

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

FEBRUARY 2018

Message from our Pastor

Lent is a season where we are invited to journey with Jesus toward death and resurrection as we seek to die to the sins that separate us from God and allow God to raise us to new life.

There may be no greater sin in American society than the sin of racism. Some call it America's "original sin," because racism was foundational in the conquest of North America. Clearly it remains a present day wound on the soul of this country.

This Lenten season, our congregation will undertake an examination of the issue of race and the realities of systemic racism within our society through a 6 week Adult Class beginning on February 18 at 10 a.m. More information about this class can be found in this Network. Using the widely acclaimed documentary *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, and involving class discussion, the class gatherings aim to create a space where we can listen and learn and undertake a journey in which God can raise us to new life.

Our journeys with Jesus are not always comfortable. Sometimes Jesus takes us to difficult places because he knows the abundant life that can come from the experience. I invite you to join us in this Lenten journey toward the resurrected life!

Shalom,

Tracy

Sunday 2/18 ~1st Sunday of Lent

Gen. 9:8-17; Ps . 25:1-10;

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Sunday, 2/25 ~ 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen. 17:2-7, 15-16; Ps. 22-23-31

Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



Ash Wednesday: February 14th.

On this day we are holding a lite evening soup meal from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the Holzwarth Room.



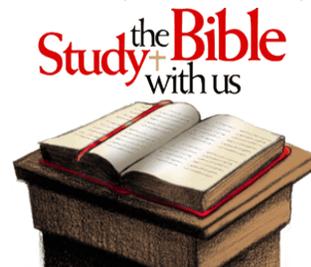
An informal worship service will follow the meal at 6:30 pm.

Please join us to mark the beginning of the Lenten season.

On Sunday, February 18th, there will be 7 One Great Hour of Sharing “FISH BANKS” on the table in the Narthex of the Church. If your family would like to take one and fill it with coins during lent, please do so. There is only the supply on the table. Return the bank on Sunday, March 11th or 18th and we will include it with our One Great Hour of Sharing donations. Thank you!

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Stuart Buisch is holding his Bible Study group meeting on Wednesday, February 28, at 5 pm in the Holzwarth Room. The room is on the middle level; (ML) if taking the elevator. Rev. Stu serves a lite meal. All are welcome to attend. Bring a friend. Conversation and discussion is interesting and informative. Please join him and bring a friend.



**Adult Education:
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.
All are welcome!**

**Lenten Adult Class: Feb. 18 through March 25 led by Tracy Daub
“Race: The Power of An Illusion”**

Using a widely celebrated documentary video, and incorporating time for class discussion, this 6 week class will examine the issue of race and how what we assume to be normal, commonsense, even scientific, is actually shaped by our history, social institutions, and cultural beliefs. As our nation continues to grapple with its historical legacy as well as with contemporary issues related to race, this is an essential conversation for us all to have, particularly people of faith. We aim to create a safe environment for us all to listen and learn something new. The class will focus on 3 distinct units:

1. The Difference Between Us

Everyone can tell a Norwegian from a Nubian, so why doesn't it make sense to sort people into biological races? We will examine the contemporary science, including genetics, that challenges our assumptions about human groups.

2. The Story We Tell

Hasn't race always been with us? We will explore the roots of the race concept, including the 19th century science that justified it and how it gained such a hold over our minds.

3. The House We Live In

Race may be a biological myth, but racism gives different groups vastly different life chances. Forty years after the Civil Rights Movement, the playing field is still not level and “colorblind” policies only perpetuate inequality.

The “Good Book” Club

You’ve heard about Oprah’s Book Club. Well, now this Lenten season you are invited to participate in the “Good Book” Club—the book being The Bible. Journey during the forty days of Lent in exploring the story of Jesus as told by the writer of Luke’s gospel.

The congregations of University, First Buffalo, Lafayette, and Westminster Presbyterian churches are taking on the challenge of reading the Gospel of Luke as a Lenten practice. Booklets that divide the Gospel of Luke into daily readings are available on the table outside the sanctuary. If you begin the readings on Sunday, February 11 (the Sunday *before* Ash Wednesday) and continue reading each day, you will have completed the entire gospel by Saturday, March 31.

As you read through this gospel, remember that sisters and brothers of faith in other congregations are reading along side you. May our hearts be open to how God may speak to us through this sacred story.



The Buffalo Revival Church

As of February a small congregation began renting space in our building. **The Buffalo Revival Church** gathers in our auditorium for worship on Sunday evenings from 5 to 8:30 p.m. and once a month on a Saturday morning for prayer. Their pastor travels here from Toronto, Ontario each Sunday. Our contact here in Buffalo is Nick and Vathani Emmanuel. Nick is the proprietor of the DOSA PLACE South Indian Restaurant in University Plaza. If you happen to be here on a Sunday evening or Saturday morning, please introduce yourself to them. We welcome the members of The Buffalo Revival Church to our building!

UPC'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

As you may already know, UPC will observe its 100th anniversary in 2021. A small group has met to begin planning, and we now need your input in preparation for some face-to-face discussion in late April.

The following are ideas that have been suggested as possible components of the observance. Please mark your reaction to them **AND** indicate if a particular idea is of such interest that you would be willing to be part of a group to coordinate that component.

A guiding principle for this observance is that if a suggested activity – no matter how good – does not have leadership, it will be discarded.

ACTIVITY	LOVE IT!	GOOD IDEA	SO-SO	HATE IT!	WILLING TO WORK ON <i>(WRITE NAME)</i>
Worship Through Service Sunday(s) (congregation devotes regular worship time to community service)					
Special Anniversary Worship Service (perhaps St. Andrew's Sunday, with former clergy)					
Mission project(s) to benefit Buffalo					
Mission trip					
New Year's Eve 2020 dinner dance					
Recorded oral histories from interviews with members and friends					
Concerts for a Cause (series to benefit various mission/service organizations)					
Choir CD (perhaps with former organists)					
Capital campaign (for a particular maintenance or other project? for the endowment?) with a percentage devoted to mission					
Making new banners					

next page for more...

Other activities you wish to suggest?

Please rate the following slogans that have been proposed.

The underlying principle is that the focus should be on Christ, not on us.

SLOGAN	LOVE IT!	GOOD IDEA	SO-SO	HATE IT!
An Observance of 100 Years in Christ's Service				
An Observance of 100 Years in Mission				
An Observance of 100 Years of Being Bread to Buffalo				
UPC's 100th Anniversary: A Year of Serving Christ				
UPC's 100th Anniversary: A Year of Mission				
UPC's 100th Anniversary: A Year of Being Bread to Buffalo				

Other slogans you would like to suggest?

Thanks for your input! Please place the questionnaire in the offering plate or return to the church office no later than March 15.

February 2018 Calendar

Sorry everyone, please excuse the lateness of this Edition of the Network.

Starting this copy with February 13th.

Tuesday, 2/13

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open



Wednesday, 2/14

Ash Wednesday

and

5:30– 7:00 pm

Lite Soup Supper followed by Ash Wednesday Service with distribution of Ashes. Held in the Holzwarth Room.

Thursday, 2/15

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

7:30 pm

Choir practice

PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH BUSINESS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FEBRUARY 14, 15 & 16.

Sunday, 2/18

1st Sunday in Lent

9 am

Worship Service

10 am

Adult Education

11 am

Worship Service

12 pm

Coffee Hour

Monday, 2/19

President's Day.... Our office is open; several business will be closed.

Tuesday, 2/20

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

Wednesday 2/21

5:45 pm

Ministry to Community Meeting

7:00 pm

Session Meeting

Thursday, 2/22

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

7:30 pm

Choir practice

Sunday, 2/25

2nd Sunday in Lent

9 am

Worship Service

10 am

Adult Education

11 am

Worship Service

12 pm

Coffee Hour

Tuesday, 2/27

12 pm ~ 4 pm

Food Pantry is open

Wednesday, 2/28

5:00 pm

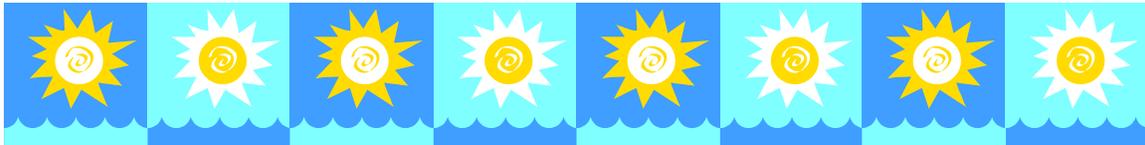
Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch—Holzwarth Room - Everyone is very Welcome!
A lite meal is offered and conversation is topical and interesting.



Serving God By Serving Others

Check it out.... our joint youth group....

- 2/20: Help with UPC Food Pantry, 9 am
- 3/4/18: Presbytery Hunger Banquet at Deerhurst Presbyterian Church, 5-7:30p
- 3/25: Youth Group at North Pres, 4-6 pm
- 4/15, 4/22, 4/29: Sub Sale fundraiser at each church (before & after morning worship)
- 4/21: Buffalo Waterkeeper cleanup event & Bandits game
- 5/27: Youth Group at Kenmore Pres, 4-6 pm
- 7/28 - 8/4: Montreat Youth Conference



University Students and Friends.....happenings....

Sundays, February 18th and March 4th, Bible study at 12 pm (30 minutes)

Sunday, March 11th ~ Game day at 12 noon—join us for Pictionary and a light lunch....

and Sunday, March 18th Bible study at 12 pm (30 minutes)



Happy Birthday to our February Members & our Youth.

- 1 Connie Michael
- 2 Andrew Safulko
- 6 Linda Moorhouse
- 8 Jim Smyton
- 9 Sue Castle
- 12 Grace Agbemenu
- 17 Barbara Lyons
- 24 John Schimminger

For our members and friends....

Kindly donate your slightly used winter boots, kids and adult sneakers, and shoes for men, women and children.

As the winter continues we also are in need of canned goods and dry goods for our food pantry. These items may be placed in the shopping basket in the Narthex of the church.

THANKS EVERYONE....

ALL DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Linen Pantry

The Threads of Hope Linen Pantry is a Mission of St, Peter's Episcopal Church. We receive gently used donated items and distribute them to families referred to us by various agencies and churches. We provide these individuals with bedding, towels and small kitchen items as they set-up their apartment so they can begin a new life for themselves.

All items are given away free of charge to our clients.

Needs:

Your linens and kitchen items (new or gently used) Sheets, blankets, bedspreads, quilts, bath towels, washcloths, hand towels, curtains, drapes, kitchen towels, dishcloths, potholders, dishes, lamps, small appliances, glasses, silverware, serving bowls, pots and pans.

Monetary donations are always welcomed.

Do you know someone who is downsizing, going into an independent living facility or just changing their color scheme? If so, remember Threads of Hope can recycle to the less fortunate what you need to eliminate. Your donations are tax deductible.

Hours & Location

First and third Saturday 10-noon. Second and fourth Wednesday 10-noon.
205 Longmeadow Road, Eggertsville, NY 14226. 832-9764

If you know anyone who may need this service, please contact our church office – 836-7660.

Anyone needing housing items needs a referral from a referring agency (UPC) and we can fill out the referral and give it to a client.

