

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
April 2023*



Message from our Pastor

Green shoots are pushing their way up through the hard earth in my flower beds. It's comforting to see these signs of new life, even if snow flurries are still flying from the skies.

New life does not emerge easily in our lives. It usually comes with effort and usually comes with some kind of cost. Think about what is necessary for peace to emerge among two nations at war, or between two family members in conflict. The price for new life to grow in those circumstances will involve time, energy, compromise, letting go of grievances, facing the injuries each has caused, and fresh commitment.

The Resurrection is God's gift of new life to us. We are offered a new way of living in this world grounded in God's love and forgiveness. From the hard soil in which we live and have become accustomed, something new can grow in our hearts and lives. But it is going to take some effort and commitment on our part. Resurrections come with a cost. Something has to die, something has to end, for the new to be born.

What new life is waiting to be born in your life? Is it healing from an emotional wound? Is it undertaking a new but risky endeavor? Is it a mending of a fractured relationship?

In this season of Eastertide, may we embrace the resurrection gift

Blessings,

Tracy

Worship Column

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday

Palms: Matthew 21:1-11 and

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a and

Psalms 31:9-16; Philemon 2:5-11;

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 17:11-54

Monday, April 3

Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Psalm 36:5-11, Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tuesday, April 4

Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-7 and Psalm 71:1-14;

1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wednesday, April 5

Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, April 9

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or

Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10

Easter Evening:

Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 114; 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

Sunday, April 16

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 and Psalm 16 or Exodus 15:1-11 and Psalm 111; 1 Peter 1:3-9;

John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 23

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 and Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 or Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 34:1-10, 1 Peter 1:17-23;

Luke 24:13-35

Sunday, April 30

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 and Psalm 23 or Ezekiel 34:7-15 and Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10



April birthday wishes go out to...



- 4 Lee Ann Grace
- 5 Hazel Moodie
- 11 Linda Krempa
- 13 John Lopinski, Jr.
- 15 Desmond Chia
- 22 Henna Shirazi
- 23 Gladys Gifford
- 24 Meg Cheman
- 26 Olivia Smith
- 28 Jerilyn Hickey



**UPC & Calvary Baptist Church's
Joint Maundy Thursday Worship Service
April 6th ~ 5:30 pm Light Soup Supper**

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Come, experience this service of readings,
communion and the extinguishing of candles.



Worship with us Easter Sunday, April 9th
9:00 am Easter Brunch
10:30 am Worship Service

Easter Brunch!

Easter brunch is 9:00-10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Room downstairs. Come join us any time between those hours.

If you can bring a dish to share, please sign up on the sheets provided at both sanctuary entrances. But even if you are not able to bring a dish, please join us anyway!

This complementary event is a UPC tradition on Easter Sunday and we are delighted to offer it again this year. Please join us!



What's Happening in April ...

Saturday, April 1 10:00 am Breakfast with Friends

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

9:30 am Choir
 10:30 am Worship Service
 11:30 am Fellowship Time
 12:00 pm Historical Society Tour



Monday, April 3

9:30 am Adult Ed
 7:00 pm Zoom Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, April 4

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open



**MAUNDY
 THURSDAY**

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
 5:30 pm Joint Soup Supper with Calvary Baptist
 7:00 pm Joint Maundy Thursday Service with Calvary Baptist

Sunday, April 9

Easter Sunday

9:00 am Easter Breakfast
 9:30 am Choir
 10:30 am Worship Service
 11:30 am Fellowship Time



Tuesday, April 11

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Thursday, April 13

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Sunday, April 16

9:30 am Choir
 10:30 am Worship Service
 11:30 am Fellowship Time

Tuesday, April 18

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
 2:30 pm Zoom Community Committee Mtg.

Wednesday, April 19

7:00 pm Session (in-person)

Thursday, April 20

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open
 7:30 pm Choir



Sunday, April 23

9:30 am Choir
 10:30 am Worship Service
 11:30 am Fellowship Time
 12:00 pm Deacon Training

Monday, April 24

1:30 pm Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist

Tuesday, April 25

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Thursday, April 27

12:00 pm Food Pantry Open

Sunday, April 30

9:30 am Choir
 10:30 am Worship Service
 11:30 am Fellowship Time

Membership Meeting Update February 28

The Membership Committee met on Tuesday, February 28 and had a lively discussion about how to develop relationships among the congregation and activities and ideas on how to strengthen bonds among members of UPC. After receiving ideas about what some people would like to see happening in the life of our church, we came up with more suggestions among ourselves.

These are the ideas we came up with at the meeting. Explore Buffalo tours, Amherst Museum, Colored Musicians Club, Forest Lawn Sunday tours, Underground Railroad Museum, Lancaster Opera House, local concerts, and visiting the cherry blossoms in Delaware Park in springtime. We are also looking into the possibility of day trips with charter bus transportation. One destination was the production of the Lancaster Pennsylvania Theater of Sound and Light, as well as a summer day trip to Chautauqua and maybe take in their Sunday service and afternoon concert.

We welcome any other ideas people may have to add to the list. If you don't want to attend a meeting please feel free to give suggestions to anyone on the Membership Committee.

Thank you. Tracy Daub, Amy and Dennis Erickson, Dave Bartley, Allan Andrews, Pat Cookfair-Casseri, and Vicki Moorhouse.

Joint Maundy Thursday Service & Soup Supper with Calvary Baptist Church April 6 at 7 p.m. at University Presbyterian

This year, UPC is hosting a special joint service on Thursday of Holy Week (April 6) with our friends from Calvary Baptist. The traditional Tenebrae service will include the participation of UPC and Calvary members in a joint choir, the reading of the Passion narrative, the celebration of Holy Communion, and the extinguishing of candles.

The service will be preceded by a light Soup Supper in the Fellowship Room from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

A strong attendance from UPC would be a wonderful way to welcome our guests! Come break bread with our brothers and sisters from Calvary Baptist and join in this special Holy Week service in remembrance of Christ's great love!

Member Directories

The 2023 Member Directories are now available in the narthex and the church office. Pick up your copy today.

CHOIR NOTES



The old saying, “time flies when you’re having fun” really is true! It is hard for me to believe that it has been 6 months already since I first began directing the choir at UPC, and now, we only have two months to go before taking a summer break. The wonderful people in the University Pres Choir have been so gracious and accepting of me as their director. I can honestly say that Thursdays are my favorite day of the week, because that is when I get to stand in front of these saints and do what I most love to do, create beautiful sounds with beautiful people. The fact that we are leading in worship along with Tracy is an added bonus! During the past several months, I have spent quite a bit of time cataloging and creating a spreadsheet of every piece of music in our choir library. That means each copy of every title in our library so that we know exactly how many copies we have of every anthem in our library.

I hope that you have noticed several new faces in our choir. We have two new sopranos, a new alto, and a new bass. I believe that we are on the right track. Of course, there is always room for more singers! I have been inspired by the pictures of the many singers who have sung in the UPC choirs over the years. Those pictures are hanging in the choir room. There are photos of children, teenagers, and adults, all serving this great church through the ministry of music. My favorite photo is of the UPC Men’s Chorus in the mid 1960’s. There are 30 plus people singing in that choir. This inspired me to designate Sunday, May 14 as a day that we would invite all the men to join Greg and me in the choir loft 9:30 to learn a quick anthem to sing in the service. No stress, no muss, no fuss! Please plan on giving it a try!

Frontera 2023

Report 8

Friday, March 3 – We took the final Friday off to clean the casita, do laundry, bring our “leave-behind” supplies in a closet at the office, take back books (library) plastic bags for recycling (Walmart) and mail mail (post office). Tomorrow, Saturday morning, a friend will drive the Frontera de Cristo bus up to Tucson to pick up a visiting delegation and drop us at a Flixbus (ersatz Greyhound?) station. The Flixbus will carry us to Phoenix and we will spend a few days with our friend there before returning home on March 7. We get in late.

Lee Ann had a day of not feeling well earlier into our sojourn and, being the wise person that she is, stayed in for the day. This week it was my turn. I slept in and rested in the casita all day Wednesday with the heater on high. We then went out to a frigid 18 degrees F on Thursday morning for our final 6 to 8 am shift at the Migrant Resource Center.

All of a sudden it got uncommonly busy for that time slot and so we stayed on past 8 to lend more hands to the cause. Lee Ann and Sister Judy Bourg helped one man who arrived in a long-sleeved t-shirt and with a thin towel draped over his shoulders for warmth. 18 F that morning.

Fortunately, they found him several layers that fit, plus a knit hat and gloves.

Joy Jar offerings become lifesaving clothing.

I lost my voice shortly thereafter while we were sitting at the coffee shop. At the end of the workday (5 o'clock, because there were no delegations this week), we went to Joca's house for a goodbye party. Roasted chicken, Chiapan rice and vegetables, a *picante* soup made by Catherine (which was great on my throat) and chicken and honey empanadas made by Pastora Lorena (also good for the throat). Lorena said she would miss my insights into the Bible passages during our devotional periods (in Mexico as well as the USA, it seems, I march to a provocatively different drummer). The young Chiapan intern, far away from home up here in the north, did not seem to want to let me go when we hugged goodbye. Daddy.

Slept in again today, still no voice, and then got working on cleanup chores and organizing supplies for 2024. Lee Ann was up earlier, getting Just Coffee going. We are now in the office working on the never ending opera responsibilities (Lee Ann) and catching up on odds and ends (me). At five we will go for dinner at Jack and Linda Knox's house, they the Mennonite couple (he is a pastor) who made this year possible by letting us use the casita for these two months.

Glad we came but glad it is over, too. We will miss our friends here who are close enough after so many years to call family, but it will be good to be back with friends/family in Buffalo. Colder than in previous years and with more challenges—housing, internet access, transportation. Also, more grief from my left hip and left knee than I have previously experienced. Thankfully, Ibuprophen seems to have done the trick to alleviate the discomfort.

I believe we are both of a mind to return in 2024 and have planned for it. But, paraphrasing Zager and Evans, “in the year 20-25, if I am still alive...” we will see.

One of our students, given an assignment to get her to talk more, wrote out a question to ask of us and then respond to herself: What phrase do you follow for your life? One of mine is: I am grateful for what I have and I am grateful for what I do not have.

Paz y bendiciones a todos (Peace and blessings to all of you).

Howard