, March 3**

*3rd Sunday in Lent*

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 18-25; John 2:13-22

### **Sunday, March 10**

*4th Sunday in Lent*

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; 1 Ephesians 2:1-10;  
John 3:14-21

### **Sunday, March 17**

*5th Sunday in Lent*

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

### **Sunday, March 24**

*Palm/Passion Sunday-Holy Week Begins*

Palms: Mark 11:1-11, or John 12:2-16 and Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
and Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-19 (40-47)

### **Monday, March 25**

*Monday of Holy Week*

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

### **Tuesday, March 26**

*Tuesday of Holy Week*

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

### **Wednesday, March 27**

*Wednesday of Holy Week*

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

### **Thursday, March 28**

*Maundy Thursday*

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### **Friday, March 29**

*Good Friday*

Isaiah 52:12-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16: 5:5-9;  
John 18:1-19:42

### **Saturday, March 30**

*Great Vigil of Easter*

### **Sunday, March 31**

*Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day*

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or  
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8 *Easter Evening*: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114;  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49



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

**MARCH**

- 1 Lori Lopinski
- 5 David Bartley
- 5 Patricia Grisante
- 8 Arthur Cookfair
- 11 Cindy Hickey
- 12 Elaine Swaine
- 13 Kathy Hallborg
- 13 Timothy Moorhouse
- 15 Scott Horton
- 16 Karen Guggemos
- 17 Jim Grisante
- 18 Maxine Green
- 22 William Guggemos
- 23 Claudia Weiss
- 28 Kyle Townsend



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

## What's Happening in March....



Saturday, March 2	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, March 3	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Lenten Study
Monday, March 4	7:30 am	Zoom Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday, March 5	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, March 6	2:00 pm	Ukulele
Thursday, March 7	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, March 10	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am  11:30 am	Choir Worship Service UPC Students & Friends Bible Study— Mary & Martha room Stephen Ministry training
Tuesday, March 11	9:30 am 12:00 pm	Zoom Adult Bible Study Food Pantry Open
Thursday, March 13	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Buffalo State University Choir Concert
Sunday, March 17	<i>Deadline for Easter flower orders</i> 9:30 am 10:30 am	Choir Worship Service
Monday, March 18	9:30 am	Zoom Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, March 19	12:00 pm 2:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Community Committee
Wednesday, March 20	<i>Newsletter articles deadline</i> 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Ukulele Session
Thursday, March 21	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, March 24	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:30 am 10:30 am	Choir Worship Service



Thursday, March 28	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
		6:00 pm	Soup Supper with Calvary Baptist
		7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service with Calvary Baptist
Friday, March 29	<i>Good Friday</i>	7:38 pm	Tenebrae Service
Sunday, March 31	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	9:00 am	Easter Breakfast
		9:30 am	Choir
		10:30 am	Worship Service



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

We will share a simple soup supper with our friends from Calvary Baptist Church before the Maundy Thursday service on March 28th. Please let Pat Cook-fair-Casseri (716-440-9833) know if you are bringing soup.



**Good Friday Tenebrae**—Our worship service will begin at sundown, 7:38 pm.

**Easter Breakfast is back!** Breakfast will be from 9:00 to 10:15am. Bring your favorite Easter dish to share. Come and go as you need. There will be sign up sheets at both entrances to the sanctuary over the next couple of weeks.



**Worship with us Easter Sunday at 10:30 am.**

## Buffalo State University's Choir Concert



Don't miss the Buffalo State University Music Departments Choir Concert on Thursday night, March 14, in the University Presbyterian Church sanctuary. The Chorale, conducted by John Fleischman, and the Chamber Choir, conducted by Dr. Victoria Furby, will present their Spring Concert in our sanctuary on March 14, at 7:30 pm. All are invited and this will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome the Buffalo State community into our church. Please consider attending and showing your support for our visitors.

## Zoom Adult Bible Study

The adult Bible study, Sacred Encounters, continues on Monday mornings, 9:30-10:30 am, via Zoom. Remaining sessions are planned for: March 11, Lesson 5; March 18, Lesson 6; April 15, Lesson 7; April 22, Lesson 8.

Each session highlights a text from Luke-Acts. There are the ten lepers, Lesson 5; the crippled man, Lesson 6; good news for the eunuch, Lesson 7; good news for Lydia, Lesson 8. Each lesson helps us strengthen our own faith, following Jesus.

All are welcome! Please come with your Bible at hand and with pen or pencil to do some journaling. We begin with prayer, review the text and its setting, share our own responses to God's calling, and finish with meditation and prayer.

See you, via Zoom, on Mondays!

Gladys Gifford

The Zoom link will be posted to the congregation email list.

## Liturgist Meeting

There will be a meeting for all current liturgists and anyone who is interested in becoming a liturgist in the future. The meeting is scheduled for April 14th at 11:30 am.

Please sign up in the church office.



## Be Sure to Mark Your Calendars

On May 19th AED/CPR Training will be offered free to all in the Fellowship Room after the worship service.

Frontera de Cristo 2024 (4) February 13, 2024, Tuesday

End of the experience always feels rushed and as if we have gotten over our heads with more to do than we can manage. Perhaps part of it is tiredness from several weeks of working much harder than the pace we are accustomed to keeping. Perhaps it is that we do not fully put aside our Buffalo responsibilities and simply add the Frontera ones on top of them.

Taking the laundry down from the line is a dangerous business. I took a tumble a couple of weeks back and landed on the worse shoulder. Neither of them are in very good shape at this point. So, Lee Ann insisted that she take over all the driving, including taking Nathan to school at 8 each a.m. I have returned to hanging some of the laundry and again taking it down, and of course I can carry the laundry basket. It is reaching upward that is the problem.

Lee Ann has now come down with Covid as of early Monday morning. As I look back at earlier years, she has gotten ill a number of times around the end of the third week. Long before Covid, that happened to me a couple of times, too. The Covid came after another Friday at the Douglas hostel—a late arriving 26 people who we had to pivot rapidly to attend to prior to the 4 o'clock bus to take them up to Tucson—and then a late, late into the evening meeting of the Frontera board of directors at which Lee Ann provided a training for the newly elected board members. We took Saturday off completely and didn't do much more than church on Sunday (unaccompanied singing of Dulce Comunion as the keyboard decided not to work; I sang the Alto line in my register), but perhaps the cumulative wearing effect may have broken down her defenses. I have twice tested negative.

We canceled classes for Monday (yesterday) but I went over to the Migrant Resource Center from 4 to 8 while Lee Ann stayed in bed. Tonight, I will attend the evening vigil of remembrance at 5:15. The vigil is outside and much of the time at the MRC is often spent outdoors as well. We will eat at home, having had to cancel plans for going out for the dinner to which our YAV (Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer) ESL students had wanted to treat us. And, we will skip tomorrow's 8:30 Wednesday morning devotional in A.P. The Frontera folk had wanted to make it a special going away breakfast time for us. The devotional would be close quarters (Mexican culture is a HUGGING culture) and we do not want to take the chance on infecting any of them.

Wednesday will be the final wash day. I will hang the clothes and take them down myself. They dry quickly in the dry air and mid-60s temperature, and if there is a breeze it is even faster. We will also pack on Wednesday. Mark Adams, the US coordinator, will drive us to Phoenix on Thursday where we will stay at a hotel for a couple of nights, just resting. Lee Ann should be in pretty good shape by Thursday and should be fine to fly home on Saturday. We will not stay with our friend in Phoenix, erring on the side of Covid cautiousness.

If you ask us, we will tell you that we are glad to do this work, privileged to do this work. It is meaningful and vital to the people we serve and to the people alongside whom we work, and greatly meaningful to us for our spiritual and social fulfillment, but it seems to now be taking a greater toll than it has in the past. Next year makes it a 35-year commitment and next year may be both a shorter length of time and also our final time of coming here to serve in this capacity.

The next question is, who will take our place? Have we failed to recruit someone? Have we failed to inspire someone? Is that our great failing?

Paz (peace) y (and) bendiciones (blessings).

Howard and Lee Ann