



Spreading the Word

United Presbyterian Church April 2017

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April Highlights

Washington Against Hunger - April 2
Meals on Wheels - April 3-14
Palm Sunday - April 9
Maundy Thursday - April 13

Easter Services - Apr 16; 7am, 10:30am, 5pm
UP Home Work Day - April 22
Kingdom Kids Program - April 27
We do Saturday Kitchen - April 29
Inside Out Mission Training - April 30



Holy Week is a mixture of emotions. On Palm Sunday we are excited as we join in the Palm Sunday Parade. By the time Maundy Thursday comes and we come to celebrate the Last Supper, our excitement has been muted and we are quieter in our

celebration of God's gift to us in this Holy Meal. Then Good Friday comes bringing with it the weight of Jesus' self giving. Finally, Easter, unbound joy!

I think this mixture of emotions is true for churches too. We have our ups and downs, our highs and lows, and our joys and sorrows. We will be formally saying goodbye to Margie Roth on April 2 and welcoming Jared Long our new Youth Director on April 3. The mission team that went to work out in Ashland, Kansas will be returning about this same time.

We will hear Jesus' story from Palm Sunday to Good Friday at the 10:30 service on April 9 and hear too an update on the Sanctuary Project after both worship services that day. Then Easter celebrations on April 16, Sunrise service at the park, followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. In between all this the Sundays will continue to meet, the youth will continue to get ready for their mission trip to South Carolina, the Session will continue to think about where God is calling UPC.

The writer of Ecclesiastes says: *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance..."*

I am wondering what season we are in as a church and I am wondering if we can, like the writer of Ecclesiastes, see the presence of God at work in our best days and in our most difficult.

Wishing you a blessed Easter, Pastor Bill

Sanctuary Project

On April 9th after each of our two Sunday morning worship services we will be providing updates on the status of the Sanctuary Project and report on the fundraising efforts to date.

We will also be re-launching the fund raising efforts in order to complete the fundraising for this project. There will be time at these meetings for questions and answers.

Information about the project and fundraising will be available at the meetings and also emailed and/or mailed out to all members following these meetings.

We hope you will stay after worship on April 9,
~ The Sanctuary Fundraising Team.

Thank you everyone, for your friendship these past couple of years, and for your well wishes for my future move.

I will miss being part of this caring church family.

~ Margie



Easter Lilies

Honor or remember a loved one with the purchase of an Easter Flower to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, and then to be delivered to a local shut in.

Flowers cost \$12 each, and special envelopes are located on the usher's desks or in the Church Office. See Kathy Knutson or Mary Atwood for more details.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 9

Our traditional service will be held in the chapel at 8:00 a.m. and will invite participants to join in the Palm Sunday celebration **by hearing and reflecting on the Gospel of Luke's** account of that first Palm Sunday morning.

The 10:30 a.m. service will feature a dramatic reading **of the Holy Week events of Jesus' life and death as readers share from Luke's Gospel the events** of Jesus from Palm Sunday to Good Friday.

We hope you can join us for one of these Palm Sunday services or the 5:00 pm CROSSing.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Our Maundy Thursday service will be held in the chapel at 7:00 pm.

This service will focus on the celebration **of the Lord's Supper and invite us to offer our gratitude** as we remember this gift that Jesus gives up in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup.

Good Friday, April 14, Cross Walk

This ecumenical event will start at 12:00 noon at the band shelter in Central Park.

Participants will walk around the square, pausing several times to read from scriptures, pray and sing.

Easter Sunday, April 16

At 7:00 am we will have a Sunrise Service in Sunset Park (pavilion in SE corner), followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 8:00 am. Church School at 9:00 am, 10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary and The CROSSing at 5:00 pm.



You are invited to a farewell reception for our friendly Secretary/Treasurer Margie Roth.

Margie will be moving to Colorado very soon to be with her husband Jay who is working in the Denver area. As sad as we are to see her go after years of faithful service, we would like to send her away with the same love and fellowship she has shown us.

Please join us on Sunday, April 2 after the 10:30 worship service for a reception in her honor. If you would like to show your appreciation to Margie with a card of best wishes, please bring that with you to the reception.

No group gift will be given, but if you would like to include an individual monetary gift in your card, please do so. Light refreshments will be served.





From the Music Director....

"A church is the only organization that exists primarily for the benefit of its non-members." C.S. Lewis

The church world-wide is changing...it has to. If the church wants to be important to future generations, those generations must be important to the church! And they have to be important enough to make the changes necessary for the next generation to want to be a part of God's family.

If we care enough to look around at churches who have been willing to change over the past ten, twenty, thirty years, we see thriving congregations that are growing both spiritually and physically. We see hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of folks excited about hearing the Gospel being a part of a church family again.

I attended Cornerstone Church in Ames for worship a couple times several years ago. I remember thinking how intentional they were about everything they did, from the time I walked in the building until the time I left the building.

Their auditorium at that time seated around 800 - 1000 people, I'm guessing. Worship was intense, well thought out, very meaningful, and awesome. It was a relatively new facility then, and I remember thinking how crowded it was already. There were people everywhere! We had to wait in a long line to get into the worship center both times I visited.

".....a vision emerged to reach the next generation with the Gospel in a way that had yet to be embraced by a local church in Ames."

~ Cornerstone website

I recently had the opportunity to visit Cornerstone again. Their vision to reach the next generation with the Gospel has paid off! Their facility is now more than twice what it was when I visited earlier. "Next generation-ers" are flocking to hear the Gospel, to be with their friends and families, and to experience worship in a bold and engaging way.

What was once a crazy, radical idea became a vision which their congregation courageously embraced. And that vision is now a wonderful, ever-expanding ministry reaching thousands of lives each week both inside & outside the walls of the facility.

As churches change, they may look different, they may feel or sound different, they may bring in different ages and different kinds of people. That's all good! I believe that's what we're called to do in ministry. But as we change, the Gospel still stays the same. In Matthew 24 Jesus says,

*Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass away.*



The Mississippi Valley Region Blood Center will be having a blood drive at the church on Thursday, April 13, from 1:30—6:30 pm.

While many from our church family are donors, **there's always a need for more blood** for those having surgery, those having been in accidents and those struggling with illness. For more information or to sign up contact Ron Anderson (461-3898) of the Lions Club.



Circle 3 April 11, 9:30 am
Lesson #7: Jane Fehr
Devotions: Phyllis Van Gerpen

Circle 4 April 12, 9:15 am
UP Home, Campbell Room
Hostess: Jane Cuddeback
Study: Julia Gamon
Devotions: Wilma Wright



The Feed & Read Book Club will next meet on Thursday, April 20, at 11:45 am in the Church Library.



From the Director of Youth....

Hello! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to tell you a little bit about who I am. The best place to start is probably my name, which is Jared Long.

When people ask, I typically tell them that I am from Pennsylvania, because that is where I spent most of my formative years, although we did move around quite a bit when I was a kid. As a young boy I did live here in Iowa (a couple miles outside Dallas Center) for a few years, and my mother was born and raised in South English, so I do have some Iowa roots.

I live in Iowa now because while I was living in Arizona I met a **really amazing woman (Sonja) whom I couldn't help but fall in love with** (fortunately she also fell in love with me). She moved to Iowa to work on her doctorate at the University of Iowa. I followed her. It all worked out extremely well. We got married, and now we are expecting our first child (anticipated arrival is in late May).

My spiritual journey has been just as eventful, if not more so, than my personal journey. I have been involved in ministry now, in one form or another, for over 25 years. I have served as a summer camp counselor, Sunday School teacher, youth advisor, adventure trip leader, youth pastor, director of family ministry, and along the way have had the opportunity to work with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks (ACMNP) at the Grand Canyon.

My passion for ministry through-out all of these experiences has been that of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation. I consider it a great privilege to walk with those that are seeking to establish and nurture their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Through it all God has been molding and shaping me, closing some doors and yet opening others, encouraging me and most certainly challenging me, with the result being a closer relationship to Christ and a more mature faith. True to form, God has now blessed me with the great opportunity/responsibility of serving at the Washington United Presbyterian Church as the Director of Youth Ministry.

I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to getting started serving this congregation and partnering with you in ministry.



The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School is **"Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God!"**

Sunday, July 30th through Thursday, August 3rd in the evenings.

More details and chances to volunteer will come soon. Contact Jared Long or Erin Thorius with questions or for more information.

A huge thank you to all who helped plan, organize, bake, set-up, and tear down for the Anderson Trivia Night fundraiser.

Those of you who were able to play on a team it was so much fun, and some great competition from all age groups! The money that was raised was far more than ever expected.

Thank you to our church family for embracing us and sharing our story with your families and friends. Paperwork for the adoption is moving slowly but surely.

We hope to bring our son Josh home this summer. God bless.

Terry & Heather Anderson and family



Articles for the May newsletter are due Thursday, April 20



Youth News ...

INSIDE OUT -

For Youth in grades 9-12. Sundays at 6:30 pm.

No meeting on Easter Sunday, April 16th.

Mission Training on Sunday, April 30th.



Senior Scholarships

High School Seniors, please watch your mailbox for a letter regarding two church scholarship opportunities.

CREW -

For youth in grades 6-8.

April 2, CREW will meet at KC Hall at 2:45 pm to pack meals with Washington Against Hunger. Pickup at Sunset Park at 4:30 pm.

April 23, meeting at 3:30 pm.



Unit 8: "Easter Around the World" will be April 2nd, 9th and 23rd. This will be a great month as kids learn more about Easter and different celebrations of this Holy Time from Arnel Baughman, Kathy Hunt and Kori Rich.

We are thankful for our high school youth who taught our unit last month about the Fruits of the Spirit. The younger kids had fun learning about what it means to be a Christian from the older kids. On Easter Sunday, we will have a movie/special activity for the kids downstairs.

The Kingdom Kids are ready for Spring!!

Conferences are over, plans are being made for our spring program, and the end of the year field trips will be here soon. It is also time to plan for next Fall.



Kingdom Kids Preschool is now accepting registrations for 4-year olds and older 3 year olds.

We offer class Monday through Thursday from 8:30 - 11:30 am. Tuition is free for children who turn 4 by September 15th (paid by the State of Iowa), and \$100 per month for others. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

Please help us advertise. Interested families should call Brenda Miles at [319-461-4327](tel:319-461-4327) or the church office.

Synod School 2017



A place where you ...

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Sing

Dance

Try new things

Leave spiritually and personally renewed

July 23-28, 2017

Buena Vista University

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Let Justice Flow

Mission News....

Washington Against Hunger

Washington Against Hunger (formally Crop Walk) is happening on April 2 starting at 3 pm. It will be held at KC Hall in Washington, Iowa. Take Away Hunger (formally Kids Against Hunger) is partnering with HACAP to pack food and fighting hunger both locally and around the world.

In an average year, there are between 55,000 - 60,000 people who are without food at least once a week in our area. There are 14.8 million children in poverty in the United States. HACAP helps those people that are hungry locally.

Take Away Hunger is an international organization. They have provided 941,520 meals since January. **Their mission is "Feed the hungry and show the love of Jesus".**

Please join others from our community at this event. You are encouraged to bring canned food for our local HACAP. Cash donations are also accepted. You can make a difference!



DID YOU KNOW??

There is a group of 18 U.P. adults who work through the winter months making and serving concessions at Carver Hawkeye Arena for Men's Basketball games and Wrestling events.

The funds that are raised have been used to help cover the costs for adult mission trips, including the March trip to Ashland, KS. Funds have also been donated to Take Away Hunger, HACAP, PDA, and members of our community in need of assistance for various reasons.

This 'Carver Crew' has earned between \$3,000 - \$4,000 a year for the last 4 years. If you are interested in joining in the fun or would like more information, watch for news next fall as work will begin once again!



Want to be Part of our Church E-Mail Prayer Chain?

All are welcome to be a part of this group who request prayers or uplift folks in need of prayers.

To request a prayer for someone, (with the permission of that individual) contact the church office or Mary Atwood at 653-5868 or at maryjoyatwood@gmail.com with your request.

If you would like to be notified when prayers are needed, also contact the church office or Mary with your email address.

MISSION NEWS

Our 'Diaper Drive' enabled us to donate 27 packages of diapers (1,184 diapers) and 15 packages of baby wipes to the Family Connection. They were very pleased and thankful for our gift to them.

These diapers and wipes are used for an incentive program for their families to stay involved in parenting education and development opportunities for little ones, birth through age 4. These families receive home visits, counseling sessions, and encouragement as they learn how to parent their babies and toddlers.

Thank you to all who dropped some diapers/wipes in our Pack and Play. Your generosity makes a difference to the little ones of our community.

This organization also uses our baby nursery on Wednesday mornings for group sessions with hands on play and social opportunities for the children and parents. These hour long sessions are guided by Becky Widmer who facilitates through example ideas for parenting and playing together.



THANK YOU

Thank you to Clay and Megan Eaton who continue to lead the Inside Out youth group as volunteers. They are aided by Jake Thorius and Krista Gaal in the effort to keep this dynamic group of teens involved and active in their faith.

Thanks also to Janet and Nate Conrad with help from Brad Alderton and Amy Kleese who lead the Middle School Crew. These kids also find opportunities to grow their faith together in an environment of active learning.

The efforts, commitment, and compassion shown by all these adult volunteers is vital to the programming for our teens. Take time to thank them.

Session Update

Some of you may have noticed that the session is meeting more often than usual. During this time of transition we feel the need to examine our past and how that influences our future direction and decisions.

We're having a lot of great discussions and feel the future is looking exciting. We ask for your prayers and guidance as we move forward. Please talk to any of us on session if you have any questions or concerns.

Arnel Baughman, Billie Bruns,
Diana Rich, Emily Burroughs,
Jake Thorius, Jamie Rich,
Joe McConnell, Karen Dillon,
Mary Lou Saforek, Meredith Raber,
Randy Fehr, Rita Phipps, Terry Mangold



Saturday Kitchen Update: Thank You to Pathfinders Sunday School Class and Many Others of Our Church Family!

On Feb. 11th The Pathfinders Sunday School Class of our church hosted the **Saturday Kitchen**. They're one of the new groups helping once in the year with the "7th rotation." We're also so grateful to our "regulars" and the new helpers from our church family who helped coordinate and serve "our meal" on March 11th.

Thank you, each of you, for the donation of your time and energy to reach out to others in our community who count on the Saturday Kitchen as a time of good food and fellowship.

We're so blessed that so many of you in our church family offer "yourselves" and are part of this outreach, whether it's kids, families, singles, younger or older – you're always there!

Our guests feel God's love and caring through YOUR efforts. Thank you Pathfinders Class and so many others!
~ Marde and Joe McConnell

Esther Hess
February 18, 2017

Don Nicholson
March 1, 2017



Connect with us on Facebook:



"Washington United Presbyterian Church"

"The CROSSing Washington, Iowa"

"Kingdom Kids Preschool Washington Iowa"



- 1 Pat Johnson
- 1 Felix Loula
- 2 Addison Gaal
- 2 Joe Wright
- 2 Anne Youngman
- 3 Cathy Whisler
- 4 Natalie Prochaska
- 4 Ericka Raber
- 6 Braden Gaal
- 6 Dawn Ledger
- 6 Ryan Tinnes
- 7 Jacee Stapp
- 8 Elanda Karugo
- 8 Steve Whisler
- 9 Wayne Brock
- 10 Jeff Kaufman
- 11 Megan Coakley
- 11 Rob Johnson
- 11 Adalyn Long
- 12 Payton Anderson
- 12 John Dillon
- 12 Michael Dillon
- 12 Tatum Kane
- 12 Olivia Marek

- 12 Nancy Pim
- 13 Carolyn Bollman
- 13 Dalton Rich
- 13 Lael Stout
- 15 Tyler Alderton
- 16 Laurie Davison
- 16 Dorothy Soucek
- 17 Rita Phipps
- 18 Dean Batterson
- 19 Macy Driscoll
- 19 Jamie Helmick
- 19 Joyce Wilson
- 20 Katie Rich
- 21 Thelma Wagner
- 23 Elna Tompkins
- 25 Brad Alderton
- 25 Jordan Thorius
- 26 Joyce Crawford
- 26 Jack Strabala
- 27 MaKenna Conrad
- 28 Kim Renoux
- 28 Eleanor Waring
- 29 Cathy Wood
- 30 Deb Zwicky



Church Family News . . . just so you know!

Did you know that “our” Butch (Zwicky) and “our” Emily (Burroughs) played for Saturday Kitchen guests one day in March. A comment I heard was, “The music was delightful and was so enjoyed by all.” Thanks, Butch and Emily, for sharing your musical gifts each Sunday and for sharing them with our Saturday Kitchen friends, too!

Did you know a group from our church has worked and had fun “working” a concession stand at the U of I Carver Hawkeye arena this past year – and for the past several years, too. All funds raised are used to help with adult mission trip expenses. Additionally, funds have been donated to HACAP “needs” and to other individuals or groups in our church family who reach out in God’s love. Let the church office know if you’re interested in learning more about this opportunity to serve.

Not only did Jerry Flory use his carpentry skills on the water fountain stool in Fellowship Hall, Jim Cuddeback took the stool home, sanded it off and re-stained it. Now the little kiddos can stand on our “newly refurbished” stool to get a drink . . . and NOT fall off. MANY thanks, Fellas.

Thank you to Dorothy Koehler! During our recent church family diaper drive for the local Family Connection group, Dorothy helped to see that our UP Home family had an opportunity to donate to this very worthy group, too. Thank to each and every one of you who donated diapers and/or wipes.

Trivia Night was such a fun evening, Heather and Terry Anderson and family were overwhelmed with the caring and support, all helping them to “bring Josh home.” Thanks to organizers April, Katie, Diana, and Erin; thanks to all the set-up and tear-down people; thanks to all the cookie/bar and party mix makers and finally thanks to so many of you who participated or donated in some way. God blessed US to be able to reach out in His love!

Travis Moore & Krystle Barnes invite you to join them for their wedding on April 8, at 4:30 pm here at the church.

A reception and dance will follow at the National Guard Armory, 501 Hwy 1 South, Washington. BYOB.

