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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church December 2013

## Pastor's Column

In this newsletter you will find a list of all kinds of activities taking place at UPC during this holiday season. The activities range from Bible studies, reflection groups, holiday concerts, caroling to home-bound members, to a variety of special worship services.

Christmas can be a hectic time for many of us. The intention of the offerings taking place here at UPC is not to add to your season's burdens. Rather, we hope to create a space for "time out" from all that distracts us and drains us during the season in order to help us focus on the season's true gift.

The list of Advent offerings is like a dinner menu. No one expects you to sample all the offerings. But you are invited to find one or two which you think could help deepen your experience of and appreciation for God's gift of Immanuel.

In this season of gift giving, our prayer is that some of these opportunities here at UPC will be a gift to you as you make your own journey to welcome the arrival of the Savior in your life.

Shalom,  
Tracy



**THIS WEEK'S  
MESSAGE**

## Worship Column ~ December 2013

### December 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

**9:00 AM** Worship Service with Communion  
**11:00 AM** Worship Service with Communion  
**Lectionary:** Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalms 122;  
Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

### December 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**9:00 AM** Worship  
**9:30 AM** Deacon's Meeting  
**10:00 AM** Education Hour – Season of Hope &  
Anticipation w/Rev. Tracy Daub  
**11:00 AM** Worship  
**Lectionary:** Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19;  
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

### December 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**9:00 AM** Worship  
**10:00 AM** Education Hour – A Season of Hope  
& Anticipation w/Karen Stucker  
**11:00 AM** Worship  
**Lectionary:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalms 146:5-10 or Luke  
1:44b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

### December 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

**9:00 AM** Worship  
**10:00 AM** Education Hour – A Season of Hope &  
Anticipation w/Kathy Hallborg  
**11:00 AM** Worship  
**Lectionary:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19;  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

### December 29<sup>th</sup> ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day

**11:00 AM** Worship Service – no early service today.  
**Lectionary:** Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalms 148;  
Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23



## Service Of Peace, Hope And Light

A service of peace and healing for everyone and anyone whom may find this holiday season difficult and challenging will be held at North Presbyterian Church on **Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.**



**“The Network”**  
is published monthly for friends and members of University Presbyterian Church. If you wish to submit an article, please contact the church office.  
**Co-Editors:**  
Brian Belus  
The Reverend Tracy Daub

## Food Pantry By The Numbers

These numbers only tell part of the story of this important and meaningful ministry. It is the people behind the numbers, those who receive this food and offer us their thanks and their blessings, and this congregation who provide such generous support, both in time and in donations, that are the essence and the real story that these numbers represent. Our thanks to all of you.

2013	October
<b>Infants</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Children</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>214</b>
<b>Elderly</b>	<b>74</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>379</u></b>
<b>Households</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Equivalent Meals</b>	<b>34</b>

**Please Help Us Recruit New Volunteers – New Pantry Volunteers are always welcome! But right now we are in great need of more folks.**

- Can you give us an afternoon a month?
- Do you know someone who might like to join us?
- Come and bring a friend along.
- Ask a neighbor.
- Post a flyer at work or at your library.

### When would I work?

- On a Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30am to 4:00pm.
- One afternoon a month (or as many as you wish).

### What would I do?

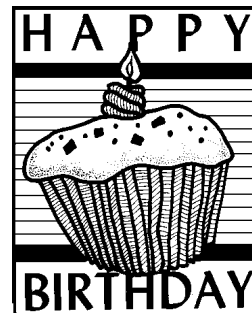
- You would work with 3 or 4 other volunteers.
- You might guide a client through our “store” to help them choose their groceries.
- You might greet and “check in” our clients.
- You might help to stock shelves.
- If you and a friend would like to work together, we can schedule that for you.
- You will feel good about the time you spend with us, helping our neighbors.

## December Birthdays

4	Alea Cotto-Ecklund
6	Jim Moran
9	Bob Dewitz
9	Dannish Patel
12	Eric Moodie
15	Adele Jackson-Gibson
15	Bonnie Dahl
16	Untae Kim
19	Jim Kline
19	Elizabeth Ball
20	John Maddock
22	Donald Holzman
29	Mark Masters
31	Tiffany Whitefield

## YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

26	Arjun Singh
28	Ajay Singh
30	Abigail Wadkins-Daub



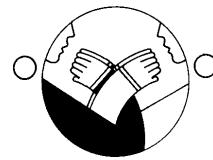
## This is my Blessing Story. It's an excerpt from my book.

"I just have to know. You're a teacher; your husband is a minister. Why don't you have children?" asked the allergist on my first and last visit to her office.

Dealing with my childlessness had been a ten-year search for healing and connections with other women. Journalizing, writing poetry, reading, and prayer were my best resources. I had read more than twenty nonfiction books about childlessness. However, I remember my first response when I found a poem by a childless woman. I could not take my eyes off the words until I had memorized at least two verses. Reading poetry about this experience was powerful for me. I bought handmade paper and copied this poem by hand.

I searched for poems by childless women whose voice would connect to my experience. I believe God answered my prayers for healing and strength by offering me the opportunity to publish a book. *I Will Bear This Scar: Poems of Childless Women* includes the work of more than forty women. Eight years after publication it continues to sell copies almost every month. This book has been a blessing for me and I pray it's been a blessing for other women.

Thank you.  
Marietta



## Do you have a "Blessing Story"?



Blessings come to us in many ways. They surprise us at the best and worst of times. Sometimes we don't recognize them until they've passed by. Our *New Beginnings* focus this year is "*Blessings*". Maybe you have a story that could bless another through the monthly newsletter. Use the space below or as much as you'd like to share and submit to one of the deacons. Some of you may prefer to e-mail your 'blessing story' for editing to:

*universitypresbyterian@verizon.net*

**SUBJECT: Blessings article**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact Info:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Advent and Christmas at UPC—2013

- ❖ **Advent Adult Education Class—Sundays, Dec. 8, 15, 22 at 10 a.m.**  
“A Season of Hope and Anticipation”
- ❖ **Sunday, December 1—First Sunday in Advent**  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (communion at both services)
- ❖ **Advent Discussion Group: Gun Violence, Gospel Values**  
Mondays, Dec. 2, 9, 16 at 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.
- ❖ **Friday, December 6—First Friday Taize Service**  
5:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
- ❖ **Saturday, December 7—Hanging of the Greens, 9 a.m.**
- ❖ **Sunday, December 8—Second Sunday in Advent**  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
- ❖ **Saturday, December 14—Cookie Sale**  
9 a.m. - noon in Reid Hall
- ❖ **Saturday, December 14—Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus Holiday Concert**  
hosted at UPC at 8 p.m.
- ❖ **Sunday, December 15—Third Sunday in Advent**  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Christmas Caroling at 1 p.m.
- ❖ **Monday, December 16—Service of Peace, Hope, and Light**  
7 p.m. at North Presbyterian Church
- ❖ **Sunday, December 22 —Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
Worship at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Children’s Pageant at 11 a.m.  
Church Christmas Dinner at 12 noon in Reid Hall
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve Service**  
Worship at 7 p.m.  
Carols, Candles, and Communion
- ❖ **Sunday, December 29**  
Single Morning Worship Service at 11 a.m.



## **Alternative Christmas Gift Opportunity**

What gifts will you be giving or receiving this Christmas? A sweater? A new electronic gadget? Toys? Video games?

### **Have you considered giving the gift of life?**

This year, UPC is offering the opportunity for our church to participate in purchasing life-saving water filtration systems for children in Kenya. Each year more than 3 million people world-wide die from water borne diseases, and the vast majority of those are young children. But with the use of very simple water filtration systems, lives can be saved and health improved.

The water filtration systems that UPC is helping to purchase will benefit the Crossroads Springs Institute in Hamisi, Kenya, a primary school which educates children orphaned by AIDS. Our goal of \$2000 will enable the school to acquire an institutional filter for the kitchen as well as many “point-of-use” filters for each classroom and other parts of the school. Each point-of-use filter costs around \$50.

Please consider being part of this important gift-giving opportunity where you can know that your money will make a crucial difference to a child’s life. You can make your donation each week during Advent, either by using the special envelopes in the pew racks or after worship at a table in the Holzwarth Room where you can also pick up a beautiful gift card to give to the person you are honoring.

**WATER=LIFE**

## ***Opportunities to Become a Blessing***



*Volunteer in the Food Pantry*

*Help with the Children’s education hour*

*Prepare a meal for the University Student Program*

*Serve as a Liturgist*

*Call someone you haven’t seen at church in a while*

*Join the choir*

## West Side Bazaar



The West Side Bazaar is open on Sundays starting November 24 through December 22; a rare opportunity to take some friends or family over to 25 Grant Street after your church service for a delicious lunch and time to get your Christmas shopping done all in one bright, welcoming and warm venue.

Let us surprise you!

The West Side Bazaar is a business incubator project of WEDI, founded by Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Some photos from the Buffalo News

### Bazaar Holiday Hours

Sunday 11:00am - 4:00pm

Tuesday - Thursday 10:00am - 8:00pm

Friday and Saturday 10:00am - 9:00pm

Lots of free parking

West Side Bazaar

25 Grant Street

Just south of West Ferry

Buffalo, New York

[www.westsidebazaar.com](http://www.westsidebazaar.com)

716-464-6389



## Advent Workshop On Violence

As we begin this Advent season, UPC is offering a three-session workshop to help us prepare for the King of peace by examining the violence in our society—especially gun violence. This series uses the PCUSA resource, *Gun Violence, Gospel Values*, as our guide. The resource is available at <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/gunviolence/>

These sessions are planned for Monday evenings, **7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, December 2, 9, 16.** Workshop leaders include Rev. Daub and Gladys Gifford.

Please let the office know of your interest, so that we may have materials ready for everyone.

### Sessions include:

**December 2** Sharing stories, understanding the dimensions of violence in our culture;

**December 9** View documentary, *“Trigger: the Ripple Effect of Gun Violence”* and share responses;

**December 16** The vocation of peace— how may we take action?

## Pool Party

Join us in January to getaway to the Tonawanda Aquatic Center for an afternoon of swimming. Mark your calendars for **January 18, 2014 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM** for an all ages pool party. The admission is \$4.00 for children and \$5.00 for adults. There will be a sign up sheet in the church hallway bulletin board. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins.

## INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL

### BIBLE STUDY

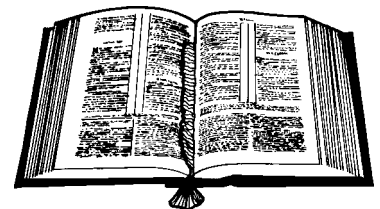
December 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 2013

Light Meal: 5:00 pm – Study until 6:30 pm

Holzwarth Room

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch





## Member Profile

This month we feature my favorite member, Dennis Erickson. We will have been married 4 years this month. Dennis has two adult children, Amy Thomas, 32 and Daniel, age 30. Amy is married to Aaron, and they have two daughters, Ave Marie 6 and Callie 3.

Dennis was born in Buffalo and lived for two years in Peter Styvesant apartments. At the age of 2, his family moved to Tonawanda. He graduated from UB, and then went on to Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University. He began his career at Liberty Bank, then M & T bank, and is currently a loan analyst at Bank of America. After 45 years of banking he's looking forward to retiring next year. He'll have the time to take motorcycle rides, garden, exercise (he bench pressed 300 lbs. when he was 60!), and learn how to cook (since I'll still be working!!) Dennis also performs in plays with the Tonawanda Towne players.

Dennis was raised a Lutheran, and his father was a lay minister for their church. He decided to return to church after meeting me and became a member of UPC three and a half years ago. He was impressed with Tracy's thought provoking sermons and the beauty of the church building. He appreciated the traditional decor of the sanctuary. Since joining he has been a member of the property committee, and plans on helping out with the food pantry when he retires.

His faith has helped him deal with many struggles in his life such as when he was unemployed at age 53, and also losing his younger brother, David 4 years ago. But through all the ups and downs, Dennis believes he has truly been blest in every way. By being a member of UPC it gives him the opportunity to give thanks to God along with others of the same spirit.



*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 Taize 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.

We invite you to join us on **Friday, December 6 from 5:30 - 6 p.m.** University Presbyterian Church is located at 3330 Main St., Buffalo (across the street from UB South Campus) with parking available in the church lot off Niagara Falls Boulevard. The church is also conveniently accessible using public transportation by taking bus or train to the University Metro station. Questions can be directed to the church office at 836-7660.

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

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

**THE NETWORK**  
**December 2013**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	
		<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Communion</b>
			<b>No Education hour today</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Communion</b>
		<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Gladys Gifford – Advent discussion group: Gun Violence, Gospel Values – week 1 of 3</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>
		<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice – <u>NOTE different day</u></b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – all welcome</b>
			<b>No Choir practice – see Tuesday, 12/3</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Taize Service</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Hanging of the Greens – Decorating the Church and the Holzwarth Room – join usÖ</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Grief Support Meeting at Family Tree</b>
<b>Restaurant</b>			
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
		<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
		<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Deacon’s Meeting</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Adult Education Hour – today begins a 3 week Advent Program – “A Season of Hope and Anticipation.”</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Youth Education Hour – Practice for Pageant</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
		<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Presbyterian Women Meeting</b>
		<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Gladys Gifford – Advent discussion group: Gun Violence, Gospel Values – week 2 of 3</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – all welcome No Choir Practice – see Thursday, 12/12</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm 5 – 7 pm 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry Cookie drop off - kitchen Choir Practice</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am to 12 pm</b>	<b>Cookie Sale SET UP</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am to Noon 8:00 pm</b>	<b>Cookie Sale in Reid Hall – Yummy! Buffalo Gay Men’s Choir Holiday Concert</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Worship Service Adult Education Hour – Advent Program “A Season of Hope and Anticipation.” Youth Education Hour – Practice for Pageant Worship Service Coffee Hour Christmas Caroling – meet in the Holzwarth Room</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00 pm  7:00 pm</b>	<b>Gladys Gifford – Advent discussion group: Gun Violence, Gospel Values – week 3 Service of Peace, Hope and Light at North Presbyterian Church</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Session Meeting – Holzwarth Room  No Choir Practice – see Thursday, 12/19</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm  7:30 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry – News Neediest Fund – distribution No regular food pantry distribution today Choir Practice</b>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
		<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Adult Education Hour – Advent Program</b> <b>“A Season of Hope and Anticipation.”</b>
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Youth Education Hour –</b> <b>Practice for Pageant</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service with Children’s Pageant</b>
		<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Holiday Christmas Dinner in Reid Hall</b>

<b>Monday</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry distribution -</b> <b>Special day due to holiday week.</b>
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<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Church Office Closed</b>
		<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Worship Service</b> <b>“Carols, Candles and Communion</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Merry Christmas</b>	
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<b>Thursday</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NO FOOD PANTRY TODAY</b>	
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**Church Office is closed on Thursday and Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b>	
			<b>No 9 AM Service</b>
			<b>No Education Hour</b>
		<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>

<b>Monday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>	<b>Food Pantry distribution –</b> <b>Special day due to holiday week.</b>
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<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>No Food Pantry today and no Food Pantry on Thursday.</b>	
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**Food Pantry resumes regular schedule on January 7<sup>th</sup> & January 9<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Church Office Closed Tuesday 12/31 and Wed. 1/1/14**