

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



October 2020

Message from our Pastor

Daily habits are very useful in our lives. Habits are simply actions we do so frequently we no longer have to consciously think much about them. Brushing our teeth. Making the bed. Washing the dishes. These actions keep our lives organized and healthy.

What habits do you do that help you pay attention to God's presence? When there is so much darkness in our nation and world right now, we need to practice behaviors that help us see God's light.

Such habits have been given the somewhat off-putting description of "spiritual disciplines." That term can seem so rigid. But it really means those daily habits you do that help you recall God's presence, that help you remember God's love and mercy, that help you remember who you were called to be. Such habits could be: prayer or meditation, reading the Bible, serving or volunteering, even journaling.

During October, the mid-week Bible study is going to explore this idea of "spiritual disciplines" in the on-line class held each Wednesday at 1 p.m. Not all disciplines work for all people, but now more than ever, many of us feel the need to practice some kind of habit that helps us consciously pay attention to God.

When the world around us is in turmoil, when the nation is divided, when families are separated because of the pandemic, when the future seems so uncertain, I encourage you to find some practices that help you stay grounded to the God of love, the God of justice, the God of hope, and the God of life.

Shalom,

Tracy

Worship Column

Sunday, October 4

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps. 19;
Phil. 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14; Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23;
Phil. 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23; Ps 99; 1 Thess. 1:1-10;
Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, October 25

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deut. 34:1-12; Ps. 90:1-6, 13-17;
1Thess. 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46



Warm October Birthday Wishes going out to....



4	Pat Cookfair-Casseri
5	Zachary Wadkins-Daub
7	Janet Beamer
7	Stewart Grisante
13	Michael Belus
13	Alexander Robertson
13	Eileen Urquhart
21	Terry Collins
22	Emily Grisante
26	Heather Casseri
26	C.J. Harbison
28	Alex Casseri
28	Harper Morrissey



How about dinner and a movie under the stars? Jericho Road Community Health Center invites you to a screening of The Wizard of Oz at the Transit Drive-In at 6:30 on October 1! The evening includes a boxed dinner of your choice from Chiavetta's and a voucher for a free small popcorn and drink. Tickets are \$30. Proceeds benefit Jericho Road's Vive Shelter. For more information go to www.jrchc.org/cinema.

For tickets go to bit.ly/cinema4safehaven

Intergenerational Bible Conversation

Please join Rev. Stu Buisch for bible discussion with a light supper on October 5th at 5:00 pm . We will be located in the basement in one of the small conference rooms. Thank you.

Sign Up to Serve!

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the front hall if you would like to provide flowers to beautify our sanctuary beginning the first Sunday in October. Be sure to turn in a dedication to the church office.

Liturgists urgently needed!

With church services beginning again liturgists are needed. There is no one signed up for the last half of the year. If you are a first time volunteer please call the church office for instruction.

Donate Your Sole

Hearts for the Homeless' on-going ministry to collect gently used and possibly new shoes for those in our community is always in need. As you are putting away your summer shoes and bringing out your fall/winter footwear think about donating to their shoe program. Or what about taking advantage of those end of season sales going on now, and pick up a pair to donate. The needy will thank you from the bottom of their SOLE!





Peace and Global Witness Offering: Help for South Sudanese Refugees

The first Sunday in October we receive the denomination's special Peace and Global Witness offering. This special offering goes to support peacemaking ministries around the globe and within the United States. Twenty-five percent of the offering remains with our congregation to give to a peacemaking ministry of our choice.

This year, UPC plans to give our portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering to assist an Ethiopian organization helping refugees fleeing violence in South Sudan. Their efforts and the crisis itself have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Community Hope Expansion and Development Action (CHEDA) has been providing food, masks and hygiene kits in Addis Ababa and Gambella, Ethiopia. The Executive Director of CHEDA is Presbyterian Evangelist Gabriel Chieng Tot, who is a friend of Dr. Jeffrey Thompson who provides music for our worship and Taize services. Gabriel is seeking help from Presbyterian churches around the world to be able to help the rising number of people in grave need. For more information please go to <http://chedaction.org> or chedaethiopia@gmail.com.

Please give generously to this special offering by marking your checks or envelopes with the words: "Peace Offering."

Adult Bible Study

The mid-week online Bible Study continues each Wednesday at 1 p.m.

The Zoom link is sent out in a congregational email each week.

Beginning in October, the class will embark on a series exploring the Spiritual Disciplines. Along with such disciplines as prayer and worship, we will also examine disciplines such as gratitude, journaling, simplicity, and compassion.

All are welcome to join us!



What's Happening in October



October 4	Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service
October 5	Monday	5:00 pm	Intergenerational Bible Conversation
October 6	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
October 7	Wednesday	10:00 am 1:00 pm	Zoom Youth Support Team Meeting Zoom Bible Study
October 8	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
October 11	Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service
October 12	Monday	Columbus Day Holiday	Church office Closed
October 13	Tuesday	12:00 pm 1:00 pm	Food Pantry Open Zoom Community Committee Meeting
October 14	Wednesday	1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
October 15	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
October 18	Sunday	11:00 am	Worship Service
October 19	Monday	10:30 am	Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist Church
October 19	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
October 20	Wednesday	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study Zoom Session Meeting
October 22	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Opens
October 25	Sunday	11:00 am	Worship service-Stewardship Sunday
October 27	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
October 28	Wednesday	1:00 pm	Zoom Bible Study
October 29	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open



October 31, Saturday night, remember to set clocks back before bed!



Mission to Community
Alternative Gift Giving
This year's alternative gift is for
RIP MEDICAL DEBT
Collecting to Forgive

Should I pay my medical bill or buy groceries? What about my mortgage or rent? About a third of working Americans have medical debt with almost a third owing at least \$10,000.

You can be part of the cure for crushing medical debt!

Working in the debt-buying industry, Craig Antico and Jerry Ashton were moved by compassion when they met thousands of Americans burdened by un-payable medical bills. They created a unique solution. They used donations to buy large bundles of medical debt and then forgave that debt. Founded in 2014 by these two former debt collections executives, RIP Medical Debt has forgiven more than \$1 Billion in medical debt for almost 2 million people.

Beginning Sunday November 29 and throughout Advent you may make your gift to help cure medical debt. With your donation you will receive a card to give to your loved one or friend letting them know you have honored them this holiday with this Alternative Christmas gift of hope. Cards will be available through the church office or you may print a card online.

Every \$1 relieves \$100 in un-payable medical debt- really!

\$10 relieves \$1,000

\$100 relieves \$10,000

\$1,000 relieves \$100,000.....

Please make checks payable to *University Presbyterian Church, memo: Alternative Gift*



We invite you to learn more at: <https://ripmedicaldebt.org>



Family Promise
of Western New York

June 15, 2020

University Presbyterian Church
c/o Pastor Tracy Daub
3330 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214

Dear University Presbyterian Church members:

On behalf of Family Promise of WNY and the families we serve, thank you for your overwhelmingly generous donation of \$3,750.00 designated directly to families struggling to make ends meet during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We were able to spread your donation about between 7 different families to assist paying rent, utilities and other immediate needs to ensure families were safe and had what they needed to weather these uncertain times. We honestly can say that your support helped to stabilize these families and prevented circumstances from undermining their independence.

At Family Promise of WNY, we seek to build a community that wraps homeless children and their families in hope. We pride ourselves on staying close to our graduated families to provide them the supports they need to remain housed and thriving. Your donation, especially during this critical time, helped us live up to our promise.

We cannot do what we do without you. Your support means a lot to all of us – most especially the families we serve.

Sincerely,

J. Christian Hoffmann
Board Chair, Family Promise of WNY

We are so blessed to have community support like yours! Thanks so much for thinking of our families in this way!

www.fpwny.org | 716.771.3007 | Fax: 716.771.3105 | 75 Hickory Street, Buffalo, NY 14204



University Presbyterian Church
 3330 Main St
 Buffalo, NY 14214-1372

May 21, 2020

Dear University Presbyterian Church,

Your gift to Jericho Road Community Health Center is making a difference in the lives of families both in Buffalo and beyond! Because of your generosity we are able to help men, women, and children have a better tomorrow by improving health outcomes holistically.



Thank you for your donation of \$1,085.00 towards our frontline response campaign to the Covid-19 crisis! Jericho Road currently provides quality medical care in the following locations: Buffalo, NY; Sierra Leone; Democratic Republic of Congo; and Nepal. We also offer six community development programs in Buffalo: ESL Initiative, Hope Refugee Drop-In Center, Vivos Shelter for asylum seekers, ParentChild+, Prisca's Protect, and Financial Education.

Should you wish to learn more about our organization visit us at www.jrchc.org and follow us on social media! We are grateful for your passion and support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Myron Gluck, Chief Executive Officer

Jericho Road Community Health Center	\$1,085.00
184 Barton St, Buffalo NY 14213	5/18/2020
University Presbyterian Church	
3330 Main St Buffalo NY 14214-1372	

Jericho Road Community Health Center is a 501(c)(3) organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts are tax-deductible. No goods or services were provided in exchange for their financial contribution.

HEADQUARTERS: 184 BARTON STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14213
 716-348-3000 • 716-348-3002 FAX • WWW.JRCHC.ORG