

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
July 2021*

Message from our Pastor

Beauty can be a form of defiance.

The daily barrage of stories from TV and newspapers of evil, suffering, cruelty, and greed can easily overwhelm us. There are some days when the weight of this world's wrongs seems especially heavy. In response, some folks try to "escape" this reality. They turn off the news. They stop reading the papers. They surround themselves with only those things that make them feel good.

I understand the need to take "sabbaticals" or short breaks from the world's issues. It can be helpful to have a respite from it all. Even Jesus sought quiet places to pray and restore his spirit. But rather than turning away from the world's issues, we might consider turning *toward* something else. Turn toward beauty.

By "beauty" I do not mean exclusively that which is aesthetically pleasing to the eye or ear. Beauty is found in art, in the natural world, in the quiet of a room. And beauty is found in relationships, in extending help, in making a meal to share, in tutoring a child. Beauty is that which elevates the human spirit.

Turning toward beauty is not an effort to escape the hard realities of the world but rather an intentional act of defiance against the world's ugliness. It is a proclamation that while there is indeed ugliness in this world and in our societies, that is not the only reality that governs our lives.

Jesus' love for us was just such an act of defiant beauty. Jesus' ministry was never about leaving this world behind but rather about transforming this world through the beauty of his love. Let us overcome the ugliness with beauty. Let us proclaim that a different reality exists and that through God's power, a different reality shall triumph.

Shalom,

Tracy

Worship Column

Sunday, July 4

6th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10 and Ps. 48;
Ezek. 2:1-5 and Ps. 123;
2 Cor. 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 11

7th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Ps. 24;
Amos 7:7-15 and Ps. 85:8-13;
Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 18

8th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam. 7:1-14a and Ps. 89:20-37;
Jer. 23:1-6 and Ps. 23;
Eph. 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 25

9th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam. 11:1-15 and Ps. 14;
2 Kgs. 4:42-44 and Ps. 145:10-18;
Eph. 3:14-21; John 6:1-21



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BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor

FORGIVE OFTEN

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless

Share early and spiritual resources

EMBRACE DIVERSITY

LOVE GOD

ENJOY THIS LIFE

BE ALIVE IN CHRIST!

What's Happening in July



| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Friday, July 2 | 5:30 pm | Taize |
| Sunday, July 4 | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| Monday, July 5 | <i>Independence Day Holiday</i> | <i>Church Office Closed</i> |
| | 10:30 am | Carol Houck Memorial Service |
| Tuesday, July 6 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Thursday, July 8 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Sunday, July 11 | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| Tuesday, July 13 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Thursday, July 15 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Sunday, July 18 | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| Tuesday, July 20 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Wednesday, July 21 | 7:00 pm | Session |
| Thursday, July 22 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Sunday, July 25 | 10:00 am | Worship Service |
| Monday, July 26 | 2:00 pm | Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist |
| Tuesday, July 27 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Thursday, July 29 | 12:00 pm | Food Pantry Open |
| Saturday, July 31 | | <i>Montreat Youth Retreat begins</i> |



SAVE THE DATE

As previously announced, UPC will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on

Sunday, November 7

with a special worship service including former pastors Alison Halsey and Peter Nord, to be followed by a brunch/luncheon at Classics V. **Please mark your calendars, so that you don't miss this very special occasion.**

Watch for future notices, all of which will feature our anniversary logo, seen below.



University Presbyterian Church

100 years in Christ's service.

Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk to be held Saturday-Sunday, July 17-18, 2021



The 20th annual Capen Garden Walk will be Saturday and Sunday, July 17-18, 2021, from 10:00 am-4:00 pm, rain or shine. This is a free self-guided tour of about 60 private gardens and carefully nurtured public spaces in the neighborhoods surrounding the University at Buffalo South Campus. In addition, some of the private gardens will be open for Capen by Night on Saturday, July 17 from 8:00-10:00 pm.

The Capen Garden Walk is designed to encourage neighborhood beautification and collaboration as well as to build strong communities. It is named for Samuel P. Capen, the first full-time, salaried Chancellor at the University at Buffalo. The Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk began in 2002 with 24 gardens, in an effort to showcase the neighborhoods near the University at Buffalo, including University Heights, Eggertsville, Amherst, and the Town of Tonawanda.

Maps for the walk will be available at the UB Anderson Gallery, 1 Martha Jackson Place, Buffalo (between Montrose and Englewood Avenues) until 4:00 pm both days. Free parking is available at the gallery. Maps will also be available to download on our web page, [our-heights.org/gardenwalk](http://ourheights.org/gardenwalk) after July 14.

For more information, visit <http://ourheights.org/GardenWalk/>.



- 2 Emily Smith
- 2 Elissa Diaz
- 4 Willie Fisher
- 5 Tiffany Whitefield
- 9 Tim Wadkins
- 9 Sophie Smith
- 10 Nancy Chia
- 13 Thelma Monteith
- 16 Hilde Smith
- 22 Gladys Spielberger
- 29 William (Bill) Rugg

Mossy Point

Through the UPC Joy Jar \$120 was donated to Mossy Point. Here is the last update we received from the WNY Land Conservancy



May 17, 2021

UPC Congregants
University Presbyterian Church
3330 Main St
Buffalo NY 14214-1372

Dear University Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for saving Mossy Point! I would like to share this letter with you as an update and to invite you to an upcoming event.

My husband Tom and I recently went for a hike up to Mossy Point, the forest you helped protect in 2020. It was a cool spring morning, rich with the scent of wet earth and leaves. When we set out, the sky was laced with thin, slate-gray clouds. By the time we walked up the ridge and stood on Mossy Point overlooking the deep gorge, the sun had poked through the clouds and blanketed the newly-budded tree canopy with vibrant light. It was a spectacular sight.



We officially purchased Mossy Point in the middle of 2020. We now have trail designs ready and we will begin building them this fall; we aim to have the trails open for the public to enjoy in the spring of 2022. I invite you to join us on May 26 at 6:00 p.m. for a one-hour virtual project update. If you wish to attend, please email our Communications Manager, Kyle Semmel, at ksemmel@wnylc.org to RSVP and get a link.

Purchasing Mossy Point has long been the Land Conservancy's dream, and we couldn't have realized this dream without you. Thanks to your efforts, Mossy Point now joins Hunters Creek County Park and the Kennebec Scenic and Nature Preserve to form a protected forest of more than 1,100 acres. The grove of old growth trees will remain standing, squiggly little salamanders will emerge in vernal pools each spring, and the forest will continue to provide flood control downstream. Migratory birds like Scarlet Tanagers and Hooded Warblers, which fly incredible distances each year to reach this forest, will always have a home to nest and raise their next generations – and Western New Yorkers will always be able to enjoy the fantastic view Tom and I witnessed on our recent hike. I can't wait for you to see it.

With grateful appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy".

Nancy Smith
Executive Director



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, July 2nd from 5:30 to 6:00 PM.

A Taizé Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org

(The Taizé' Service in August is scheduled for Friday, August 6, 2021)