

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



Message from our Pastor

A seminary professor of mine once called February “the longest month of the year.” Of course, we know that it is in fact the *shortest* month of the year. But my professor was referring not to the number of days in February but to our emotional, spiritual, and psychological states of mind that can make February feel like the longest month of the year. Winter is in fully swing in February. We may feel worn down by the shoveling of snow, the heavy winter garments, the cold temperatures, the dark days. And sometimes our personal trials and struggles are heightened by these external conditions during the month of February.

It seems appropriate that the Church calendar in February is still focused on the season of Epiphany. We usually think of Epiphany as the day the magi found the Christ child. For the Church, however, Epiphany is more than just one day but a season. The word “Epiphany” means *manifestation* or *revelation*. What the church celebrates in the 6 weeks of Epiphany is God’s light shining upon all humanity. It is a season where we contemplate not only God’s saving love shining upon us, but also God’s call to us to shine the light of God’s love to the world.

How grateful we are for the light! In the dark days of February, may we each discover God’s light of love and hope and may we find ways to shine that light for one another.

Shalom,

Tracy

Worship Column

February 2, 2020

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8; Ps. 15; 1 Cor. 1:18-31

Matt. 5:1-12

February 9, 2010

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Isa. 58:1-9a (9b-12); Ps. 112:1-9 (10);

1 Cor. 2:1-12(13-16); Matt. 5:13-20

February 16, 2020

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Deut. 30:15-20; Ps. 119:1-8;

1 Cor. 3:1-9; Matt. 5:21-37

February 23, 2020

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exod. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps, 99;

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9

February 26, 2020

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or

Isa. 58:1-12;

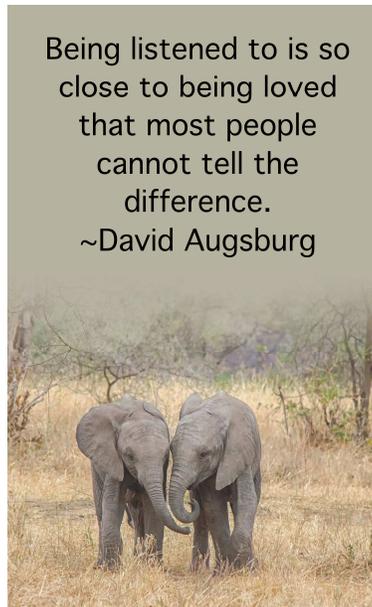
Ps. 51:1-17;

2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10;

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21



Being listened to is so
close to being loved
that most people
cannot tell the
difference.
~David Augsburg





What's Happening in February

Feb. 1 Saturday 10:00 am Breakfast with Friends

Feb. 2 Sunday 9:00 am Worship Service
 10:00 am Education Hour
 11:00 am Worship Service
 12:00 pm Annual Meeting



Feb. 3 Monday 9:00 am Youth Support Team

Feb. 4 Tuesday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Feb. 6 Thursday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
 7:30 pm Choir

Feb. 7 Friday 5:30 pm Taize

Feb. 9 Sunday 9:00 am Worship Service
 9:30 am Deacons Meeting
 10:00 am Education Hour
 11:00 am Worship Service
 12:00 pm Fellowship Time & Birthday Celebration
 2:00 pm Racial Justice Task Force Book Discussion



Feb. 11 Tuesday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Feb. 13 Thursday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
 7:30 pm Choir



Feb. 16 Sunday 9:00 am Worship Service
 10:00 am Education Hour
 11:00 am Worship Service
 12:00 pm Fellowship Time ~ Soup and Pie Sale



Feb. 17 Monday *President's Day Church Office Closed*

Feb. 18 Tuesday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Feb. 20 Thursday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
 7:30 pm Choir

What's Happening Continued....



Feb. 23 Sunday 9:00 am Worship Service
 10:00 am Education Hour
 11:00 am Worship Service
 12:00 pm Fellowship Time

Feb. 25 Tuesday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Feb. 26 Wednesday 5:30 pm Light Meal
 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
 7:00 pm Session



Feb. 27 Thursday 12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
 7:30 pm Choir

Celebrating February Birthdays are

- 1 Connie Michael
- 2 Andrew Safulko
- 6 Linda Moorhouse
- 8 Jim Smyton
- 9 Sue Castle
- 12 Grace Agbemenu
- 17 Barbara Lyons
- 24 John Schimminger



CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of University Presbyterian Church is Sunday, February 2nd, 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.



Are you in the midst of reading

The Bluest Eye?



The Racial Justice Task Group of University and North Presbyterian Churches invites our two congregations to participate in reading and discussing Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. Don't panic if you haven't started the read yet....you still have two weeks to finish the book before we gather for the book discussion on Sunday, February 9th at 2 pm here at UPC. Refreshments will be provided.

Ash Wednesday: February 26th

On this day we are holding a lite evening soup meal at 5:30 p.m. The informal service with imposition of ashes will follow the meal at 6 p.m. Both events will take place in the Fellowship Room. Please join us to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.



Alternative Christmas Gift Campaign

Many thanks to all who donated to December's Alternative Christmas Gift opportunity, which will help to provide scholarships for students to attend the Agape Lutheran Junior Seminary, a residential school in Tanzania. With the matching from Session through a charitable fund we raised \$2316. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. The proceeds from the Youth Group's chili sales will also go to this worthy cause.



Soup & Pie Sale February 16th @ Noon

*You really should go to this luncheon in our beautiful, new fellowship room!
Why?*

1. The variety of delicious soups and pies made by our church members
2. The warmth of fellowship on a cold winter day
3. The opportunity to help a person in need who you may pass the peace with on Sunday morning.

One of the Board of Deacons' programs of giving care to our congregants is confidentially offering small grants or loans to those with urgent need. Two Deacon designees meet with Pastor Tracy to decide whether a person's need matches our criteria. These three are the only one who know the identity of the recipient. The source of the money is gifts from UPC members, occasional repayment of a loan andsoup and pie sales!!

Please help by volunteering to make soup or a pie, by donating to our emergency fund and especially by joining us for lunch after the late service on February 16th. Cost of lunch is \$5 which includes soup, pie and beverage. Take out will be available at \$3 for soup and \$2 for pie.

Meet One of UPC's New Members....Derek Fisher

Our first new member interview is with Derek Fisher. He is a life long resident of the city of good neighbors, born and raised here. He has 2 siblings and is the youngest in the family. He is currently divorced and has no children. Derek has had an interest in visual arts since a young age and continues to spend his free time pursuing it. Some activities he enjoys are exercising, especially cycling, traveling, tinkering with computers and demonstrates his creative side by oil painting.

Derek has an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and a masters degree of Industrial Technology, both from the State University College at Buffalo. Currently he is doing independent research and development associated with a US patent under his name since 2017.

University Presbyterian offers Derek a familiar service format and a comfortable, relaxed come as you are feeling. He appreciates the inclusive nature of UPC and the attention our congregation gives towards current world issues.

Derek's faith has helped him provide a path that is continually moving him forward in life. It has also given him guidance and answers through all the questions in everyday life. In good times and bad god walks with him.

Update on Mossy Point Joy Jar Collection

Taken from the Buffalo News...

A 222-acre forest with old growth trees in Wales has been saved from potential logging and subdivisions. Mossy Point will become a nature preserve. The Western New York Land Conservancy, working with Friends of Mossy Point, announced Thursday that it had raised the \$1.6 million it needed to buy the land before a Dec. 31 deadline.

"This campaign was a tremendous effort by everyone involved," said Nancy Smith, the conservancy's executive director. "[We] came together to make this dream a reality. Since the Great Lakes contain almost a quarter of the world's surface fresh water, it is so inspiring to protect a forest that enhances the quality of the fresh water we all rely on."

As a headwater forest, the land naturally filters water from the Niagara River and helps prevent flooding in communities downstream.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation played a significant role in the early stages of the campaign by providing a \$655,000 water quality improvement grant. Three donations totaling \$250,000 from private individuals, plus a \$100,000 donation from the Gallogly Family Foundation, were other key contributions that helped secure the forest as the deadline drew near.

"Protecting a large, contiguous tract of unspoiled forest like Mossy Point is critical to preserving water quality, including here at the headwaters of the Niagara River," said Basil Seggos, the DEC's commissioner. "This land is home to vital wildlife habitat, including ancient and rare fern species, and a stopping place for migratory songbirds."

Last summer, the DEC said the loss of natural landscapes like Mossy Point can lead to polluted runoff, sedimentation, higher storm water surges and reduced stream base flow and aquifer recharge.

Old-growth patches include stands of hemlocks, white pine and hickory trees. Ferns, milkweed, red oaks, sugar maples, birch trees and cucumber magnolia trees also grow on the property.

Migratory birds use the deep woods to nest, including the Venezuelan water thrush, great crested flycatcher and the black burnian warbler. Six of Western New York's seven woodpecker species can be found in Mossy Point, along with foxes and black bears.

The forest includes shale-bedded Hunters Creek, rich with crayfish and ecologically diverse woodland areas. The property's acquisition is expected to be completed in the spring. The newly protected land and the adjacent 131-acre Kenneglenn Nature Preserve and 760-acre Hunters Creek County Park form a 1,113-acre protected area, one of the largest patches of protected forests in the Niagara River watershed.

The conservancy plans to build a trail for walking, cross-country and snowshoe hikes at Mossy Point. It is also considering a year-round trail system connecting the areas. Last summer, the conservancy made a public appeal for financial help, calling the forest "awesome" but also "threatened" if the fundraising effort did not succeed.

With Mossy Point, the conservancy has protected more than 6,700 acres in Western New York.

Thank you to all who donated to the Joy Jar!



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, February 7th from 5:30 to 6:00 PM.**

A Taizé Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org

(The Taizé' Service in March is scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2020)