

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian
Church ~ June 2023*



Message from our Pastor

We live in a transactional world. And sometimes we approach our life of faith in similar ways. When considering our participation in church activities, we may contemplate, "what do I get out of it?"

UPC member Howard Henry invites us to consider the value of church attendance and participation in a new light. After reading it, I hope you will consider the blessing you are to this community.

Peace,

Tracy

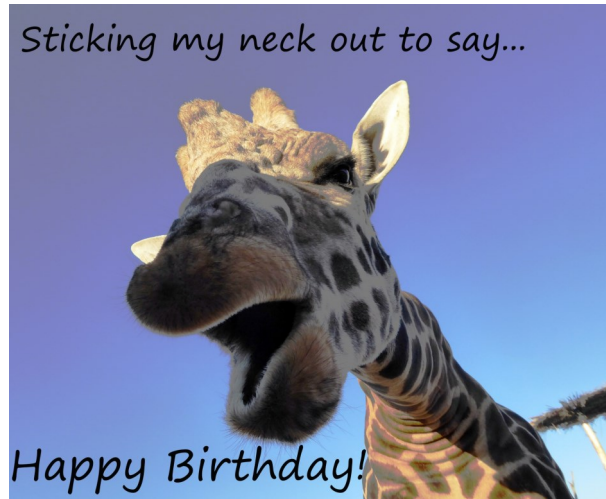
"Why I Come to Church" by Howard Henry

Why come to church? Why worship with others? Why worship with us? Your sister/brother worshipers at University Presbyterian Church **need** you in church with us. By worshiping with us you bring us a blessing. We **need** your **blessing**. If you are strong in the faith, we **need your presence** to **encourage** us. If you are doubtful, we **need your presence** to know that **we are not the only ones** who doubt.

If you are struggling, we **need you to struggle with us** to follow the way of Holiness, of peace and justice, of service to others and to Love. And **we want to be a blessing to you**, if you will allow us. Please come and tell us your name and learn ours. Please come back and renew our covenant to be a blessing to one another.

June birthday wishes go out to...

- 1 Thomas Somerville
- 2 Timothy Harbison
- 6 Dennis Erickson
- 7 Susan Beyer
- 21 Sabina Burker
- 24 Clark Whitefield
- 26 Zain Shirazi
- 26 Russell Whitefield
- 30 Roger Dahl



University Church Organist, Gregory White will travel to Paris, France for Study Leave

June 29, I will travel to Paris, France for a two-week study of French Organ Repertoire with some of the great, internationally acclaimed organists from that city. I will be joined in a reunion with other organist colleagues from around the United States who performed, studied in master classes and played recitals throughout Paris in 2017. The focus of study will include improvisation in the French Modern style, and repertoire from the Early Classical style, French Romantic, to Contemporary French Organ Repertoire. Recitals and Master Classes will be held at

Cathedrals throughout the city of Paris as well as the Chapel at Versailles. St. Sulpice, St. Eustache, La Trinite, St. Germain des Pres, St. Clotilde and other Cathedrals will offer the opportunity to play the great French organs built and designed to play the repertoire written for them; repertoire used during services at University Church. In 2017, the experience changed the way I heard and played this repertoire after performing on the instruments for which it was composed. I will include a summary of the Study Leave following my return.

– Gregory White, UPC Organist, June 2023

What's Happening in ..



Thursday, June 1	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
	1:00 pm	Calligraphy Class
Saturday, June 3	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, June 4	10:30 am	Worship Service
Monday, June 5	7:00 pm	Deacon's Meeting
Tuesday, June 6	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, June 8	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, June 11	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, June 13	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Committee	2:30 pm	Zoom Ministry to Commu-
Wednesday, June 14	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, June 15	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday June 18	<i>Father's Day</i>	
	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, June 20	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, June 23	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, June 25	10:30 am	Worship Service
Monday, June 26	1:30 pm	Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist Church
Tuesday, June 27	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, June 29	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open



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Pride Parade 2023, Sunday, June 4



University Presbyterian Church will have a float in this year's parade, worshipping on a Sunday by walking, just as Jesus walked and welcomed all of God's beloved. The parade begins at 11 a.m. on the SUNY Buffalo State campus. We invite UPC members and friends to join us in the parade. Please contact Howard Henry for details: hwhjr98@gmail.com

Day Trip to Chautauqua Institution

If you are familiar with Chautauqua, I don't have to sell you on the pleasures and picturesque scenes of that destination. The Membership Committee is hoping to get a group together from the church to take in the offerings of Chautauqua on Sunday, July 23.

The plan for the day, is to meet in Chautauqua in the morning and attend the 10:45 Amphitheater church service. Afterwards, we'll have lunch, and then at 2:30 meet again at the Amphitheater for a concert. It features a local Jamestown band named The Probables. Their music contains influences of Americana, Folk, Contemporary, Bluegrass and Rock for a fusion of a unique blend.

Chautauqua is only an hour and a half away and is a jewel of our area that should be experienced by everyone. Even if you've been there, it never loses its appeal for a day long adventure or a long term stay.

There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex of the church if you're interested in participating. If you'd like more information about it, please contact Amy Erickson at 716-480-4591. There's no gate fee on Sundays and everything is free.

"I enjoy the hands-on experience as a Deacon."

**Thomas Somerville, UPC Honoree
at the
2023 Network of Religious Communities
Appreciation Dinner**



On Thursday, June 1, 2023, the Network of Religious Communities will host their annual Appreciation Dinner at "M" Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, beginning at 6:00 PM. Each year the Network invites religious organizations to join them in recognizing members who provide outstanding service to their congregations and to the community.

This year, University Presbyterian Church is grateful to honor **Thomas Somerville**, a longtime and faithful member of our congregation.

Tom has been generously devoting his time and talents to the work of this church for more than 50 years. Tom is often the first face you see on a Sunday morning, greeting and ushering, receiving the offering and hosting the coffee hour. And those who pay attention will know that Tom frequently sports a necktie that is *perfect* for the occasion, be it a holiday or a game day. We'll see what he chooses for this occasion, which also happens to fall on his birthday!

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Tom Somerville!!

Thank you, Tom, for your service and for sharing some of your story with us for the Network.

I am a product of the UPC Sunday school. I was baptized at The First Presbyterian Church on Symphony Circle in Buffalo. My fondest memory of the First Presbyterian Church was when my dad took my twin brother and myself there to hear Jackie Robinson. I have two brothers. One is 2 minutes older than me and the other 4 years younger. We are all active in our respective Presbyterian churches.

When we were going to First Presbyterian it was before the expressways were built and it was a long ride from Tonawanda with 3 young children in the car. We started looking for and exploring different churches closer to home. We decided on UPC because our neighbors, the Twisdales, were members. I went to Sunday school at UPC and joined the church in 1969. As a matter of fact, my last Sunday school teacher was Brian Belus.

My dad picked my brothers and myself up from Sunday School in 1967 and took us to the American Football League championship game, which was my first Bills game. My dad died in 1971 and the church became a pillar for our family. My mom was from Canada and didn't become an American citizen until 1962. She became an American Citizen so she could become a Den mother in our Cub Scout pack. My brothers and I are all Eagle Scouts.