

The Network... a Publication of University Presbyterian Church July, 2025

School's out for summer!!! Remember those words, that cry? I vividly recall running down the sidewalk outside of John Greenleaf Whittier Elementary School in Pittsburgh with my report card in hand, feeling free as the wind and like a millionaire with all of summer to look forward to. Well here we are, it's summer again and we'll acknowledge the season each in our ways and traditions I trust as well as with a list of fun summer activities for UPC members and friends—find these outings here in this newsletter. These are great opportunities to invite friends of yours to join you and your UPC friends for some summer fun. Spread the word, bring a buddy or two or more.

We'll be acknowledging summer in worship by singing your favorite hymns 15 minutes before the start of worship—"favorites" as submitted by many of you to the church office. And we'll have one Sunday in July when the entire service will be hymns—following the pattern of the liturgy—praise, confession/pardon, good news of resurrection, prayers for peace and healing, sending out into the world.

We will also be following up on the prework for a capital campaign recommended to us by our consultant Dana Kimberly: repair/paint/landscape the front of the church; update the sign to an electronic digital sign; update the website; install a software management system for the church (the infrastructure for membership, giving, email, calendar, etc.) essential for 21st century congregations. The final and in many ways the most important prework task is to articulate a "unifying vision/mission" for UPC. This is the church's message to the world, after the welcome mats physically and online have been laid out; this "unifying vision/mission is who UPC is called to be today, in the year 2025 to the immediate community and the wider world. We are fortunate to have secured the services of Professor Kristin Peterson of the Buffalo State University Creative Problem Solving Institute to lead us in the process of creating a unifying vision/mission. Lee Ann Grace, honorably retired professor and administrator at Buffalo State University, has made this arrangement with Professor Peterson, who with her colleagues at the CPSI, Lee Ann says, consults with the likes of Google and Disney. The date will be either Sunday July 13 or 20. We will keep you informed!!

As I write I am aware that today, June 19th, is Juneteenth—a national holiday signed into law by President Biden, but heralding back to June 19th 1865 when black slaves were proclaimed

to be free after the last Confederate Army surrendered in Texas; and on June 19th 1866 after the 13th amendment ensured freedom in states that had resisted by instituting laws oppressive to blacks citizens. In 1866 the 14th amendment was passed into law to expand freedoms to all those born or naturalized in the United States as citizens of the US and the state in which they resided and goes on to say that no state shall legislate laws or restrictions on these citizens or deny equal protection under the law. Celebrations resounded in 1866 and a few years later but subsided during Jim Crow into the 20th century. Equal rights and freedoms are still elusive for many black citizens and people of color. The work of justice continues.

All good wishes, happy summer,
Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour after the service will be suspended during July and August except for Birthdays Sundays. On the last Sunday of the month we will gather for coffee and cake after the service to celebrate birthdays!



Saturday Breakfast

Our Saturday Breakfast with Friends will continue through the summer. All are welcome to join the fun at Family Tree Restaurant (4346 Bailey Ave.) on July 5th and August 2nd at 10:00. Interested? Call or text Nick Casseri at 716-361-5080.

Worship Column

Sunday, July 6

4th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6: (1-6) 7-16;
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 13

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-14; Psalm 82; Deuteronomy 30:9-14;
Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 20

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52; Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15;
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 27

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 52; Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13



Wishing Happy July Birthdays to ...

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Emily Smith |
| 2 | Elissa Diaz |
| 4 | Willie Fisher |
| 9 | Sophie Smith |
| 10 | Nancy Chia |
| 13 | Thelma Monteith |
| 16 | Hilde Smith |
| 22 | Nick Casseri |
| 31 | Henry Safulko |



What's Happening in July...

July 2	Tuesday	5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Pickle ball Technology Mtg.
July 4	Friday	<i>Independence Day</i>	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
July 6	Sunday	10:30 am	Worship Service
July 7	Monday	7:00 pm	PNC
July 8	Tuesday	12:00 pm 2:30 pm 5:00 pm	Food Pantry Open Zoom Ministry to Community Mtg. Pickle ball
July 9	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Technology Mtg.
July 10	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
July 13	Sunday	10:30 am	Worship Service
July 14	Monday	7:00 pm	PNC
July 15	Tuesday	12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Food Pantry Open Pickle ball
July 16	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Session
July 17	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
July 20	Sunday	10:30 am	Worship Service
July 21	Monday	7:00 pm	PNC
July 22	Tuesday	12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Food Pantry Open Pickle ball
July 24	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
July 25	Friday		BPO Unity Concert?
July 27	Sunday	10:30 am 11:30 am	Worship Service Fellowship & Birthday Cake
July 28	Monday	7:00 pm	PNC
July 29	Tuesday	12:00 pm 5:00 pm	Food Pantry Open Pickle ball
July 31	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open



END OF YEAR CHOIR EVENT

The choir ended their year in our usual way, with a picnic lunch, this year at the Smith's house. A special shout out to Sarah and Matt for accommodating our annual gathering.

Since I joined UPC over 20 years ago, the choir has been the one group in the church that has longevity for it's enthusiasm and membership. Besides our mutual bond of music, we also form friendships and a caring network of fellowship. If anyone in the church has an interest in singing (you don't need to be a professional!) we would love to have you join us on Sunday mornings. We gather at 9 am on Sundays, and do a rehearsal of the song for the service and future selections for upcoming services. Our paid singers are strong so we can attach to them with confidence. I myself, have never had vocal instruction but I enjoy singing and showing praise to God.

If you're not musically inclined, you might consider joining a committee in the church, or serving as an Elder on Session or a Deacon. Being active in the church is the best way to get to know members of the church, and serve the life of UPC towards a strong and flourishing future.

Blessings for a safe and fun summer,

Amy Erickson





Sunday August 10—visit to Inner Harbor and The Buffalo Maritime Center

We will enjoy a light lunch in the fellowship room immediately after worship; then make our way to the Inner Harbor. We'll gather at 1:15pm the Seneca Chief, the replica Erie Canal pakboat on the boardwalk, constructed by WNY citizens in an unusual, wide angle participatory experiment. We'll meet John Montague founder and head of the Buffalo Maritime Center at the Seneca Chief. It is, as you know, the 250th anniversary of the Erie Canal and John will tell us the story of the Canal and its impact on Buffalo and the growth of the nation. He'll take us onboard the Seneca Chief and then to the location on the boardwalk where the canal empties into Lake Erie. His narrative is pure drama and reminds listeners of our national aspirations to settle the Midwest and west and be a great nation. We'll then have time to wander to the nearby museum and elsewhere at the Inner Harbor.



First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 410
Douglas, AZ 85608
<https://fpcdouglasaz.com>

University Presbyterian Church
3330 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14214

Dear Sisters and Brothers at Universtiy Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your support to rebuild First Presbyterian Church after the devastating fire of May 22, 2023, that destroyed our church .

Ministers

Rev. Peggy Christiansen

Rev. Jocabed Gallegos

Members of the Session

Lilly Lopez

Susan Kramer

Ariel Pittaway

Jean Tsuya

Manuel Valenzuela

Clerk of Session

Jean Tsuya

Treasurers

Jean Tsuya

Sylvia Valenzuela

We are grateful for your donation of \$5000 as we continue to do God's work as a border church. Over the past two years we have continued our Sunday worship, first in other churches who shared their space with us and eventually back home in our Christian Ed building. We have continued our food pantry ministry, providing staples for 30 – 50 families in Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico on a monthly basis. For the first year and a half we operated out of our cars in the alley!

Our insurance policy was not enough to cover the complete restoration of our church, so we prioritized rebuilding our fellowship hall. We are creating a friendly and accessible community gathering space, with plenty of room for meetings and a beautiful, updated commercial-grade kitchen. This will enable us to have both a worship space and a highly functional hospitality center for outreach, support groups, our community food pantry, classes in nutrition, cooking, English for our border community, and more. In addition, we added upgraded ADA bathrooms with showers to accommodate guests in need of shelter.

We don't have the means to re-create the beautiful sanctuary of 1906, but we do have enough to rebuild the historic roof! This will preserve the "bones" for possible future redevelopment. Both projects are scheduled to be completed in June of this year.

While we grieve the loss of the church home we once knew, we know that our primary ministry and mission is one of compassion and service to the community around us; being a place of Christian hospitality and shelter is more important than spending all our resources now trying to re-create the traditional church sanctuary.

We are constantly reminded of God's great love, as we are blessed in so many ways. We are growing in our faith and our patience, as we seek God's guidance in our rebuilding process.

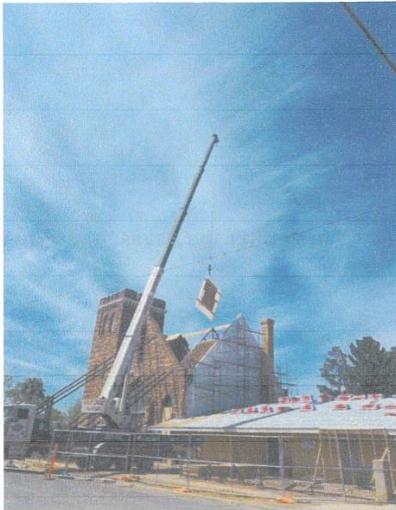
We thank you with all our hearts for your support in this endeavor!

In God's Love,

Rev. Peggy Christiansen, M.M., M.Div.
Rev. Jocabed Gallegos, L.S.T.

*Thank you so much for reaching out across the continent!
Many blessings to you all!*

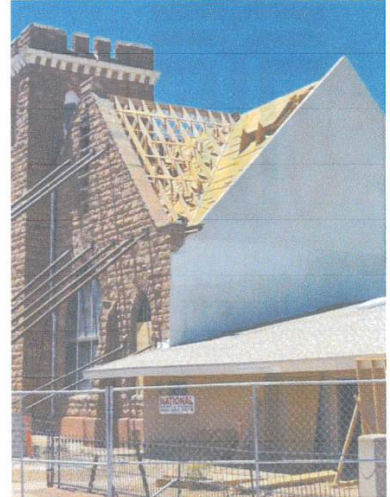
“Out of the Ashes, With God We Rise!”



Roofing of sanctuary and fellowship hall



ADA Ramp in the fellowship hall



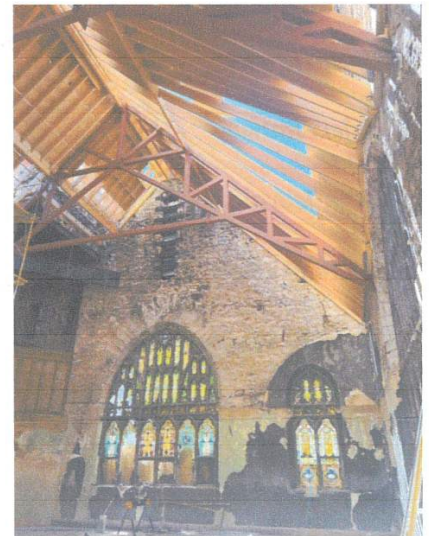
Reroofing our sancturay



Our fellowship hall with added skylights



March 30 worship service



Rebuilding our sanctuary roof



Pickle ball at UPC

Have you ever wondered what all the hype was about with the new sport of pickle ball? Well, you have the opportunity to find out in our own church. We have been in contact with John Fong, who has successfully set up pickle ball groups in many local churches. He said it's very easy to learn, and can be enjoyed by all ages.

For our first group experience, we have chosen Tuesdays from 5 to 7. John will supply all equipment until we purchase our own. So, come out and find out for yourself if you're destined to be a pickle ball champ or just a casual player. There's no charge, so what's stopping you?

Pentecost-Grandparent's Day Fun









Need a book?



Don't forget to visit UPC's Little Library. Take a book, leave a book!



Summer Fun Activities for UPC!

Please consider joining us for some great activities this summer!

July 19th (Saturday) Bison's Game!

The game starts at 6:30. We are waiting to hear from the Bison's folks- we may be able to have a tour prior to the game. We'll let you know. Ride shares will be arranged for those who would like to join in the fun. Let us know if you are interested. Contact Nick Casseri (716-361-5080 or Peg at the office (716-836-7660).

July 25th (Friday) Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra's Unity Concert!

JoAnn Falletta, the BPO, and the Buffalo United Community Choir (BUCC) present a performance continuing our commitment to share musical experiences that bring together and uplift the Western NY community. The concert is free and begins at 7:30 at Zion Missionary Baptist Church, located at 179 E. Ferry St. contact Amy Erickson (716-480-4591) or Peg in the church office (716-836-7660).

August 5th (Tuesday) Shakespeare in Delaware Park!

Enjoy the evening on the hill in Delaware Park watching Richard III! The show starts at 7:00 but you should arrive early enough to claim your spot to watch the show! Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. Bring food and drink. Since this event is weather dependent, our rain date is Thursday, August 7th. We can ride share for those who want. Contact Pat Cookfair-Casseri (716-440-9833) or Peg in the church office (716-836-7660)

August 10 (Sunday)—visit to Inner Harbor and The Buffalo Maritime Center!

We will enjoy a light lunch in the fellowship room immediately after worship; then make our way to the Inner Harbor. We'll gather at 1:15pm the Seneca Chief, the replica Erie Canal pack boat on the boardwalk, constructed by WNY citizens in an unusual, wide angle participatory experiment. We'll meet John Montague founder and head of the Buffalo Maritime Center at the Seneca Chief. It is, as you know, the 250th anniversary of the Erie Canal and John will tell us the story of the Canal and its impact on Buffalo and the growth of the nation. He'll take us onboard the Seneca Chief and then to the location on the boardwalk where the canal empties into Lake Erie. His narrative is pure drama and reminds listeners of our national aspirations to settle the Midwest and west and be a great nation. We'll then have time to wander to the nearby museum and elsewhere at the Inner Harbor. Contact Peg at the church office 716-836-7660)