

*The Network... a Publication of  
University Presbyterian Church  
December, 2018*

Message from our Pastor

There is not a lot of room in the Protestant landscape for Jesus' mother Mary. While the Catholic tradition reveres Mary, she is scarcely mentioned in Protestant churches. At Christmas time Mary makes a largely silent and passive appearance in our nativity sets and on our Christmas cards, usually looking serene and lovely.

But that is not the person we find in Luke's gospel. Luke describes for us a young women of great courage and faith. And the Mary we find in Luke's gospel has a lot to say. In her famous song called The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), Mary raises her voice to offer a bold and radical statement about God's activity in the world. Here's a little known fact that underscores the radical nature of her words: three times in the past century, governments across the globe banned the public recitation of Mary's Magnificat because its message was considered too subversive! \*

This Advent, our worship at UPC will focus on the message of Mary's Magnificat. The liturgy around the lighting of the Advent wreath, our opening hymn, and the sermons will draw off themes from Mary's courageous song. I invite you to join us in learning what Mary has to say and how we might raise our voices in singing her song ourselves.

Shalom,

Tracy

\* during the British rule of India  
in the 1980s in Guatemala  
in Argentina under the military junta of the 1970s



## Worship Column ~

### **December 2, 2018-1st Sunday of Advent**

**Jer. 33:14-16; Ps. 25:1-10;**

**1 Thess. 3:9-13; Luke 21:35-36**

### **December 9, 2019-2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Mal. 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;**

**Phil. 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6**

### **December 16, 2018-3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Zeph. 3:14-20; Isa. 12:2-6;**

**Phil. 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18**

### **December 23, 2018-4th Sunday of Advent**

**Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 80:1-7;**

**Heb. 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)**

### **December 24, 2018-Christmas Eve**

**Isa. 9:2-7; Ps. 96;**

**Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)**

### **December 30, 2018-1st Sunday after Christmas**

**1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26; Ps. 148;**

**Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52**



### ***Join us December 9th in celebration of our December Birthdays!***

6	Jim Moran	26	Arjun Singh
9	Bob Dewitz	28	Ajay Singh
9	Dannish Patel	30	Abigail Wadkins-Daub
12	Eric Moodie		
15	Bonnie Dahl		
19	Elizabeth Ball		
20	John Maddock		
31	Tiffany Whitefield		





## **HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE**

**University Presbyterian Church is once again holding it's  
Annual Holiday Cookie Sale!**



**Saturday, December 8, 2018**

**9 am to 1 pm or until sold out**

**Cookies are \$10 per pound**

**Select your own variety or choose a pre-made assortment.**

**New this year — a drive-thru option!**



## VOICE-Buffalo Public Meeting Report

Gladys Gifford, Jude Hammer and Shirley Herman attend the VOICE-Buffalo public meeting on October 25th at Elim Christian Fellowship, in Buffalo. The meeting attracted a diverse crowd of enthusiastic supporters. There was a shared outpouring of energy, faith and hope which was a glorious way to empower everyone to continue the struggle for justice and peace.

Many voices were raised in support of two issues: move the NYS disability offices into a Buffalo location that is accessible for their clients; provide bilingual teachers in Buffalo schools for several language groups, not just those speaking Spanish. The bureaucrats heard their voices; and the group will watch and act to ensure that promises are fulfilled.

### Cookie Bakers Needed

We can't have a cookie sale without someone to bake cookies! Please volunteer your baking skills and donate some of your favorite holiday cookies. You can drop them off on Thursday (Dec. 5th) in the Church office between 8 am and 3 pm or Thursday evening between 6 and 8 pm. Assembly will begin at 9 am on Friday, December 7th. Please let Sandy know if you plan to bake.



to



### Annual Christmas Dinner

The UPC Christmas Dinner is taking place on December 16th, at 12:00 pm. It will be catered by Danny's Restaurant again, just like last year!

Adult tickets, at \$12 per person, are on sale through December 12th. There is a limited number of tickets, so get yours soon! Contact Cindy Hickey, Ginna Coon or the church office for tickets.

## December 2018 Calendar

December 2	Sunday (1st Sunday of Advent)	9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
December 4	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
December 6	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
December 7	Friday	5:30 pm	Taize Service
			Set up for Cookie Sale
December 8	Saturday	9:00 am	Cookie Sale
December 9	Sunday (2nd Sunday of Advent)	9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour & December Birthday Celebration
		1:00 pm	Annual Christmas Caroling
December 11	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
December 13	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
December 14	Friday		Youth Group Christmas Party at 1st Presbyterian
December 15	Saturday		Set up for UPC Christmas Dinner
December 16	Sunday (3rd Sunday of Advent)	9:00 am	Worship Service]
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Christmas Dinner
		4:00 pm	Youth Group at Lasertron
December 18	Tuesday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
December 19	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Session



## December Calendar Continued....

December 20	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
	December 23	Sunday (4th Sunday of Advent)	
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		10:00 am	Education Hour
		11:00 am	Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Coffee Hour
December 24	Monday (Christmas Eve)	Church Office closed	
		7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	Tuesday (Christmas Day)	Church Office Closed	
December 27	Thursday	12:00 pm	Food Pantry
December 30	Sunday (1st Sunday after Christmas Day)		
		9:00 am	Worship Service
		11:00 am	Worship Service
December 31	Monday (New Year's Eve)	Church Office Closed	
January 1, 2019	Tuesday (New Year's Day)	Church Office Closed	



*Wishing all our  
 members, friends and  
 their families a very  
 special and blessed Christmas*



## Alternative Gift Giving Christmas 2018

This year's alternative gift will benefit  
***The Initiative for Puerto Rico Partnerships***  
Organized by The Synod of the Northeast

Just over a year ago hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the communities of our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico. Even today, much of the destruction remains. However, there is hope, and we have an opportunity to be a part of that hope.

Through the Synod of the Northeast's *Initiative for Puerto Rico Partnerships* we are raising money for the town of Lares in the northwestern mountains of the island. In particular our Presbytery of WNY has reached out to the pastor and congregation of La Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares. This relationship will result in several mission trips in late winter to assist in reconstruction. Our gifts will directly help with these rebuilding costs and supply some immediate basic needs as well.

**Beginning Sunday December 2** through Advent you may purchase your alternative gift giving cards in the narthex. Your gifts will make a difference!

\*Renovation of the kitchen at La Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares so they can continue their ministry of feeding the community.

\*Providing urgently needed repairs to the homes of two women.

\*Purchasing basic items such as underwear, diapers for children and adults, sanitary items for women, bug spray, and school supplies.

\*Boosting the local economy in Lares by purchasing materials and supplies on site.

### Annual Christmas Caroling ~ *December 9th, 1:00 pm*



The congregation is invited to join the choir in bringing some Christmas Joy to our shut-ins. We will plan to meet at 1:00 pm on December 9th. Join us!

**Joy to the World!**



*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, December 7th 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 January is scheduled for Friday, January 4, 2019)