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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church

February 2012

Pastor's Column

While February may be the shortest month of the year, it has always felt to me like the longest. Set in the midst of the dark, cold of winter, I have never felt that February had much going for it. The one bright spot in February may be Valentine's Day—the day we celebrate love (and eat chocolate!).

Of course, the love celebrated by our society on Valentine's Day is largely a sentimental, romantic version of love. This kind of love is typically fleeting. It isn't the kind of love that endures over the years. And that is because Valentine's Day focuses on love as a *feeling*. This feeling of love will likely evaporate when the stresses of life and home set in.

The Christian message is all about love. But it isn't about love as a feeling but rather an act of the will. We may not feel warm feelings about someone else, but we are called to love them, to care about their well-being, and even to sacrifice ourselves in some way to ensure their well-being. We *will* ourselves to love another even when that person may not act very "loveable."

To undertake this kind of love is extremely difficult. I don't know that I could do it if it weren't for the community of faith helping me in this endeavor. Together we remind one another of our priorities and values. Together we try to model this love to and for one another. Together we pray for God's power in accomplishing this task.

Maybe it is appropriate that Valentine's Day comes in the darkness of winter, for the love we seek to live out is God's love, God's light, which shines even in the darkness.

Shalom,
Tracy



Worship Column

February 5th - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship – **Communion**
Lectionary: Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 12th - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30;
1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

February 19th - Transfiguration of the Lord

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 22nd - Ash Wednesday

5:30 PM Soup Supper
7:00 PM Worship

February 26th - 1st Sunday in Lent

9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Education Hour
11:00 AM Worship
Lectionary: Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;
Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15



Progressive Dinner

There will be a progressive dinner on **Saturday, February 18, at 5:00 PM**. Three church members will host a course at their house. Appetizers will be from **5:00 - 6:00 PM**, salad and main course from **6:30 - 7:30 PM**, finishing with dessert from **8:00 - 9:00 PM**. Those interested in attending must sign up. There is a **limit of 25** for this dinner. More details to follow.

Fellowship Events

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring the following events

February 5 - A light luncheon to follow the congregational meeting.

February 22 - Ash Wednesday - At **5:30 PM** there will be a Soup Supper followed by Worship at **7:00 PM**

March 14 - There will be a Soup Supper at **5:30 PM** followed by a Lenten Program.



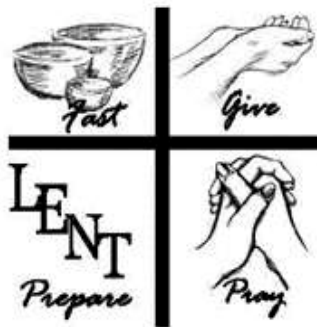
“The Network”
is published monthly for friends and members of University Presbyterian Church. If you wish to submit an article, please contact the church office.

Co-Editors:
Brian Belus
The Reverend Tracy Daub

Adult Bible Study

It seems that we just started this new year of 2012. Yet before the end of February, Lent will be upon us.. **A season of prayer. A season of repentance.**

Starting with the last Sunday in February, we will be starting a 6 week study "Learning Forgiveness". Repentance is at the heart of our Lenten journey. Can we learn to forgive with open hearts?



Before our study of Lent begins, we will spend **the first 3 weeks of February** studying scripture that continues to follow the lectionary.

We hope that you will join us on Sunday morning at **10:00 AM**. If you have studied the scriptures for many years or just want to start learning the meaning of the Gospels - come - join us. All are invited and welcome.

Call To The Annual Meeting Of The Congregation Of University Presbyterian Church

All members of UPC are called to attend our annual congregational meeting on **February 5 at 12:00 PM following the 11:00 AM service**. This meeting will include the presentation of the 2012 budget, the reception of committee reports from 2011, the election of officers, and the approval of the pastor's salary. A light lunch will be offered in the Holzwarth Room following the meeting.

Annual Reports will be distributed on **Sunday, January 29th** so they may be read prior to the annual meeting on **Sunday, February 5th**.

Food Pantry By The Numbers

Each month, the UPC Food Pantry submits a report to the Food Bank of Western New York, indicating how many households were served during the month, and how many individuals make up those households. We share these statistics with our congregation, which provides such generous support to our pantry, both in time and in donations.

Anyone interested in volunteering one afternoon a month at the Pantry can call **Barbara Pearson, 833-3163.**

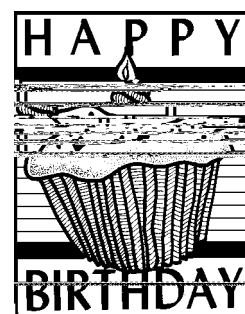
<u>December 2011</u>	
Infants	5
Children	96
Adults	211
Elderly	42
Households:	194
Equivalent meals:	3,168

February Birthdays

- 1 Gerry Ann Appleton
- 1 Connie Michael
- 2 Gladys Harbison
- 2 Andrew Safulko
- 3 Kamil Patel
- 8 Jim Smyton
- 9 Sue Castle
- 11 Tim Ecklund
- 12 Grace Agbemenu
- 12 Lidia Vieira
- 17 Barbara Lyons

Young Presbyterians

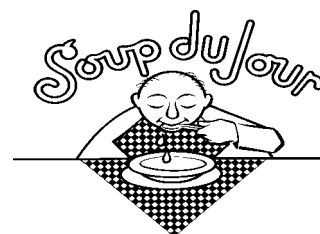
- 6 Linda Moorhouse

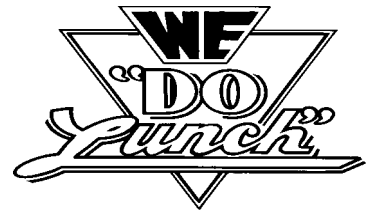


Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Supper

The season of Lent begins on **Wednesday, February 22** with Ash Wednesday. Members and friends of UPC are invited to enter this contemplative season by attending our Ash Wednesday worship service on that day, **at 7:00 PM.** This is a quiet service of reflection and prayer, which will include the imposition of ashes.

Preceding the service will be a soup supper at **5:30 PM.** Come out of the cold and enjoy hearty soups and good fellowship before attending the service. Please sign up in the Holzwarth Room so we can appropriately plan for the numbers who will be joining us for the meal.





Lunch for University Student Fellowship

The Ministry with University Students Committee invites members of the congregation **to provide lunch or funding** to cover the cost of lunch for the University Student Fellowship on Sundays at **12:15 PM**.

A donation of \$30 will cover lunch for one Sunday. Payment is needed one week in advance and may be submitted via the offering plate with a designation for “University Student Lunches.”

If preparing a meal, one person may bring the main course, another dessert and beverage, or one person may bring the entire meal. Though the number of students varies, please plan food for 8-10.

Simple foods work best. For the main course, sandwich fixings, a crockpot of chili or soup, or a casserole would be ideal. For dessert, fruit is an option, and other desserts need not be homemade. A 2-liter bottle of pop is the perfect beverage. Paper products and cutlery are provided, so you need not bring those. However, a ladle is appreciated for soup or chili.

This year we have a vegetarian student and one who has a gluten allergy, so it would be helpful to take this into consideration when preparing meals. Perhaps meat could be served separately and at least some components of the meal could be gluten-free.

Those who provide the lunch are encouraged to eat with the students.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Holzwarth Room for the spring semester. Please help us fulfill our mission of ministering to the university students in our midst by facilitating their fellowship over lunch before they begin their weekly study topic.

**INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS: FEBRUARY 1ST, 15TH & 29TH 2012
Light Meal: 5:00 pm – Study until 6:30 pm
Holzwarth Room
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch**



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.

We invite you to join us on **Friday, February 3 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 TaizÉ Service of Prayer, Music, and Meditation

www.upcbuffalo.org/firstfriday

FEBRUARY 2012

Wednesday	1	7:00 pm 5:00 pm	Committee Meetings Bible Study with Stu
Thursday	2	12:00 noon 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir
Friday	3	5:30 pm	Taize'
Saturday	4	10:00 am	Grief Support Breakfast – Family Tree
Sunday	5	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:00 pm	Worship-Communion Education Hour Worship-Communion Congregational Annual Meeting with Light Lunch to follow
Tuesday	7	12:15 pm 12:00 noon	University Student Luncheon Food Pantry
Thursday	9	12:00 noon 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir
Sunday	12	9:00 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm	Worship Deacons Meeting Education Hour Worship University Student Luncheon
Monday	13	12:00 noon	Presbyterian Women
Tuesday	14	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	15	5:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study with Stu Adult Education Committee Meeting SESSION
Thursday	16	12:00 noon 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir
Sunday	19	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm	Worship Education Hour Worship University Student Lunch
Tuesday	21	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	22	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Soup Supper Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thursday	23	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Sunday	26	9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 12:15 pm	Worship Education Hour Worship University Student Lunch
Tuesday	28	12:00 noon	Food Pantry
Wednesday	29	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Stu