

*The Network ... a Publication of  
University Presbyterian Church  
January 2019*

Message from our Pastor

A new year. A fresh start. A clean slate. It's an artificial new beginning for sure, this flipping of the wall calendar to a new year, but the start of a new year can feel like a mental "rebooting" of our lives. We use this new beginning as an opportunity to end bad habits, adopt healthier practices, and unburden ourselves from a year that for some people may have felt heavy and hard.

Fresh starts are important in our lives. However, as the writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "there is nothing new under the sun" (Eccles. 1:9). This new year will no doubt contain within it many of the same features of all the previous years. We will know moments of joy and times of celebration. We will likely know times of heartache, moments of frustration, occasions of worry. We will struggle in our relationships with others, feel concern about loved ones, and know failures and mistakes. New experiences are likely to happen to us, new relationships might be formed, new beginnings or jobs might take place, but within them, we are likely to find many of life's same elements: joy, hardship, sorrow, delight, disappointments, triumphs.

And running through all of what lies in store in this new year is the constancy of our God. We turn to the Bible and its stories so that the events of God's activities in the past may help us see God's presence with us now and God's steadfastness in the future. We do indeed worship a God who is "doing something new," and this offers us hope. But we also find hope in the constancy of God's presence, God's love, and God's forgiveness. As we enter the new year with hope, we take comfort as well in the former promises of our God: that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God.

Shalom,

Tracy



**Upcoming Adult Education:**  
10 a.m. in the "Coffee Hour" room

**January 13:** "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" —Cindy Hickey  
Revelation 6:18 speaks about the four horsemen of the apocalypse. Cindy will lead us in an exploration of how different artists have pictured these four individuals.

**January 20:** "Crosses from Around the World"—Cindy Hickey  
The Jerusalem Cross, the Celtic Cross, the Coptic Cross, the Byzantine Cross, the St. Andrew's Cross—they all look different and they all have different histories. Cindy will guide us in exploring different crosses through the ages, including two as well as three dimensional crosses. If you have an interesting cross at home, please bring it to share!

**January 27:** "Job and the Issue of Suffering"—Shirley Herman  
The Book of Job tackles the profound problem of suffering and the question of God's role in human suffering. Shirley Herman will lead this biblical discussion.

**February 3, 10, and 17:** "Introduction to the Prophets"—Tracy Daub  
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Micah, Amos are just some of the prophets whose writings occupy a major part of the Old Testament and whose teachings have significant bearing upon our theology and our relationships with others. Tracy will lead us in a three week series in exploring the Old Testament prophets.

**Sunday, February 17**  
**12 noon, Reed Hall**

Celebrate Valentine's day with your church family at an Italian-themed potluck lunch. Just think of all the great foods you could bring: spaghetti, lasagna, ravioli, sausage, meatballs, green salad, and garlic bread. Hungry yet? Feel free to bring whatever you like but be sure to bring yourself. Oh, and don't forget the desserts: cannoli, biscotti, gelato, tiramisu . . .



Worship Column ~ January 2019

**January 6, 2019**

**Epiphany of the Lord**

Isa. 60:1—6; Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph. 3:1-12

Matt. 2:1-12



**January 13**

**Baptism of the Lord**

Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17

Luck 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 20**

**2nd Sunday After Epiphany**

Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

**January 27**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19;

1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21



***January Birthday Greetings  
to our members, friends and young adults....***







- 2 Jude Hammer
- 5 Christopher Safulko
- 8 Virginia Coon
- 8 Erika Betz
- 10 Jean Masters
- 10 John Lopinski, Sr.
- 11 Janet Mazzaroppi
- 12 Sandra Boag
- 29 Eric Dass



- 14 Bilquis Dass
- 17 Carolyn Harbison
- 19 David Patel
- 19 Kaylee Casseri
- 22 Grace Yockey
- 24 Mac Sabol
- 26 Mason Appleton
- 29 Hans Spielberg

## January 2019 Calendar

January 1	Tuesday	New Year's Day	Church Office Closed	
January 3	Thursday	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir Practice	
January 4	Friday	5:30 pm	Taize Service	
January 6	Sunday	(No Communion) 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Coffee Hour	
January 8	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	
January 10	Thursday	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir Practice	
January 13	Sunday	(Communion) 9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Deacon's Meeting Education Hour Worship Service Coffee Hour & January Birthday Celebration	
January 15	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	
January 16	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Session	
January 17	Thursday	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir practice	
January 20	Sunday	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Education Hour Worship Service Coffee Hour	
January 21	Monday	Martin Luther King Day	Church Office Closed	
January 22	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	
January 24	Thursday	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir Practice	
January 27	Sunday	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship Service Education Hour Worship Service Coffee Hour	
January 29	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open	
January 31	Thursday	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir Practice	



## **Church Envelopes**



In case you have forgotten - your box of church envelopes is waiting for you on the table in the back of the church.

## **Do You Want to Help?**

There are lots of opportunities to serve within the church...you can read the Liturgy (just chat with Pastor Tracy), or pick a Sunday to beautify the sanctuary with a floral arrangement. Just add your name to the list posted on the white board in the break room.

How about becoming an Usher? Or a Deacon? Can you volunteer in the UPC Food Pantry? Give it some prayerful consideration....then contact the pastor if you think it might be a calling

## **CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of University Presbyterian Church is Sunday, February 3, 2019 following the 11:00 am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the election of new officers, approval of the Pastor's salary, reception of committee reports and the church budget for 2019.



*First Friday*  
AT UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*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, January 4th from 5:30 to 6:00 PM.

*A Taizé Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation*

[www.upcbuffalo.org](http://www.upcbuffalo.org)

(The Taizé' Service in February is scheduled for Friday, February 1, 2019)