

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
May 2021*



Message from our Pastor

This month Christians celebrate the third major Christian holiday of the year: Pentecost. Compared to Christmas and Easter, Pentecost gets very little notice in our society. People don't exchange gifts on Pentecost. There are no big store sales for Pentecost. No one fills baskets with candy for Pentecost.

Because Pentecost flies under the radar of cultural notice, its message hasn't been adulterated by our consumerist society. Instead, the holiday remains pretty faithful to its biblical roots: the celebration of God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit can sometimes seem abstract and difficult to understand, but it is really just another way of talking about the abiding presence of God and the risen Christ. After the Resurrection, Jesus promised his followers they would not be abandoned but would receive a special power, a special advocate, to join them in this journey of life.

In the Book of Acts, the coming of the Holy Spirit is a dramatic, loud, and energetic event. In the Gospel of John, Jesus offers the Holy Spirit with quiet gentleness. Taken together, these two accounts represent the spectrum of how we might experience the abiding presence of God's spirit with us. Sometimes the Spirit pries us off our rear ends, upsets our comfortable habits, and moves us to change. And sometimes the Holy Spirit comes with comforting gentleness.

Whether in person or at home, we hope you will join us in giving thanks for God's abiding presence by joining us for worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23.

Shalom,

Tracy

Worship Column

Sunday, May 2

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 and Ps. 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 9

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 and Ps. 98; 1 John 5:1-6;
John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 16

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 and Ps. 1;
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 23

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek. 37:1-14 and
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b; Rom. 8:22-27 or
Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 30

Trinity Sunday

Isa. 6:1-8 and Ps. 29;
Rom. 8:12-17; John 3:1-17



Be kind...share a smile...offer a hug...help when you can.

Be kind...your presence may be exactly what
someone else needs at that moment.

Be kind...God loves you, God loves the people you encounter
on this journey through life.

Be kind...we are all children of God!

Peace, Love, Hope, Unity

May birthday wishes go out to...



- 6 Jeffrey Grisante
- 6 Judy Betz
- 7 Asia Knight
- 11 Shahnaz Morris
- 15 Geoffrey Burker
- 16 Lisa Patel
- 22 Sarah Omicioli
- 24 Robert Hallborg



Update on the Observance of UPC's 100th Anniversary

The date for the special anniversary worship service and luncheon/brunch at Classics V has been changed to **Sunday, November 7**, due to the schedules of invited former pastors the Rev. Allison Halsey and the Rev. Peter Nord.

Members are encouraged to begin looking for photos and other UPC memorabilia they may have. If COVID-19 restrictions permit us to gather for the meal after worship on November 7, attendees will be invited to bring a photo or other item to share stories with table mates. Otherwise, memorabilia will be collected, photographed and a Power Point prepared for posting on the church website. A decision on this will be made in mid-August.

Details will be available shortly about recording interviews with members and friends of the congregation. These conversations will focus not only on favorite memories at UPC, but more importantly, on ways that the church has assisted in each person's faith journey.

Plans for two Concerts for a Cause are firming up: an organ concert in the fall to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Kegg organ and a jazz ensemble concert next spring.

A logo for the observance has been designed and will be unveiled in the very near future. This will be used in all printed materials relative to the anniversary, on anniversary mementos that will be available for purchase, and possibly on a heritage banner.

MAY

What's Happening in

Sunday, May 2	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, May 4	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, May 6	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Friday, May 7	5:30 pm	Taize
Sunday, May 9		<i>Mother's Day</i>
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	7:00 pm	Zoom Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday, May 11	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, May 13	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Friday, May 14	4:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, May 15	4:30 pm	Wassum/McElhaney Wedding
Sunday, May 16	11:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Youth Group Bowling
Tuesday, May 18	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	2:00 pm	Zoom Community Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 19	7:00 pm	Zoom Session Meeting
Thursday, May 20	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Saturday, May 22	9:30 am	Garden Walk Seed Exchange
Sunday, May 23	11:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Youth Group Meeting @ UPC
Monday, May 24	2:00 pm	Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist
Tuesday, May 25	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, May 27	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, May 30	10:00 am	Worship Service
Monday, May 31		<i>Memorial Day Church Office Closed</i>



"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died.

Rather we should thank God such men lived."

-George S. Patton

MANSE



University Presbyterian Church offers the opportunity for four university students enrolled in full-time studies to experience intentional Christian communal living for a school year. This program provides an opportunity to experience the spiritual growth that comes from living in an intentional religious environment to work on issues surrounding communal living and to form ties to University Presbyterian Church. Students commit to regular participation in worship and fellowship activities at University Presbyterian Church and to volunteer at least eight hours each month. Participants live in the former church Manse which is located immediately by the church parking lot on Niagara Falls Blvd. and pay a monthly fee of \$235.00 plus utility expenses. This program can accommodate up to four students. We one possible opening in this program for the 2021-2022 academic year. Please contact the church office for an application or speak with Kathy Hallborg, (716) 491-1115 or Rev. Tracy Daub for more information.

PRAYER CHAIN



My aunt once told me "you can never have too many people praying for you." To this day I still believe that is true. This past year has been very unpredictable and full of anxiety and uncertainty. To make matters worse we were unable to attend worship or other usual gatherings that binds us as Christians. As we make our way out of these troubling times I thought it would be reassuring to have a UPC prayer chain that can be sent around to find our strength through praying for each other. It will be an email that will make its rounds to whomever wants to share a prayer of concern or joy. I plan on starting it in April if you're interested in participating. Amy Erickson's email: amyhoechst@yahoo.com

Contact me if you wish to be added to the list and then I will contact you when I have a prayer request. Those with a prayer need can contact Peg in the office and ask for the prayer request to be put on prayer chain. Peg will let me know and I'll send it out. The prayer chain will not replace the sharing of joys and concerns in worship.

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

-James 5:16

2021 MEMBER DIRECTORY

You can pick up your 2021 Member Directory from either the front vestibule of the church or in the church office. Please note correction to Gladys Gifford's email: schuford@earthlink.net

CHANCEL FLOWERS

Sign up on the bulletin board in the vestibule if you would like to place flowers on the altar.

LITURGISTS

Sign up on the bulletin board in the vestibule if you would like to help with the readings on Sunday.

UPC ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

All are welcome to UPC's annual Spring Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, May 1st from 9 am to 1 pm (rain or shine). We will be working mostly outside so bring gloves and your favorite tools! Contact John Swaine 367-4218 with questions.



UPC Spring Clean-up List

- ⇒ Planting beds weeding and debris removal
- ⇒ Wendy's border
- ⇒ Front sign
- ⇒ Main St
- ⇒ Behind Manse
- ⇒ Sweeping winter debris/stones off Main St. sidewalk
- ⇒ Trim dead branches from shrubs
- ⇒ Sweeping parking lot borders - dig out moss
- ⇒ Sweeping and debris removal from dumpster area
- ⇒ Clean out kitchen garbage cans
- ⇒ Fertilize lawn
- ⇒ Clean out garage
- ⇒ Clutter removal from Manse and Church
- ⇒ Clean Kitchen
- ⇒ Dust Sanctuary
- ⇒ Clean windows
- ⇒ Eat donuts



Too many of us lead hectic lives.

Our communities are filled with violence and suffering.

Our personal pain and struggles can overwhelm us.

How do we respond? How can we cope?

University Presbyterian Church welcomes Christians from all traditions to unite in a special contemplative worship experience as we seek spiritual strength for the living of our days. Based on the style of worship practiced in the Taizé Christian community in France, these services offered on the First Friday of each month provide an oasis at the end of the week for all who are weary, troubled, or rushed. Special music from guest musicians, meditative songs, prayers, candles, and scripture readings allow each of us to find a quiet place of prayer and spiritual centering.

Please join us on Friday, May 7 from 5:30 to 6:00 PM.

A Taizé Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org

(The Taize' Service in July is scheduled for Friday, June 4, 2021)