

**University Presbyterian Church  
3330 Main Street  
Buffalo, New York 14214-1316  
Phone: (716) 836-7660  
Fax: (716) 836-7662**

**www.upcbuffalo.org  
office@upcbuffalo.org**



**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

**The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor  
Allan Andrews, Minister of Music & Choral Director  
Gregory White, Organist**

Services are live-streamed on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/upcbuffalo>

Third Sunday of Easter, April 14, 2024  
Service for the Lord's Day  
10:30 a. m.

## **AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

*In order that people may listen to the music or pray in silence without distraction, please refrain from conversation after the music begins and kindly silence all cell phones. Thank you.*

*Children of all ages are welcome to remain in worship. A playroom is available near the sanctuary for young children who are accompanied by their parents.*

*Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request which you would like the pastor to include in "Prayers of the People," please fill out the yellow prayer request slip found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate when passed. Ushers will take them from the plate and when the offering is brought forward, hand them to the pastor.*

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

Prelude	Sonata, No. 2 <i>Grave &amp; Adagio</i>	Felix Mendelssohn
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Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (*please stand, if able*)

When Jesus speaks, our hearts burn within us;  
**our eyes are opened when he breaks the bread.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God,  
through your only Son you overcame death  
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life.  
Grant that we who celebrate our Lord's resurrection,  
may, through the renewing power of your Spirit,  
arise from the death of sin to the life of righteousness;  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

The Invitation:

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,  
so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

The Prayer:

**Almighty God,  
in raising Jesus from the grave,  
you shattered the power of sin and death.  
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear,  
bound by the ways that lead to death.  
We overlook the poor and the hungry,  
and pass by those who mourn;  
we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed,  
and indifferent to calls for peace;  
we despise the weak,  
and abuse the earth you made.**

**Forgive us, God of mercy.  
Help us to trust your power  
to change our lives and make us new,  
that we may know the joy of life abundant  
given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

*There follows a moment of silent personal confession*

The Pardon:

Hear the good news of God's promise:  
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.  
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**



## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Voluntary

St. Columba  
*The King of Love*

Healey Willan

Doxology Hymn #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Hymn #257

The Risen Christ  
Woodlands

Walter Greatorex

Benediction

Postlude

Toccatà

Paul Fey

Chancel Flowers are given in thanks for use  
of the kitchen for their Easter Chocolate Fundraiser by  
St. Adalbert's Basilica

Participating in Worship  
 The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor  
 Allan Andrews, Minister of Music & Choral Director  
 Gregory White, Organist  
 Liturgist: Chinomnso Awazie  
 Greeters: Kathy Hallborg, Amy Maundrell  
 Live streamer: John Swaine

*Next Week:*  
*Liturgist: Kathy Hallborg*  
*Greeters: Scott Horton, Sharon Melius*  
*Live streamer: John Swaine*

**This Week...**

Sunday, April 14	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	Liturgist training
Monday, April 15	9:30 am	Zoom Adult Bible Study
Tuesday, April 16	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	12:00 pm	Personnel Committee
	2:30 pm	Ministry to Community Committee
Wednesday, April 17	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, April 18	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	7:30 pm	Choir
Saturday, April 20	2:00 pm	Bill Rugg Memorial
Sunday, April 21	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:30 am	1st Congregational Meeting

## **Syracuse University Choir Concert**

On Saturday afternoon, April 13 at 2:00 pm, come and enjoy an afternoon of choral music showcasing a rich selection of works by esteemed composers, including Daniel Afonso, Joshua Jacobson, Shawn Kirchner, Susan LaBarr, Robert Ray, Salamone Rossi, Kate Rugby, and Antonio Vivaldi, and a piece in honor of American composer, arranger, conductor, and teacher Alice Parker. Free admission at University Presbyterian Church, Buffalo. Help us welcome the Syracuse University Concert Choir, conducted by Dr. Wendy Moy.

Contact Marietta Bratton if you are interested in the MLK Day of Service-716-913-7628

## **AN INVITATION FROM YOUR INTERIM TEAM Remembering Our Past**

To prepare for the future of our UPC church family, we want to honor our past. We want to cherish our fond memories and acknowledge our times of struggle.

### **The first of three congregational meetings:**

**Sunday April 21** Immediately following our 10:30 worship we will join together in the Fellowship Hall for lunch. Consider which of your stories, recollections and perhaps struggles at UPC you would like to share about:

*Christian Education for children, youth, and adults*  
*Mission and Service*  
*Worship and Music*  
*Fellowship*

Please join us for prayer, food, laughter, story telling, and music ! You are welcome as a longtime member, new member, student or "just started worshipping here" !



**Re-Scheduled Opportunities**

**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 you are interested in participating, 716-913-7628.



## **“Easter”**

### **from *Whistling in the Dark* by Fred Buechner**

Christmas has a large and colorful cast of characters including not only the three principals themselves, but the angel Gabriel, the innkeeper, the shepherds, the heavenly host, the three Wise Men, Herod, the star of Bethlehem, and even the animals kneeling in the straw. In one form or another we have seen them represented so often that we would recognize them anywhere. We know about the birth in all its detail as well as we know about the births of ourselves or our children, maybe more so. The manger is as familiar as home. We have made a major production of it, and as minor attractions we have added the carols, the tree, the presents, the cards. Santa Claus, Ebenezer Scrooge, and so on. With Easter it is entirely different.

The Gospels are far from clear as to just what happened. It began in the dark. The stone had been rolled aside. Matthew alone speaks of an earthquake. In the tomb there were two white-clad figures or possibly just one. Mary Magdalen seems to have gotten there before anybody else. There was a man she thought at first was the gardener. Perhaps Mary the mother of James was with her and another woman named Joanna. One account says Peter came too with one of the other disciples. Elsewhere the suggestion is that there were only the women and that the disciples, who were somewhere else, didn't believe the women's story when they heard it. There was the sound of people running, of voices. Matthew speaks of "fear and great joy." Confusion was everywhere. There is no agreement even as to the role of Jesus himself. Did he appear at the tomb or only later? Where? To whom did he appear? What did he say? What did he do?

It is not a major production at all, and the minor attractions we have created around it — the bunnies and baskets and bonnets, the dyed eggs — have so little to do with what it's all about that they neither add much nor subtract much. It's not really even much of a story when you come right down to it, and that is of course the power of it. It doesn't have the ring of great drama. It has the ring of truth. If the Gospel writers had wanted to tell it in a way to convince the world that Jesus indeed rose from the dead, they would presumably have done it with all the skill and fanfare they could muster. Here there is no skill, no fanfare. They seem to be telling it simply the way it was.

The narrative is as fragmented, shadowy, incomplete as life itself. When it comes to just what happened, there can be no certainty. That something unimaginable happened, there can be no doubt.

The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb. You can't depict or domesticate emptiness. You can't make it into pageants and string it with lights. It doesn't move people to give presents to each other or sing old songs. It ebbs and flows all around us, the Eastertide. Even the great choruses of Handel's *Messiah* sound a little like a handful of crickets chirping under the moon.

He rose. A few saw him briefly and talked to him. If it is true, there is nothing left to say. If it is not true, there is nothing left to say. For believers and unbelievers both, life has never been the same again. For some, neither has death. What is left now is the emptiness. There are those who, like Magdalen, will never stop searching it till they find his face.

**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

## **Welcome Visitors**

University Presbyterian Church (UPC), the members and officers, welcomes you today. Your presence strengthens our faith and our commitment as Christ's disciples.

University Presbyterian Church welcomes all who seek to follow the Way of Jesus—the way of compassion and justice—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identification. UPC does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in celebrating the rites of marriage.

### **University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff**

The Rev. Dr. Tom Yorty	Interim Pastor
Minister of Music & Choral Director	Allan Andrews
Organist	Gregory White
Treasurer	James W. Smyton
Clerk of Session	Pat Cookfair-Casseri
Financial Secretary	Barbara C. Lyons
Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator	Kathryn F. Hallborg
Administrative Assistant	Peg Kovach
Custodian	David Winiarski

### **Mission Statement of University Presbyterian Church**

We are a hungry people who receive Christ, the Bread of Life, who sustains us on our journey. We strive to feed as we are fed, sharing the Bread to nourish others in body, mind and spirit.

**“Let Us Be Bread”**