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A monthly newsletter for members and friends of University Presbyterian Church July/August 2011

Pastor's Column

Dear Saints,

I have been with you for two weeks as I write this letter. What a wonderful congregation you are! Definitely, you qualify as "treasures in earthen vessels." I have been so impressed with your openness, and care for one another. You, in a very tangible way, are Christ's hands and feet in a hurting world.

We celebrate Tracy's opportunity for Sabbatical and are thankful for the many sabbatical opportunities scheduled for us and members of Amherst, Deerhurst and North Presbyterian Churches. It sounds as if the Zoo venture was beyond everyone's expectations. Look within the pages of this newsletter for information from Tracy's blog and news about upcoming congregational events. You won't want to miss out on the fun and fellowship.

As the gifts of summer blossom in WNY, it is time to renew our spirits with rest, fun and the great out-of-doors. My prayer for you this summer is that you feel God's presence in the sunlight; the blue sky; the green earth and the opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. I invite you to imagine that God is holding you and all of creation in God's hands.

In the words of the Psalmist from Psalm 19

"The Heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world."

God bless you saints, and may this season of lush fullness strengthen your body, mind and spirit. See in you worship!

With Peace and Joy,

Geri

The Rev. Geri Lyon, D.D.

Sabbatical Supply Pastor

P.S. We have compiled a "Good News" booklet from the answers to the question "How does being a member of UPC make me a better Christian?" Copies are available in the Holzwarth Room. Pick one up during Coffee Hour following worship.

Summer Schedules

The Rev. Geri Lyon will be away for two weeks this summer. Her times away are: **July 1st – July 7th AND August 20th – August 26th**

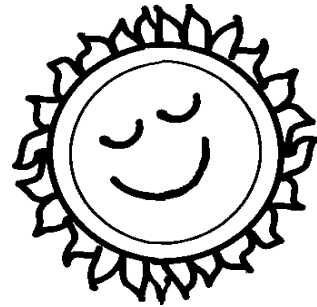
We are grateful for the gifts and talents of the covering pastors. The covering schedule is:

Taize Service, July 1st
Sunday, July 3rd
Sunday, August 21st

The Rev. Amy Jelensperger
The Rev. Dr. Lance Brown
The Rev. Stacey Otto

Pastoral Care Coverage The Rev. Dr. Joyce Sirianni (for both weeks)

To reach Joyce in a pastoral emergency, please call MaryAnn at home 773-6786, evenings or weekends, or, at the office 836-7660 during the day.



NEW Summer Happenings – Come and join us!

**6 Session, Mid-week Bible Study with
Rev. Lyon**

1p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Thursdays

July 14th; 21st; 28; August 4th; 11th; 18th

This group is open to members and friends of UPC and no experience is needed! We will use a combination of Lectio Divina and traditional bible study to explore the gospel text for the following Sunday. If you can't make all six sessions, come to as many as you can. Gather at the Church Office for fellowship, conversation, and ice tea.



“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 Geri Lyon, D.D.

Summer Worship Schedule

JULY

JULY 3 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship - Communion

Lectionary: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;
Psalm 45:20 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13;
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

JULY 10 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 25:19-34;
Psalm 119:1-5-122; Romans 8:1-11;
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 17 - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 28:10-19a;
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24;
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

JULY 24 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

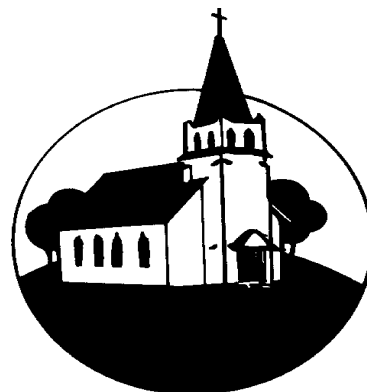
10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 29:15-28;
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128;
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

JULY 31 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7;
Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21



AUGUST

AUGUST 7 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-23

AUGUST 14 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;
Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28

AUGUST 21 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

AUGUST 28 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00 AM Worship

Lectionary: Exodus 3:1-15;
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45; Romans 12:9-21;
Matthew 16:21-28

From Tracy's blog - "Treasures in Earthen Vessels"

<http://www.tracysabbatical.blogspot.com/>

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 - Getting started

Welcome to my blog. I'm just learning about this whole blogging thing so please be patient. From time to time throughout my sabbatical, I will try to post some thoughts about what I'm doing or experiencing. It's just a way for me to keep in touch with all of you at one time.

Blessings for a peaceful summer!

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 -
Making Progress

I have been settling in to my sabbatical projects this past week. Additional time spent in the pottery studio is already showing beneficial signs. Today I threw a 3 pound ball of clay—the largest I've ever done! (My ever-joking husband responded to this news by asking, "how far?") Both my teacher and I can already see really good signs of progress. This is really gratifying.

I've been exercising regularly to make sure I'm ready for the hiking seminar at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. I leave this Sunday. The participants in the seminar will hike between 7-9 miles a day at elevations of around 10,000 feet. I am uncertain as to the abilities of others in the group and so I hope I don't hold anyone up. Ghost Ranch is a really beautiful place where I feel very connected to God and to the land. I am really looking forward to this trip.

Blessings to all!

From our UPC blog - "Treasures in Earthen Vessels - at home"

<http://upcsabbatical.blogspot.com/>

Tuesday, June 14, 2011 -We begin our adventures at home

Our adventure has begun! On this past Pentecost Sunday, members of our four congregations gathered for a "Behind the Scenes" visit to the Buffalo Zoo. While we expected a small group for this initial outing, the enthusiasm grew and the final throng of Presbyterians numbered 83!! Our hosts at the zoo were so gracious. They arranged for three of their finest volunteer docents to each lead a group of us through a guided tour - providing great information, answering questions and giving us the inside story of these beautiful, strange and amazing animals. We saw the new Rain Forest exhibit, the baby polar bear, elephants, giraffes, hedgehogs and snakes. The day was a success - and even the weather cooperated.

Next up.....Let's Dance!!



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 Gerry Grisante at 835-0433.

MAY 2011

Infants 3
Children 59
Adults 193
Elderly 36
 291

Households: 169
Equivalent meals: 2,619



Rummage/Book Sale Cindy Hickey

The book sale, which was managed by Melinda Hutchison, made \$203, which will benefit the church library in the Holzwarth Room.

The rummage sale made \$997.50, which will benefit the general operating budget.

Many items have been stored for The International Student household give away which takes place in our church parking lot annually in late August and is sponsored by International Students, Inc. Some items have been donated to the City Mission Thrift Store on Dick Road.

I wish to thank everyone who worked Thursday evening setting up, Friday, putting out, sorting, and pricing and Saturday manning tables and cashing out and of course to all who helped clean up.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Life Touch Pictorial Directory

Mark your calendars!!!

Arrangements have been made with Life Touch to have photographers here on:

Thursday, September 15th, 2:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Friday, September 16th, 1:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Saturday, September 17th, 9:00 PM – 2:00 PM
Picture will be taken in the Holzwarth Room.

Beginning in August there will be a sign up sheet posted, or you may call the office to set up a time. **IF YOU NEED A RIDE PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.** More details will be forthcoming. **Arrangements will be made for those living in senior residences to have digital photos taken and put in the directory.**

Those who have their pictures taken will receive a free pictorial directory, as well as a free 8" x 10" photo.

4 Week Summer Stitching with Mary Ann MacDonald
6:30 PM – 8 PM Mondays
July 11th; 18th; 25th; August 1st

Come for fellowship and fun! Mary Ann will be teaching the basics of counted cross stitch. She will provide all the materials needed to make a small piece with the Christian mandate to, "Love One Another." In order to ensure that we have enough supplies, please call the church office to RSVP no later than July 8th. If you can't make all the sessions, come to as many as you can.

If you would like to gather for the fellowship but you are a needlepoint or crewel worker – no problem! Just bring your projects and friends with you!



Summer Birthdays

JULY

2 Emily Smith
5 Tiffany Whitcomb
9 Tim Wadkins
12 Bill Rugg
13 Barbara Alderdice
16 Hilde Smith
17 Joan Holzman
20 Thomas Bardos
21 Beatrice Henry
22 Gladys Spielberger
24 Art Cookfair
24 Kendra Masters
27 Brandi Thomas
29 Marjorie Rugg
29 Marcia Townsend
30 Joe Maiwald

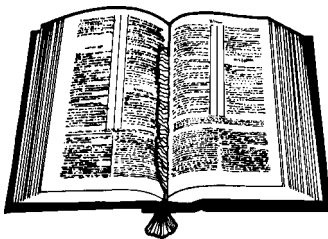
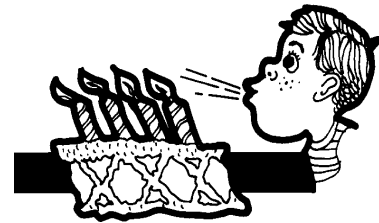
Young Presbyterians

JULY

9 Sophie Smith
15 Gabriella Ward
20 Harrison Appleton
22 Ellary Appleton

AUGUST

1 Tina Burker
2 Wayne G.
Appleton
3 Joan Secor
3 John Swaine
4 Matt Smith
7 Ida Caster
10 Nadeem Patel
12 Katie Boncek
12 Vicki Moorhouse
13 Carol Menczynski
13 Val Macer
14 Amy Erickson
14 Sharon Melius
16 Kecia Boncek
18 Barbara Kraemer
19 Priscilla Maddock
23 Betty Helwig
23 Doris Croop
25 Michael Hoffman
30 Bina Patel



INTERCOLLEGIATE - INTERGENERATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS: July 19, August 2, August 30

Light Meal: 5:00 PM

Study until 6:30 PM

Holzwarth Room

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Led by Rev. Stuart Buisch

Voice Buffalo Update

UPC is a member of VOICE-Buffalo, working with congregations to bring about justice in our communities.

VOICE-Buffalo has joined with People United for Sustainable Housing (PUSH) to form a coalition, National Fuel Accountability Coalition in the effort to redirect the conservation efforts of National Fuel more effectively.

The issue is this: National Fuel is required to fund a Conservation Incentive Program (CIP) to encourage customer conservation. This program is funded at \$10+million, through a delivery adjustment charge paid by customers. However, the bulk of the money is spent on appliance rebates and marketing of those rebates, which go to homeowners who can afford new appliances. Less than 30% of CIP funding benefits low income National Fuel customers – the very people who use more natural gas because they live in housing stock that needs to be winterized.

The opportunity is: National Fuel could leverage the CIP to provide weatherization funding to benefit low income customers, thereby, giving relief to the citizens whose taxes underwrite bills for excessive gas heat in low income housing.

So let's take action!

The National Fuel Accountability Coalition has persuaded the Public Service Commission to hold hearings in metro Buffalo, July 6-7.

Schedule: July 6, 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM Central Library Downtown

July 7, 2:00 PM Cheektowaga Town Hall

July 7, 7:00 PM Amherst Municipal Building

VOICE-Buffalo and PUSH will rally at 2:30 PM, Lafayette Square and walk to the library for the hearing at 3:00 PM on JULY 6. Come and join in the action!

For more information, ask the VOICE-Buffalo Core Team at UPC:

Amy and Dennis Erickson, Gladys Gifford, Jude Hammer, Janet Mazzaroppi.

It Has Been a Wonderful Ride . . .

I wish I could remember exactly when I started teaching Sunday School . . .

I know I taught off and on when the girls were little. And then at least ten years ago, Connie and I began teaching the 3 – 5 year olds together. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. We have been blessed to spend Sunday mornings with such special and precious children. We taught them about God, Jesus, the Bible and what being a Christian means; they taught us to take joy in the simple things in life and to have fun together.

The group we had this year – Tim Moorhouse, Zach and Abby Wadkins-Daub, Liz Waldron, Alex and Kaylee Cookfair-Casseri, Russell and Clark Whitefield, Olivia and Sophie Smith, and Nicholas Harbison – we were lucky enough to keep with us for several years. They are a fabulous group of young people; they all like each other and enjoy spending time together. We have had in-depth discussions about our lessons, and they ask thoughtful, insightful questions. They are friendly, polite, respectful, and we have truly been a classroom community of Christian learners. We will miss them very much – and the members of our church who teach Sunday school this fall will be blessed indeed.

I need to take a moment to thank Ginna Coon who was our Sunday school supervisor and strongest supporter; she helped us all along the way, and was part of every event and Sundays when the children were part of the service. She has been a great friend and leader. And finally, I cannot thank Connie Michael enough for her friendship. She was my teaching teammate in every sense of the word, and I thank God for putting us together. She is my friend for life, and she is a true Christian. I don't know anyone who is as generous, hard working and willing to help others as she is.

Thank you to everyone at UPC for the honor of teaching the children; it has been a privilege, and Connie and I will remember it always. We thank God for our time with them, and may God bless each of them as they continue to grow and become members of UPC.

From Priscilla Maddock

Session Notes

The Session of University Presbyterian Church met at the church, 3330 Main St, Buffalo, NY on June 15, 2011. The Session would like to keep the congregation informed of our activities and we welcome your input.

Session was moderated by our sabbatical supply pastor, Rev. Geri Lyon. She is getting to know us as she joins in the flow of the church life.

Jude Hammer has asked to relinquish the duties of Clerk of Session, while remaining a member. Alexander Robertson has agreed to take up those duties, beginning with our next session meeting. Thank you to Alexander, and to Jude for her work in this position.

We reviewed the summary of responses to the question included in our Pentecost Sunday celebration, "How does being a member of UPC make you a better Christian?" These reflections on UPC are inspiring, and will be shared with the congregation.

Geri has met with the Deacons, and they have a revised description of the duties of a deacon. This led to conversation of the need for descriptions for all of our church committees so people will have a way to determine if those committees interest them, and what they are committing to as they sign up! We also discussed the possibility of an acolyte program for the children who participate in lighting the candles for service.

Wednesday, July 6th UPC will serve dinner for the homeless families in the **Family Promise** program, housed that week at Crossroads Lutheran in Snyder. Please contact John Swain to help with this important mission.

Amy Erickson is hosting the first meeting of our membership committee on **July 27th**. This effort stems from our long range planning sessions. The committee will be asking for input from the congregation as we explore strategies and practices to grow our membership and reach out to the community.

Rev. Lyon will be offering a Thursday afternoon summer bible study, **beginning July 14th, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM and going for 6 weeks**. More details to come.

Session, especially the men on Session, were asked to consider if a men's group might be of interest within the congregation, and what that group might pursue.

Gladys Gifford reported on two efforts that Voice Buffalo is involved in. 1. Encouraging the NFTA to reconsider the closing of the Theater Station on Main St as Main is reopened to traffic, and 2. Joining with Push Buffalo to encourage National Fuel to use consumer provided funds to assist more low income families with weatherization.

Our next Session meeting will be August 17, 2011.

JULY 2011 CALENDAR

PASTOR GERI AWAY JULY 1ST -7TH

FRIDAY	1st	5:30 pm	Taize Service	
SATURDAY	2nd	10:00 am	Grief Support Group	Family Tree
SUNDAY	3rd	10:00 am	Worship- Communion	Sanctuary
MONDAY	4th	OFFICE CLOSED FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY		
TUESDAY	5th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		5:00 pm	Bible Study	Hozwarth Room
THURS	7th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	
SUNDAY	10th	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
MONDAY	11th	6:30 pm	Stitchery Class	Holzwarth Room
TUESDAY	12th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
WED	13th	6:30 pm	RENEWAL ACTIVITY – RELAXATION & MEDITATION – NORTH PRES. (WMSV)	
THURS	14th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		1:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Geri	Holzwarth Room
SUNDAY	17th	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
MONDAY	18th	6:30 pm	Stitchery Class	Holzwarth Room
TUESDAY	19th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		5:30 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Buisch	Holzwarth Room
THURS	21st	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		1:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Geri	
SUNDAY	24th	10:00 am	Worship	
MONDAY	25th	6:30 pm	Stitchery Class	Holzwarth Room
TUESDAY	26th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	
THURS	28th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	
		1:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Geri	

AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR

MONDAY	1st	6:30 pm	Stitchery Class	Holzwarth Room
TUESDAY	2nd	5:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Buisc h	Holzwarth Room
WEDNES	3rd	7:00 pm	Committee Meeting	Various Rooms
THURS	4th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		1:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Geri	Holzwarth Room
FRIDAY	5th	5:30 pm	Taize	Sanctuary
SATUR	6th	10:00 am	Grief Support Group	Family Tree
SUNDAY	7th	10:00 am	Worship – Communion	Sanctuary
TUESDAY	9th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		7:00 pm	RENEWAL ACTIVITY – BANNER MAKING UPC	
THURS	11th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		1:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Geri	Holzwarth Room
SUNDAY	14th	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
TUES	16th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
WEDNES	17th	7:00 pm	SESSION	Holzwarth Room
THURS	18th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
		1:00 pm	Bible Study with Rev. Geri	Holzwarth Room

REV GERI AWAY AUGUST 20 - 27

SUNDAY	21st	10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary
TUES	23rd	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
THURS	25th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall
SUNDAY	28th	JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE WITH NORTH PRES. (WMSV), AMHERST PRES., DEERHURST PRES. CHURCH AT ISLAND PARK, WILLIAMSVILLE, FOLLOWED BY PICNIC.		
TUES	30th	12:00 noon	Food Pantry	Reid Hall

SEPTEMBER 2011

FRIDAY	2nd	5:00 pm	Taize	Sanctuary
SATUR	3rd	10:00 am	Grief Support Group	Family Tree
SUN	4th	10:00 am	Worship – Communion	Sanctuary
		LAST SUMMER SERVICE		
MON	5th	OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY		



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, July 1 from 5:30 - 6 p.m.** and **Friday, August 5 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