

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

*June, 2025*



Dear UPC Members and Friends,

A few years ago, on sabbatical, spending much of my time in New England I made a point of finding and reading the war memorials in the small towns I visited and stayed in. Typically, memorials would include multiple wars and honor the names of those who gave their lives in each war. It was not unusual to see the same surname repeated three, four, even five times from the same war; which led me to surmise that these were fathers and sons, brothers, uncles, nephews and cousins from the same family who'd made the ultimate sacrifice. Sometimes I ran my finger slowly over the raised letters of their names, sometimes I'd say the names out loud—which brought their sacrifice and loss of life closer to me.

Part of my motivation to take notice of the memorials was our son's deployment to Afghanistan in combat arms in the US Army. Carol and I lived through that time simplifying, quieting day to day life. And praying of course. Carol was active in Blue Star mothers which supports family members who are deployed. Occasionally, a Blue Star mother would become a Gold Star mother after a son or daughter was lost in the fighting. It was a sobering experience and time in our life as a family.

Memorial Day, like many holidays (Christmas!) can become all about a day off, time to plant the garden, take a trip, and shop the sales. So I pen these words to remind us, if we need reminding, to pause in the midst of this Memorial Day to remember those who died for our country and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for them and for what they died for—our cherished freedoms, rights and benefits as a Constitutional democracy. Something Ben Franklin said we will have only "if we can keep it." Implying that it is our responsibility, each one, to be exercise our freedoms and keep the forces of authoritarianism at bay.

June 8 is Pentecost Sunday. We will celebrate the day with a hot dog cookout after worship for all ages and by receiving the Pentecost offering which this year will be devoted entirely to Camp Duffield camperships. Twenty-six children from the East Side will attend the camp—children who do not usually have a chance to spend a week in nature, telling stories by fireside, and taking creek walks. Our Clerk of Session, Pat Cookfair-Casseri, is the Director of the camp. She continues a tradition of family volunteering at the camp that started with her mother many years ago. I hope you'll consider a generous gift for the camp.

Finally, following this past Sunday's congregation meeting and the report made by Dana Kimberly of Danforth Development the session will meet in early June to approve next steps, we will report back to you regarding what those will be. If you have any questions regarding the Feasibility Study or would like a copy of the entire report please let us know in the church office.

All good wishes for a happy and safe holiday,

Tom Yorty, Interim Pastor

## ORCHARD PARK CHORALE

Celebrating 50 Years!

Presents



# THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK

*Music from the 30's and 40's*

**Friday, June 6, 2025 - 7 PM**

University Presbyterian, Buffalo

**Sunday, June 8, 2025 - 4 PM**

Orchard Park Presbyterian,  
Orchard Park



Tickets

**Tickets • Adult \$25 • Senior \$20**

available on our website [orchardparkchorale.org](http://orchardparkchorale.org)  
and at the door

## Worship Column

### **7th Sunday of Easter**

*June 1, 2025*

Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97; 2 Kings 2:1-15,  
Psalm 2;  
Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21,  
John 17:20-26

### **Day of Pentecost**

*June 8, 2025*

Acts 2:1-31, Genesis 11:1-9,  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17;  
Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17 (25-27)

### **Trinity Sunday**

*June 15, 2025*

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8; Romans 5:1-5;  
John 16:12-15

### **2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

*June 22, 2025*

1 Kings 19:1-4(5-7) 8-15a; Psalm 42 and 43;  
Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29;  
Luke 8:26-39

### **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

*June 29, 2025*

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20;  
1Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16;  
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 51-62



***"Any fool can have a child. That doesn't make you a father...***

***It's the courage to raise a child that makes you a father."***

***-Barack Obama***

*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 the one friend upon whom we can always rely."***

***- Emile Gaboriau***



**What's Happening in**



Sunday, June 1	10:30 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Pride Parade
Monday, June 2	7:00 pm	PNC
	7:30 pm	Zoom Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday, June 3	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday, June 4	7:00 pm	Special Session Meeting
Thursday, June 5	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Friday, June 6	7:00 pm	Orchard Park Chorale Concert
Saturday, June 7	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, June 8	<i>Pentecost</i>	
	10:30 am	Worship
	11:45 am	Hot Dog Roast
Monday, June 9	7:00 pm	PNC
Tuesday, June 10	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
	2:30 pm	Zoom Ministry to Community Mtg.
Thursday, June 12	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Sunday, June 15	<i>Father's Day</i>	
	10:30 am	Worship
Monday, June 16	7:00 pm	PNC
Tuesday, June 17	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday, June 18	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, June 19	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Sunday, June 22	10:30 am	Worship
Monday, June 23	7:00 pm	PNC
Tuesday, June 24	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
Thursday, June 26	12:00 pm	Food Pantry



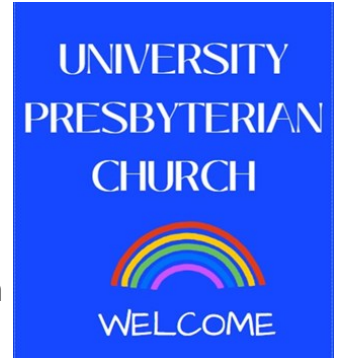
Sunday, June 29 10:30 am Worship

Monday, June 30 7:00 pm PNC

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### Pride Parade

Pride Parade, Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 11 a.m. UPC will participate in the Pride Parade, starting from the parking lot at Buffalo State University. We will be joined by the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western New York and other clergy and lay persons. Lafayette Presbyterian Church, 875 Elmwood Avenue, will offer worship at 9:30 a.m. with space along Elmwood afterward to watch the parade. Lafayette will offer communion and +there should be enough time to join UPC marchers at Buffalo State after taking communion. If you would like to march in the parade with UPC, please contact Howard Henry for directions.



### Camp Duffield



UPC and Camp Duffield share a rich history, and that connection continues today through the involvement of many of our members who actively volunteer at the camp. As you might know Pat Cookfair-Casseri serves as camp director.

Since 1950 Camp Duffield has offered campers of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of God's beautiful creation! Some of us at UPC have been campers and participants in programs there. Remember the fun you had?

During the summer, Duffield, Inc. conducts Christian camping programs for 1st graders and up. It features a camp for adults with developmental disabilities, as well as traditional camping experiences for youth.

We are blessed to have an opportunity to help Camp Duffield. Their policy is to never turn away a child due to an inability to pay the \$320 fee. There are 26 registered campers from the East Side of Buffalo who need camperships. Presbytery and individual donations provide some funding, but more is needed.

The Ministry to Community Committee recommended and Session approved that 100% of the Pentecost offering on June 8, 2025, be donated to support scholarships this year for students to attend Camp Duffield.

Please make your check payable to University Presbyterian Church with Camp Duffield on the memo line. Donations will be accepted through the end of June.



## Notes from May Meetings

### Session Highlights from May 2025

Dana Kimberly presented the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study Final Report and answered questions. The report's recommendations will be presented to the congregation for a vote on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The report recommends the following that UPC takes the following steps:**

**Vision:** A Self-Study Process to Determine a Unified Future and Identity

**Communication Plan:** Develop a Communication Plan to Formally Communicate with our External Natural Constituency. Base Content on Outcomes from the Campaign Research and Visioning Process. Use Website and Social Media First.

**Publish:** Well written Professionally Designed and Printed Publication-about the Future to Distribute to our Natural Constituency- Neighbors, UB, Leaders.

**Recruit:** Organize the Capital Campaign recruiting internal and external Voluntary Leaders.

**Organize:** Organize prospects and create a cultivation and solicitation strategy for each.

**Solicitation:** Begin Grant Seeking, Solicitation of Members, Corporate Sponsors, Community Leaders and Neighbors.

**The report suggested the following timeline:**

May 2025- Approve Recommendations from study, Visioning Self- Study, Create Communication Plan, Begin writing Publication and Implementation Plan

July 2025 to Sept 2025- Prioritize Projects, Recruit Campaign Cabinet, Prepare Proposals for Grants and Lead Gifts, Approach Corporate Sponsors and Community Prospects.

Sept 2025 to Sept 2026- Finalize Leadership Gifts, Apply for Local and /national Foundation Grants, Member Solicitations.

Sept 2026- Open the Doors!, Light Up the Tower! Pursue r Invite Final Community Gifts.

Oct 2026 to January 2027- Top Priority Projects completed, On-site Community Event, Stewardship and Communication Plan Continues.

The Session approved that 100% of the special offering collected on Pentecostal Sunday be

## Session notes continued.

given to Duffield Camp & Retreat Center to provide scholarships to campers who cannot afford to pay. There are 26 campers from the East side of Buffalo who have applied.

(A recommendation made by Ministry to Community Committee.)

Session approved that UPC join the Network of Religious Communities.

(A recommendation made by Ministry to Community)

To ALL My UPC Friends,



I would like to say  
thank for your support  
and help during  
my academic journey.

Thank you so much for your prayers  
and your kind words. Thank you  
for opening the Church doors for  
me and my family.

Thank you for helping when we faced  
so many challenges such as language  
issues, financial hardships, the birth of  
our three children, the rigors of my  
academic work).

Thank you for helping me with a  
ride when my legs band Jamick.  
Had a back surgery.

Thank you to Pastor Tracy for  
helping us to prepare for our Citizenship  
Test.

Thank you to Marcella Braton for  
staying with the kids when I  
was going to school.  
SENDING thanks.

This tremendous achievement has  
been possible by the people around  
us who trusted and believed  
in us.

We are so thankful to have you  
around us.

Thank you so much.

May God Bless you

Tskikulu's Family



# May 10, 2025 Game Night—Doesn't it look like fun?





Be sure to sign up for the next Game Night, when they have one, so you don't miss out on all the fun!



**University Presbyterian Church assists with the Tyler Street Community Garden clean up on the Fifth Annual WNY Trash Mob- an Earth Day Clean Up Challenge!!**





## Join Us for a Joyful Celebration!

Come together on **Sunday, June 8th** as we celebrate **Pentecost Sunday** and honor **grandparents and grandchildren!**

**Pentecost Sunday** marks a special moment in our faith, and we invite everyone to **wear red** as a symbol of the Holy Spirit's presence.

After the service, enjoy **hot dogs and ice cream** with friends and family as we share in the joy of fellowship!



Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to celebrate faith, family, and community. **See you there!**