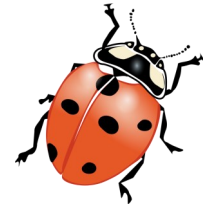


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June 2024*



**Spring/Pentecost/New Life**

Dear Friends,

Do you recall that wonderful song from Camelot? How about "I Love Paris in the Springtime"? We could change the title of that one to, "I Love Buffalo in the Springtime"! We are blessed in WNY with Eden-like weather in spring, I hope you are getting out of doors to enjoy it!

We gathered after worship on May 5 for our second congregational meeting the theme of which was "Today Decides Tomorrow". It was as good, but different, than the first meeting (April 21) when we remembered UPC's past and stories from the years gone by that are still alive in the heart of this wonderful congregation. For the second meeting, among other conversation, we discussed and "voted" on the most important ministries/activities of UPC by sticking red dots next to the activities each person felt was one of six activities (each person had six red dots) that are critical to the future of UPC. The reason six was the number is because there are nearly thirty activities and ministries UPC is engaged in—a formidable and telling number.

UPC is engaged and responding in deeds to the words of its mission statement and the Great Commission of Jesus. The results were fascinating and will be shared in a final report. "Come Be A Part Of The Future" is the theme of the last of the congregational meetings on June 2—the purpose of all three congregational sessions is to generate data and a narrative to be posted on the national PCUSA website which is where candidates for permanent pastor will go to learn about this dynamic church family. This theme is aimed at discerning the outlines and characteristics of UPC's vision and mission for the next chapter of its life with a new permanent pastor.

Immediately following the June 2 meeting, the session has called a very brief congregational meeting to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee which the Nominating Committee has recruited and to elect at least one more deacon to fill one of three vacancies on that board. The PNC, once elected, will meet with the Presbytery liaison and complete the forms to officially list the vacancy of pastor at UPC. Hopefully, resumes will be coming in by end of summer.

Continued.....

Pentecost, celebrated on May 19, the annual 'birthday' of the church, is the moment when a "mighty wind" descended on the disciples and they began speaking in languages of the pilgrims from around the Mediterranean world who were in Jerusalem for the festival. The story counters the story of Babel when there was only one language the people began building a great tower in an act of hubris but were divided into so many different languages that they did not understand one another. Pentecost is the coming together of many people speaking different languages in response to one tongue, one language of love—the good news of Jesus Christ. I ask that you pray for the "Spirit" to visit UPC during these days when we prepare to call a permanent pastor.

May 28 will mark the annual meeting of the Presbytery of Western New York at UPC at which Jim Smyton will be installed as moderator. It is a great honor for Jim who gives his time so generously to UPC and many other organizations in this community, including chairing the board of the Buffalo Maritime Center. Jim also brings honor to this church in his call to lead the Presbytery. Please join us at 4:30 pm on May 28 if you'd like to see Jim installed during the worship service at which Lee Ann Grace and Howard Henry will preach; then stay for dinner following.

Finally, as most of you know Dave Winiarski is retiring as custodian after nearly five years of faithful service to this church. We will miss Dave and we want to send him off with a "Dave's Day Celebration" in worship on June 16 with the presentation of a gift on behalf of the congregation and then a gathering in the Fellowship Room with cake and an opportunity to tell some "Dave stories." Dave's last day will Thursday May 30.

Dave's replacement will be a new model of facilities management provided by WNY Facilities Solutions, owned and operated by Aaron Vivian. Aaron, for the past several years, has provided a very similar model of facilities management for Westminster Presbyterian Church. The key difference in this model is that there will be a primary person and a 'backup' if when the primary person is not available due to health or vacation. Both persons will become familiar with UPC members and facility needs. Aaron will also be present 3 hours per week to respond to issues that require structural engineering expertise, negotiating vendor contracts, overseeing tenants, and doing an initial systems analysis that will identify cost savings and improvement of services. When we have more information we will provide you with the names and hours of UPC's new facilities custodial staff.

All good wishes,

Tom

## Worship Column

### **Sunday, June 2**

*2nd Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-28;  
or Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10;  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

### **Sunday, June 9**

*3rd Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15), 16-20 (11:14-15);  
Psalm 138; or Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130,  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

### **Sunday, June 16**

*4th Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; or  
Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15;  
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17;  
Mark 4:26-34

### **Sunday, June 23**

*5th Sunday after Pentecost*

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49;  
Psalm 9:9-20; or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16;  
Psalm 133; Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32;  
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

### **Sunday, June 30**

*6th Sunday after Pentecost*

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130 or Lamentations 3:22-33;  
Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43



*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



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**

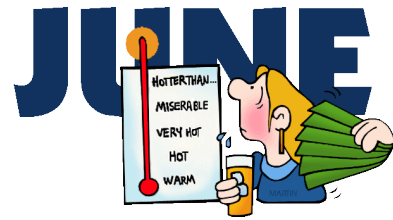
A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there,  
but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.”

- Unknown

“The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get.”

- Tim Russert

***What's Happening in ...***



Saturday, June 1	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, June 2	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:00 am	Pride Parade
	11:30 am	3rd Congregational Meeting
Monday, June 3	7:30 pm	Zoom Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday, June 4	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, June 6	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, June 9	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, June 11	10:00 am	Food Pantry Volunteers Meeting
	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, June 13	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, June 16	<i>Fathers' Day</i>	
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	David Winiarski Goodbye
Tuesday, June 18	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, June 19	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, June 10	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, June 23	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, June 25	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, June 27	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, June 30	<i>Grandchildren's Day</i>	
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Potluck & Birthday Cake



## **June 26 - International Day in Remembrance of Victims of Torture.**

Silent Vigil from 6 to 7 pm at UPC Main Street / Niagara Falls Blvd intersection. Please contact Howard Henry for questions [hwhjr98@gmail.com](mailto:hwhjr98@gmail.com)

### **Grandchildren's Sunday**

Back by popular demand!! Sunday, June 30th is the day to bring your grandchildren to church. After the service, we will have a potluck lunch.

Let's celebrate!



### **New Member Interview with Craig Steger**

Our church has been blessed with a number of new members, and I'm happy to introduce our first featured member Craig Steger. He has written an informative and inspiring profile of his life and his connections past and present with UPC. I'm sure you'll appreciate his story as much as I did. As Christians we called to be a family and it's a pleasure to welcome Craig to our congregation.

Craig Steger was born in Buffalo and lived on the East Side with his parents and grandfather till he was 5. He then moved to Clarence Center to a house built from the ground-up by his father and other family members. He is the oldest of 6 children, 4 of whom live in Western New York. He has a supportive and close-knit family that vacations together every year. Craig has been happily married to Diane Cookfair since 1977. They have no children.

Craig retired from Roswell Park in 2023 after a 42-year career as a grant writer and scientific department administrator. A lifelong jazz fanatic, he is on the Board of Directors for Buffalo's Historic Colored Musicians Club, where he has assisted with developing and obtaining funding for its Jazz Museum and various renovation projects. As the Club's Historian, Craig wrote the application that got the Club on the National Register of Historic Places. UPC is also on this prestigious Register, so much of his life rotates between two famous sites (he's rented our gym for over 41 years). His hobbies include basketball, reading & writing (he's working on a book about pre-1930 Buffalo), cooking, walking his & Diane's legendary rescue dog Toffee, and gardening in his greenhouse.

Craig was attracted to UPC decades ago because of its commitment to community action through faith. Craig has always known he is surrounded by progressive, smart and open-minded people here. A formal member since 2023, he is a proud member of our Choir and serves on Session, and the Pastoral Nominating and Property Committees.

### **Come Join Us for Shakespeare in the Park**

We have an opportunity to see Pat Cookfair-Casseri's daughter, Heather in the play Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare. We will go as a group from our church if you're interested in joining us. It's free but it would be appreciated if you contribute to a free will offering during intermission when they pass the hat. If you've never attended one of these, it's a magical approach to the drama and wit of Shakespeare. You bring your chair, and any other lawn furniture you might like to use, as well as snacks and a beverage of your choice. The production begins at 7 pm and they advise arriving a half hour prior to starting time. I've attended this event before and you might like to make it earlier to get a good seat. The date

for this is August 6, Tuesday, with a rain date of August 8. So, join us for an evening of theater in Delaware Park. For more information you can call Amy Erickson at (716) 480 4591, email [amyhoechst@yahoo.com](mailto:amyhoechst@yahoo.com).



**Pride Parade June 2, 2024 – Update from Howard.**

Because our numbers looked like they could be very small (we may be up to 4 by this point), I asked Westminster PC if we could march with them, carrying our own UPC banner--to which they agreed. Now, because we (UPC) obtained our own separate registration, we will be hosting

the Amherst Community Church (UCC) group that didn't get their registration in on time. We will march with WPC and the Amherst folks will march with us and we will have three churches in a row, all of us proclaiming God's love for all of God's divinely created people.

Amen.

If anyone is still interested in joining us in the parade, please contact Howard Henry at 716-206-4971 or [hwhjr98@gmail.com](mailto:hwhjr98@gmail.com)