

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



Message from our Pastor

It's summertime. After the long winters we experience in WNY, this is a season we savor!

The writer Ted Loder offers a prayer of thanksgiving for summertime. He prays, "Let this season be for me a time of gathering together the pieces into which my busyness has broken me."

In what ways has your busyness broken you? And what would it take to gather together the fragments? Moreover, what might God be able to create from your fragments?

After Jesus fed the multitudes, he instructed his disciples to gather up the leftover fragments. And the leftover bits of bread and fish were even more than they had started with! God takes the fragments and the broken bits of our lives and can construct something entirely new.

May this summertime be filled with surprising abundance and new creations!

Shalom,  
Tracy

## Worship Column

### **Sunday, July 2**

*5th Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;  
Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;  
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

### **Sunday, July 9**

*6th Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;  
Psalm 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13;  
Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14;  
Romans 7:15-25a;  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### **Sunday, July 16**

*7th Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112;  
Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8) 9-13;  
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### **Sunday, July 23**

*8th Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 28:10—19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17;  
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40

### **Sunday, July 30**

*9th Sunday after Pentecost*

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136;  
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



## *July birthday wishes go out to...*

- 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
- 29 William (Bill) Rugg
- 31 Henry Safulko



"It is only a tiny rosebud, a flower of God's design.  
But I cannot unfold the petals with these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers is not known to such as I.  
GOD opens this flower so easily, but in my hands they die.

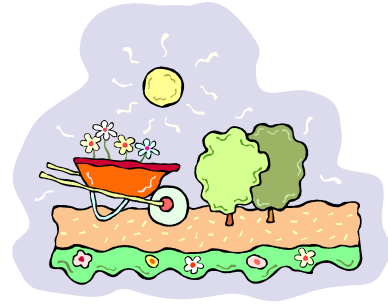
If I cannot unfold a rosebud, this flower of God's design,  
Then how can I have the wisdom to unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in God for leading each moment of my day.  
I will look to God for guidance in each step of the way.

The path that lies before me, only my Lord knows.  
I'll trust God to unfold the moments, just as he unfolds the rose.

-author unknown

## What's Happening in July ...



Saturday, July 1	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, July 2	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, July 4	<i>July 4th Holiday</i>	<i>Office Closed</i>
Thursday, July 6	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, July 9	10:30 am 11:30 am	Worship Service June/July Birthday Celebration
Monday, July 10	2:00 pm	Zoom Community Committee
Tuesday, July 11	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 13	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, July 16	10:30 am	Worship Service
Tuesday, July 18	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 20	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, July 23	10:30 am	Worship Service Chautauqua Day Trip
Monday, July 24	1:30 pm	Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist Church
Tuesday, July 25	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 27	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Sunday, July 30	10:30 am	Worship Service





**Our Racial Justice Library**  
Book Review by Marietta Bratton

**Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in  
Troubling Times**  
by Bishop Michael Curry

"God is love". Such a simple statement on our sign in front of church. I've repeated it to myself many times and tried to understand the depth of that truth. In 12 chapters Bishop Curry's book helped me experience that truth in a profound way. Each chapter title addresses a question that we've all

probably asked. "How do I find God's love?" "Won't loving everybody make me a doormat?" "Do I have to love even my enemy?" "How do I find the energy to keep loving when the world seems to be going the other way?" "What if love reveals me to be a hypocrite?"

Bishop Curry serves as Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church in the US. He grew up in Buffalo where his father was rector of St. Phillip's Episcopal Church near ECMC. The many references to growing up in Buffalo made his book even more relatable. I heard him speak at a recent 5/14 event. An amazing preacher and writer.

### **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.

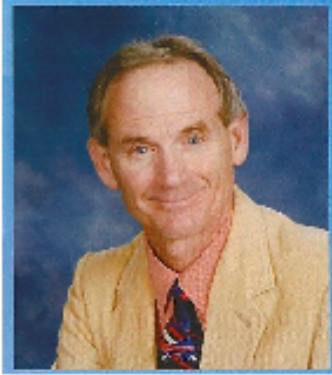
The plan for the day, is to meet in Chautauqua in the morning and attend the 10:45 Amphitheater church service. Afterwards, we'll have lunch, and then at 2:30 meet again at the Amphitheater for a concert. It features a local Jamestown band named The Probables. Their music contains influences of Americana,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

Last month's article about Tom Somerville was accidentally cut short. Below is the corrected version.....

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



**Thomas Somerville Honored  
at the  
2023 Network of Religious Communities  
Appreciation Dinner**

On Thursday, June 1, 2023, twenty-two members of University Presbyterian Church came together with an amazing diversity of faith communities to recognize and honor the individuals who share their time and talents to do the important work of supporting these religious organizations and their communities. This year's Network of Religious Communities Annual Appreciation Dinner was a wonderful evening of celebration and brotherhood & sisterhood..

This year, University Presbyterian Church was happy 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.

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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 Twisdals, 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 America 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.

My dad always told me whatever you give to the church, you'll get back ten-fold. As I grew older, I realized it was not only financially important to give to the church, but also the time and effort you put in was equally important. I would pick up my mom and get coffee to go for an unofficial coffee clutch before the worship service, which included Norma Wagner, Geri Grisante, and Henry Moorhouse.

I graduated from Kenmore East and went to Genesee Community College, Buffalo State College, Erie Community College and the University of Buffalo. I started out in Criminal Justice and ended up in Accounting. I sat for the CPA exam and all I got were nightmares of the Connecticut Street Armory. However, an accounting background helped me get a job as an investigator with child support. I retired from Erie County after 36 years, the first 20 as a security officer at the Erie County Medical Center, and the last 16 years as a child support investigator.

I can't tell you the year I first became a deacon. Lou Brown was the minister and I joined with Henry Moorhouse. I enjoy the hands-on experience as a Deacon. Every Sunday I am the first person to meet new visitors, and then to set up the fellowship hour for after the service. I think being a Deacon helps me keep a pulse on the membership.

I was an avid runner for over 30 years, running 44 marathons until my knees gave out. I enjoy bike riding now and belong to Big Wheels Bike Club. I am active in the Ride for Roswell having participated for the last 12 years. I volunteer and ride in it. I do this in honor of my mom who was a widow for 44 years because of cancer that my dad had and which affected our whole family. Peter Nord once said in a sermon that Christians have an inner self discipline. That is probably why I have always enjoyed endurance sports.

I was married in 1992 and reside with my wife Pat and our two cats, Lacy and Sosa. Twins run in our family and Lacy & Sosa are litter mates. I refer to them as our twins.

Tom



## **Pride Parade Revisited**

The parade was great! Vicki and Jim and Tim Moorhouse walked with us (Lee Ann and Howard) and Linda walked with her school group. It was actually like a Race-Walk instead of a parade march. I was worn out at the end. Many people cheered for us, including groups of young people calling out the name of the church as we passed them and "woo-hooing," others ran out into the street to give us high fives, more yelled out "thank you" and others--middle aged and older--also quietly and emotionally mouthed the words "Thank you" to us as we passed them.

Lee Ann decorated and drove our car. She has posted photos to the UPC Facebook page.

-Howard Henry