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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church

January 2013

Pastor's Column

A new year offers us fresh start. This year, the possibility of new things springing forth within our congregation is especially anticipated. Those small group gatherings regarding our congregation's future ministry, in which so many of you participated, have concluded. Now begins the crucial phase of pulling together all those conversations and ideas and creating a bold plan for mission. First, our group leaders will come together to share with one another the insights received during the small groups. Next, the group leaders will work with the rest of the Session to begin to create a plan. And throughout it, we will be in regular communication with the congregation as to how things are developing. Our New Beginning is in a time of pregnant anticipation and this new year will be an occasion when we allow God to birth something here at UPC.

Everyone in our congregation is encouraged to pray for UPC and this important moment of discerning and creating. In fact, you will find an article in this newsletter inviting you to join in prayer for our congregation each Sunday morning. My heartfelt prayer is not that God will guide us—for I feel sure that God is among us, leading, nudging, encouraging—but that we would not impede the work of the Spirit. I pray that we would allow the Spirit to have its way with us. Instead of "playing it safe," I pray we would have the courage to let God do something essential among us, within us, and through us. My prayer is that we may discover the new ways we can be a blessing in God's name in our efforts to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Shalom,
Tracy

Worship Column

January 6th - Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 AM Worship - Communion

11:00 AM Worship - Communion

Lectionary: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 13th - Baptism of the Lord

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-1; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20th - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11; John 2:1-11

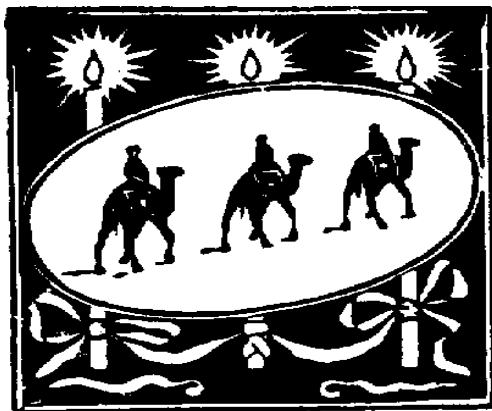
January 27th - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Education Hour

11:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21



Everyone Is Welcome To Our Family Game Night.

On **Saturday, February 23rd**, at **7:00 pm** we're going to gather together for a fun evening of games and activities for the entire family. Bring your favorite games to play and join us. If you don't have any special games, just bring yourself and/or family, as there will be many games to enjoy.

We are looking forward to a great night with family and friends. Mark your calendar now and we'll see you on the 23rd



“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

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**.

	November	Thanksgiving2012
Infants	1	1
Children	136	33
Adults	250	121
Elderly	47	28
Total	434	183
Households:	220	108
Equivalent meals:	3,906	183



January Birthdays

- 1 Dorothy Frye
- 3 Smitty Siegel
- 2 Jude Hammer
- 5 Christopher Safulko
- 6 Rose Hoffman
- 8 Virginia Coon
- 8 Erika Betz
- 10 Jean Masters
- 10 John Lopinski, Sr.
- 11 Janet Mazzaroppi
- 12 Sandra Boag
- 12 Marjorie Waldron
- 14 Bilquis Dass
- 17 Carolyn Harbison
- 19 David Patel
- 22 Grace Yockey
- 24 Erin Hershey
- 28 Elizabeth Lucas
- 29 Hans Spielberger
- 29 Eric Dass
- 30 Diane Walker

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 19 Kaylee Casseri
- 26 Mason Appleton

Our Community In Prayer

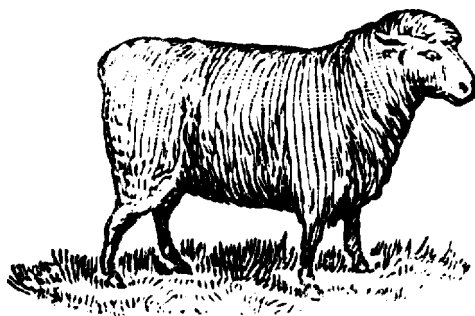
“May your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times”

(Romans 12:12)

As we begin the New Year and undertake the challenges of developing our New Beginning plan for ministry, it is important that our congregation joins in prayer for the life and ministry of our church. You are invited to join a time of prayer each Sunday morning from 9:45- 10 a.m., beginning on Sunday, January 13. We will gather in the Mary and Martha Room (located across from the coat rack in the entry to the sanctuary) for 15 minutes of both directed as well as silent prayers. Participants are welcome to come and go as able. Gladys Gifford will lead an introduction to our time of prayer in the Adult Class on Sunday, January, 6.

Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20) Join us in praying that we may be open to the movement of God’s Spirit within the community of UPC.

Heifer Women's Lambing Project
April 4 – 7, 2013
Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA (central)



Join women of this Presbytery and women from across the country to watch a lamb take its first steps and reflect on the new beginnings that Heifer brings to millions of families around the world. We will participate in the daily rhythms of a working farm learning basic animal husbandry skills with specific focus on the birthing process of goats, sheep, swine, cattle, rabbits and the hatching of chicks.

A blend of facilitated discussions, experiential hands-on learning activities and direct interaction and work with farm animals will help us also understand the mission of Heifer International and appreciate the lives of those helped by the organization. It's a wonderful way to spend your spring vacation, learn more about Heifer and how animals help lift families out of poverty in the camaraderie of a diverse group of women. Have an international experience without ever crossing a border. Registration is \$475.

For more details, contact Amy Jelensperger at 874-3034 or via e-mail at pastoramy@hotmail.com or Chris Wychorski, Reservations Coordinator at Overlook Farm, at 508-886-2221.

The **Women's Livestock Birthing at Overlook Farm** may include:

- + Courses on birthing, pre-natal and post-natal care of livestock
- + Nighttime birth checks
- + An opportunity to explore Heifer's work throughout the world
- + Educational sessions focusing on sustainable agriculture
- + Culinary and food preservation techniques

And the big question— *Will I definitely see a birth?*

You will most likely see one species of animal give birth but there are no guarantees as Overlook does not induce birth. The program provides a plethora of learning opportunities (and fun!) regardless of the births.

(Continued On P. 5)

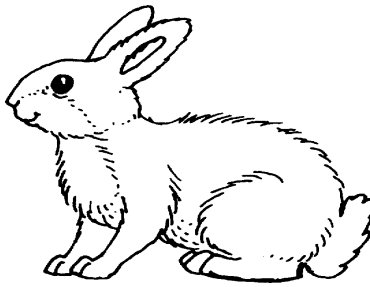
Registration Information

Participants: Women ages 16 (those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult) and older of all backgrounds and experiences. The group is limited to 16 participants.

Per Person Tuition Fees: \$475 (**not tax-deductible**) due upon registration and is made directly to Heifer Overlook Farm on a first-come first-served basis. Please identify your participation as a member of WNY Presbytery.

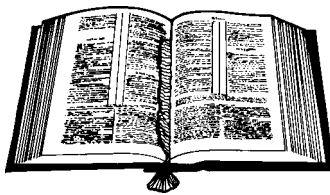
Tuition Fee Includes: Educational programming including work projects, shared lodging in the bunkhouse and meals (dinner the first night to breakfast the last day).

Transportation to Overlook Farm: Participants must provide their own transportation to farm. Carpooling will be arranged.



Annual Reports

Annual Committee reports are due to Denise absolutely no later than **Thursday, January 10, 2013**. Annual reports will be ready for pick up on **Sunday, January 27, 2013**, so they may be read prior to the annual meeting on **Sunday, February 3, 2013, following the 11 AM worship service**.



INTERCOLLEGIATE – INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAYS: JANUARY 16th, 23rd and 30th
Light Meal: 5:00 pm – Study until 6:30 pm
Holzwarth Room
ALL ARE WELCOME!
Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch

Member Profile

We ring in the New Year featuring our member, Sarah Smith. She was born and raised in Kinston, North Carolina until she went away to college at UNC - Chapel Hill.

Sarah resides in Amherst with her husband Matt, and 3 daughters, Emily, Olivia, and Sophie. Besides her duties as a mom, she also works several part time jobs. Sarah is a personal trainer and fitness instructor at a local YMCA, where she also teaches a program on diabetes prevention. She also is a community liaison for BCBS of WNY, giving seminars on health related topics ranging from fitness and nutrition to diabetes education as well as heart health and stress management. These are offered to employer groups throughout WNY. Now that her girls are older she is now looking for full time employment in the health education/promotion field.

During her free time, she enjoys creative projects such as jewelry making which she learned from fellow UPC member, Gary Melius. She creates unique pieces of jewelry made with wire and sea glass. You'll also see her participating in outdoor sports when she has free time such as cross country skiing and biking. She and her family enjoy vacations on the Atlantic coast, especially going home to North Carolina.

As a young girl in her home town she was raised Presbyterian, so when they were searching for a church, UPC was at the top of the list of choices. They became members of UPC in 1994. just before their eldest daughter Emily was born. Sara was originally drawn to UPC because of her favorable impression of Rev. Alison Halsey, the ministry of music and the friendly nature of the congregation. With her God given talent of a beautiful soprano voice she has been a welcome member of the choir, even before she was a member. It is apparent that her daughters have inherited her musical talent, and she is coaching them to maximize their gift.

Throughout her 17-year history at UPC, Sarah has served on the session, the worship committee, and the search committee, which brought Tracy to our church. Her early education in the church has provided a strong foundation of faith, which has served to keep her grounded and assured that she's never alone. Despite her busy schedule she always tries to make time for church on Sundays to help her feel rejuvenated and on track for the new week.



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, January 4 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

January 2013

Tuesday	1		Happy New Year!	Enjoy your Day – Office Closed
Thursday	3	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
		7:30 pm		Choir Practice
Friday	4	5:30 pm		Taize' Service
Saturday	5	10:00 am	Grief Support Group – meets at Family Tree Restaurant	
Sunday	6	9:00 am	Worship Service - Communion	
		10:00 am	Education Hour with Gladys Gifford	
		11:00 am	Worship Service – Communion	
		12:30 pm	New Beginnings Leader's Meeting – Holzwarth Room	
Tuesday	8	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
Thursday	10	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
		7:30 pm		Choir Practice
Sunday	13	9:00 am		Worship Service
		9:30 am		Deacon's Meeting
		9:45 am-10:00 am	Prayer for the Life of the Church	
		10:00 am		Education Hour
		11:00 am		Worship Service
Tuesday	15	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
Wednesday	16	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – All Welcome	
		7:00 pm		Session
Thursday	17	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
		7:30 pm		Choir Practice
Sunday	20	9:00 am		Worship Service
		9:45 am-10:00 am	Prayer for the Life of the Church	
		10:00 am		Education Hour
		11:00 am		Worship Service
		12:15 pm		University Student Luncheon
Monday	21		Office Closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.	
Tuesday	22	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
Wednesday	23	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – All Welcome	
Thursday	24	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
Sunday	27	9:00 am		Worship Service
		9:45 am-10:00 am	Prayer for the Life of the Church	
		10:00 am		Education Hour
		11:00 am		Worship Service
		12:15 pm		University Student Luncheon
Tuesday	29	12:00 pm		Food Pantry
Wednesday	30	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Stuart Buisch – All Welcome	
Thursday	31	12:00 pm		Food Pantry