

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
May 2024*

Message from our Pastor...

WE HAD A GREAT TIME!

Wasn't that fun, last Sunday after worship when we gathered as a congregation in the fellowship room and remembered UPC's past! The room was filled with good energy and light and warmth as people shared their memories around the tables. Story after story was told about how much this church has meant to its members. There was laughter and there were a few tears as folks recalled the Christmas pageants of yore and that one very special Christmas candlelight worship service on the steps of the entrance to the sanctuary during Covid in 2020, the Scottish festivals, Alleghany camping weekends, the children's story in Sunday worship, some frisky teenage boys—now grown, responsible men, adult education programs, former pastors and staff, and the many changes to and evolution of the building.

There were also some stories of personal loss and grief when fellow church members showed up with food and friendship to bring comfort and care. Many studies have been done about what makes churches work, what holds them together, what attracts people and what keeps them coming back. Among the reasons given—great music, children's programs, preaching, the beauty of the building, outreach and mission—the one that invariably takes first place is "the people." It is the relationships between people that transcend geography, vocation, age, race, economic status in which friendships are rooted in a community faithful to the teachings of Jesus that rises above all else and fulfills the deep need we each have for human connection and companionship.

There will be two more congregational gatherings: May 5 titled, "Today Decides tomorrow" and June 2 "Come Be Part of the Future." The rich stories, deep feelings, Unswerving convictions, hopes and dreams that are shared at each of these meetings will provide the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) with the "spiritual DNA" of UPC they need to craft a narrative that will appear on a national website where potential pastors seek congregations to send their personal information/resume to. We will elect the PNC at the close of the June 2 meeting and they will organize soon after to begin the process of searching for that individual with the right skills, temperament, vision, and 'fit' to lead University Church.

If you missed the meeting last Sunday April 21, or any of the future meetings, or if you make the meetings and have some additional thoughts you'd like to share with the Interim Team please do so. Sharing your ideas in writing and sending them to Peg at the church office is the best way to get them to the committee. Also, if you have any questions about the process of preparing for and calling UPC's next pastor please do not hesitate to contact me or our Clerk of Session Pat Cookfair-Casseri.

Continued blessings of the Risen Christ this Eastertide season,
Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor

University Presbyterian elder, Jim Smyton
to be installed as
Moderator of the Presbytery of Western New York
Tuesday, May 28, 2024

UPC will host this stated meeting of the Presbytery of Western New York at which, our own Jim Smyton will be installed as Moderator. The position is recognized as the leader of Presbytery and requires moderating Presbytery meetings and serving on the Executive Council of Presbytery which meets between stated meetings to make important decisions for the life and ministry of the presbytery.

We look forward to having the clergy and lay representatives here for the business meeting, dinner and a worship service. UPC members Howard Henry and Lee Ann Grace will be the preachers for the worship service. Their theme will be immigration/refugee ministry. They will draw on their decades of experience serving as volunteers at Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, AZ—a PCUSA mission program providing safe transportation and housing for legal

immigrants and asylum seekers as they await processing. Howard and Lee Ann will also speak to the immigration/refugee ministries here in Buffalo and raise the possibility, the vision, for coordinated education and outreach to this disenfranchised, vulnerable community of people starting a new life in the US. There are more displaced people from war, political persecution and

natural disaster than ever before. Immigration will be a major issue in this year's national election. Howard and Lee Ann's message will be timely for this important meeting and start of Jim Smyton's moderatorial term.

I encourage all UPC members to join us for part of all of the meeting (if you've never been to a presbytery meeting this will be a great way to watch our regional governing body at work). Come to dinner (we need an rsvp in the church office) to welcome presbytery reps to UPC, join us for worship in what will be an uplifting day of fellowship.

Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor

Worship Column

Sunday, May 5

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98 or Genesis 35:9-15,
Psalm 101; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Thursday, May 9

Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11 and Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 or Daniel 7:9-14,
Psalm 113; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Sunday, May 12 Mother's Day

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-16; Psalm 1 or Jeremiah 10:1-10a,
Psalm 108; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 19

Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21, Ezekiel 37:1-14m Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 26

Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17,
John 3:1-17



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 Allan Andrews
- 24 Robert Hallborg
- 24 Allan Andrews



What's Happening in May.....

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| May 2 | Thursday | 12:00 pm 7:30 pm | Food Pantry Open Choir |
| May 4 | Saturday | 9:00 am | Spring Clean Up |
| May 5 | Sunday | 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 7:00 pm | Choir Worship Service 2nd Congregational Meeting Orchard Park Chorale Concert |
| May 6 | Monday | 7:30 pm | Zoom Deacons' Meeting |
| May 7 | Tuesday | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| May 9 | Thursday | 12:00 pm 7:30 pm | Food Pantry Open Choir |
| May 11 | Saturday | 10:00 am | Breakfast with Friends |
| May 12 | Sunday | 9:30 am 10:30 am | Choir Worship Service |
| May 14 | Tuesday | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| May 15 | Wednesday | 7:00 pm | Session |
| May 16 | Thursday | 12:00 pm 7:30 pm | Food Pantry Open Choir |
| May 18 | Saturday | 10:00 am | Capen Garden Walk Plant & Seed Exchange |
| May 19 | Sunday | 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 3:00 pm | Choir Worship Service AED Training Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus |
| May 21 | Tuesday | 12:00 pm 2:30 pm | Food Pantry Open Ministry to Community Meeting |
| May 23 | Thursday | 12:00 pm 7:30 pm | Food Pantry Open Choir |
| May 26 | Sunday | 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am | Choir Worship Service Birthday Cake |
| May 27 | Monday | <i>Memorial Day</i> | <i>Church Office Closed</i> |
| May 28 | Tuesday | 2:00 pm | <i>No Food Pantry</i> Annual Presbytery Meeting |
| May 30 | Thursday | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |



Tuesday, May 14th
Hearts for the Homeless of WNY Inc.
Food Pantry & Cafe
890 Tonawanda St., Buffalo 14207
 @ the corner of Riverside Ave.
 Parking lot in between two of the buildings (870 and 890)
 Street parking on Tonawanda St., Riverside Ave., and Royal Ave.
Contact Person: Kelsey Jeff (Chief of Staff & Executive Assistant)
 1(585)689-4771
Arrival Time: 10:30 am – 10:45 am
Maximum Number of Volunteers: 20 – 25



Saturday, May 18th
Jericho Road's VIVE Shelter
1500 Main St., Buffalo 14209
 (Former Bristol Home)
 Parking in Rear / Side door entrance
Arrival Time: 11:00 am
 *Number of Residents/Staff will be received a week prior
Contact Person: Rachel Wood/Kitchen Manager (716) 940-7374
Activities:
 Bingo Game/Prizes / Arts & Crafts / Clean Dining Room
 Provide Lunch: Pizza & Wings for Residents/Staff
 *No picture taking



Contact Marietta Bratton if interested in participating 716-913-7628

Heartfelt Thanks - Twice!

Members and friends of UPC raised \$615 through the Joy Jar for Frontera de Cristo's transportation needs. We also raised \$1990 for the new VIVE shelter through the Alternative Christmas Gift Campaign. Thank you for your compassion and generosity



Plant and Seed Exchange, May 18, 2024, 10am-2pm at UPC

Free plant & seed exchange. Bring your perennials and seeds to share and get some new plants and seeds for your garden. In addition, pots, planters, and garden art will be for sale. Donations of used pots, garden ornaments, and other garden paraphernalia are welcome. Sponsored by Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk and Artseeds. Contact: capengardenwalk@gmail.com



All are welcome to UPC's Annual Spring Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, May 4th 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 716-367-4218 with questions.

Pride Parade 2024

UPC will participate alongside Westminster Presbyterian Church in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 2, 2024. Please contact Howard Henry with any questions.



Ministry to Community Committee *Before and After Again*

Three Buffalo-based artists surround us with the power of art in this response to the May 14, 2022 tragedy at Tops Market. The installation of poetry, prose, and artwork honor the lives lost and touched on that day. Yet, it goes beyond that. It challenges us to find a way to speak and act with love and faith.

We invite you to check out this link for the Buffalo Albright Knox Museum to learn more about this free exhibit at the M&T Bank Gallery until September 30.

<https://buffaloakg.org/art/exhibitions/and-after-again>



A Prayer for Memorial Day

God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons & daughters. Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom and bring them safely in to your kingdom of justice and peace. Amen

Bicycle Collection at St. Joseph University Church
3269 Main Street
Saturday, May 18 8:30–1:00pm

Do you have an unused bicycle —any size, any condition—ready for a new owner? We collect bicycles each year to be refurbished and recycled in our community to newly arrive refugees and immigrants seeking much needed transportation for health care, food, education and recreation. Bring your bikes to our collection and with our partners at Wheels to Work 716, we will have them distributed this Spring. **IF YOU NEED HELP TRANSPORTING A BIKE, WE HAVE PICK-UP ARRANGEMENTS ON A LIMITED BASIS.** Contact Colleen Culligan at 716-440-7411 or cculligan53@gmail.com.

WE NEED YOUR UNUSED BIKES! Thank you, Colleen Culligan

The month of May provides several opportunities to experience beautiful choral music sung by beautiful choirs in our wonderful sanctuary! On Sunday evening, May 5, the Orchard Park



Chorale will present "Poetry in Motion" at 7:00 pm. Each selection will feature music by leading composers set to texts by some of the leading poets from history. In between selections, local actress and UPC member Heather Casseri, will read the poetry as she introduces the selections. UPC Choir Director, Allan Andrews, is the Artistic Director of the Orchard Park Chorale. Tickets will be available at the door, but UPC members can sign in as members at the door and enter at no charge! Come and experience the magical melding of these two art forms, poetry and music, as the Orchard Park Chorale presents "Poetry in Motion!"

On Sunday afternoon, May 19, at 3:00 pm, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus will present "Walk Together Pride Concert" in the UPC Sanctuary. For more information about ticketing and ticket prices, please go to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus Website.

What a wonderful opportunity to invite guests into University Presbyterian Church and let them experience the UPC hospitality!