

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
January 2020*



Message from our Pastor

Epiphany on January 6 is the festival that celebrates the magi's arrival after traveling down many roads in search of the Christ child. On the Christian calendar, Epiphany is not just a single day but is a whole season that lasts until Ash Wednesday. I share this epiphany blessing with you and invite you to consider during this season how your life can be a road that Christ takes.

Shalom,
Tracy

Epiphany Blessing

May the path
that Christ walks
to bring justice
upon the earth,
to bring light
to those who sit
in darkness,
to bring out those
who live in bondage,
to bring new things
to all creation:

may this path
run through our life.
May we be
the road Christ takes.

~ written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on **The Painted Prayerbook.** <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

Worship Column

Sunday, January 5, 2020

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20;
Eph. 1:3-14; John 1: (1-9) 10-18

Monday, January 6, 2020

Epiphany of the Lord

Isa. 60:1-6; Ps. 72:1-7, 10-24;
Eph. 3:1-12
Matt. 2:1-12

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Baptism of the Lord

Isa/ 42:1-9; Ps. 29; Acts 10:34-43
Matt. 3:13-17

Sunday, January 19, 2020

2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 49:1-7; Ps. 40:1-11; 1 Cor. 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 26, 2020

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Isa. 9:1-4; Ps. 27:1, 4-9; 1 Cor. 10-18
Matt. 4:12-23



January Calendar of Events

Wednesday, Jan. 1		<i>New Years Day Church Office Closed</i>
Thursday, Jan. 2	10:00 am 12:00 pm 7:30 pm	University Students Planning Committee Food Pantry Open Choir
Friday, Jan. 3	5:30 pm	Taize
Saturday, Jan. 4	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, Jan. 5	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Education Hour Worship Service Fellowship Time Youth Group Event-TBD
Tuesday, Jan. 7	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, Jan. 8	10:00 am	Worship Committee
Thursday, Jan. 9	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, Jan. 12	9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Deacons' Meeting Education Hour Worship Service Fellowship Time & Birthday Celebration
Tuesday, Jan. 14	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, Jan. 15	5:45 pm 7:00 pm	Community Committee Session
Thursday, Jan. 16	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, Jan. 19	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Education Hour Worship Service Fellowship Time
Monday, Jan. 20		<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church Office Closed</i>



Tuesday, Jan. 21 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
7:30 pm Choir

Wednesday, Jan. 22 7:00 pm Racial Justice Task Force @ North Presbyterian

Thursday, Jan. 23 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Sunday, Jan. 26 9:00 am Worship Service
10:00 am Education Hour
11:00 am Worship Service
12:00 pm Fellowship Time
Welcome Back Luncheon for University Students



Tuesday, Jan. 28 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Thursday, Jan. 30 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
7:30 pm Choir

Say Happy January Birthday to....



- 2 Jude Hammer
- 5 Christopher Safulko
- 8 Virginia Coon
- 8 Erika Betz
- 10 John Lopinski, Sr.
- 11 Janet Mazzaroppi
- 12 Sandra Boag
- 14 Bilquis Dass
- 17 Carolyn Harbison
- 19 David Patel
- 19 Kaylee Casseri
- 22 Grace Yockey
- 24 Mac Sabol
- 26 Mason Appleton
- 29 Hans Spielberger
- 29 Eric Dass



Joy Jar Giving

Thank you to all who donated to the Joy Jar....in all we collected \$150! Below is the thank you we received from WNY Land Conservancy.



December 3, 2019

University Presbyterian Church
3330 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214

*Thank you so much for
your Joy Jar
donation!*

Dear University Presbyterian Church Congregation,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Western New York Land Conservancy to save Mossy Point. I am sincerely grateful for your contribution now, as we approach our deadline. I am confident that you and the rest of our community will be able to celebrate soon.

Mossy Point is one of the most impressive places in our region. A deep gorge there reveals millions of years of geologic history. Old growth trees tell us what our forests used to look like. Hill tops overlooking hidden glades and valleys offer views of endless, unbroken tree canopy. This place is full of memories of families coming together and exploring nature. Protecting Mossy Point forever is critical.



Once you and the rest of our community save Mossy Point, it will become a new nature preserve with trails so that people of all ages can experience its impressive oaks, its rolling hills, and the cold waters of Hunters Creek. Great-horned Owls will always be able to raise their young in nests at the tops of the tallest hemlocks. Colorful salamanders will continue to make their homes in small, untouched pools of water. Crayfish will hide amongst the rocks beneath small waterfalls.

I raised my children right here in Western New York because of places like Mossy Point. We spent countless days splashing in our streams, listening to birds sing in our meadows, and walking through our forests. Because of you, I know that the next generation of Western New Yorkers will have these same opportunities.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Nancy".

Nancy Smith
Executive Director

Thank you for your gift of \$139.90 received on 11/27/2019. This is an acknowledgement that no goods or services were provided to you in exchange for this contribution. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained from the NYS Attorney General's Charity Bureau, 28 Liberty St., NY, NY 1027

Do You Want to Help?

There are lots of opportunities to serve within the church....you can read the Liturgy (just chat with Pastor Tracy), or pick a Sunday to beautify the sanctuary with a floral arrangement. Just add your name to the list posted on the white board in the break room.

How about becoming an Usher? Or a Deacon? Can you volunteer in the UPC Food Pantry? Give it some prayerful consideration....then contact the pastor if you think it might be a calling



CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of University Presbyterian Church is Sunday, February 2, 2020 following the 11:00 am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the election of new officers, approval of the Pastor's salary, reception of committee reports and the church budget for 2020.

Adult Education Class

Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Education Room downstairs

Below are the upcoming classes for Adult Education. We hope you will join us!

1. Gladys Gifford will complete the series entitled:

"Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments"

January 5: Words of Love: Hold Your Marriages Sacred

January 12: Words of Love: Do Not Steal; Speak Truthfully

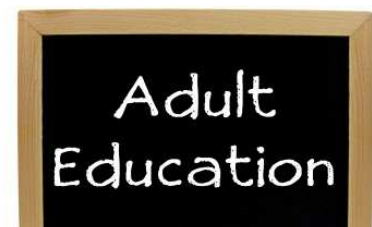
January 19: Words of Love: Don't Fixate on What You Don't Have

2. Shirley Herman will lead a class on January 26 in examining Jesus' compelling parable found in Matthew, chapter 25: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink . . . just as you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to me."

3. Jim Moran will lead a 2 part class:

February 2: Taoism

February 9: Confucius



Racial Justice Task Group Sponsors a Book Discussion



The Racial Justice Task Group of University and North Presbyterian Churches invites our two congregations participate in reading and discussing Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.

Recipient of both the Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, Toni Morrison is considered one of America's greatest literary talents and treasures. Before her death in 2019, Morrison received great acclaim for her many novels which include: *The Bluest Eye*, *Beloved*, and *Song of Solomon*. While many of her novels are quite substantial in length, *The Bluest Eye* is modest in size and thus it may offer a less intimidating introduction to readers who are new to Morrison.

The novel focuses upon Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl who prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns to have blond hair and blue eyes. The novel is a powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity and asks important questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized Morrison's writing.

The Racial Justice Task Group invites our two congregations to read this book during the month of January. Then, on **Sunday, February 9 at 2 p.m.** those who wish are invited to gather at University Presbyterian Church for a book discussion. Refreshments will be provided.





Events for Youth Group

January 5: Time and activity TBD

Youth Chili Cook Off:

January 26 Chili cook-off after the 11 a.m. service at University Presbyterian Church

February 23 Chili cook-off following the 10:15 a.m. service at North Presbyterian Church

Other youth group dates for 2020:

Feb. 16, March 8 & March 29– Mark your calendars.

Tentative dates for Annual Sub Sale fundraiser for Montreat are Sunday, April 26 and Sunday, May 3.

Montreat Youth Conference

We'll be attending Montreat week 6 this year with other churches from the Presbytery of WNY, which will run from August 1-8, 2020.



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Western New York

Come to the Winter Gathering!

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR?

Opening our Hearts and Minds to Others

Saturday, February 1, 2020 - 10 a.m. Registration

First Presbyterian Church

One Symphony Circle, Buffalo New York

Panel of Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes, First Presbyterian of Buffalo
Dr. Charlene Vetter, Counseling Center SUC Buffalo
Andy Cammarata, Journey's End

Worship Leader:

Rev. Dr. Ken Hughes, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo NY

Action Piece:

Bring (or donate cash/check) New or Gently Used Winter Coats (Jackets) with Hoods
for Teenage Boys at Journey's End (S or M only, no L or XL)

Lunch is \$7.00 at Registration. **Please RSVP** by January 18th
to Olga Rico-Armesto at 649-2081





Chili Cook-Off Mission Fundraiser Sunday, January 26 at 12 noon

The youth group will host a chili cook-off on Sunday, January 26 following the 11 a.m. service. Proceeds of the sale will go to support scholarships at the Agape Lutheran Junior Seminary (a high school) in Tanzania. This is the same school we supported through our Alternative Christmas Gift-Giving fundraiser and all proceeds from the chili sale will be added to what we raised at Christmas-time.

Congregants are encouraged to enter a pot of their own chili, or just come and enjoy a variety of chili and vote for your favorite. There will be prizes for the winners!

Admission is a suggested donation of \$10 to enjoy the chili, or \$5 if you enter your own pot of chili. Accompaniments and beverages will be provided. If you have any questions or wish to enter the competition, please email Mack at:

mackintosh716@gmail.com



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, January 3rd from 5:30 to 6:00 PM.**

A Taizé Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org

(The Taizé' Service in February is scheduled for Friday, February 7, 2020)