

Walking the Way of Jesus – UPC Ministries to Community – November 2023:

Alcoholics Anonymous – Men’s discussion meetings on Monday and Friday evenings in gymnasium.

Alternative Gift Giving – Christmastime financial support of identified community service program.

Calvary Baptist Church relationship – newly developing (as of 2022), ongoing relationship between UPC and Calvary Baptist Church to begin to overcome racial divide in US society; thus far, this has led to participation in providing Thanksgiving dinners to needy persons/organizations, provision of supplies and school uniforms to Dr. Charles R. Drew Magnet School, joint worship (Maundy Thursday at UPC and more to be arranged, including combined choirs).

Criminal Justice – UPC Session has endorsed NYS HALT (Humane Alternatives to Long-Term incarceration) legislation; ongoing effort to encourage its implementation in NYS facilities.

Food Pantry – Weekly – Every Tuesday and Thursday – 1) multi-faith* engaged service to community; 2) UPC congregation financially supports food pantry.

Frontera de Cristo, Douglas AZ/Agua Prieta SONORA MX – 1) two members spend one to two months annually onsite providing multi-faith* engaged services to border community; 2) two members participate in weekly Vigil of Remembrance for migrant lives lost in Cochise County, AZ; 3) UPC congregation financially supports migrant ministries.

Gun Violence Awareness – UPC is engaged in a multi-faith*, ongoing effort to raise awareness and respond effectively to eliminate community gun violence (with Session endorsement).

Intentional Christian Living Program (Manse) – UPC provides housing, spiritual education and engagement with congregation to university students during school year and beyond (see University Students and Friends).

Little Free Library – UPC provides this service to the community, located on Niagara Falls Boulevard side.

June 26 Vigil, International Day in Remembrance of Victims of Torture – Annual vigil organized by UPC members and attended by various faith and community persons (with Session endorsement).

Just Coffee – (Café Justo is a partner organization of Frontera de Cristo) UPC members buy and coordinate sales of Just Coffee in Buffalo community throughout the year, providing decent employment for third-world business, obviating the need for families to migrate.

One Great Hour of Sharing – Donation to community service program.

Pride Parade – UPC participates in this annual community activity (with Session endorsement).

Racial Justice Library – Providing books for loan to UPC members.

Saturday Morning Basketball – weekly Saturday morning program organized by Craig Steger (newly joined UPC member) as outreach to and engagement of community (with Session endorsement).

Trunk-or-Treat – Annual Halloween program for community attendees (newly begun Halloween 2022).

University Heights Collaborative/Community Garden – Garden plot overseen by UPC with produce used for food pantry.

University Students and Friends (Young Adults) – UPC provides year-round programming to engage young adults beyond university graduation and has a Facebook page for this effort (see Intentional Christian Living Program - Manse).

VOICE Buffalo – UPC is a member of this multi-faith community organization supporting ongoing efforts to achieve racial, social, voting, housing, economic and criminal justice reforms.

Walking the Way of Jesus – UPC Ministries to Members

Adult Education/Bible Study – Program throughout the year led by pastor or church members.

Deacons Ministries – Coffee hour, ushering at worship, serving at memorial services (ushering, food, etc.), contact with housebound members, cards for person who are ill, financial need.

Ministry to Members – Enhancing the life of the congregation through various communal activities (e.g. birthday recognitions, pot luck meals, community outings, outreach to community).

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Providing member created shawls for members in distress.

Stephen Ministry – Support and advice to members in distress.

Walking the Way of Jesus – UPC Worship Ministries

Preaching and Prayer – Arranged by the preacher/pastor – challenging, encouraging and comforting us with the Good News, all at the same time.

Music Ministry – Arranged by Minister of Music and Organist – leading the congregation to worship through music, instrumental and vocal pieces, including guest musicians, combined choir performances and opening the sanctuary to external musical performances.

Walking the Way of Jesus – UPC Members in Local Community Ministries

Camp Duffield – Pat Cookfair-Casseri is Camp Director, Vice President, Secretary, etc. etc. etc. of this camp, conference and retreat center “providing a supportive Christian environment where imaginations, life skills and community are fostered.”

Camp Peaceprints – UPC provides scholarships to this community program.

Walking the Way of Jesus – Use of Physical Plant

The UPC facility is a site for above mentioned programs that engage members of the community who are NOT members of UPC: Alcoholics Anonymous, Food Pantry, June 26 Vigil, Little Free Library, Music Ministry, Saturday Morning Basketball, University Students and Friends.

The UPC facility is a site for Best Self Behavioral Health.

The UPC facility is a voting site.

The UPC parking lot is a site for an annual plant exchange.

What other community ministries are our members involved in that we should highlight for our Mif?